AFARINESH IELTS Radio – Podcast 60

IELTS Part 3 Questions

• Do you want to become a foreign language teacher in the future? Why?

Matter of fact, I don't really **have my heart set on** becoming a language instructor. I mean I might **dabble in** teaching just to **make a buck**, you know, **to keep the wolf from the door** till I get myself a solid gig or a job in company. The reason is, it takes **the patience of Job**, handling the students and everything. By the way, if you're going to do something serious, you gotta **do that to a tee**, you can't just **cobble up** some lesson plan and think that you're a real teacher.

• Do you think grammar is important when you learn a foreign language? why?

Of course it is, no grammar means that you're gonna be incapable of **stringing words together**. Then, you'd realize that the vocabulary you know is only **a hunk of junk**. That being said, just learning the rules will be **futile** since it won't turn into active knowledge that you could readily use. You outta make sure that you learn it through speaking the language and getting feedback. You know a partner could **come in handy**. Someone with a better level of language knowledge.

• Why do some people learn a language faster than the others?

Your guess is as good as mine. I'm no expert but, I hear that it's got something to do with the knack. Some folks just **have a head for** languages and they **take to it like a duck to water**. That aside, the more infatuated you are with the culture of a language, the higher the probability of you **getting it down**. I guess, it's all about the tie with the culture, how strong it is and how bad you want it.

Language Focus

Have my heart set on sth

To want something very much, so that you would be very disappointed if you do not get it.

"She's got her heart set on ballet lessons."

Dabble in sth

To do something sporadically or as a hobby.

"Oh, I only dabbled in painting when I was younger."

Make a buck

To earn money

"I am just working hard, trying to make a buck."

To keep the wolf from the door

To have or earn enough money to afford things (such as food and clothing) that is needed to live.

"They make just enough to keep the wolf from the door."

The patience of Job

The ability to remain patient and to do what you think you should do despite having many problems.

To do that to a tee

To do sth perfectly or completely.

Cobble up

To assemble or complete something quickly.

"The incoherent argument in your paper tells me that you cobbled it up in study hall."

stringing words together

If you string words or sentences together, you manage to say something that other people can understand.

"People tend to be very impressed if you can string together a couple of sentences in Japanese."

A hunk of junk

A clutter of undesirable objects, normally stacked.

Futile

Having no effect or achieving nothing.

"All my attempts to cheer her up proved futile."

Come in handy

To be useful.

"This money will come in handy when we go on vacation."

To have a head for sth

To have the mental ability to do something well.

"I've always been good at math—I guess I just have a head for numbers."

Take to it like a duck to water

To adapt to or learn something very quickly and naturally, as if it were innate.

"Sarah took to her bike like a duck to water. She was born to ride."

Getting it down

To become skilled or proficient at something.