



All Ears English Episode 151: English Puns You Can Use at a Party

Gabby: This is an All Ears English Podcast, Episode 151: “English Puns You Can Use at a Party.”

[Instrumental]

Gabby: Welcome to the All Ears English Podcast, where you’ll finally get real, native English conversation with your hosts, Lindsay McMahon, the ‘English Adventurer’ and Gabby Wallace, the ‘Language Angel,’ from Boston, USA.

[Instrumental]

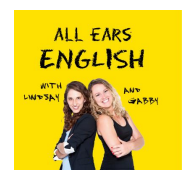
Gabby: Why would you waste your time memorizing the dictionary or vocabulary lists of random words when you could learn the 100 most common phrases in English conversation? We’ve made an e-book with exactly that information for you, All Ears English listeners. You can get that e-book at AllEarsEnglish.com/100. That’s 1-0-0.

[Instrumental]

Gabby: In today’s episode, you’re gonna (going to) learn how to play with words and have a lot of pun.

[Instrumental]

Gabby: Hey, Lindsay.



Lindsay: Hey, Gabby. Oh, my gosh! Gabby, what is wrong with your keyboard?

Gabby: Oh, last night, I just – I had a really crazy night and I lost control.

Lindsay: Oh, my god. You did lose control.

Gabby: Yeah, the control button on my keyboard is, is missing.

Lindsay: Okay. So today guys, we are talking about puns. I wonder – I’m sure you guys have puns in your own language. So we’ve got puns in English too. Let’s talk about it.

Gabby: Yeah, well, let’s talk about what is a pun, (right). It’s a creative use of the language. So usually using the literal meaning of the word and a creative idiomatic use of the word. So we opened up today’s episode with the idiom “to lose control.” Right. Oh...

Lindsay: What does it mean to lose control?

Gabby: To lose control is when you maybe, (um), gosh...

Lindsay: Could mean a lot of things.

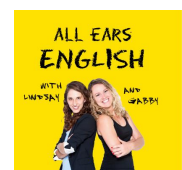
Gabby: Yeah, it could mean a lot of things. When you’re having so much fun that you just -- gosh, you just, you’re having a crazy time, (like) a wild time. It could be at a party.

Lindsay: (Like) maybe you took your keyboard and you (like) threw it somewhere.

Gabby: Well, when you’re angry...

Lindsay: Yeah.

Gabby: ...you could lose control if you’re angry. You could, (um), (you know), do something you regret if you lose control. So it could be having a lot of fun or it could be very angry. And then the literal meaning, we, we made a pun because we used the literal meaning “to lose control.” So everybody has a control key or a control button on their keyboard. So we lost control, which is (like) very, very funny, right.



Lindsay: So hopefully you're laughing right now.

Gabby: I thought it was cute. So we want to share three other idiomatic phrases, which we also have puns to go along with. So this will be a pretty fun episode...

Lindsay: Yep.

Gabby: ...I think.

Lindsay: So I'll start off by asking you a question. "Gabby, what is acupuncture?"

Gabby: "Acupuncture is a jab well done."

Lindsay: Oh, nice. Ha, ha, ha.

Gabby: So, acupuncture, (right), that's where you use needles and you insert them into different points in...

Lindsay: Yeah.

Gabby: ...in the body. (Um), that's, that's a jab. You can jab someone with a needle.

Lindsay: Yes.

Gabby: It means when you (kind of) poke them, right?

Lindsay: Right. Put the needle into them.

Gabby: But what's, what's the phrase that we often use, the idiomatic phrase?

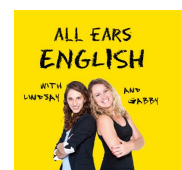
Lindsay: "That's a job well done."

Gabby: Yeah, "Job well done." Exactly.

Lindsay: What does it mean?

Gabby: You're congratulating someone. You did a great job.

Lindsay: Right.



Gabby: Nice work.

Lindsay: Yeah. So there you go.

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: There's the creative use of two kind of meanings and expressions of the word.

Gabby: I love it.

Lindsay: Yeah.

Gabby: Okay we have another one. I'm just gonna (going to), I'm just gonna (going to) share the pun and we'll talk about it. "Once you've seen one shopping center, you've seen the mall."

Lindsay: Did you mean "you've seen them all" or...?

Gabby: "You've seen the mall."

Lindsay: Ha, ha, ha. Get it, get it.

Gabby: Because (a) shopping center is a mall.

Lindsay: Yeah.

Gabby: Right? And so, so this comes from the idiomatic phrase, "Once you've seen one thing, you've seen them all."

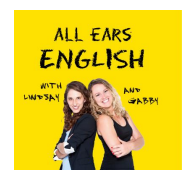
Lindsay: Yeah.

Gabby: (Uh), you could say, "Well, once you've seen all the Batman movies..." Oh sorry. "Once you've seen one Batman movie, you've seen them all."

Lindsay: So you don't need – that means they're all pretty similar.

Both: Right.

Lindsay: You don't need to actually watch all of them.



Gabby: Right, right. And so there's also this thing happening with, with the words running together...

Lindsay: (Uh-hm).

Gabby: ...in this one, right.

Lindsay: (Uh-hm). Right.

Gabby: Like "the mall." But when we say it quickly, it sounds like "them all" ...

Lindsay: Right.

Gabby: ... "them all."

Lindsay: Yeah, so this is about spacing too.

Gabby: Yeah, it's pretty good.

Lindsay: Nice.

Gabby: Cool. Okay. So we have one more. (Um), do you wanna (want to) read it Lindsay.

Lindsay: Sure, sure. So the last one is "Bakers trade recipes on a knead-to-know basis."

Gabby: Ha, ha, ha. I think it helps if you see this one spelled out because need is spelled "knead," "to knead," which means to, (um), to work with dough, (uh), to, to work the dough, to (um)...

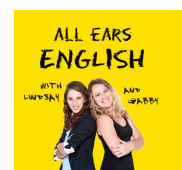
Lindsay: Shape it.

Gabby: Shape it, yeah, with your hands. (Um), it's hard to explain, but to show you with, with my hands would be easier.

Lindsay: Yeah.

Gabby: Just to, (um), maybe toss it, to turn it, to, (uh), fold it, to press it together. That's kneading flour...

Lindsay: Right.



Gabby: ...or, (uh), a flour mixture before you make bread.

Lindsay: Right.

Gabby: So you, you knead the bread.

Lindsay: And we also have an expression to tell someone something, like a secret on a need-to-know basis, right.

Gabby: Right, right. (Um), that means you don't tell everyone...

Lindsay: (Uh-hm). Yeah, right.

Gabby: ...any information, only if they need to know.

Lindsay: Yeah.

Gabby: So this is, this is so cute because, (um), to, to make bread, you knead it, and who makes bread? Bakers make bread.

Lindsay: Right.

Gabby: And, and to make something, you have a recipe. So once again, "Bakers trade recipes on a knead-to-know basis." That's awesome.

Lindsay: That's great.

Gabby: So maybe we can just repeat the, the...

Lindsay: Okay.

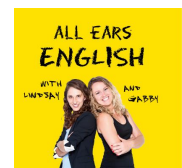
Gabby: ...idioms one more time. (Uh) the first one.

Lindsay: Okay, first one is "Acupuncture is a *jab* well done."

Gabby: Right. And the idiom is "a *job* well done."

Lindsay: (Uh-huh).

Gabby: (Um), the second one – let's see, "Once you've seen one shopping center, you've seen *the mall*." Right. So, so the idiomatic phrase, (uh), "Once



you've seen one blah, blah (anything you wanna [want to] say), you've seen *them all*."

Lindsay: Right. Exactly.

Gabby: Cool.

Lindsay: And the last one is "Baker's trade recipes on a *knead-to-know* basis."

Gabby: Right. And the idiomatic phrase is "on a *need-to-know* basis." So what's, what's another situation we can use on a need-to-know basis? Maybe, (um), (like) you should be meeting with someone or, or (cha-), exchanging information on a need-to know-basis.

Lindsay: Yeah, sure. It's when there's a, (like) a secret or something...

Gabby: Right, right.

Lindsay: ...and you wanna (want to) keep it between certain people.

Gabby: Right, right.

Lindsay: ...who just need the information.

Gabby: Okay.

Lindsay: Maybe like your lawyer or something.

Gabby: Oh, yeah. Good one.

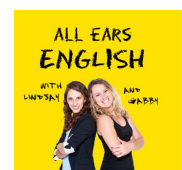
Lindsay: Yeah.

Gabby: All right cool. So we hope you guys enjoyed all these, all these puns. It was, it was tons of pun to...

Lindsay: Oh, [crosstalk].

Gabby: ...tons of pun and tons of fun -- today's episode. So thanks for listening guys.

Lindsay: Thanks guys.



[Instrumental]

Lindsay: If you wanna (want to) put your ears into English more often, be sure to subscribe to our podcast in iTunes on your computer or on your smartphone. Thanks so much for listening and see you next time.

