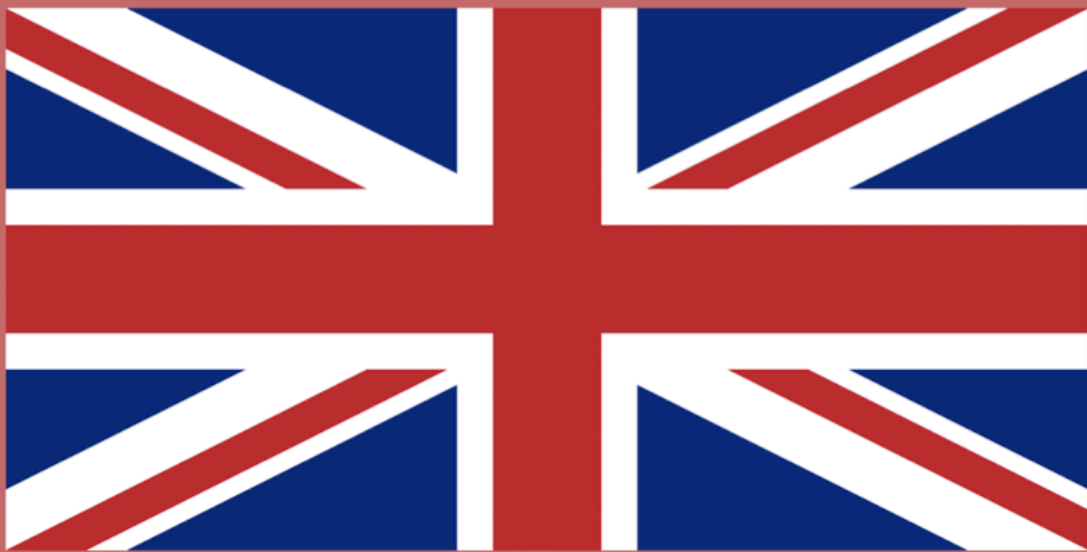


8 British Expressions



Episode #5

1. **boot** (*noun*)

(the trunk of a car)

Examples:

"I packed all our suitcases in the **boot** of the car for our holiday."

"Can you put the shopping bags in the **boot**?"

"Make sure to close the **boot** properly; we wouldn't want anything to fall out while we're driving."

2. **miffed** (*adjective*)

(feeling annoyed or slightly offended)

Examples:

"After I spent ages cooking dinner, John only ate a few bites. I was quite **miffed** by it."

"I was really **miffed** when the bus left early and I had to wait an hour for the next one."

"Sarah seemed a bit **miffed** that no one noticed her new haircut during the meeting."

"He was **miffed** because they went to the football match without inviting him."

"I'm a bit **miffed** that my sister borrowed my car without asking first."

3. **doddle** (*noun*) (something very easy to do)

Examples:

"After years of practice, solving these puzzles is a **doddle** for me now."

"Compared to last year's marathon, this 5K run was an absolute **doddle**."

"When you know the shortcuts, navigating through the city centre is a **doddle**."

"The exam was a **doddle**; I finished with time to spare."

4. **builder's tea** (*expression*)

(a strong and often very sweet tea, traditionally the favourite of construction workers)

Examples:

"After a cold morning of gardening, I love to warm up with a mug of **builder's tea**."

"Could you make me a **builder's tea**? I need something strong to kick-start the day."

"At the café, they know me so well that they start preparing a **builder's tea** as soon as I walk in."

5. **gobsmacked** (*adjective*) (very surprised or shocked)

Examples:

"When he won the lottery, he was completely **gobsmacked** and couldn't speak for minutes."

"After the magician revealed his trick, the entire audience was **gobsmacked**."

"Seeing the surprise party her friends threw for her birthday left her utterly **gobsmacked**."

"I was **gobsmacked** when my favourite television show had a twist ending I never saw coming."

6. **sod's law** (*expression*)

(when something goes wrong at the worst possible time)

Examples:

"You wait ages for a bus, and when it finally comes, two arrive at once - that's **sod's law** for you."

"The one day I forget my umbrella, it pours down with rain - it's **sod's law!**"

"I had to print my boarding pass and, **sod's law**, my printer ran out of ink just then!"

"It's **sod's law** that the teacher checks your homework on the day you forgot to do it!"



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7. spanner in the works (*expression*) (a problem that prevents something from happening or working as planned)

Examples:

"We almost had the contract signed, but then the unexpected legal issues threw a **spanner in the works**."

"Just as we were about to launch the new website, a server problem put a **spanner in the works**."

"The party was going well until the music system broke down, which really threw a **spanner in the works**."

8. **skive** (*verb*)

(to avoid work or a duty by staying away or leaving without permission)

Examples:

"John is always looking for an excuse to **skive** off work."

"Despite having a report to finish, she decided to **skive** and spent the day at the beach instead."

"After lunch, half the class decided to **skive** the afternoon lecture and went to the park."

"Mum got really angry when she found out I'd tried to **skive** off cleaning my room by pushing everything under the bed."