

# Camping

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Hey, this is Amy from real English conversations. And today we're going to be talking about one of our favorite things to do, which is camping. And for the real English tip, we're going to explain what the expressions sticking to the plan and being on track mean.



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Hi, everybody, it's Curtis and Amy here from real English conversations.com. Today, we're going to be talking about a really fun activity that we like to do at this time of year and that's camping. Right? Yeah,



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it's one of our favorite activities. We definitely enjoy it a lot. And when did people normally go camping?



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Usually when the weather starts to get a little bit nicer and



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warmer, yeah, kind of right now. Right this year, spring? Yeah, spring has been a little bit early this year, I would say, in our region. We call it the May long weekend. That's the traditional weekend. But everybody's Oh, it's camping season, and they get all excited about it. So what types of campers are there? There's different types of campers, right?



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Yeah, I can think of one right off the top of my head right now. And that's kind of like a person that goes into the bush with a backpack with all they can carry



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into the bushes like into the forest, the great outdoors in the wilderness.



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So they take whatever they can carry into an area where they can set up a tent. And maybe there's a lake nearby that they you know, want to spend some time fishing at so they can pack in a fishing rod and



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other food. They're dead. All other things that they're going to need to survive, but nothing excessive, because they have it in a backpack, right? Yes. Okay. And then



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you get the opposite side of that, which is they're called RVs. recreational vehicles. Yeah, I



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actually had to think about this. I'm so used to calling it an RV. I was like, what is our V stand for? And then we we figured out it meant recreational vehicle, but no one will understand you if you say oh, yeah, just take your recreational vehicle outside. No one uses that. So make sure you say RV.



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Yeah, some people also know it as a motorhome.



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Yeah. Which is basically what it is. It's, I'd say the size of a bus. Yeah, size of a bus, like a tour bus or something.



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They've got a bed in the back. Yeah, a kitchen, kitchen, a stove,



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a bathroom with a shower, a sofa. It's pretty much like a house. There's even TV and there's actually areas where I don't personally consider this camping. But there are RV parks, so they can hook up to electricity and have running water and stuff as well. But it's suppose if you're traveling, it's a comfortable way to travel. Right?



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It is there's, I guess the luxury and the comfort aspect that people like and what type of camper are we? Oh, we're stuck in the middle. Or in between the two.



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We have too much to carry on our backs, but we don't have a motorhome.



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So we put everything all the things that we're taking a tent to sleeping bags, blankets, pillows, a cooler full of food. Yeah, and training course and drinks and we load it all into usually Amy's car.



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Yeah, so we're car campers. And we take enough things that were really comfortable when we're away from home. But it's still a little bit rugged, I guess, in a way because we're sleeping in a tent. And, you know, there's a lot of things that we don't have a shower with us, for example. So we only really go camping for a couple of days. And it's sort of in the middle of like we can bring a stove with us a portable stove so that we can cook on it. Whereas somebody who's in a backpack camping situation, they would probably bring something that they could cook over the fire only



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right and build a fire. We build a campfire too and we come and that's one of the things I love

right and build a fire. we build a campfire too and we camp and that's one of the things I love too is cooking food over the campfire.

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Especially Smokies. Yeah, so good.

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Marshmallows.

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Oh yeah, that's a really popular camping activity is people like to make smores This isn't something that we do, but it's very, very popular with families that go camping. So basically it's so this is camping cuisine.

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They're kind of making my mouth water right now thinking about it. So

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there's graham cracker on the bottom, and then you put a piece of Chocolate milk chocolate is always the best. And then you kind of toast the marshmallow really slowly over the fire, just so that it melts. And then you put the marshmallow on top of the piece of chocolate, and then you put another graham cracker on top of that. And you leave it for a minute or two so that the chocolate starts to melt from the heat of the marshmallow. And it's this delicious, sticky, sugary treat. And that is camping.

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Good. That's usually the desert. That's the desert for sure after the smoky

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but

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what's one of your favorite things about camping?

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The reason why I like to camp is because I really like to be outside. And when you get away from the city, typically a person goes camping out of you don't camp within a city, you're you're out away from the city. In our province, we have lots of lakes and mountains and beautiful places that you can go camping. So within maybe 45 minutes or an hour by car, there's an area where we can put our tent up and stay for a couple of days. So for me, it's about being away from the city. Usually there's no cell phone reception. So you're cutting yourself off of technology. And the whole idea is to just kind of relax for a couple of days.

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Get away from the city unwind. Relax.

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Why do you like camping?

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I like camping because the sounds of nature love stargazing. So at night, when it gets really dark, you can see the stars in the sky. And that's because there's

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no city lights. Yeah, this without the city lights. The stars are very bright in the sky. And when do we usually have a campfire? Do we have it all day or

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usually at nighttime? Because it can be cooler in the evenings.

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Especially up in the mountains? You're at a higher elevation.

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So the temperature is a lot lower, especially at night.



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Yeah, maybe 10 degrees cooler than it is in the city. Yep. We really, really like to camp. However, there definitely is some wildlife that you have to be aware of when you're camping. Yeah. So we're in natural territory. There's definitely harmless animals such as rabbits, deer, squirrels, things like that. Right? Yeah, but what are some of the creatures that are maybe a little more dangerous?

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Well, there's big animals such as cougars, coyotes, and bears.

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I would say repairs are probably my biggest concern. Yes, but we're pretty careful when we go camping. So at night, we make sure that we put our cooler with all of our food and everything in the car, the car is parked a little bit away from the tent not too far. But just far enough that if a bear can smell the cooler for some reason, he's going to be hanging around the car instead of hanging around our tent. And we also make sure that we we don't have things that produce a smell within the tent, right? Yeah, even things like toothpaste, or deodorant, for example, or

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perfumes or soaps or things like that, that can attract big, large, scary animals. Yeah. Which you don't want to

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know. But we've been camping. I don't know how many times probably 60 times just taking a guess. And we haven't had any problems with bears, right? No, no,

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not that I'm aware. No, no, no,

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we haven't had any problems. No, definitely be aware of it if you had a problem.

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It's kind of spooky or scary when you're in your tent at night. And you hear some twigs snapping and rustling.



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This is the part where we love to go camping and during the day, it's fine you feel like you're not scared because you can see everything. And then as the sun sets and you have your fire because it's cold and you want heat, but I don't know it just feels safer near the fire almost like we're aware that there's animals in the forest and if we have the fire the fire will discourage the animal from coming near our campsite. But when you go to bed you're supposed to put the fire out right



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you are because you could possibly set a forest fires like



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if it's windy or something like that, and some of the coals from the fire get blown out and then on the ground or on some dry grass or something like that it could start a fire so you're not supposed to leave a campfire unattended. Right? So when you go to bed at night, you're kind of supposed to wait for the fire to die down a little bit and then put it out. And what happens is everything is dark, really, really dark, especially if there's no moon. crawl into your tent. And you know you have a lantern with you usually so that you can see. And you crawl into bed you crawl into your sleeping bag, you turn off the lantern, and you're trying to relax to go to bed, your ears, they can hear everything.



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Oh, yeah, it's like there. You can hear every step wrestling of delivery animal making their noise or



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the crickets. Yeah. And the frogs, or maybe a big animal that you think is outside. Because when you're inside your tent at night, and it's pitch black, you can't see anything. There's no windows on the tent. Even if there was a window, you couldn't see anything. And you hear something outside of your tent. It can be kind of creepy, right?



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Yeah. If I had \$1 for every time that I've said, Amy, what was that? What was that noise?



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Oh, it's like part of the camping extreme. Yeah. What happened that Do you remember that

one time? Okay, we've got a funny story because we're chickens early.



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Yeah, we're fast asleep. completely dark pitch black.



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First camping of the season two.



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Yeah. Yeah. So we were you know, really looking forward to it. So we go to bed. And we put the fire out.



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I heard some rustling outside of the tent. Yeah. And then when your ears all the sudden you wake up from a dead sleep. Obviously the rustling noise woke me up. And I can hear something walking outside of the tent.



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Yeah, I heard that. Yeah, that was there's definitely something there.



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Yeah. And then all of a sudden, whatever it was stepped on the tarp that we had over our tent. And we knew that the animal whatever it was, was like, right by our head. You know, I think we can even hear it breathing. Like we didn't know what it was. It was so creepy. So



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yeah, you could hear kind of like grunts or sounds coming. Yeah, animals.



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We didn't know what it was. It could have been a raccoon. It could have been a coyote could have been a bear. Like we don't know. So





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so we started making a lot of noise to try to scare it off.



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Yeah. And we honked the horn, the car horn a couple of times, and whatever. But anyway, what ended up happening in the end was we couldn't get back to sleep. And we felt really, really nervous. Like maybe we forgot something in the tent, and it was attracting the animal. So what did we decide to do?



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We decided to make a run for the car. Yeah. And we slept in the car. We slept in the car all night.



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But the second night, we were we were a little bit braver. And we spent the night in the tent again, right?



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Yeah. And then of course, nothing happened. Nothing, no, nothing has ever happened. And now 60 or so times, like he said that we've been camping, but



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we had a better sleep in the car that night, we did. So I hope that gives you a little bit of an idea of what camping is like in Canada. And we've



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got the real English tip coming up.



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Real English conversational tip. Alright, so for this English tip, it is the type of expression that I have a hard time explaining without using other expressions. Okay, so what the expression is just so that we can start off at sticking to the plan, or being on track being on track, okay. And I would say what this means is you have a plan or an objective, something that you're working on. And you have an idea of how you would like to do this plan. And if you in fact, do the plan the way you intend. You would be sticking to the



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plan. You would be on track. Yeah,



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I'm on track. Now what about if you get distracted? And maybe you're on Facebook or watching YouTube or something like that,



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and fix that intended plan yet? You would be off track? Yeah.



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So you're on track if you're doing what you're supposed to be doing? Yeah. And you're off track. If you're not, you know, you may say this, for example, somebody who's dieting, they're trying to lose weight. Right? And you could say, oh, I've been doing really good. I've been sticking to the plan or I've been on track for



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two weeks. But if you sit down and you eat a whole cake,



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yeah, you might say that, that you're a little bit off track today, right? So the next time that you notice that you're not doing what you know you're supposed to be doing. You can just say hi I have a little off track right now or I'm not sticking to my plan. So I don't know if you guys are following us on Google Plus, or Facebook or Twitter, YouTube, any of those social media places that we like to hang out. But we've really started publishing some some cool things lately that are related to learning English and things that we think that you guys are gonna find interesting. What sort of things have we been posting on our Facebook lately? Curtis?



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Yeah. So for example, on Facebook, we've got some really cool songs that I like, that have the lyrics. So you can follow along and sing along with the with the really cool songs.



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Yeah. And we're sharing some articles about language learning, for example, or if we find some blog posts from other language learning websites that we think are going to be useful to you guys, as well. As you know, when we publish a new episode, or release something that we've produced from real English conversations, it's all there on our social media feed.



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So you guys can access the link right here in the show notes. And you can also go to [real English conversations.com](https://realenglishconversations.com) and find it there.



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