



Coffee and Conversation for ESL Listening



with Donielle and Khrystyna

Episode 25: Apartment Living

Hi! If this is your first time listening to our podcast, this is an opportunity for upper level English learners to practice listening skills and learn new vocabulary by listening to authentic conversations.

In today's episode Donielle and Khrystyna discuss experiences living in an apartment, and cultural perspectives on when or if children should leave their parents' home and rent their own apartment.

In this episode, we discuss renting and a legal case, so the following vocabulary may be helpful:

landlord	property owner or manager who rents an apartment to someone
tenant	the person who rents the apartment
lease	the legal rental agreement between landlord and tenant. Related phrases: sign a lease, break a lease (leave before the agreed upon period of time.) Note: some people have a month-to-month agreement, which means that there is no fixed time period, and either party can end the agreement, generally requiring a 30 day <u>notice</u> .
evict	Legally remove a tenant for failure to comply with the terms of the lease
give notice [to someone]	a requirement about making someone aware of your intention, and giving them time to respond, resolve a problem, etc. before a final action. In this case, landlords are required to give a tenant notice of their intent to evict, and allow them a certain amount of time to leave on their own – they can't just force them out the next day. We also use this phrase in other situations, such as an employee who intends to resign their job. It's generally considered bad form if an employee does not give 2 weeks' notice before they leave their position.
sue [someone]	Take someone to court to force them to pay something that is owed or to take a specific action. Similar phrase: file a lawsuit
rule in [someone's] favor	Relating to a judge or court: make a favorable judgement to a party after hearing evidence. Ex: The judge ruled in my favor. (meaning I won my case or a specific issue within the overall case)

***For more background on the story discussed in this episode and for additional vocabulary, you can read the article [HERE](#).**

You can also read the [transcript](#) for this episode.

See the following pages for vocabulary and language focus from this episode.



Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

squeeze [something/someone] in	make time for something/someone when your schedule is very busy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I know you are super busy, so we had to <u>squeeze</u> this recording <u>in</u>. The doctor is completely booked this week, but I'll <u>squeeze</u> you <u>in</u>.
ball have a ball	a large formal party for dancing Have a ball = spend time in a very enjoyable way
dress up	In this context, it means to wear fancy or dressy clothes. In another context, it could also mean to wear a costume [e.g. I dressed up as superhero]
get my [nails, hair] done	way to express that you went to a salon for hair styling or manicure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <u>got my nails and hair done</u> for the ball.
be into/not be into [something]	have an interest in something <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My husband <u>is not into</u> that kind of thing.
floats	vehicles with a platform used to carry an exhibit in a parade
extravagant	very fancy or excessive
narrow it down	make a number or list of things smaller, by removing the things that are least important, necessary, or suitable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's a big topic, so we're going to <u>narrow it down</u>.
roaches	short (and more common) form for the household pest: cockroaches
get rid of [something]	phrasal verb: do something so as to no longer have or be affected or bothered by (something or someone that is unwanted). (e.g. get rid of the roaches)
dorm	short (and more common) form for dormitory - a building at a boarding school, college, or university where students live
freaked out	suddenly had a strong reaction – can be surprise, anger, confusion, etc. In this case, it was probably disgust and anger about the roaches
lose [one's] mind	go crazy, or become mad or irrational
make a living	earn the money one needs to pay for housing, food, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's a business for them; it's a way of <u>making a living</u>.
plunge plunger	to forcefully push air into a toilet or sink to clear a blocked pipe a tool for the above purpose
won't take no for an answer	an expression meaning to insist on something. Note: we often use this phrase when we make an offer to someone and they refuse it [because they feel the offer is too generous], to which we might say, "I won't take no for an answer."
have at it	response to someone who wants to make an attempt at something, and we are giving them permission
in retrospect	Looking backward, reflecting on the past (we also use the phrase: in hindsight) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>In retrospect</u>, I should have said something to management about it.
creep	move slowly and quietly, as a way to not be noticed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I grab a baseball bat and slowly <u>creep</u> around the corner.

Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

strike	hit (someone or something) in a forceful way
whack	informal: hit (someone or something) in a forceful way
sketchy	informal: used to describe something in a negative way; often to say that something is suspicious, untrustworthy, or suspect
too good to be true	you are suspicious of it because it seems better than you had expected, and you think there may be something wrong with it that you have not noticed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the apartment is inexpensive or <u>seems too good to be true</u>, it's probably not in a good neighborhood.
ignorance is bliss	used to say that a person who does not know about a problem does not worry about it. (bliss = complete happiness)
it screams [some quality]	it boldly and clearly gives an impression of something <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>It really screamed</u> to me a situation that had to be in the United States.
to no avail	without success, completely ineffective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> His parents were trying for months to get him out of the house <u>to no avail</u>.
adulting	informal: the practice of behaving in a way characteristic of a responsible adult, especially the accomplishment of mundane but necessary tasks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Adulting</u> is hard.
sick of it	to have experienced too much of someone or something with the result that you are annoyed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The parents had been trying for 5 months to get their son out of the house, and they were just <u>sick of it</u>.
last resort	the only choice that remains after all others have been tried <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking him to court was the <u>last resort</u> for them.
kick [someone] out	informal: force someone to leave a place or organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's pretty sad when your own parents have to <u>kick you out</u> of the house.
have a different take [on something]	have a different perspective about a situation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I would say they rightfully got frustrated, but you might <u>have a different take</u> on this.
transient	not lasting, enduring, or permanent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This culture is more <u>transient</u> – we tend to move around a lot.
went abroad	traveled outside of the country
freeload	informal: to get or ask for things (such as food, money, or a place to live) from people without paying for them <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The parents were tired of his <u>freeloading</u>, so they kicked him out.
unfinished basement	a basement that has the bare minimum of structure – it is not completed with walls, floors or rooms that would make it a livable area of the house. It would typically only consist of things like storage area or maybe a washer and dryer.

Cultural Note - Mardi Gras

At the beginning of the episode, we discussed attending a Mardi Gras parade and ball, so we wanted to include a short explanation about Mardi Gras for those who may not be familiar with it.



Mardi Gras is a vibrant and colorful celebration that takes place in the United States, especially in cities like New Orleans. It happens just before the Christian season of Lent, which is a time of fasting and reflection leading up to Easter. During Mardi Gras, people come together to enjoy parades, music, dancing, and elaborate costumes. You'll see floats decorated with bright colors and beads, treats, and toys being thrown to the crowd. It's a joyful and exciting time, where everyone joins in the festivities before the more solemn period of Lent begins.

Join the Conversation

- Have you ever lived in an apartment that you rented? What was the experience like?
- What do you think are the benefits of renting an apartment versus owning a home?
- What do you think are the most important considerations for choosing an apartment to rent? What things are essential for it to have, and what are things that you would like to have? (must haves vs. nice to haves)
- What advice would you give to a young adult who is moving out and looking to rent their first apartment?
- What is the apartment renting process like in your home country? What kind of laws are in place to protect tenants or landlords?
- In your culture, is it customary for adult children to live in the same home with the parents, especially if they are unmarried?
- Read the full [article](#) about the case discussed in this episode. What are your thoughts about the situation? Do you think the parents were right for suing their son? Do you think the court's ruling in favor of the parents was correct?

Thanks for checking out our podcast!

We are enjoying these discussions, and we hope that you are finding them helpful!



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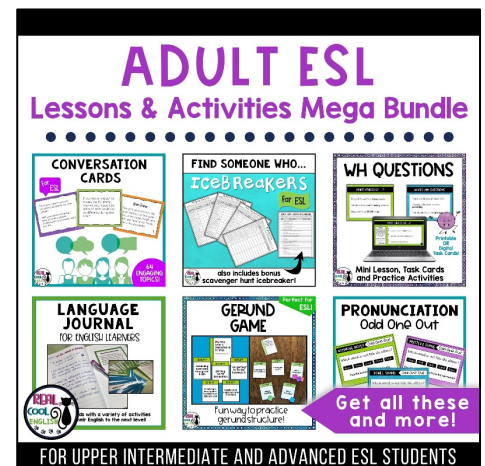
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