



ESL Podcast 258 – Moving in Together

GLOSSARY

to go out – to date someone; to be involved in a romantic relationship with someone, but not be married

* Did you hear that Wendy and Gil started going out last month?

heart-to-heart – a serious and sincere conversation between two people about their feelings

* Eva needs to have a heart-to-heart with her husband and let him know why she doesn't like him to work late every evening.

uh oh – a phrase used to show that one is worried about something, or afraid that something will be bad or dangerous

* Uh oh. I think I left the oven on. I'd better go home right away to turn it off.

What is this all about? – What are you talking about? What is this leading to? What are you trying to say?

* Marvin keeps talking about marriage and babies. What is this all about? Do you think he's going to ask Moira to marry him?

to move things to the next level – to make something more serious and significant; to move a romantic relationship forward

* Corrine and Youngwoo agreed that it was time to move things to the next level, so they're going to be married in June.

to move in – to begin to share a home; to begin to live with another person

* I'm going back to college and plan to move in with my brother for the next two years.

conservative – traditional; old-fashioned; not liberal

* Some conservative people believe that men should work and women should stay at home with the children.

to approve – to think that something is good; to give someone one's permission to do something; to say that it is okay for someone to do something

* That girl is wearing a very short skirt. I can't believe her mother approved of her buying it.

a matter of – about; related to; a question of; involving

* It's only a matter of time before the economy slows down.



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to adore – to like or love something or someone very much

* Shannon adores having breakfast with her girlfriends every Saturday morning.

to go against (something) – to not agree with something; to be opposed to something

* Eating pork goes against the teachings of some religions.

belief – an opinion about something; something that one thinks is true

* It's our belief that our company needs to change our image or we won't survive for another year.

to go on – to continue; to be the same

* I wish we could go on skiing forever, but it's starting to get dark.

to be joined at the hip – to be together all the time; to always be with each other

* Betty and her sister seem to be joined at the hip. I've never seen one without the other.

to want more space – to want to spend more time away from someone else; to want to spend less time with someone; to want more independence in a romantic relationship

* Edgar told his girlfriend that he wanted more space to spend time with his friends.

to rock the boat – to change things in a bad way; to make things difficult or confusing; to change a situation so that it becomes worse

* Nobody likes Will's decision, but they don't want to rock the boat by telling him so.

to hold off on (something) – to postpone or delay something; to decide to do something later than originally planned

* Angie wants to hold off on going to college and travel in Europe for a year after she finishes high school.



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COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How would Paula’s parents react if she moved in with Simon ?
 - a) They would be unhappy.
 - b) They would adore Simon.
 - c) They would approve.

2. What does Paula want to do?
 - a) She wants to rock the boat with Simon.
 - b) She wants to wait to talk about moving in together.
 - c) She wants to be joined at the hip.

WHAT ELSE DOES IT MEAN?

to move in

The phrase “to move in,” in this podcast, means to begin to share a home and live with another person, usually romantically: “Moving in with your boyfriend is a big decision.” A similar phrase, “to move out,” means to leave the place where one is living: “Charlene decided to move out of the apartment that she was sharing with two friends and start living alone.” The phrase “to move into (something)” means to begin living in a new home: “We’re going to move into our new apartment on February 28th.” Finally, the phrase “to move on” means to begin talking about something else. For example, in a meeting someone might say, “Now that we have finished discussing the new marketing plan, let’s move on to the next topic.”

conservative

In this podcast, the word “conservative” means traditional or old-fashioned: “Her style of dress is very conservative. She always wears long skirts and shirts with high necks.” Or, “American country music is very popular among some conservative people.” The word “conservative” can also be a noun: “American country music is very popular among conservatives.” Or, “How many U.S. Presidents have been conservatives?” The phrase “a conservative estimate” means a guess on the low side of a number, meaning that one thinks the actual number is probably higher: “Their conservative estimate is that Sheila will sell 20,000 copies of her book this year, but sales could be much higher.” Or, “Some people think that hundreds of people may have died in the hurricane, but our conservative estimate is that 50 people have died.”



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CULTURE NOTE

In the United States, many “couples” (two people in a romantic relationship) decide to move in together before they get married. Sometimes these people decide to live together without ever getting married.

When a man and a woman live together for a long period of time, they may have a “common-law marriage.” Each state has different laws, but in general a “common-law marriage” “occurs” (happens) when the couple has lived together for a specific period of time (usually a few years) and is acting like husband and wife. The couple never has a marriage “ceremony” or wedding, but they are officially and legally married. By law, a common-law marriage is just like a regular marriage and has all the same “tax benefits” (married couples pay less in taxes than single people do) as official marriages do. If two people in a common-law marriage decide to separate, they must have a divorce just like a couple in an official marriage.

In many states, “homosexual” couples, meaning man-man or woman-woman romantic relationships, are not able to have a regular marriage or a common-law marriage. When these couples live together for a long period of time, some states recognize the situation as a “domestic partnership.” In some states, this gives the couple the benefits of being married, such as sharing “property” (land or homes), “health insurance” (payments for medical costs), money, and the “custody” (legal responsibility for) children.

The issue of homosexual or “same-sex” marriage is very “controversial” (with a lot of public disagreement) in the U.S. Many Americans believe that same-sex couples should have the same rights to marry as other couples. At the same time, many people are against homosexual marriage because they believe that marriage should only be between “heterosexual” or man-woman couples. However, most Americans recognize the importance of some legal recognition of same-sex relationships, such as domestic partnerships.

Comprehension Questions Correct Answers: 1 – a; 2 – b



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COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT

Welcome to English as a Second Language Podcast number 258: Moving in Together.

This is English as a Second Language Podcast episode 258. I'm your host, Dr. Jeff McQuillan, coming to you from the Center for Educational Development in beautiful Los Angeles, California.

Remember to visit our website at eslpod.com, and download a Learning Guide for this episode, as well as take look at some of the new features we now have on our website.

The topic today is called “Moving in Together.” Let's listen.

[start of story]

My girlfriend and I have been going out for a year and I thought it was time to have a heart-to-heart with her.

Simon: I have something I want to talk to you about. Can you come over here and sit down for a minute?

Paula: Uh oh. Is something wrong?

Simon: No, nothing's wrong. In fact, everything's right. We've been together for a year and I've been happier than I've ever been.

Paula: Me, too. Things are going great. What is this all about?

Simon: I want us to move things to the next level. I want us to move in together.

Paula: Simon, I love you, but we can't do that. You know how conservative my parents are. They would never approve.

Simon: They like me, don't they?

Paula: It's not a matter of whether they like you or not. They both adore you as much as I do. But two people moving in together before they're married goes against their beliefs and mine.

Simon: But don't you want to?



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Paula: I'm very happy with you, but I want things to go on as they are. We spend so much time together anyway, we're almost joined at the hip.

Simon: Are you saying you want more space?

Paula: No! What I'm saying is that I don't want to rock the boat when things are going so well. Why don't we hold off on any more talk about moving in together.

Simon: I suppose that's okay - for now.

[end of story]

Our dialogue begins with Simon saying that his girlfriend and he "have been going out for a year." To go out, in this case, means to be dating each other - to be in a romantic relationship with each other.

He says that he "thought it was time to have a heart-to-heart with" his girlfriend. The expression to "have a heart-to-heart" means to have an honest discussion, usually about some personal matter or some important private business that you have with this person, often to tell them what you really think, even though that might be difficult.

Simon says to Paula that he has something that he wants to talk to her about, and he asks her to "come over and sit down for a minute."

Paula says, "Uh oh. Is something wrong?" The expression "uh oh," which is usually spelled "uh" and then the second word, "oh," means, or is used when we are indicating that there might be a problem or that there is a problem with something.

So, she asks Simon, "Is something wrong?"

And Simon says, "No, nothing's wrong. In fact, everything's right" - everything is good. He says, "We've been together for a year and I've been happier than I've ever been."

Paula says, "Me, too." Remember, in informal English we usually use the expression "me, too," even though it isn't grammatically correct, we should say, "I, too," or "I, as well," but it's much more common to hear people say, "me, too."



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“Things are going great,” Paula says, “What is this all about?” The expression “what is this all about” is one you would use when you’re confused - you don’t know what the problem is and you want the person to give you the problem directly - to stop trying to waste time by talking about other things - “Just tell me directly with the problem is.” “What is this all about” - why are we having this conversation?

Simon says that he wants “to move things to the next level,” “level.” To move things to the next level means to get more serious about something or to take the next step. In this case, it refers to getting more serious about their relationship.

Simon says, “I want us to move in together.” To move, “move,” in (two words) means for two people to live together in the same house or the same apartment - the same place. You’ll also hear that expression more generally to mean to move to a new place. So, your friend may say, “When are you moving into your new apartment” - what day are you going to take your things and put them in your new apartment? In this case, however, it means two people living together.

Paula says, “Simon, I love you, but we can’t do that. You know how conservative my parents are. They would never approve.” Conservative, “conservative,” in this case means traditional - someone who believes in more traditional values or morals. The opposite would be liberal, “liberal,” someone who does not believe in those same values. Here, we’re probably talking about religious or moral values than anything else.

You can also talk about conservative and liberal in a political sense. Our current president is a conservative, and the person that he beat, John Kerry, in the election was a liberal. But those are political terms; here, we’re using them a little differently.

Paula explains that her parents would never approve of them moving in together. To approve, “approve,” in this case means to say okay - to say that it is something that you can do, or to say that it is all right with them - that it doesn’t bother them. Paula is saying that it will bother them; they would not approve of them moving in together.

Simon is confused. He says, “They like me, don’t they?” Paula explains why her parents would not approve. She says, “It’s not a matter of whether they like you or not.” When we say something is a matter, “matter,” of something else, we mean it’s not related to that - it’s not an issue of, or it doesn’t relate to that particular topic or problem. So in this case, Paula is saying it’s not important



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whether they like you or don't like you, that's not why they would approve or disapprove.

She says her parents “both adore” Simon as much as she does. To adore, “adore,” here means to like a lot - to love someone - to think that they are wonderful. We use this verb in lots of ways. You can say, “I adore that movie,” means there really love that movie, or “I adore my aunt. She's a wonderful person.”

Paula goes on to say that “two people moving in together before they're married goes against their beliefs and mine.” Simon is proposing - is asking - Paula to move in with him - to live with him even though they are not married. Many people, many religious traditions in particular, are against the idea of people moving in before they are married legally and within their own religious tradition. And that is what Paula is saying here, that moving in together before they're married “goes against their beliefs.” To go against something means to oppose something - to be on the opposite side of some issue or opinion. To go against their beliefs, then, means that it is something that is not consistent with or is not the same as their beliefs. Beliefs, “beliefs,” means what they think - their opinion - why they think what they think.

Paula says that she's “very happy” with Simon, but she wants “things to go on as they are,” meaning she wants them to continue as they have been doing already - not to change anything - to go on. “We spend so much time together,” she says as a joke, “we're almost joined at the hip.” To be joined, “joined,” at the hip, “hip,” means that two people spend almost all of their time together - that they're never separated - they're never apart from one another.

Your hip is the part of your body where your legs connect to the upper part of your body. So, the top of your legs is where you would say you have your hip. To be joined at the hip means to be connected at the hip, meaning we're always together is what the expression is meant to say here.

Simon asks Paula if she wants more space. To want more space, “space,” means, in this case, to have less time together - not to be together so much. And Paula says, “No,” that's not the problem. She says she doesn't “want to rock the boat when things are going so well.” To rock, “rock,” the boat, “boat,” means to cause problems - to make problems when you don't have to make problems. Literally, to rock a boat means to move the boat from side to side, and when you do that there is a danger that you could fall into the water. So, the expression more generally means to make problems or make trouble for yourself, even when you don't have to do that.



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Paula says, “Why don’t we hold off on any more talk about moving in together.” To hold off on something means to wait and not do something right now. “Let’s hold off on that” - let’s wait and not do that - maybe later, or if some situation changes we can think about it. But she’s saying here that she doesn’t want to talk about it, and that is the end of the dialogue!

Now let’s listen to the dialogue, this time at a normal speed.

[start of story]

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Paula: It’s not a matter of whether they like you or not. They both adore you as much as I do. But two people moving in together before they’re married goes against their beliefs and mine.

Simon: But don’t you want to?

Paula: I’m very happy with you, but I want things to go on as they are. We spend so much time together anyway, we’re almost joined at the hip.

Simon: Are you saying you want more space?



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Paula: No! What I'm saying is that I don't want to rock the boat when things are going so well. Why don't we hold off on any more talk about moving in together.

Simon: I suppose that's okay - for now.

[end of story]

The script for today's podcast was written by Dr. Lucy Tse.

From Los Angeles, California, I'm Jeff McQuillan. Thanks for listening. We'll see you next time on ESL Podcast.

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