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Episode #205

Fuel, Electricity, Gas
and rising prices

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*- You know, I couldn't buy gasoline because it's too expensive,
I sold my car, and now I have enough money to buy it without any problem.*

Hi, everybody! I am Georgiana, your English teacher and founder of [SpeakEnglishPodcast.com](https://speakenglishpodcast.com). My mission is to help you speak English fluently.

In this episode:

- I'm going to talk about a current topic: the widespread **price increase** we are suffering because of the **economic situation**.
- In the second part, you will practice grammar with a point of view lesson. Don't miss it!

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If there's one thing we can say lately when we go shopping for groceries, it is that **prices are going up** a lot.

And this wouldn't be a big problem for people if wages were rising in the same way.

Obviously, people are not happy. They see that, with the same salary, they can buy fewer and fewer products.

This is partly due to the increase in the price of three goods in the energy sector: **fuel, electricity, and gas**.

When I say **fuel**, I mean gasoline and diesel. Usually, trucks use diesel. Fuel prices are about to double. This affects the economy a lot because, as you know, goods have to be transported from one place to another. The transport sector takes care of this.

A large truck can easily have a tank of 1000 liters. That's a little more than 250 gallons. Imagine the cost of all that diesel.

This affects the entire **distribution chain** and makes products more expensive.

The second key element that is affecting prices is the **cost of electricity**. I have seen some bills that double and even triple previous years' totals at the consumer level.

All businesses in all sectors use electricity. If you increase the cost, all economic sectors are affected, from industry to food. For example, imagine you go shopping at the supermarket. You want to buy meat, yogurt, fish;... All these products are refrigerated. To refrigerate, you need electricity, so prices increase.

Finally, the price of **gas** has gone up a lot. At the domestic level, gas is used for cooking and air conditioning. In winter, it is very important because you need to heat the house. But it is also used in industry, and it affects costs in a very significant way.

I have read that some companies, in order to avoid raising prices, they offer less quantity of product for the same price. So, for example, for the same price of 500 grams of meat, now they only give you 400 grams. It is a psychological trick.

Okay, to finish this section, let's look at some expressions you may hear regarding this topic:

- **Inflation** is the generalized **rise within a certain period of products and services**. Please do not confuse it with inflammation. If you have inflammation, better go to the nearest hospital. :)

- **CPI**: This is the **consumer price index**. Many people confuse it with inflation, but it is not the same. It is a representative selection of products and services and calculates the average increase to measure inflation. The inflation figure can be altered if you change this selection of products.

- **Purchasing power**: This is the ability to buy things. If prices go up (inflation) with the same amount of money, you have less purchasing power.

- **Tightening the belt**: It is a phrase that means that you have to make an effort to reduce expenses.

Well, I hope you liked this current topic and the associated vocabulary.

By the way, if you want to know how to **speak English** using the right techniques, visit SpeakEnglishPodcast.com and subscribe to my mailing list. **I will send you my five golden rules to speak English fluently. And it's completely free.**

Okay! Now it's time for you to learn grammar in context with a point of view story.

Point of View Story

(learn grammar in context)

I'll tell you a short story more than one time. Every time, I'll change a grammar point. I can change the tense or the person. This way, you'll notice the changes in context.

Ok. Let's start!

First in the past tense:

Tom lived in a country with a lot of **inflation**. The **consumer price index** kept going up. It was astronomical. Things were costing more and more, and **purchasing power** was becoming minuscule. "I think I'll have to **tighten my belt** even more," he said. At the end of the month, the company he worked for paid his salary in cash. They gave him lots of piles of bills since, with so much **inflation**, they needed millions to pay an average salary. So Tom used a wheelbarrow to take all those bills with him. While pushing the wheelbarrow, Tom thought to himself, "I'm a millionaire, but I can hardly buy anything." He passed a bar and saw a friend inside. He left the wheelbarrow at the entrance and went in to greet his friend. When he came out, he noticed that he had been robbed. But they didn't take the money, but the wheelbarrow.

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Okay, now in the future. Imagine that Tom will have all this happen to him in a few years:

Tom will live in a country with lots of **inflation**. The **consumer price index** won't stop rising. It will be astronomical. Things will cost more and more, and **purchasing power** will become minuscule. "I think I'll have to **tighten my belt** even more," he will say to himself.

At the end of the month, the company where he will work will pay his salary in cash. They will give him lots of piles of bills since, with so much **inflation**, they will need millions to pay an average salary. So Tom will use a wheelbarrow to take all those bills with him.

While pushing the wheelbarrow, Tom will think, "I'm a millionaire, but I can hardly buy anything." He'll pass a bar and see a friend inside. He will leave the wheelbarrow at the entrance and go in to greet his friend. On the way out, he will realize he has been robbed. But they won't take the money, but the wheelbarrow.

Okay! That's the end of this little exercise. Notice that the changes between grammar points are subtle but important.

My advice is not to try to memorize grammar rules. It's better to see the changes in the proper context. With a story it is much easier to remember all this.

It is one of the techniques that I use in my [premium courses](#).

I recommend you to you take a look at:
[SpeakEnglishPodcast.com/courses](https://speakenglishpodcast.com/courses)

Ok! We have reached the end of this episode.

Remember to listen to it several times. It will help you with your English.

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That would mean a lot to me. Thanks.

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See you soon! Bye! Bye!



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