

AFARINESH IELTS Radio – Podcast 53

Describe a time you spent a lot of money on something.

You should say:

- **What you bought**
- **When you bought it**
- **Where you bought it**
- **And explain why you spent a lot of money to buy it.**

Well, I'm not a **skinflint by any means**. I mean, if I'm hell **bent on** buying something, I don't mind **splashing out** on that specific item even if it means I gotta be **scarping by** for the rest of the month. But the thing that I'm about to tell you goes further and beyond just any normal type of buying. It goes back to the time when I realized I gotta **fly the nest** and quit **squatting** in my parents' house. As a matter of fact, the things between us **came to a head** sometimes and we had a bit of **sticky wicket**, you know. After sometime, for better or worse, I decided to buy my own place and some of my buddies and a couple of cousins **fronted** me some cash and I finally managed to **scrape** the money **together**. Truth be told, I sort of felt **liberated** when I secured a place of my own, regardless of the fact that I was gonna be living in **the boondocks**. You know, never before had I owned anything serious bought with my own **dough** so, I kinda felt like a king who'd just **reclaimed** his **territory**. Now that I think about it, I couldn't have done anything better with the money I'd put together over years. I knew it was time I'd done something reasonable with it since it was **burning a hole in my pocket**. Looking back, I don't feel **remorseful** or anything. Hadn't I bought the place, I'd have probably gotten into **a venture** and lost the whole money. You know, I just don't have the **initiative** and kinda make whole lots of ridiculous **spur of the moment** decisions.

Language Focus

Skinflint

One who is very reluctant to spend money; a miser.

By any means

in any way possible; at all; somehow

be bent on

be determined to do or have something: He was bent on getting married as soon as possible

splash out

spend money freely.

"she splashed out on a Mercedes"

scrape by

to live with barely enough money

fly the nest

(of a young person) leave their parents' home to set up home elsewhere.

Squat

Live in a place without paying rent

Come to a head

if a problem or difficult situation comes to a head, or something brings it to a head, it suddenly becomes worse and has to be dealt with quickly

Things came to a head in the summer.

A sticky wicket

is a metaphor used to describe a difficult circumstance. It originated as a term for difficult circumstances in the sport of cricket, caused by a damp and soft pitch.

front someone some money which means to advance it on their behalf, or possibly loan it to them

If you **scrape together** an amount of money or a number of things, you succeed in obtaining it with difficulty.

The boondocks

is an American expression from the Tagalog word bundók ("mountain"). It originally referred to a remote rural area, but now, is often applied to an out-of-the-way area considered backward and unsophisticated by city-folk.

Liberated

free from social conventions or traditional ideas, especially with regard to sexual roles.

"the modern image of the independent, liberated woman"

Dough

money

He made a huge pile of dough working for an investment bank.

Reclaim

get back something that you have lost or that has been taken away from you

Territory

Land

burn a hole in your pocket

if money burns a hole in your pocket, you want to spend it as soon as you can

Remorse

a strong feeling of being sorry that you have done something very bad → regret:

a venture

an activity or plan of action, often in business, that involves risk or uncertainty

Initiative

the ability to use your judgment to make decisions and do things without needing to be told what to do

spur of the moment

used to say that a decision, action, etc. is sudden and done without any planning:

We hadn't planned to go away - it was one of those spur-of-the-moment decisions.