

AFARINESH IELTS Radio – Podcast 46

Describe a time when you received money as a gift

You should say:

- Who gave it to you
- When was it given to you
- Where it happened
- How you felt about it

Well, I don't think if I could **pin down** one specific case right now since I'm always getting money as a gift from people around me. You know, in my book this sort of thing **stands for** lack of respect. It's somehow like telling someone "Hey, **I couldn't care less about** you and your birthday or whatever it is, so why don't you just take this money and get yourself something, cause **I'm up to my eyeballs in work**". Any ways, let me tell you about this birthday of mine for which I'd been preparing myself since a month **prior to** the event. The thing is, I was just **keeping it all on the DL**, and pretended that it'd totally **slipped my mind**. You know, in my **heart of hearts**, I had this feeling that everybody knew about it and they were gonna **throw** me a surprise party. Funny fact is, that's just how I perceived stuff and not even one **shred of** that beautiful thought came true. On the eve of my birthday, I just received an envelope from my parents with some money inside and an apology for forgetting my birthday. I was absolutely **taken aback** and was about **to lose my cool**. You know, I couldn't have felt any worse. I sort of managed to **keep a cool head** and didn't let my anger get the better of me, though. Eventually, I found a way to **creep out** and headed towards a park close by and tried to let it all **blow over**.

Language Focus

Pin down

cause or force (someone) to make a definite statement or decision about something

Reporters tried to pin him down on the specific changes he wants to make to the tax laws.

Stands for

be an abbreviation of or symbol for.

"BBC stands for British Broadcasting Corporation"

I couldn't care less

If a person says, "I couldn't care less" about something, it means that the amount of care and concern they have about something could not be any less, any lower. This makes sense. Therefore when someone says I could care less, it should mean the opposite, that they are concerned

I'm up to my eyeballs in something

phrase informal. to have a very large amount of something to do or deal with. We're up to our eyeballs in work.

Prior to

before.

"she visited me on the day prior to her death"

Keep everything on the DL

Down-low (also "on the down low" or "on the DL") may refer to any activity or relationship kept discreet. Specifically, it may refer to: Keeping an act, action or some other piece of information a secret.

Down-low (sexual slang): Men who identify as heterosexual, but have sex with men secretly.

Slip ones mind

Be overlooked or forgotten, as in I meant to pick up the wine but it slipped my mind. This idiom was first recorded about 1340.

Heart of hearts

in your heart of hearts. phrase. If you believe or know something in your heart of hearts, that is what you really believe or think, even though it may sometimes seem that you do not.

Throw sb a party

throw a party (for someone) Fig. to have a party; to hold a party; to arrange a party. Bill threw a party for his sister before she went away to college.

Shred of

a very small amount of something

Taken aback

If you are taken aback by something, you are surprised or shocked by it and you cannot respond at once. Roland was taken aback by our strength of feeling. [+ by] Derek was taken aback when a man answered the phone.

Lose ones cool

maintain (or fail to maintain) a calm and controlled attitude.

"he finally lost his cool with a photographer and threatened to hit him"

Keep a cool head

stay calm in a difficult situation: I don't know how you manage to keep such a cool head in such a hectic, stressful office!

Creep out

cause (someone) to have an uncomfortable feeling of nervousness or fear : to give (someone) the creeps
That guy really creeps me out.

Blow over

(of trouble) fade away without serious consequences.

"if he would simply cool off, the whole matter would soon blow over"