

The Pursuit of Happiness | Interview Scene

Vocabulary Breakdown

Hollywood English Club

1) "Earnestness"

- Being very serious and sincere about something. If someone speaks with earnestness, they genuinely mean what they are saying.
 - ✓ Chris has no qualifications and no good explanation for his appearance. What he has is earnestness.
 - ▶ *"He spoke with earnestness, trying to show how much the job meant to him."*
 - ▶ *"Her earnestness was obvious. Nobody doubted she believed what she was saying."*
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2) "Diligence"

- Working hard and not giving up, even when a task is difficult or thankless.
 - ✓ Used in professional settings, interviews, and reference letters. A serious compliment.
 - ▶ *"Her diligence helped her pass the exam after months of study."*
 - ▶ *"The team's diligence paid off when they finally closed the deal."*
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3) "Demonstrate"

- To show something clearly, usually by doing it rather than just saying it.
 - ✓ "Demonstrating" is much stronger than "claiming." Anyone can say they are hardworking. Showing up every day demonstrates it.
 - ▶ *"He wanted to demonstrate that he was responsible by arriving early every day."*
 - ▶ *"Can you demonstrate how the device works?"*
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4) "Determined"

- Having made up your mind to achieve something and refusing to stop until you do.
 - ✓ "Determined" describes an internal quality. Chris shows it through persistence, not speeches.
 - ▶ *"She was determined to finish school, even while working two jobs."*
 - ▶ *"He was determined to prove everyone wrong."*
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5) "Gizmo"

- An informal, playful word for a small gadget or device, especially one you cannot name.
 - ✓ Chris carries a bone density scanner everywhere. Calling it a "gizmo" is casual, self-deprecating, and honest.
 - ▶ *"He pulled out some gizmo from his bag and started fiddling with it."*
 - ▶ *"I have no idea what this gizmo does, but it looks impressive."*
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6) "I like to think so"

- A modest, charming way to say "yes" when someone says something positive about you.
 - ✓ Confident without being cocky. The sweet spot between false modesty and arrogance.
 - ▶ *"Are you good under pressure?" "I like to think so."*
 - ▶ *"You seem like someone who never gives up." "I like to think so."*
-

7) "Apparently"

- "It seems like" or "from what I understand." Used when you believe something but are not completely certain.

✓ Useful when sharing information without fully committing to it. Honest and polite at the same time.

▶ *"Apparently, he has been waiting outside the building for a month."*

▶ *"Apparently, the meeting was moved to Thursday. Nobody told me directly."*

8) "Fair enough"

■ "Okay, that makes sense." Said when you accept someone's point, even if it is not ideal.

✓ A graceful way to move past a disagreement. In the scene, an interviewer says it after hearing Chris's honest explanation.

▶ *"He did not know the answer but promised to find it. Fair enough."*

▶ *"I can't make it Friday, but I'll be there Monday." "Fair enough."*

English SPEAKING Practice | Will Smith's Interview Scene (The Pursuit of Happiness)

Student Worksheet
Hollywood English Club

Part 1: Match the Expression

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

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. Earnestness | A. A small gadget or device with no known name |
| 2. Diligence | B. To show something through action, not just words |
| 3. Demonstrate | C. Being genuinely sincere and serious |
| 4. Gizmo | D. I accept that, it makes sense |
| 5. Fair enough | E. Consistent hard work and effort |

Part 2: Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct word or phrase to complete each sentence.

Word bank: apparently | determined | fair enough | diligence | I like to think so

- "Are you someone who never gives up?" "_____."
- She was _____ to finish the course, no matter how long it took.
- "_____, the interview was moved to next week. Nobody confirmed it yet."
- His _____ over three years of study finally earned him the promotion.
- "I can't make it today, but I'll send my notes." "_____."

Part 3: True or False

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

- "Earnestness" means being clever and quick-thinking. _____
- "Apparently" is used when you are not completely certain about something. _____
- "I like to think so" is an arrogant way to respond to a compliment. _____
- "Diligent" describes someone who works hard without being pushed. _____

5. A "gizmo" is a formal technical term used by engineers. _____

Part 4: Rewrite the Sentence

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

Expression box: demonstrate | fair enough | gizmo | earnestness | determined

1. "She spoke with real honesty and sincerity about why the job mattered to her."

Answer _____

2. "He was not going to stop until he passed the driving test."

Answer _____

3. "I cannot pay you now, but I will transfer it Friday." "Okay, that makes sense."

Answer _____

4. "What is that little device you keep carrying around?"

Answer _____

5. "He wanted to prove his skills through action, not just his CV."

Answer _____

Part 5: Your Turn

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

1. Think of a time you had to demonstrate something important. What did you do?

2. Describe someone you know who shows real diligence. What do they do?

3. Write your own sentence using "I like to think so."