



VIDEO & PODCAST TRANSCRIPT #001

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN AMATEUR AND A NOVICE?

Slide 1:

Hello, I'm David James.

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Now in today's lesson, we are going to explain the difference between an "AMATEUR" and a "NOVICE"? Let's start.

Slide 4:

An amateur is a person who engages in a particular activity such as one of the arts, sports, science, etc. as an interest or hobby rather than a profession.

Slide 5:

A novice is a beginner, a person new to a particular field or activity. Let's look at some examples . . .

Slide 6:

The picture shows a young Japanese girl holding a violin.

The sentence example reads:

Although Kyoko is still an amateur violinist, she aspires to be a professional in the near future.

Slide 7:

Notes: At present Kyoko plays the violin for pleasure, as a hobby, but in the future it is her goal to become a professional musician and make it her career.

Slide 8:

The next picture shows a little boy swinging a golf club on the front lawn of his house.

The sentence example reads:

Seeing he was only a novice, he did very well today.

Slide 9:

Notes: In view of the fact this little boy has only just started playing golf, he played very well today.

Slide 10:

The next picture shows a photograph of a field of bright blue flowers.

The sentence example reads:

Although Karen is still an amateur photographer, the quality of her work is excellent.

Slide 11:

Notes: Looking at the quality of Karen's photography, you might think she does this for a living. However, she does it as a hobby in her spare time.

Slide 12:

In the next picture, we see a TV studio and presenters interviewing a financial advisor.

The sentence example reads:

Many novice investors follow the advice of financial advisors like Keith Springer.

Slide 13:

Notes: Many people who are new to money management and investing rely on the advice of professionals such as Keith Springer.

Slide 14:

Here's an important point:

An amateur can also refer to a person who does not do quality work, even if they are a professional! In this case, we can use it as an adjective and say the person's work is very amateurish.

Slide 15:

Look at this example:

The picture shows some electrical wiring which is uncovered and untidy.

The sentence example reads:

This electrician's work was so amateurish we will call someone else next time!

Slide 16:

Notes: Even though the electrician does this work for a living, the standard and quality of his work is poor and lacks skill.

Slide 17:

So in conclusion: Avoid confusing an **amateur** with a **novice**.

For example, a person may have been playing golf for years but still be an **amateur** as they have not decided or desired to become a professional in the sport.

On the other hand, a person who has just started playing golf would rightly be referred to as a **novice**, a beginner.

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