

MODERN ENGLISH SPEECH FEATURES

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Today English is incredibly wide-spread and it is constantly expanding. The main reason for this, in my opinion, is because of the media. The first medium through which English is, and was, spread is through newspapers. Everybody needs to know what is going on, in not only their country, but abroad as well. Newspapers are the main publication which are indispensable, because no matter what scientific or technological developments are created, the world will still need this type of information delivered through this simple and cost-effective medium. This is why the fact that five thousand newspapers, more than half of the newspapers published in the world, are published in English, is so important to the constant growth of the English language.

In this fast forward modern life when people don't have time for themselves – even their slightest of concern means a lot. If somebody is helpful and kind to us in thought or action, we need to express gratitude or return our thankful feelings. Gratitude is a reciprocation of kind feelings; it is an attitude of gratefulness.

An expression of gratitude acknowledges the importance of people, things, events and the difference they make to us. We express our gratitude to convey our warm and friendly feelings. Expressing gratitude is more than an inner benevolent feeling, which brings a calming effect to all of us. It's the exchange of good and positive thoughts that develop relations.

When good things happen in our lives or when we are with the one's we love, and when we are grateful and express our gratitude, the feeling of love and tenderness grows.

Being grateful is more than saying “thank you” and being polite. When we express gratitude, it's the beginning of being generous, courteous, and showing our concern and appreciation for another. When we deeply feel and express gratitude, it's an effective way to positively influence the behavior and attitude – our own and that of others.

Spiritually, we need to be thankful and express gratitude for everything, irrespective of whether it seems good or bad.

We should take nothing for granted or be judgmental about them. The hidden and deeper truth is that everything counts.

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” ~ John F. Kennedy

Benefits of expressing gratitude are given below.

Expression of gratitude strengthens bonds, whether they are between family members, children, spouses, or friends.



When we express our gratitude, our family members or friends know that we appreciate things they do, and the efforts they make. It makes us feel that we are truly blessed in so many ways.

Some benefits of gratitude are the following:

- It creates a positive feeling and fosters happiness.
- It strengthens relationships.
- It brings us peace of mind and makes us feel good.
- It gives us more energy to do things.
- It reduces or eliminates stress in some cases.
- It improves sleep quality.
- It benefits both the giver and receiver because it increases satisfaction.

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.” (Melody Beattie) [4, p. 43-45]

Gratitude is a very interesting phenomenon. As an act of expressing one’s appreciation, a compliment reveals what is treasured in the speaker’s culture. A number of studies of compliments have been done. Many of these studies use data from different varieties of English: British English, American English, New Zealand English, Hawaii Creole English.

Gratitude is closely connected with compliments constitute one type of everyday conversational device that occur in interpersonal relationships. J. Holmes defined a compliment as “speech act which explicitly or implicitly attributes credit to someone other than the speakers, usually the person addressed, for some “good” (possession, characteristic, skill, etc.) which is positively valued by the speaker and the hearer [5, p. 485]. Olshtain and Cohen added that “the speech act of complimenting is intrinsically courteous and enables the speaker to make use of available opportunities to express and interest in the hearer” [5, 158].

In some ways a compliment is just a special type of assessment. In particular, it is a positive assessment directed towards an involved party. For example, if I say “It’s a great book” to my friend, this is a simple assessment. On the other hand, if I say the same thing to the author of the book he would probably respond to this as a compliment. But compliments are also different from assessments in that while an assessment makes relevant either agreement or disagreement, second pair parts to compliments are more complicated.

In other words, the functions of conversational opening, stopping, closing and the functions of leave-takings and positive answers underlying involve the appreciation of benefit, but the function of emotional dissatisfaction does not. This shows that the same forms can have different implications in different contexts.



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