EASY ACCESS ENGLISH

How not to be boring in English.

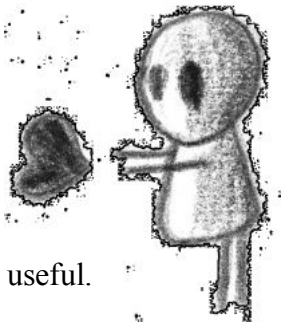
Have you ever noticed that some people are very interesting to listen to and immediately catch your attention when they speak while others make you switch off and drift off to think about other things?

Making what you say interesting depends on a variety of elements such as sentence structure, intonation, images and comparisons, and also adjectives. People who have a large vocabulary are able to describe things in precise and imaginative terms using a variety of adjectives.

My Grandfather always used to say that the word 'nice' meant nothing. He encouraged me to find other words to describe my opinions. He was a very eloquent man and often surprised people with his elaborate complements. In fact he always found the right way to say what he was thinking. His words really meant something.

Let's take a leaf out of his book and try to use a wider range of adjectives.

Activity One How many different words can you think of to express appreciation for example, without saying 'That was nice of you', or 'That was good of you'?



Here are some ideas.

- That was very **considerate** of you and I appreciate it.
- Thanks for being so **conscientious**.
- I appreciate that you are so **supportive**.
- Thanks for being so **generous** with your time.
- I like the fact that you are very **creative** and I find your input very useful.
- Thanks for being so **reassuring**.

If you pinpoint exactly what you appreciated about a person's behaviour or contribution then they will see that you are sincere and thanking them will really mean something.

In a different situation, when you are, for example selling an idea to a group of people, in a meeting or presentation, then you will be a lot more convincing if you find the right adjectives. Here are some examples again.

- This new system is much more **efficient**, it will allow us to save time and money.
- Offering this new service will be very **attractive** to our clients, as it will make ordering much **simpler** for them.
- This promotion is very **advantageous** for our clients.
- Charity work of this kind is very **beneficial** to our reputation.
- This would be a **logical** next step towards reducing spending this year.



So, all this to say that if you are familiar with enough adjectives you will be more varied and interesting to listen to and no one will find you boring!

when i get bored at work i lay on a chair and roll around and pretend i am swimming because the office is underwater

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In order to learn new adjectives, just follow these three steps and soon you will be using a much wider range of descriptive words.

1. Take note when you come across a new adjective.
2. Make a conscious effort to use the exact descriptive words you are looking for, by using the dictionary when you can't think of the word you need.
3. Make sure you think about what you really want to say in reaction to a situation, or when giving your opinion about something, and make an effort to use specific adjectives.

Activity Two – Brainstorming.

Find as many adjectives as you can to describe each of the following things, people or situations:

1. Your mother, wife or kids.
2. The view from your office window.
3. The smell of fresh coffee.
4. The smell of the dustbin area in your building.
5. The sound a pile of leaves make when you walk in it.
6. The feeling you get when you wake up on a Sunday morning.
7. A diamond.
8. A pair of new leather shoes.



Activity Three – 20 Questions.

Your partner / teacher will think of an object. You need to guess what it is but you can only ask questions with adjectives in and that can be answered by yes or no.

Activity Four – Read the article paying attention to your intonation and stress.

Here are a few **signs of boredom** that you need to watch out for when talking to people:

1. Responding the same way over and over.

"*Really?*", "*Right*", "*Yeah*" "*Uh-huh*" – these tired replies accompanied with occasional nods, are usually indicators that people are not too engaged in the conversation. They might listen, because good manners are binding them to do so, but they really would like to talk about something else.

2. Repeating the last phrase that has just been said.

The information we ignore does not disappear immediately. If needed, we are able to pull the last few words that have just been said by the other person from our sensory memory into a more conceptual immediate memory. This is what most of us do to when we do not want to be rude and give the



impression that we were not paying attention to the conversation – we simply repeat the last phrase in a questioning tone of voice.

3. Changing body position.

Non-verbal signals that our body sends are far more reliable than the words we say. Some of the postures to look out for in a conversation are leaning away from the speaker, pointing feet towards the door, crossed arms on the chest, sitting with crossed legs and kicking a foot slightly. They usually convey just one emotion – boredom. Conversely, when we are interested in conversation we tend to lean towards the speaker, while 'mirroring' their gestures.

4. Yawning.

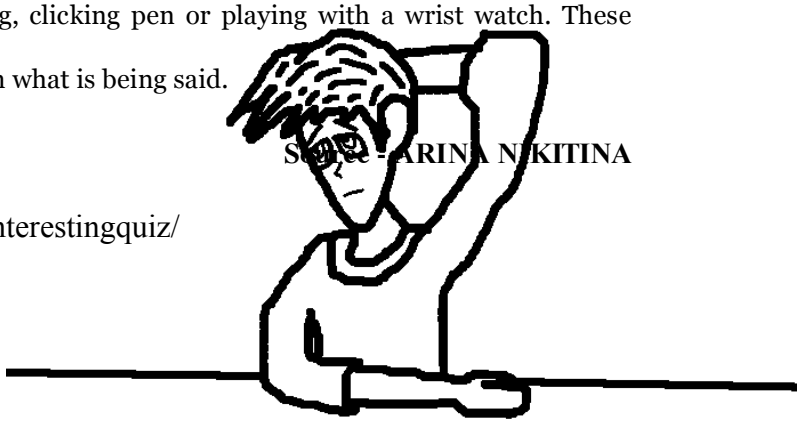
A great conversation should be like a refreshing desert that leaves you wanting for more, not a hearty meal that drains your energy and puts you to sleep. If the person you are talking to yawns frequently or suppresses an urge to yawn, take it as a signal to keep the conversation short and to the point.

5. Breaking eye contact.

Our gaze often follows the trace of our thoughts. When we are truly engaged in the conversation we give our full attention to the speaker. But as our thoughts wander away from the conversation, so does our gaze. If a person continually breaks eye contact while speaking or has that far away look, it can mean only one things – their thoughts are very far from the topic of the conversation.

6. Playing with something in their hands.

A study published in the journal Applied Cognitive Psychology reveals that when people are asked to retain tediously delivered information, they may unconsciously channel their anxiety through gestures like drumming fingers, picking clothes, doodling, clicking pen or playing with a wrist watch. These gestures actually help the mind to stay focused on what is being said.



SOURCE – ARINA NIKITINA

http://www.blogthings.com/areyouboringorinterestingquiz/