

Notting Hill | The Second Chance Scene

Vocabulary Breakdown

Hollywood English Club

1) "Out of Hand"

■ To dismiss something out of hand means to reject it immediately and without any consideration at all.

✓ Used when someone refuses to even entertain an idea. It is not just a no — it is a no before they have thought about it.

▶ *"When I suggested taking a break, she rejected it out of hand and kept arguing."*

▶ *"The manager dismissed the proposal out of hand without reading a single page."*

2) "Cast Aside"

■ To cast aside means to reject or abandon someone or something, especially in a cold or careless way.

✓ Carries real emotional weight. It is not just about being left — it is about being discarded, as if you did not matter.

▶ *"After he lost his job, he felt like society had cast him aside."*

▶ *"She had given everything to the relationship, only to be cast aside when things got hard."*

3) "Leave It at That"

■ To leave it at that means to stop talking or doing anything more about a topic, usually to avoid further conflict.

✓ A very natural phrase in everyday English. It signals that someone wants to close a subject without escalating it.

▶ *"We disagreed about the trip, but I did not want to fight, so I decided to leave it at that."*

▶ *"He said sorry and I accepted it. We left it at that."*

4) "Bugged" (British slang)

■ Informal British slang for being in a really bad, hopeless, or exhausted situation.

✓ Strongly informal — do not use in professional settings. If something is bugged, it is broken or ruined. If you are bugged, you are in serious trouble.

▶ *"My car broke down in the middle of nowhere with no signal. I'm completely bugged."*

▶ *"If we miss this train, we're absolutely bugged."*

5) "Dismissed"

■ To dismiss someone or something means to ignore, reject, or treat it as unimportant.

✓ Can describe being emotionally brushed off, having ideas ignored at work, or a judge ending a case. The feeling is always the same — it did not matter.

▶ *"She tried to explain her reasons, but he dismissed her like her opinion did not matter."*

▶ *"The idea was dismissed before anyone gave it a proper chance."*

6) "Inexperienced Heart"

■ Someone not used to love or romantic relationships — someone who has not been hurt enough times to know how to protect themselves.

✓ A poetic, emotional expression rather than everyday vocabulary. It captures the specific tenderness of someone who does not know yet how to guard what they feel.

▶ *"He broke her inexperienced heart without even realising how much it hurt."*

▶ *"With an inexperienced heart, you trust too fast and feel everything too deeply."*

7) "Notting Hill"

■ A real, upscale neighbourhood in west London, known for its colourful houses, Portobello Road market, and relaxed creative atmosphere.

✓ Before the film, Notting Hill was well known in London but not internationally. The 1999 film changed that and gave the name a specific romantic, dreamy connotation.

▶ *"They rented a flat in Notting Hill because they loved the quiet streets and the weekend market."*

▶ *"It had the kind of old bookshop you only find in Notting Hill."*

8) "Beverly Hills"

■ A wealthy, glamorous city within Los Angeles, California, famous for celebrity homes, luxury shopping, and the entertainment industry.

✓ In the film, Beverly Hills represents everything that makes Anna's world so different from William's — Hollywood wealth and fame versus a quiet London bookshop.

▶ *"She grew up in Beverly Hills, surrounded by mansions and movie stars."*

▶ *"He had always imagined Beverly Hills as somewhere glamorous and unreal — and it was exactly that."*

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Student Worksheet

Hollywood English Club

Part 1: Match the Expression

Draw a line to match each word or phrase with its correct meaning.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Out of hand | A. To stop a conversation without escalating it |
| 2. Cast aside | B. To reject something without any consideration |
| 3. Leave it at that | C. A bad or hopeless situation (British slang) |
| 4. Bugged | D. To treat something as unimportant or irrelevant |
| 5. Dismissed | E. To abandon someone in a cold, careless way |

Part 2: Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct word or phrase to complete each sentence.

Word bank: cast aside | leave it at that | out of hand | inexperienced heart | bugged

1. He rejected the idea _____ — he did not even want to hear it.
2. After years of loyalty, she was _____ the moment the company made cutbacks.
3. They argued for a while, then decided to _____ and go home.
4. The car, the phone, and now the laptop — everything is _____ at the same time.
5. She fell in love too quickly — typical of someone with an _____.

Part 3: True or False

Read each sentence and write TRUE or FALSE on the line.

1. "Out of hand" means to reject something after careful thought. _____
2. Beverly Hills is located in Los Angeles, California. _____
3. "Bugged" is appropriate for use in formal business settings. _____
4. "Leave it at that" is used to avoid further conflict in a conversation. _____
5. Notting Hill became internationally famous because of the 1999 film. _____

Part 4: Rewrite the Sentence

Replace the underlined part with the correct word or phrase from the box.

Expression box: dismissed | cast aside | out of hand | leave it at that | bugged

1. "She rejected my idea immediately without even listening to it."
2. "He was abandoned by his friends the moment things got difficult."
3. "My laptop is completely broken and I have a presentation in an hour."
4. "He brushed off her feelings as if they did not matter."
5. "They decided not to discuss it any further and moved on."

Part 5: Your Turn

Answer these questions in your own words. Use vocabulary from this lesson.

1. Have you ever had an idea dismissed out of hand? How did it make you feel?

2. Think of a time you left something unsaid to keep the peace. What happened?

3. Write your own sentence using "cast aside."