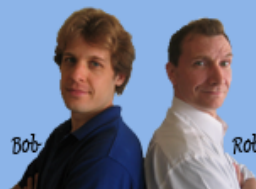


The Bob and Rob Show

Weekly English Lessons from a Yankee and a Brit.



The Bob and Rob Show Study Guide
Lesson 154: Hodgepodge
September 5, 2008

SHOW NOTES

Bob and Rob discuss the increasing number of CCTV cameras around the world. Be careful: Big Brother is watching.

PHRASAL VERBS & IDIOMS

"to pass away"

To die, which is preferred to saying *die* in formal sentences. It collocates with *peacefully* e.g.: *My grandfather passed away peacefully at the age of 96.*

"to die"

To stop living. This can also collocate with *peacefully* or *from* e.g.: *He suddenly died last Saturday from a heart attack.*

"to perish"

This also means 'to die' and is used in a literary or formal style and especially when someone has died in a sudden and unexpected and violent way. It is also used in textbooks describing the results of accidents or war. It collocates with **of/from something**, or **in an accident** e.g.: *thousands of people perished in the Bosnian wars.*

"to bite the dust"

This also means 'to die' and is used in a humorous and informal way. It should not be used to talk about real people. It can be used to describe plans or businesses e.g.: *that guy's start-up business didn't last long. It bit the dust last week after just being in operation for two months.*

IDIOM: *"to see somebody (all) right"* (British English) *"to do somebody right"* (American English)

To make certain that someone has been paid for their services properly and to make sure someone is treated correctly e.g.:

God forbid were I to pass away before my time, I hope my university would see my wife and family right.

BONUS IDIOM: *"see which way the wind blows"*

To see or predict what is likely to happen, or to see what most people think, before deciding an appropriate course of action e.g.:

many successful businessmen and politicians check to see which way the wind is blowing before they commit to a project or policy.

GRAMMAR BLUES

This week we look a bit more at omitting words after auxiliary verbs:

When the previous clause or sentence has no auxiliary verb, or when the auxiliary is a form of **do**, we can use **do** or a form of it. If the main verb is past tense, we use **did**, if it is present simple, we use **do** e.g.:

Rob works out every Monday morning, and so do I OR (I do too) rather than and I work out every Monday morning too.

Rob: *Hey Bob, I didn't take your ipod.*

Bob: *No one is suggesting you did Rob.*

rather than *No one is suggesting you did take my ipod Rob.*

When **be** is the main verb in the previous sentence, we repeat a form of the verb **be** e.g.:

A: *Politicians are such liars.*

B: *They always are.*

A: *The bus is late again.*

B: *It usually is.*

BOTH SIDES OF THE POND

(US) knickers (UK) plus fours

(US) jump rope (UK) skipping rope

(US) jelly roll (UK) Swiss roll

(US) Intermission (UK) interval

(US) odometer (UK) milometre

EXTRA: (US) female underpants (UK) knickers

JOKE

A redneck, (which is a derogatory term for a rather ignorant person who works outside and is usually from the countryside) named Skeeter, has to save Bubba who is trapped under a collapsed porch. The phone number for the emergency services in America is 911. This joke is funny because instead of dialing nine-one-one for the fire officers, Skeeter dials nine and then is looking for the number eleven on the phone. Obviously there is no number eleven on the phone since they only go up to nine. So, poor old Bubba remains trapped while Skeeter has to work out how to dial the number properly 😊

Note: the emergency services number in the UK is 999. Let's hope you don't need it.

QUOTATIONS

The world is full of people whose notion of a satisfactory future is, in fact, a return to an idealised past.
Robertson Davies

Emotional intelligence, more than any other factor, more than I.Q. or expertise, accounts for 85% to 90% of success at work... I.Q. is a threshold competence. You need it, but it doesn't make you a star. Emotional intelligence can. Warren Bennis

SONG

The Way The Wind Blows by Jason Lee Parton. See more at <http://www.podshow.com>

SHOW TRANSCRIPT

BOB: Hi, it's the Bob and Rob Show. This is Bob.

ROB: And this is Rob.

BOB: Hi, Rob.

ROB: Hey, Bob. It's the Bob and Rob Show. This is Rob.

BOB: We've done a lot of shows.

ROB: We have. How many have we done now, about a hundred and ...

BOB: A hundred ... somewhere about ... I don't know.

ROB: A hundred-fifty or so?

BOB: Over a hundred.

ROB: Oh, well over a hundred, yeah. Cool.

BOB: I've lost count.

ROB: But we're still there, riding and fighting the good cause, for EFL students all over the world.

BOB: Yes, and ESL students.

ROB: Of course, yes.

BOB: We should explain the difference: EFL's English as a Foreign Language, so if you're studying it, you know, as a foreign language, you're not living in an English speaking society; whereas if you're a nonnative English speaker, living in a place like Australia or England, you're studying it as your second language, which you're going to be using in your life.

ROB: Right. ESL - English as a Second Language.

BOB: We're so smart. You got a hodgepodge today?

ROB: Yes, that's right. We're doing a Hodgepodge. You know, I thought maybe ... there's recently been a lot more fingerprinting at airports.

BOB: Especially in America.

ROB: Right. The UK's getting pretty bad too.

BOB: You know, the interesting ... about the UK, is like they've got video cameras everywhere in London.

ROB: I know, it's crazy at the moment. Talk about **Big Brother**¹.

BOB: Oh, you're referring to the novel *1984* by George Orwell.

ROB: Right, yeah, yeah, that Big Brother ...

BOB: Surveillance everywhere.

ROB: That's where the phrase comes from, right?

BOB: I think so, yeah. Also, what's unfortunate is ... because the US fingerprints everyone that enters the country now (non US citizens) now Japan's doing that, so we're going to have to be fingerprinted whenever we come into Japan.

ROB: Even though we've got permanent residence status in Japan, which is basically the equivalent of the **green card**², in America.

BOB: Yeah, I know.

ROB: I think, actually it's going to be very negative for a lot of business people, 'cause they don't want to have to go through the hassle of fingerprinting, every time they leave the country.

BOB: Japan just seems to copy whatever the US does.

ROB: Well, yeah, I guess that's true to a degree, yeah. That kind of toe the line ...

BOB: I mean, I understand that we need to keep track of people maybe a little bit more but, you know, is it necessary for my wife to have to have her picture taken every time she enters the US ... and be fingerprinted? Every time?

ROB: Yeah, I know, that's mad.

BOB: It seems like once would be enough, but every single time?

ROB: Yeah, that's crazy. I know, I know, Big Brother it's the oppressive state.

BOB: It is. And obviously, I think after 9/11 there's much more focus on that and, you know, keeping track of people ... making sure that, you know, you can track people down. But I think that you can always go too far. And there is a balance between civil liberties and security. You know, and I guess in London all those video surveillance cameras, in a way, they're very useful for, you know, the bombings and stuff that you've had. And also, I don't know, were there a lot of surveillance cameras when there was the IRA bombings?

ROB: Not really, no. They've put them in mainly ... I think also to prevent crime 'cause there seems to be a lot more crime on the streets now.

BOB: Well, they must not be working.

ROB: Yeah, 'cause it's still pretty violent and dangerous.

BOB: I don't know ... I don't really like-I don't like the idea of having cameras everywhere.

ROB: But Britain's really bad at the moment. I found this article from the **Daily Yomiuri**³, which is an English daily, but it's ...

BOB: In Japan.

ROB: Yeah, it's a Japanese newspaper that's written in English. And this is just dated June 14th of, you know, 2008. And I thought maybe we could just go through it a little bit.

BOB: Okay.

ROB: So this senior opposition British lawmaker - can't remember his name - but he quit the parliament, in order to protest what he called the government's steady erosion of the country's civil liberties.

BOB: Sounds like the US. David Davis ...

ROB: Okay, that's his name.

BOB: A conservative party spokesman on law and order issues said he was taking a stand to protest laws that will allow police to hold suspected terrorists for up to six weeks without filing charges against them. And to **denounce**⁴ an array of intrusions on personal freedoms. Well, I mean, we've had a real problem with this in the US and Guantanamo. Just taking people and not basically giving them due process.

ROB: Well, some of them 've been there years, right?

BOB: That's ridiculous!

ROB: They're basically prisoners of war I guess.

BOB: I mean, they need to have a trial. It's basically **habeas corpus**⁵. They're being denied their rights, and I'm really against that. I mean, obviously we need to arrest people that are terrorists, but they need to be arrested, charged, and they need a fair trial. You can't just like grab people and ...

ROB: Lock them up and ignore them.

BOB: No, I mean, you know, ...

ROB: That's not justice.

BOB: No, that's the whole ideals ... those are the ideals that we're fighting for - I thought at least. And when we do that we're just kind of, you know, a king in his dungeon throwing people away.

¹ **Big Brother** = this is also the title of a reality TV show in the UK. If you want to find out more about it, see here: <http://www.tv.com/big-brother-uk/show/1901/summary.html> and <http://www.channel4.com/bigbrother/>

² **green card** = this is issued to people who are legally entitled to live and work in America. It is also the title of a romantic comedy starring Gerard Depardieu. See more here: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0099699/>

³ **Daily Yomiuri** = see more about this paper online here: <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/>

⁴ **Denounce** = attack verbally in a formal way.

⁵ **habeas corpus** = a writ (or legal document) that requires a person to be brought before a judge or court.

ROB: Yeah, going back to the Feudal system. But this David Davis chap from the **Tory party**⁶ he said, and I quote: "We will have shortly the most intrusive identity card system in the world. A CCTV camera" - that's, you know, one of those surveillance cameras - "a **CCTV**⁷ camera for every fourteen citizens, and a DNA database bigger than any dictatorship has, with thousands of innocent children and millions of innocent citizens on it." So, yeah, Britain's not really ...

BOB: I don't see what's wrong with an identity card system though. I think ... I mean, we already have drivers license and ... licenses and identity cards. I think ... I actually think we need a better ID card system in the US.

ROB: Well, if any of our listeners are planning to visit the UK, just don't be surprised to see lots and lots of CCTV cameras up on the streets.

BOB: So, do you notice them a lot now?

ROB: Yeah, you can see them everywhere and it's pretty intrusive.

BOB: Yeah, I don't like it. It bothers me. I can't say whether there should or shouldn't be, but ...

ROB: I mean, if it prevents, or if it captures some criminals, you know, mugging someone, then, yeah, I would say Oh, I'm glad it was there. But I don't know ... there seems to be a lot ... I mean, for every fourteen citizens? That's a lot of cameras!

BOB: That is a lot of cameras.

ROB: I mean, there are, what, sixty million people in Britain?

BOB: I think what happens is, you know, if it's abused and, you know, the government abuses it, or, you get a ... what would you say ... **tyrannical**⁸ government, then they can easily use it just to basically ...

ROB: Oppress the ...

BOB: Oppress the public, so I think it's something that really ... there needs to be some ... what would you say ...

ROB: Some balance ...

BOB: Some safety measures, so that's not abused.

ROB: Right. I agree.

BOB: Okay, Rob, should we move on?

ROB: Some phrasal verbs and idioms.

BOB: Okay, well, what are we talking ... we kind of have a bit of a theme for this section don't we today? For phrasal verbs having to do with "death."

ROB: I thought we could look at some synonyms which are connected to "pass away." That's a phrasal verb "to pass away." And to say, "pass away," you can say, "die," or "perish," or "bite the dust."

BOB: Bite the dust.

ROB: That's kind of an idiom.

BOB: Or "kick the bucket."

ROB: Yeah, kick the bucket.

BOB: Yeah, "die" is kind of ... or "to pass away" is more in kind of a peaceful connotation - peacefully, to die peacefully. Like "My grandfather passed away peacefully at the age of 96."

ROB: We prefer to say, "pass away," rather than "die." Die, may perhaps be a bit blunt or direct. So "to die," obviously means "to stop living." But this can also **collocate**⁹, which means "go with" *peacefully* or *from*. So, for example, "That guy, he suddenly died last Saturday from a heart attack."

BOB: Another way to say "die" is "to perish." This is kind of used in a literary or formal style of writing or speech, when someone has died in a sudden and unexpected or violent way. It's also used in textbooks describing the results of accidents or war. It collocates with "off" or "from" something - so "to perish of," "to perish from," or "to perish in," like in an accident. An example would be, "Thousands of people perished in the Bosnian Wars."

ROB: And the last phrase we're going to look at is "to bite the dust."

BOB: It's a **Queen**¹⁰ song, isn't it? "Another One Bites the Dust"

ROB: Yeah, that's true, it is. And so this is used perhaps more in a humorous and informal way.

BOB: Yeah, definitely.

ROB: Just like "kick the bucket." We should warn you that it shouldn't be used to talk about real people. But we can also use it to talk about not just people but, you know, plans or even businesses.

BOB: That's true.

ROB: So, for example, Bob?

BOB: "That guy's start-up business didn't last long, it bit the dust last week."

ROB: Is the Bob and Rob Show going to bite the dust?

BOB: Stay tuned.

⁶ **Tory party** = this is the shortened name of the Conservative party, which is right wing.

⁷ **CCTV** = this stands for closed-circuit television.

⁸ **Tyrannical** = oppressive and overbearing. The nouns are tyranny and tyrant e.g.: *some people say that President Bush is actually a tyrant.*

⁹ **Collocate** = in linguistics, this means a set of words that stand or go together, side by side.

¹⁰ **Queen** = No not the official British head of state, but this 'Queen' refers to the rock band that was fronted by Freddie Mercury who died of AIDS in 1991. See more here: <http://www.queenonline.com/>

ROB: Idiom, for this week?

BOB: It's, "to see which way the wind blows."

ROB: Oh, that's the bonus idiom.

BOB: I'm sorry. "To see somebody right." Or "To see somebody all right," and that's American English. The American equivalent we would say, "to do somebody right." What does that mean?

ROB: That means "to make certain that someone has been paid for their services properly." And, you know, to make sure that someone is treated correctly.

BOB: Like "God forbid, were I to pass away before my time, I hope my university would see my wife and family right." Or in other words your work place - your company would take care and see your family right. Okay, bonus idiom.

ROB: The bonus idiom this week is "to see which way the wind blows."

BOB: An example of that would be, "Many successful business men and politicians check to see which way the wind is blowing, before they commit to a project or policy."

ROB: And we're not going to tell you the meaning today ...

BOB: Nope. It will be in the study guide.

ROB: Go and check it out on the study guide: "to see which way the wind blows."

BOB: You know, I was feeling good / But now I'm just down / I'm frowning.

ROB: You're down, you're frowning.

BOB: Got the Grammar Blues.

ROB: Grammar Blues.

BOB: Treat me bad / Making me mad.

ROB: So I thought this week, you know, we could perhaps go a little bit more on omitting words after auxiliary verbs. You know, when the previous clause or sentence has no auxiliary verb, or when the auxiliary verb is a form of *do*, then we can use *do* or *what* ... some kind of it. So, for example, if the main verb is past tense we use *did*, if it's the present simple we use, *do*.

BOB: I see. Well, let's give an example. "Rob works out every Monday morning, and so *do* I," or "I *do* too." So, you would say that rather than "and I work out every Monday morning too"?

ROB: Right. Yeah, you don't need to repeat the same sentence.

BOB: It's just, yeah, repetitive.

ROB: Hey, Bob, I didn't take your iPod.

BOB: No one is suggesting you did, Rob. Rather than ... No one is suggesting you did take my iPod, Rob.

ROB: Right. So you can omit that ...

BOB: Take my iPod?

ROB: Yep. When the *be* verb is the main verb in the previous sentence, we then repeat a form of the verb *be*. So, for example, "You know, politicians, they're such liars."

BOB: They always are. The bus is late again.

ROB: It usually is.

BOB: Yeah, so you don't need to say, "it usually is late" again.

ROB: Right. Because the *be* verb has to have the equivalent of *be* in the second sentence.

BOB: Well, it was a good lesson, Rob.

ROB: Oh, thank you.

BOB: What should we do now?

ROB: Should we do a joke?

BOB: Okay, why not.

ROB: We're gonna do a Bubba, yeah, Bob?

BOB: Yeah, we can do Bubba. Got a Bubba joke. And just a few terms to help you out so you can understand the joke: redneck, which is kind of an ignorant white person, very, maybe bigoted, unsophisticated.

ROB: Uncouth.

BOB: Uncouth, unrefined.

ROB: And has a red neck.

BOB: Yeah, 'cause he works out in the sun. I mean, that's the stereotype, but obviously, just 'cause someone does outdoor work doesn't mean they're a redneck. In the idiomatic sense.

ROB: And there's also a name here that may be unfamiliar to the listeners: Skeeter.

BOB: Now, that's a funny name.

ROB: It is a funny name. So it's Skeeter - S-K-E-E-T-E-R - that's someone's name.

BOB: Also, there's a phone number 9-1-1, which we say 911, and that's the emergency services 9-1-1 if you're ever in trouble in the US, just dial that number 9-1-1. Okay, well, let's listen to it.

BUBB'S JOKE: Howdy, friend. This is Bubba Bohacks with the "Daily Wisecrack" from bubbabohacks.com; visit me there in the Fun Barn, at b-u-b-b-a-b-o-h-a-c-k-s.com If you haven't been there in awhile, on the Website there's some new links that take you to some other fun sites, too. And maybe a few new pictures, if you haven't been there in a long time. Jeff Foxworthy, would say, "You know if you're a redneck if your front porch caves in kills more than one dog." Well, this happened to me, but I also got trapped. I was crawling up underneath the porch there to do a little bit of work and, of course, the dogs were under there. I don't know how many there was, but a bunch of them down there. And I'm doing some work, and the front porch caves right in on me, and I yell for Skeeter. He was working in the house there. Skeeter come out and says, "What?"

I says, "Skeeter, I need some help." He says, "I can't hear you." I said, "I'm trapped down here with the dogs, and we need some help. Call 911." He says, "I don't understand, what are you saying?" The thing is, being trapped, I guess he couldn't hear because I'm down there underneath all the materials there laying on top of me. So I notice a little bit of light, so I have a pen in my overalls and a piece of paper. So I write, Call 911, on a piece of paper. So I said, "Can you see the paper?" He says, "Yeah, I got it." So he takes off running into the house, comes back a few minutes later. **Says**¹¹, "It don't make no sense." I said, "What?" He said, "**It don't make no sense**"¹². I can't dial this number. I found the 9, but I can't find the 11."

BOB: Okay, Bubba. That was a good one. Well, let's move on to Both Sides of the Pond.

ROB: Yeah, maybe ... some of these we did a while back ... maybe just a couple.

BOB: A review never hurts.

ROB: But, yeah, you're right. Review's good.

BOB: Okay, can I do one?

ROB: Sure.

BOB: Let's see ... "knickers."

ROB: Knickers. We would say, ... you mean, the trousers that go down to, like, the knee - just below the knee?

BOB: Yeah.

ROB: We say, "plus fours."

BOB: Oh interesting. "Jump rope."

ROB: We say, "a skipping rope." In Britain we have a "Swiss roll."

BOB: I think we'd say, "a jelly roll." It has jelly in it, right?

ROB: Yeah, but we call it a Swiss roll.

BOB: During a play they often have an "intermission." You can go to the bathroom, or ...

ROB: I see. We would probably say, "an interval."

BOB: Interesting.

ROB: And in the UK, you know, you can set up a "mileometer" on your bike, to see how far you've travelled, or how fast.

BOB: I think we'd say, "odometer."

ROB: It **gages**¹³ your distance.

BOB: Yeah, an odometer. Well, okay. And you've got some quotes here, Rob.

ROB: Yes.

BOB: Why don't I do the first one.

ROB: Hodgepodge quotes.

BOB: Hodgepodge quotes. This is by Robertson Davies: ***A Voice From the Attic***¹⁴. Which I suppose is a book?

ROB: Yeah, I believe so.

BOB: Says, "The world is full of people, whose notion of a satisfactory future, is in fact, a return to an idealized past." Interesting.

ROB: Yeah, nice quote. My quote comes from a chap called Warren Bennis, and he says, "Emotional intelligence, more than any other factor, more than **IQ**¹⁵ or expertise, accounts for eighty-five percent to ninety percent of success at work. IQ is a **threshold**¹⁶ competence, you need it, but it doesn't make you a star. Emotional intelligence can."

BOB: Oh, that's true. I agree with that. There's a really good book by, Daniel ... somebody ... Goldberg, maybe ... and it's called ***Emotional Intelligence***¹⁷.

ROB: So, there's some truth in that?

BOB: Yes. I would rather have a high EQ than a high IQ, if I had to choose between the two.

ROB: Right, right. Unfortunately, you've got neither.

BOB: That was good. Well, what's our song today, Rob?

¹¹ **Says** = note the omission of the pronoun 'he' before the word 'says'. This is informal and often used in telling stories or jokes.

¹² **It don't make no sense** = note the ungrammatical double negative as well as the incorrect verb conjugation. This simply highlights the 'redneck' image. The correct sentence should be: *It doesn't make any sense*.

¹³ **Gages** = *gage* is a verb that is synonymous with measure or estimate.

¹⁴ ***A Voice From the Attic*** = you can read a short review of this interesting book here: http://www.amk.ca/books/h/Voice_from_Attic

¹⁵ **IQ** = this stands for intelligence quota.

¹⁶ **Threshold** = this could refer to the starting point of something new e.g.: *she is on the threshold of a new career*. Or it can refer to a point where, psychologically speaking, some stimulus starts to have an effect e.g.: *she has a low threshold of pain*.

¹⁷ ***Emotional Intelligence*** = you can read a review of Bob's recommendation here: <http://www.brainconnection.com/topics/?main=bkrev/goleman-emotional> the author is Daniel Goleman.

ROB: The song is ... it's called "The Way the Wind Blows." 'Cause that was the bonus idiom.
BOB: Oh, good.
ROB: "The Way the Wind Blows."
BOB: And that's by Jason Lee Parton. It's a nice acoustic song.
ROB: Yeah, that's right. And where did we get this song from?
BOB: We got this song from music.podshow.com; so go there, if you'd like to learn more about the artist.
ROB: Okey-dokey.
BOB: We were talking about maybe going out for a beer after we finish this show.
ROB: That's right ... well, should we go and do that?
BOB: Yeah, I think it's time to wrap it up.
ROB: And pull the plug.
BOB: Pour ourselves **a frosty one**¹⁸.
ROB: That sounds good to me, **mate**¹⁹.
BOB: Okay, everyone, you have a good week, and we'll see you back here again next week.
ROB: Okay. Bye-bye.
SONG: "The Way the Wind Blows" By, Jason Lee Parton

Trees at **twilight**²⁰ cause a ? / Roads seem to go forever on / Where did I want to / Where did I come from /
 When do I find my way / Back to you

Why such a long road / I must walk down / Guess I know the way the wind blows / I'm just a man / Who
 wanted to live / For one single day / You've had all I have to give / But I was wrong then / Now I know why /
 Too slow to get to a ? / Before you fly

Where did I want to / Where did I come from / When do I find my way / Back to you / Why such a long road / I
 must walk down / Guess I know the way the wind blows /

I wish I had known then / What I had to lose / When I tried to gain more / And something withdrew / But I was
 wrong then / Now I know why / To give what you don't have / Means I'm just alive

'Cause at twilight the trees are ? / Roads seem to go forever on.

EXTENSION AND REVIEW STUDY

1/ What do you think of the use of CCTV cameras in society? Are they useful or are they intrusive? Are there many in your country? Try to use the various phrases that mean 'to die' in meaningful sentences of your own.

2/ Have you ever seen anybody right? Have you ever been seen right by somebody? Describe these situations. Have you ever looked to see which way the wind was blowing before you made an important decision? Describe how you prepared yourself and checked the best alternatives for you before you made that decision.

¹⁸ **a frosty one** = an informal and slang way of saying 'a beer'.

¹⁹ **Mate** = the American English equivalent of this term is 'bud' or 'buddy'.

²⁰ **Twilight** = this refers to the diffused light that can be seen when the sun is below the horizon, more commonly at sunset rather than sunrise.