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Pre-Intermediate
Learning new words and expressions
Episode 13 - I Am into Opera



Hello again! Today we will look at some interesting new words and expressions. Please listen to the dialogue.

Dialogue:

- Hello, Jane. Can I distract you for a moment?
- Sure.
- Could you help me? You don't have to if you are too busy.
- No, it's ok. You are not disturbing me.
- Well, I can't figure out how to register on this website. Could you give me a hand?
- The website of the National Opera in Paris? I didn't know you were into classical music.
- Yes, classical music has a positive impact on my mood and productivity. Aren't you keen on it?
- I think I am better off with plain honest rock.
- Anyway, in a week I am off to my friend who lives in Paris. And there is no point in visiting Paris if you can't go the opera.
- Do you expect there are any tickets left?
- I don't know. But I got in touch with my friend. He said that even if there are tickets on the official website, we might be able to buy tickets from some people right before the concert.
- I doubt it very much.

Vocabulary:

to distract

to cause someone to stop thinking about something or doing something.

I was distracted by a loud noise.

The thief left the building while his girlfriend distracted the security guy.

to disturb

to interrupt or bother, to stop (someone) from working, sleeping, etc.

I'm sorry to disturb you at such a late hour.

The noise disturbed my concentration.

to figure out

to understand something

I cannot figure out how to solve this problem.

I finally figured out what he wanted from me.

to give somebody a hand

to help somebody

Every time I ask him for help, he gives me a hand.

I can't do my homework, Mom. Can you give me a hand in it?

to be into something

to be interested in something
I am into baking and eating. That's it.
My hobby is drawing. I am really into visual arts.

The synonyms are:

to be keen on something

She is so keen on watching, that she goes to the cinema every week.

to be fond of something

I am sorry, I don't know who won the World Cup. I am not really fond of sports.

to have an impact on somebody / something

to influence or to affect somebody / something

The financial crisis of 2008 had a great impact on world economy.

Your decision can have a big impact on your life.

mood

a temporary state of mind or temper, your emotions, what you feel and how you feel right now. For example, you can be in a good mood, in a bad mood, in a cheerful mood.

I try not to talk to my husband when he is in a bad mood.

I don't want to go to the theatre. I am not in the mood.

If you say "I am in the mood" that means that you have the mood to do something.

Ask him to sign the document while he is in the mood.

there is no point in doing something

there is no meaning in doing this thing, it will bring no results.

There is no point in waiting for John. He will not come.

I quit my job because I felt there was no point in working for somebody else.

to be off to some place

When you are off to some place, it means you are going somewhere.

I am off to Brazil this summer - I am going to Brazil.

It's time to go, I need to be off now. - I need to go, I need to leave.

to expect

to think that something is possible or to wait for something

I prepared dinner only for my and Sally. Suddenly her two friends came. I didn't expect them. If I had expected them, I would have prepared more food.

He expects to win. - He thinks that it is highly possible that he will win.

to get in touch with somebody

When you get in touch with somebody, it means you write to this person, or call him.

Could you leave your phone number or email. We will get in touch with you.

I couldn't get in touch with my friend, because I didn't know her phone number.

Let's look at the word combination "too busy".

When you use too before an adjective, for example too kind, it would mean that somebody is extremely kind, more than needed or necessary.

I couldn't buy the sofa, it was too big for my living room.

I don't like crocodiles, they are too dangerous.

And finally I would like us to study the modal verb “**have to**” in this episode of our podcast.

People usually compare *have to* with *must*. But I think *have to* is more like *need to*.

You have to finish this work. - You must finish this work, you need to finish it.

I can't go to the party tonight, I have to help my mother. - I must help my mother.

Don't have to is the same as don't need to and it is completely different from mustn't. Don't have to shows the lack of necessity, that it is not necessary to do something.

You don't have to come if you don't want to. - You don't need to come, it's not necessary.

He helped me even though he didn't have to means it was not necessary for him to help me, but he still did.

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