
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

English Together

Safe as houses?



This is not a word-for-word transcript.

Tejali

Hello all... welcome to English Together. असा शो जिथे आपण चर्चा करतो निरनिराळे विषय आणि त्यासंबंधित शब्दांची. मी तेजाली आणि माझ्यासोबत आहे...

Tom

Hi everybody, I'm Tom. Welcome to today's episode of English Together.

Sam

Hello, I'm Sam.

Tejali

You're in a good mood today Sam!

Sam

Today's payday! I just got paid!

Tejali

Oh nice! Are you going to spend it on anything special?

Sam

No, I like to keep my money in the bank, where it's as safe as houses!

Tejali

What? Are you going to buy a house?

Tom

No! If something is as safe as houses it means that we think it's very secure or stable. It comes from the British belief that buying a house is one of the best investments you can make.

Tejali

Ah! To make an investment म्हणजे गुंतवणूक करणे. So should I invest in London property?

Sam

You'd be lucky! It's so difficult to buy houses here! Most people struggle to pay their rent.

Tejali

ओह! Rent म्हणजे भाडं. त्यावरून आजचा प्रश्न आठवला. लंडनमध्ये घरभाडी प्रचंड आहेत. पण तुम्हाला माहितीये तिथल्या लोकांना पगाराच्या किती टक्के रक्कम घरभाड्यावर खर्च करावी लागते? काही अंदाज? चला मी तुम्हाला तीन पर्याय देते: जवळपास 30%, 40% की 50%? याचं उत्तर मी तुम्हाला नंतर देते.

Tom

Well, I won't spoil the answer for our listeners but I will say that rental costs in London are ridiculous!

Sam

The thing is, there's so much demand for rented property in London that landlords can afford to charge whatever they want!

Tejali

Yes! Property म्हणजे मालमत्ता आणि landlord म्हणजे घरमालक. BBC Radio 4 चा *You and Yours* मधला हा एक भाग ऐकू. लंडनमधील लोक घरभाडं टाळण्यासाठी काय काय करतात, त्याबद्दल यात चर्चा केली आहे.

Presenter

In London, a growing number of people are saving money on their rent by living as caretakers in empty buildings. They call these people property guardians and there are 7000 of them in the UK now, most of them in the capital. The idea came from the Netherlands and it really took off in London after the financial crash. 30 companies manage property guardian services there. But new research for York University for the London Assembly has found that property guardians are sometimes in substandard housing with very few rights. Rex Deuce is a property guardian in London.

Rex

I became a property guardian because I'd been living in private renting for about 4 years in London and I was able to get cheaper space and a larger space as a guardian. I've lived in about 8 or 9 properties and on average they range from 6 months, 9 months to about 18 months. I am currently living in a very run-down pub, I'm about to move out, in fact, in a week and a half. It's full of holes. It leaks. When it snows outside it's as cold inside as outside, so it's probably the worst-condition building I've ever lived in.

Tom

What a horrible living situation!

Sam

And he's still paying a high rent, too! What's it like in your country? Are people happy to pay landlords or do they aspire to own their own houses?

Tejali

Everyone aspires to buy his own house. 'Aspire' म्हणजे महत्त्वाकांक्षा, मनोरथ. A caretaker, काळजी घेणारा, for cheap rent, though.

Sam

Well, I would say that life in London is great, but expensive. If you can't rent cheaply, why not take care of someone else's property for a while?

Tom

I think you're missing the point here, Sam. These people are still paying to live in poor-quality accommodation. They are being exploited because the housing market in London is too crowded!

Tejali

'Exploit' म्हणजे पिळवणूक. Well, nobody is forcing them, I suppose.

Sam

Yes, the man in the interview agreed to live there. What's exploitative about that?

Tom

It's exploitative because the only choice people have is to live in these awful, expensive, horrible houses.

Sam

Well, I think it sounds OK. It can't be any more extortionate than what I'm paying already.

Tejali

Extortionate म्हणजे जबरदस्तीने पैसे उकळणे, अक्वाच्या सक्वा किंमती, वाजवीपेक्षा जास्त. On that note आजच्या प्रश्नाचं उत्तर सांगते. याचं उत्तर आहे C. लंडनमधील सामान्य माणूस पगाराच्या जवळ जवळ 49% रक्कम नुसत्या घरभाड्यावर खर्च करतो. खूपच झालं नाही!

Tom

49% of your salary on rent! That's ridiculous! I don't think it's fair that landlords are able to extort all this money out of people just because they own a few houses! I think this is something that we need to do something about!

Sam

I think you need to calm down, Tom. There are lots of benefits to life in London, rent's just something you have to put up with.

Tejali

To put up with म्हणजे सहन करणे. काही गोष्टी सहन कराव्याच लागतात, and you should not get so upset over something you can't control. People here are put up with lots of things, like pollution, garbage.

Tom

Well, I suppose your money really is as 'safe as houses' if you're a landlord. I still don't think it's fair that their high rent is something we have to put up with, though...

Sam

Tom, you know the other expression that uses 'put up'?

Tom

No...

Sam

Put up, or shut up!

Tom

Hey! That's not very nice, is it Sam?

Sam

It's what you get.

Tejali

Haha.. अरे.. शांत व्हा. आणि टॉम, तू आधी प्रत्येक गोष्टीबद्दल तक्रार करणं बंद बरं. आणि आता तुम्ही सांगा तुमच्याबद्दल. तुम्हाला कशात गुंतवणूक करायला आवडेल? मालमत्ता म्हणजे property. त्याच्या किंमती फार expensive म्हणजे महाग वाटतात की extortionate म्हणजे अवाच्या सव्वा वाटतात का? घरमालक म्हणजे landlords त्यांच्या भाडेकरू म्हणजे tenantची पिळवणूक करतात असं वाटतं का तुम्हाला? पिळवणूक म्हणजे Exploiting करणारं. आणि हे सगळं अपरिहार्य आहे, we need to put up with आहे असं तुम्हाला वाटतं का? पैसे वाचवण्यासाठी तुम्ही कोणाकडे घराचा रखवालदार, म्हणजे 'caretaker' म्हणून रहाल का? तुम्हाला काय वाटतं आम्हाला नक्की सांगा. पुन्हा भेटू English Togetherच्या पुढच्या भागात. Bye.