

8 British Expressions



Episode #2

1. **anorak** (*noun*)

(someone who has a very strong interest, perhaps obsessive, in a subject)

Examples:

"Jeff spent the entire dinner party talking about train schedules. He's such an **anorak** about railways."

"At the quiz night, our team did well thanks to Sandra. She's a total **anorak** on music."

"Every time we go birdwatching, Henry brings along four different guide books. He's a real **anorak** about spotting rare birds!"

"Michael can tell you everything about vintage cameras. Honestly, he's quite the **anorak** in that field."



2. **Bob's your uncle (expression)** (a process is very easy)

Examples:

"If you want to restart your phone, just press this button and hold it for ten seconds, and **Bob's your uncle** - it'll restart."

"You take the first left, then the next right, and **Bob's your uncle** - you're at the train station."

"Type in your password, hit the 'enter' key, and **Bob's your uncle** - you've logged into your account."

"Follow the recipe, put it in the oven for 30 minutes, and **Bob's your uncle** - a perfect sponge cake every time."

3. **budge up** (*verb*) (to move and make space for someone else)

Examples:

"Could you **budge up** a bit on the sofa so I can sit down too?"

"The train is quite crowded, but I'm sure if we all **budge up**, there'll be room for a few more people."

"I've only got half a seat on the bench; do you mind **budging up** so I can sit down properly?"

"At the cinema, we had to **budge up** to make room for a couple who arrived late for the film."

4. **chockablock** (*adjective*) (very full or crowded, with no space)

Examples:

"I opened the cupboard and it was absolutely **chockablock** with old books and games."

"The train was **chockablock** at rush hour; I could hardly get on!"

"We tried to book a table at the new Italian restaurant, but their diary was **chockablock** for weeks."

"After the festival, the recycling bins were **chockablock** with bottles and cans."

5. spend a penny (*verb*) (use the toilet)

Examples:

"We were in the middle of the film when I had to **spend a penny**, so I missed the best scene!"

"Before we leave for our road trip, make sure you all **spend a penny**; we won't stop for a while!"

"I drank too much tea this afternoon and now I need to **spend a penny** every half hour."

"At half-time at the football match, there was a long queue of people waiting to **spend a penny**."

6. **Flog** (*verb*)

(to sell something, especially quickly or cheaply; sometimes to promote something strongly)

Examples:

"He's trying to **flog** his old car before he moves abroad."

"The market stall was **flogging** fake designer clothes at a fraction of the usual price."

"I managed to **flog** most of my old DVDs."

"They've been **flogging** tickets for the concert all week, but they still haven't sold out."

7. innit (*expression*)

(a contraction of "isn't it", often used to confirm or agree with something that has just been said)

Examples:

"It's freezing today, **innit?**"

"This is one of the best films of the year, **innit?**"

Note: This expression is often used to replace more than just "isn't it".

"You're coming to the match on Saturday, **innit?**" (here, "innit?" replaces "aren't you?")

"She's got a brilliant singing voice, **innit?**" (here, "innit?" replaces "isn't she?")



8. **broolly** (an umbrella)

Examples:

"It's pouring outside! Don't forget to take your **broolly** when you go out."

"I always keep a spare **broolly** in the car, just in case the weather turns nasty."

"While walking through the park, I saw a lovely duck taking shelter under a man's **broolly**."

"Every time I buy a new **broolly**, it seems to disappear. I must have left it on the bus again!"