



## #028: THE WORD BEAR IN ENGLISH IDIOMS PHRASAL VERBS AND Q&A STORY

"I just can't bear waking up early in the morning!"

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"?

Let's say that you're OK with your 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:

*"Do parents have to **bear the** whole **cost** of schooling fees?" (Do they need to take full responsibility?)*

*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 rumours 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 his best friend, and often acted as Yogi's 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

(Improve 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 the 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.

**What were they?**

Bears. They were bears.

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

Not a zoo. They lived in the Jellystone Park.

**Where did the two bears live?**

In the Jellystone park.

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

They were bears, and lived in the Jellystone Park.

**Yogi was a grizzly 🐻 bear, and he used to say that 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 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 the 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 imagine a whole story told this way. It's incredible how much you can learn using this method.

Go to [Courses.SpeakEnglishPodcast.com](http://Courses.SpeakEnglishPodcast.com)  
and continue practicing your spoken English with stories.

See you soon and have a wonderful week!

Bye! Bye!



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