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Episode #075

10 Idioms in English to sound
like a native speaker

Hi everyone! I am Georgiana, founder of speakenglishpodcast.com. My mission is to help you to speak English fluently.

Do you want to sound more like an English native speaker? Well, this is the perfect lesson for you. Today I'll teach you ten idioms that will make you sound more like a native speaker. And with a Point of view story you will improve your grammar, and at the same time, you'll practice the expressions in context.

Ok. Let's start!

1) **GET OUT OF HAND**: to become difficult to control. When you lose control of things, they get out of hand.

Examples:

- "There was an argument that **got out of hand**, and the police came."
- "Your aggressive nature has **gotten a bit out of hand**."
- "The demonstration is **getting out of hand**."
- "It was only a joke but sadly **got a little out of hand**."

2) **GET YOUR HEAD AROUND IT**: to understand something.

Examples:

- "I just can't **get my head around** the fact that she just broke up with me."
- "I just can't **get my head around** the fact that I'm not getting promoted this year."
- "Have you **got your head around** your new situation?"

3) **POUND THE PAVEMENT**: to walk the streets looking for a job.

Examples:

- "You'll be **pounding the pavement** for months before you find another job."
- "I'll need to **pound the pavement** to get a new job."
- "Last year I spent three months **pounding the pavement** after I lost my job."

4) **PULL A RABBIT OUT OF A HAT**: to do something unexpected that may have seemed impossible.

Examples:

- “Unless someone can **pull a rabbit out the hat**, I just don't see how we can fix the problem.”
- “I’m not sure how she does it, but Claire always **pulls a rabbit out her hat** and surprises me.
- “It looks like I’ll have to **pull a few rabbits from the hat.**”

5) **LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED**: is an idiom that means to do everything possible to find something or to solve a problem.

Examples:

- “We’ll **leave no stone unturned** until we prove he is innocent.”
- “Thomas said he would **leave no stone unturned** in the search for peace.”
- “The police will **leave no stone unturned** in their search for the criminals.”

6) **GET IT OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM**: It's when you have a strong urge to do something that you've wanted to do for a long time so that it stops being a burden.

Examples:

- “I had to **get it out of my system**, so I finally told him I was moving to another country.”
- “After crying all night long, she finally **got him out of her system.**”
- “Last week I got a new car. I’ve wanted that for a long time. I’m glad that I finally **got that out of my system.**”

7) **STEP UP YOUR GAME**: Improve in some way, usually so that you can perform as well as others.

Examples:

- “If you want to win the competition, you’ll have to **step up your game.**”
- “Tom really needs to **step up his game** if he wants to stay at this firm.”
- “I really need to **step up my game** if I'm going to apply for this new job.”

8) **PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER**: to calm down and behave normally.

Examples:

- “Just **pull yourself together**. It’s not worth crying about it.”
- “I hope he **pulls himself together** soon or he'll lose the job.”
- “Right now I have no choice but to **pull myself together.**”

- 9) **HANG IN THERE**: wait and be patient.

Examples:

- “I know you'd like to call her, but it's not the right thing to do right now. Just **hang in there**, and she'll call you.”
- “I know it can be really heavy, but you'll have to **hang in there** for another week.
- “**Hang in there**, Jimmy. I promise you it will soon be all right.”

10) **BLEW ME AWAY**: when something blows you away, you're extremely impressed by it.

Examples:

- “It **blew me away** when I found out my brother was getting married.”
- “No matter how many times I've watched this movie, it still **blows me away**. The story is so convincing!”
- “The way she danced tonight just **blew me away**.”

Let's listen to the new expressions once again:

- **Get Out Of Hand**
- Get Your Head Around It
- **Pound The Pavement**
- Pull A Rabbit Out Of A Hat
- **Leave No Stone Unturned**
- Get It Out Of Your System
- **Step Up Your Game**
- Pull Yourself Together
- **Hang In There**
- Blew Me Away

And don't worry about it. You probably won't remember the meaning right away. If that's the case, I recommend that you listen to the lesson several times until you're familiar with the new idioms. And in the second part of this episode, you will practice the new expressions with a story.

Point of View Story

(Improve your Grammar)

Okay, now let's move on to the point of view lesson. This is the way it works: I'm going to tell you a short story from two

grammatical points of view. Just listen carefully and repeat as many times as you like.

Let's listen to the story from Steve's point of view:

Hi, everyone! My name's Steve, and I'm a magician. Some years ago I wasn't a very good magician. Although I could make anything disappear, like watches, wallets, etc., I didn't know how to make them reappear again. I was ashamed and couldn't **get my head around** the fact that I was a complete failure.

Truth be told I knew perfectly well that I had to **step up my game** if I really wanted to become successful.

There was something that I wanted to **get out of my system** though. Every day I had the same idea in my head; I wanted to finish an online magic course I had started some years ago.

One day during one of my performances things **got out of hand** when I made someone's Rolex disappear. The owner started a big fight when he realized he couldn't get his watch back. As a result, my boss finally got fed up with me and fired me.

After the initial shock, I **pulled myself together** and started **pounding the pavement**.

Three months went by, and I still couldn't find a job. Some days I felt hopeless, and tried to cheer myself up by saying "**Hang in there!**"

In my interview number 884, I pessimistically explained the same as in the previous interviews: that I was a magician who could make things disappear, but not reappear.

To my great surprise, this time I was immediately hired.

It turned out that my new employer was the head of the city's garbage department.

The man had a big problem. He urgently needed to make tons of garbage disappear. He swore he would **leave no stone unturned** until he came up with a solution. Then one day he had a brilliant idea. He hired a magician for the task. We could say that he **pulled a rabbit out of his hat** this time.

And I didn't disappoint my new employer. I **blew him away** with my skills, and I became the best employee of the garbage department ever!

Since then, I had a meaningful and happy life. I often reminded myself not to finish the online magic course. I didn't want to make anything reappear, especially with this new job.

Let's listen to the story in the third person.

There was a guy name Steve. He was a magician though sadly he wasn't a very good one. Although he could make anything disappear, like watches, wallets, etc., he didn't know how to make them reappear again. He was ashamed and couldn't **get his head around** the fact that he was a complete failure. Truth be told he knew perfectly well that he had to **step up his game** if he really wanted to become successful.

There was something that he wanted to **get out of his system** though. Every day he had the same idea in his head; he wanted to finish an online magic course he had started some years ago.

One day during one of his performances things **got out of hand** when he made someone's Rolex disappear. The owner started a big fight when he realized he couldn't get his watch back. As a result, Steve's boss finally got fed up with him and fired Steve.

After the initial shock, Steve **pulled himself together** and started **pounding the pavement**.

Three months went by, and he still couldn't find a job. Some days he felt hopeless, and tried to cheer himself up by saying "**Hang in there!**"

In his interview number 884, he pessimistically explained the same as in the previous interviews: that he was a magician who could make things disappear, but not reappear.

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Steve didn't disappoint his new employer. He **blew him away** with his skills, and he became the best employee of the garbage department ever!

Since then, Steve has had a meaningful and happy life. He often reminded himself not to finish the online magic course. He didn't want to make anything reappear, especially with this new job.

All right! It's the end of this point of view story.

There are many kinds of point of view stories. For example, I can alternate between plural and singular; use the first or the third person; I may use the conditional, etc. It's really useful, and I recommend that you listen to the story several times.

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Well, that's it for today!

Please help me spread the word about the podcast. Tell your friends and family about the show and leave some comments on iTunes when you have some minutes. That would make me very happy!

See you next week!

Bye! Bye!



Georgiana

founder of SpeakEnglishPodcast.com