



VIDEO & PODCAST TRANSCRIPT #002

WHAT IS A POTPOURRI?

Slide 1:

Hello, I'm David James.

Slide 2:

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Slide 3:

What is a potpourri?

Slide 4:

Here's the specific definition: A scented mixture of dried flower petals, leaves and spices, often put in a bowl, to create a pleasant smell in a room.

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The general definition is: A collection of different items, often unrelated.

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Potpourri comes from French, where it is written as two words, pot pourri, describing mixed meats in a stew.

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A quick word about the pronunciation of potpourri.

You will hear it pronounced in various ways. The 't' is often silent.

The common British pronunciation is poh•PUR•ee, with a silent 't' and the stress on the second syllable.

Let's look at some examples . . .

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In the first picture, we see earthenware pots in a Moroccan bazaar filled with potpourri.

The sentence example reads:

We stopped by this shop in Morocco and bought some wonderful potpourri to put in our bathroom at home.

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Notes: When visiting Morocco, we stopped in the bazaar and bought some potpourri for our bathroom at home to give it a nice smell.

Slide 10:

The next photograph is of a porcelain bowl containing blue potpourri.

The sentence example reads:

The colours of the potpourri nicely complemented the beautiful colours in the bowl.

Slide 11:

Notes: The blue colours in the potpourri coordinated well with the blue colours in the bowl.

Slide 12:

In the next examples, potpourri refers to a collection of seemingly unrelated items . . .

Slide 13:

The picture shows the entrance of an office building with the company name amazon.com above the door.

The sentence example reads:

Although Amazon.com started out in 1994 as an online bookstore, it now sells a potpourri of millions of items.

Slide 14:

Notes: Amazon.com started as an online bookstore in 1994. However, it now offers a huge range of diverse products.

Slide 15:

The final picture is a screenshot of the home page of the web site coursera.org.

The sentence example reads:

Coursera.org is a very popular website which offers a potpourri of online courses, some of them free!

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Notes: Coursera.org offers a large number of courses, including some free ones, on a wide variety of subjects.

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In conclusion: the French expression Pot Pourri can be very useful in English. In addition to meaning a scented mixture of dried flowers, leaves and spices for your home, you can also use potpourri to describe a collection of different items, often unrelated.

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