



CULIPS ENGLISH PODCAST

FLUENCY FILES #31

STARTING A BUSINESS

Fill in the blanks listening practice

Andrew:



As I'm sure you're _____, I am an English teacher. I spend the majority of my time teaching South Korean university students, conversational English and English writing. And of course, I also teach English through the Culips English Podcast to learners all around the world.

However, sometimes I dream about starting my own business that is completely different and unrelated to English language education. And I think this is really common, right? A lot of people daydream about doing something different.

So I often asked myself, if I could run a business, what would it be? Many people dream about opening their own restaurants or cafe or bar. And of course, I think this would be really cool and really fun to do. However, I've heard that it's a really difficult business to get into and the _____ rate is really high and the hours are really long. So none of those things sound very _____ when I really think about it.

Similarly, owning a bookstore, I think would be really cool, a used bookstore. It'd be really fun to chat with the customers and look at used books or even records, used records, that would be really awesome as well. But I don't think there's a lot of money in the used book and used record business. And in fact, many _____ and _____ used book and used record stores are closing down as _____ move towards online shopping. So, that's not very encouraging.

I also sometimes dream about taking a step back from modern society, and living a quieter life, being a farmer and growing my own food and vegetables and _____ that. I have a couple of friends who decided to do this back in Canada and there's some acquaintances of mine that are doing this as well. And they

actually all have YouTube channels. So I follow them on YouTube and watch their progress. And of course, with YouTube, people only upload the parts of their lives that they want you to see, right? You don't really see the negative side of things as much as the positives. They make everything about farming look, kind of _____ and _____. But I'm sure in reality, it's rather stressful and difficult. And there are long hours of hard work involved with farming.

So to get back and answer that question that I asked at the start, if I could run a business, what would it be? Since I'm just dreaming here, let's _____ all of these businesses together into one and I guess I would like to run a _____ farm that also has a cafe attached, maybe a bar at night, and also sells used books and records. Yeah, that sounds pretty good.

Transcript

Andrew:



As I'm sure you're well aware, I am an English teacher. I spend the majority of my time teaching South Korean university students, conversational English and English writing. And of course, I also teach English through the Culips English Podcast to learners all around the world.

However, sometimes I dream about starting my own business that is completely different and unrelated to English language education. And I think this is really common, right? A lot of people daydream about doing something different.

So I often asked myself, if I could run a business, what would it be? Many people dream about opening their own restaurants or cafe or bar. And of course, I think this would be really cool and really fun to do. However, I've heard that it's a really difficult business to get into and the failure rate is really high and **the hours** are really long. So none of those things sound very appealing when I really think about it.

Similarly, owning a bookstore, I think would be really cool, a used bookstore. It'd be really fun to chat with the customers and look at used books or even records, used records, that would be really awesome as well. But I don't think there's a lot of money in the used book and used record business. And in fact, many brick and mortar used book and used record stores are closing down as consumers move towards online shopping. So, that's not very encouraging.

I also sometimes dream about **taking a step back** from modern society, and living a quieter life, being a farmer and growing my own food and vegetables and living off of that. I have a couple of friends who decided to do this back in Canada and there's some acquaintances of mine that are doing this as well. And they actually all have YouTube

channels. So I follow them on YouTube and watch their progress. And of course, with YouTube, people only upload the parts of their lives that they want you to see, right? You don't really see the negative side of things as much as the positives. They make everything about farming look, kind of easy and appealing. But I'm sure in reality, it's rather stressful and difficult. And there are long hours of hard work involved with farming.

So to get back and answer that question that I asked at the start, if I could run a business, what would it be? Since I'm just dreaming here, let's combine all of these businesses together into one and I guess I would like to run a hobby farm that also has a cafe attached, maybe a bar at night, and also sells used books and records. Yeah, that sounds pretty good.

Key Expressions

1. Hours

The failure rate is really high and **the hours** are really long

Meaning: The period of time during the day when someone works. **Long hours** means working for a long time. **Bad hours** means either abnormal working hours (for example working from 12AM-8AM) or irregular shift work. This could also be called **irregular hours**. If your **hours are cut**, then your boss has stopped scheduling you to work.

Similar examples:

- a. Rachel's **hours** were cut so she is looking for a new job.
- b. I was offered a job at a bank but **the hours** were bad, so I turned it down.
- c. The **irregular hours** Jason worked at the warehouse really affected his mental health.

2. To take a step back from [some responsibility]

I also sometimes dream about **taking a step back** from modern society

Meaning: To calmly remove yourself from a situation or place and spend time thinking, reflecting, or doing something differently.

Similar examples:

- a. The mayor **took a step back from** politics so he could spend more time with his family.
- b. I'm going **to take a step back from** working at the cafe so I can figure out what I really want to do in life.
- c. If you could **take a step back from** your daily life, what would you do differently?