

English on the air II

إنجليزي عَ الهواء II

Comprehension

فهم

Today's Reading:

- **Ephesians 5: 11-17:** Don't waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. Expose these things for the sham they are. It's a scandal when people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see. Rip the cover off those frauds and see how attractive they look in the light of Christ. Wake up from your sleep, Climb out of your coffins; Christ will show you the light! So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times! Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants.

Vocabulary

مفردات ومعاني

Using the telephone

عبر الهاتف

Making and answering a call:

- Hello!/ Hi!/ Good morning/ afternoon/ evening!
- Samer speaking/ It's Mary here.
- Could I speak to Elie, please?
- Speaking!
- Who is calling?
- May I ask who is calling?
- Where are you calling from?
- How do you spell that?
- One moment, please.
- Hold the line, please.
- I'll put him/her on.
- Can I use your phone?

- I am sorry, he's not available at the moment/ in a meeting/ got another call/ not in at the moment.
- Would you like to leave a message?
- Could you ask him/her to call me?
- Can I take your number?/ What's your number?
- Could I take your name and number, please?
- I'll call back later.
- Can I call you back?
- Please call back later.
- Thanks for calling.

For an unwanted phone call:

- I'm sorry, I'm not interested.
- Sorry, I'm busy at the moment.

Problems:

- The line is engaged/ busy.
- I can't get through at the moment.
- I'm only getting an answering machine.
- Sorry, you must have the wrong number
- Can you hear me OK?
- I can't hear you very well.
- Could you please repeat that?
- My battery's about to run out/ die.
- I need to charge up my phone.
- I'm about to run out of credit.
- Sorry, I ran out of credit.
- I can't get a signal/ I've got a very weak signal.
- I'll send you a text/ I'll text you later.

Grammar

القواعد

Short Answers:

- Saying ‘*Yes, I do. / No, I don’t*’ in English is more polite than just saying ‘*Yes. / No.*’ That’s why short answers are very commonly used.
- To form the short answer, you use the first word from the question. (This is either an auxiliary verb or a form of ‘be’.)
- Use the long form (*he does*) in affirmative answers (yes).
- Use the short form (he doesn’t) in negative answers (no).

Short Answers:

Question	Affirmative	Negative
Do we know him?	Yes, we do.	No, we don't.
Can she see me?	Yes, she can.	No, she can't.
Have they read the book?	Yes, they have.	No, they haven't.
Is he hungry?	Yes, he is.	No, he isn't.

Short Answers:

- Be careful: If 'you' is the subject of the question, 'you' must be replaced by 'I' or 'we'.

Question	Affirmative	Negative
Do you know him?	Yes, I / we do.	No, I / we don't.

- Be careful: If the question starts with 'are you', 'are' must sometimes be replaced by 'am'.

Question	Affirmative	Negative
Are you hungry?	Yes, I am.	No, I'm not.
But: →	Yes, we are.	No, we aren't.

Idioms:

Idiom	Meaning
Hold the phone	<p>1. Fig. Please wait on the telephone and do not hang up. <i>Bill: Hold the phone, please. (Turning to Tom) Tom, the phone's for you.</i></p> <p>2. Fig. Wait just a minute.; Don't rush into something. <i>Hold the phone! Let's think about it a little longer. Hold the phone. I just had another idea.</i></p>
Get on the phone	<p>To pick up a telephone receiver to talk to someone or make a telephone call. <i>I'll get on the phone and call Fran right away.</i></p>

Idioms:

Idiom	Meaning
Pop the question	To ask someone to marry you. <i>I remember he popped the question while we were eating ice cream.</i>
Without a question	Absolutely; certainly. <i>She agreed to help without question.</i>
Burning question	Fig. a question whose answer is of great interest to everyone; a question that needs very much to be answered, as a fire needs to be extinguished. <i>There's a burning question that needs to be answered: Why did you do it?</i>