

Word of the Day - Inconvenience

Transcript

Hi everyone! This is Paul again. This is for “Word of the Day” and the word of the day is inconvenience. So to introduce our word today, I’d like to tell you a little story. I wanted to buy some flowers for my girlfriend and if you go to City Hall Station on exit 8, you’ll find a nice little flower shop that is opened every day. But on this day when I wanted to buy the flowers, the store was closed and there was a sign on the front door. And the sign on the front door said, **“We’re closed for the day. Sorry for the inconvenience.”**

When you hear “sorry for the inconvenience” probably the first thing you remember is a sign on a door because with most stores that close early there will be a sign on the front door saying, “Sorry for the inconvenience that we’re currently closed” or if there is a machine like an ATM or a vending machine or one of the machines that charge up your subway station card. And if it’s closed they’ll probably say, **“I’m sorry for the inconvenience that it’s currently unavailable.”**

So, “inconvenience”. What does it mean? The definition of inconvenience is going you trouble or difficulty; making things less comfortable. So things make life less easier for you, that’s what inconvenience is. So things like, “I have to go shopping today.” That’s an inconvenience for you because I’m really busy. Being stuck in traffic is an inconvenience. Being in a really tight subway car is an inconvenience.

So first of all, the common way you’ll see it is from signs, businesses and machines saying “Sorry for the inconvenience”. But then how will you use it? How will you use it in normal speech and how will you use it in your writing? So first thing: apologizing. So if you need to apologize for something wrong or you have to cancel a meeting or be late for a meeting. Say for example you’re going to be an hour late. Or you made a wrong order or you gave the person a wrong payment. You can first say, **“ I’m sorry. I’m sorry for the inconvenience. I’m sorry for inconveniencing you.”**

You can use it as a noun or you can use it as a verb. So when you say, **“I’m sorry for inconveniencing you”**, it means I’m really sorry for giving this situation more difficult for you or uncomfortable to you. But on the other hand, you can use it for complaining. And it’s a really formal way and a good way for you to make a complaint. When someone has done something wrong to you at a hotel or at an agency or just at a restaurant, you can say **“This is an inconvenience for me.”** And they will completely understand what you are saying and help you rectify the situation. Or you can say or someone else can say, “I know it’s an inconvenience but can you just eat it?” So if a waiter brought you the wrong dish, “I know it’s troubling, but just eat it.” You can say, **“No, actually it would be an inconvenience and what could you do for me?”**

So if you want to complain, you can say, **“This is an inconvenience for me”**

If you want to apologize, you can say, **“I’m sorry for the inconvenience. I’m sorry for inconveniencing you.”**

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So I hope you've learned a new word today and if you have any question please go to practicus.co.kr and the full transcript will be made online. Thank you and take care.