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## **Episode #028**

THE WORD **BEAR**  
ENGLISH IDIOMS & PHRASAL VERBS

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Hi, everyone! I'm Georgiana, founder of [SpeakEnglishPodcast.com](http://SpeakEnglishPodcast.com).  
My mission is to help YOU to speak English fluently and confidently.

In today's episode:

- I'm gonna talk about the word **bear**.
- Next, through a mini-history lesson, you'll practice vocabulary, and above all, you'll improve your spoken English.

Very well. Let's get started!

The word **bear** is often used as a noun when we're referring to a large furry animal that likes eating honey. By the way, in the second part of this podcast, you'll meet two funny bears Yogi and Boo-Boo.

**To bear** is a **verb** with several meanings:

A few of its meanings are to hold, to support, to exhibit, to stand, or to give birth to.

For example, if I say that "I can't bear" something, I mean that I can't tolerate it or stand it. It's just too much, or it makes me very unhappy.

Here are some more examples of the word bear:

Usually, we use the verb to bear when we're in a position where we need to accept, tolerate, or endure something, especially something unpleasant:

"The pain was almost more than Jason could bear."

"How can you bear to eat that food?"

There are some other similar expressions. Instead of saying, "**I can't bear,**" you could say I can't **stand** it, or I can't **put up with** it.

"I love going to the beach, but my sister can't **stand** it." "I just can't **put up with** my friend's dog."

What if you want to say the opposite of "I can't bear"?

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Let's say that you're OK with our friend's dog. It's not a problem for you. You can invite your friend over, and it's just fine if he brings the dog.

You could say: **I don't mind** my friend's dog. My friend's dog doesn't bother me. I can tolerate it. I **don't mind** the dog.

Let's get back to the verb **to bear**.

When we're **responsible for something** we use, the word **bear** like

this:

You'll also find the word **bear** to say that someone's **giving birth**. "Most animals **bear** their young in the spring."

"He became ecstatic when his wife **bore** him a child."

As you've already noticed, you can use the word **bear** in many different ways.

Here are some **common expressions with the word BEAR**:

When you need to deal with something painful, we say that you bear the pain:

"Sometimes it's, hard to **bear the pain** of being lonely."

If you're in a situation where you need to put up with the worst of some bad circumstance, we say that you need to **bear the brunt**:

"The kids should not have to **bear the brunt** of what the parents did."

- Sometimes, you need to take responsibility for the negative effects of your actions. It's when we say that you **bear the consequences**:

"She's quitting her job anyway, so; she won't be here next month to bear the consequences."

When you need to handle something very unpleasant, you **bear the thought**:

"I can't even **bear the thought** of going home because it doesn't feel like home anymore."

I know you absolutely love phrasal verbs. So, pay attention because I'll give you some **PHRASAL VERBS** examples with the word bear:

**BEAR WITH** means to be patient:

"Please **BEAR WITH** me a moment while I finish this email."

**BORE DOWN ON** means to move towards:

"She saw him on the other side of the room, and she immediately **BORE DOWN ON** him."

**BEAR ON/UPON** something: to influence or to affect something

"I don't see how that evidence **BEARS ON** this case."

**•BEAR OUT: Confirm that something is correct.**  
"The newly discovered papers **BORE OUT** the rumors about the judge's personal life."

**•BEAR UP: Resist pressure**  
"She thought that she wouldn't **BEAR UP** the pain of childbirth."

Talking about bears, when I was a kid, I used to watch the **Yogi Bear Show** almost every day.

I simply loved Yogi and Boo-Boo! They were two adorable bears who always got in trouble.

The Yogi Bear Show is an American animated television series about the misadventures of picnic basket stealing in Jellystone Park.

Yogi Bear was a grizzly bear; therefore, he was brown. He had a deep, silly voice and used to speak in rhyme.

He loved to call the picnic baskets ("pic-a-nic baskets"). Yogi's favorite catchphrases were "I'm smarter than the average bear!" and "I'm so smart that it hurts!" Nevertheless, he would often overestimate his cleverness.

Just like Yogi Bear, his friend Boo-Boo was a humanlike bear wearing a purple bowtie. Boo-Boo was Yogi Bear's best friend and often acted as Yogi's

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conscience. He always tried to prevent Yogi from doing things he shouldn't.

Now it's time to meet Yogi and Boo-Boo in today's mini-story.

## Mini-Story

(Practice your speaking)

OK, let's move on to the next section.

Here, I'll use the **Question & Answer** technique. This is the perfect lesson if you want to speak English automatically.

Let's see how it works:

- I'll give you some information. (A phrase or two).
- I'll ask simple questions.
- After each question, there will be some seconds of silence: it's your turn to answer the question!  
Just try to give an easy and short answer, not a complex one.
- After you answer, I'll give you a correct answer.

This process will continue, and little by little, I'll be telling a story using questions and answers.

Let's get started!

**Yogi and Boo-Boo were two bears who lived in Jellystone Park.**

**Were Yogi and Boo-Boo tigers?**

No. They weren't tigers. They were bears.

**Were they sheep?**

No. No. Not sheep. Yogi and Boo-Boo were bears.

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**What were they?**

Bears. They were bears.

**Did they live in Jellystone or a zoo?**

Not a zoo. They lived in Jellystone Park.

**Where did the two bears live?**

In Jellystone Park.

**What were they, and where did they live?**

They were bears and lived in Jellystone Park.

**Yogi was a grizzly  bear, and he used to say that he was smarter than the average bear.**

**Was Yogi a polar bear?**

No. Not a polar bear. He was a grizzly bear.

**Was Yogi a grizzly bear?**

Yes. He was. Yogi was a grizzly bear.

**Was Yogi smart or dumb?**

Smart. He was smarter than the average bear.

**Was Yogi dumber than the average bear?**

No. Not dumber. He was smarter than the average bear.

**Did Yogi like to say that he was smarter than the average bear?**

Yes. He loved to say that he was smarter than the average bear.

**Did Yogi say that he was smarter than his friend Boo-Boo?**

Yes. He said that he was smarter than the average bear. He said that he was smarter than Boo-Boo.

**Who was smarter than the average? Yogi or Boo-Boo?**

Yogi. He was smarter than the average.

**Yogi always came up with a plan to steal the tourist's picnic baskets.**

**Did Yogi sometimes come up with a plan?**

No. Not sometimes. He always came up with a plan.

**Did Yogi always come up with a plan?**

Yes. He always came up with a plan.

**What was the plan?**

He planned to steal the tourist's picnic baskets.

**Did Yogi come up with a plan to steal baskets?**

Yes. He came up with a plan to steal picnic baskets.

**Whose baskets did Yogi want to steal? Boo-Boo's Baskets?**

Not Boo-Boo's baskets. He wanted to steal people's picnic baskets.

**His friend Boo-Boo constantly tried to stop Yogi from getting in trouble.**

**Did Yogi's friend try to stop him?**

Yes. Yogi's friend, Boo-Boo, constantly tried to stop him.

**Who tried to stop Yogi?**

Boo-Boo. Yogi's friend tried to stop him.

**Yogi tried to stop Boo-Boo, right?**

No. No. Not Yogi. It was Boo-Boo who tried to stop Yogi. Not the other way around.

**Why Boo-Boo constantly try to stop his friend?**

Because he didn't want Yogi to get in trouble.

**Boo-Boo couldn't bear to see Yogi steal picnic baskets. He often asked his friend to hunt for food.**

**Did Boo-Boo bear to see Yogi steal picnic baskets?**

No. He didn't. He didn't bear to see Yogi steal.

**Boo-Boo asked Yogi about stealing and hunting. Right?**

Yes. He asked Yogi to hunt instead of stealing baskets.

**Yogi's friend wanted him to hunt instead of stealing picnic baskets. Right?**

Right. Boo-Boo wanted Yogi to hunt.

**Who often asked Yogi to hunt?**

Boo-Boo. He often asked Yogi to hunt.

**What did Boo-Boo ask Yogi? To stop going to the gym?**

No. No. He didn't ask Yogi to stop going to the gym. He asked him to stop stealing.

**Yogi used to say that hunting is for losers, and a picnic basket had everything a bear needed.**

**Yogi said that hunting was for losers, right?**

Yes. Yogi said that hunting was for losers.

**Did Yogi say that hunting was for losers or winners?**

For losers. He said that hunting is for losers. Not for winners.

**Was the picnic basket everything a bear needed?**

Yes. According to Yogi, the picnic basket was everything a bear needed.

**Who said that a picnic basket had everything a bear needed? Boo-Boo?**

Not Boo-Boo. Yogi. He said that a picnic basket had everything a bear needed.

**Yogi couldn't bear the consequences of stealing the picnic baskets. He always ran away from the forest ranger.**

**Did Yogi bear the consequences of stealing?**

No. He didn't bear the consequences. He ran away from the forest ranger.

**Was Yogi a responsible bear?**

No. No. He wasn't responsible. He always ran away and didn't bear the consequences.

**Why did Yogi run away from the forest ranger? To avoid the negative consequences?**

Yes. He ran away to avoid negative consequences. He didn't want to bear the consequences of his actions.

**It was Boo-Boo who ran away from the ranger, right?**

No. No. Not Boo-Boo. It was Yogi who ran away from the ranger. Not Boo-Boo.

OK! Awesome! It's the end of this short lesson.

Can you see how many questions you can answer?  
It's like talking to another person in English. Now

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imagine a whole story told this way. It's incredible how much you can learn using this method.

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And continue practicing your spoken English with stories.

See you soon and have a wonderful week!  
Bye! Bye!



*Georgiana*

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