

LESSON 142

795 Two meanings of "quite"

In front of some extreme adjectives, such as "wonderful" or "terrible", the word "quite" means "completely". In this situation, we say the word "quite" with a heavy stress, because we are being emphatic. For example, we can say "The weather is quite wonderful!". In this sentence, the words "quite wonderful" mean "completely wonderful".

Give me an example of the word "quite" with the meaning of "completely", please.

This wine is quite excellent! I'm sorry, but what you're asking me to do is quite impossible!

excuse me

I'm sorry

We generally use "Excuse me" for something that is not very important and "I'm sorry" for a more important apology.

What's the difference between "Excuse me" and "I'm sorry"?

The difference ... is that we generally use "Excuse me" for something that is not very important, and "I'm sorry" for a more important apology.

What do you say when you want to pass between two people who are speaking to each other?

When I want to ..., I say "Excuse me"

And what do you say if, in passing, you accidentally step on the foot of one of the two people who are speaking?

If, in passing, I accidentally step ..., I say "I'm sorry!"

796 **wealthy**

Which is the wealthiest region of this country?

... is the wealthiest ...

disaster

flood

How can a long period of heavy rain result in a disaster?

A long period ... because it can lead to floods that cause death, terrible damage to farms and buildings etc.

then

The word "then" has three meanings:

- 1) At that time e.g. I'm going to see him on Thursday, so I can give him the news then.
- 2) Next e.g. We'll have dinner first, and then watch TV.
- 3) In that case e.g. If you don't understand, then ask.

What are the three meanings of the word "then"?

The three ... are "at that time", "next" and "in that case"

Give me an example of each, please.

- 1) I began studying English last year. Before then (i.e. before that time) I did not know a single word.
- 2) I'll study first, then go to the cinema.
- 3) The door might be locked, what will you do then?

urge

What's the best way to urge someone to do something they do not want to do?

The best way to urge someone to ... is to tell them how much better everything will be after they have done it

797 **affair**

love affair

Is it wise to speak about one's private affairs in public?

No, it isn't wise to ...

Are love affairs always happy?

No, love affairs aren't ...

Strong and weak pronunciation forms

	strong form	weak form
can	/kæn/	/kən/
than	/ðæn/	/ðən/
but	/bʌt/	/bət/
some	/sʌm/	/səm/
your	/jɔ:/	/jəl/
to	/tu:/	/tə/
are	/ɑ:/	/əl/
was	/wɒz/	/wəz/

In English, many common words have a “strong” pronunciation form and a “weak” pronunciation form. For example, the strong form of the word “can” is /kæn/, whereas the weak form is /kən/. With the weak form, the vowel in the word is usually the sound /ə/, which is the most common sound in the English language.

We use the weak pronunciation form of a word when we say the word normally in a sentence without any special stress. For example, we say “I /kən/ speak three languages”.

- 798 We use the strong pronunciation form when we say the word on its own, or when we put stress on the word for some reason. For example, if someone says “You can’t speak three languages”, we might reply emphatically and say “Yes, I /kæn/!”

When do we use the weak pronunciation form of a word in English?

We use ... when we say the word normally in a sentence without any special stress

Give me some examples, please.

I’m taller /ðən/ you.

I’m going /tə/ the shops now.

I didn’t know she /wəz/ here.

When do we use the strong pronunciation form of a word?

We use ... when we say the word on its own, or when we put stress on the word for some reason

Give me some examples, please.

/sʌm/ adults
are married, and /sɪŋɡl/ are single
The letters "y - o - u - r" spell the word /jɔ:/

charm

charming

musical

snake

snake charmer

instrument

Who's the most charming person you know?

The most
charming person I know is ...

What's a snake charmer?

A snake charmer is a person who
charms a snake by playing a musical instrument

Do you believe that there are people in the world who can put a magic
charm on other people?

Yes, I believe that ...
~ No, I don't believe that ...

799

latest

last

last but one

One important difference between "latest" and "last" is that, if I say "John Brown's latest book is excellent", it means John Brown's newest book. However, if I say "John Brown's last book was excellent", it probably means the book he wrote before his new one, or it means his final book ever, because he has now retired or died.

What's the difference between "latest" and "last"?

The difference ... is that if I say "John Brown's
latest ...", it means ... newest book, whereas if
I say "John Brown's last...", it probably means ...
before his new one, or ... final book ever, because ...

Which's the last letter but one in the English alphabet?

Y's the last
letter but one ...

blackboard

whiteboard

chalk

What do we write on a blackboard with?

We write on
a blackboard with a piece of chalk

What do we write on a whiteboard with?

We write on
a whiteboard with a special pen

eyebrow

eyelash

eyelid

lid

pan

What's this?

It's an **eyebrow**

What are these?

Those are **eyelashes**

What's this?

It's an **eyelid**

Does water in a pan boil more quickly with the lid on or with the lid off?

Water in a **pan** ... with the **lid** on

300 Why?

Because, with the **lid** on, the steam and the heat are kept in

favour

yacht

hinder

Is it wrong for parents to favour one child over another?

Yes, it's wrong for ...

Does bad weather favour a yacht in a race at sea?

No, **bad** weather
doesn't ...; it **hinders** it

What do you do when you don't approve of somebody's behaviour?

When I don't ...,
I tell the **person**, **do nothing** etc.

clothe

Can a woman clothe herself more cheaply than a man?

Yes, a woman
can ... ~ No, a woman can't ...

endless

Make a sentence containing the word "endless", please.

There was an
endless stream of traffic on the road

bunch

grape

Which'd you rather be given: a bunch of flowers or a bunch of grapes?

I'd rather be given a **bunch** of ...

801 Idiom 43

give somebody the cold shoulder = make somebody feel unwelcome, usually by ignoring them

e.g. I didn't know what I had done wrong, but everyone seemed to give me the cold shoulder.

What does the idiom "give somebody the cold shoulder" mean?

The idiom ... "make somebody feel ..."

Give me an example, please.

Instead of a friendly welcome, we were given the cold shoulder

revolution



Dictation 96

Lacking central heating, we managed to keep the room sufficiently warm with an oil heater which our next door neighbour had lent us. The military leaders behaved so wickedly that the people marched against them, and a bloody revolution soon broke out. The Greeks in the old days believed in many gods, whereas many modern religions only have one god. The accident was not really the soldier's fault, he simply did what the captain commanded him to do. It was quite plain that he was a policeman, even though he was not in uniform.



Do Revision Exercise 64