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Word of the Day – **Stopgap**

Transcript

Hi everyone. Today's word of the day is **stopgap**. **Stopgap** is a noun. This word can be freely used in casual and formal situations. It has a negative connotation but it is not insulting, so don't be afraid to use it when giving constructive criticism. The definition of **stopgap** is something is used to fix a problem for a short time. A **stopgap** is a temporary solution. It will not completely solve your problem but usually it will give you enough time to hopefully find a permanent solution.

For example, this past year in Korea there has been many protests against the rising cost of tuition for university and college students. Many students cannot afford the expensive school fees that many popular universities demand. The public protested this burdening problem. In response, the government said it would offer scholarships to deserving students to help them with their academic finances. Unfortunately, this solution doesn't completely solve the problem of rising tuition costs. It is only a temporary solution to a much bigger problem in the education system. In a possible discussion or a debate, you can say

“Though I'm thankful that the government wants to offer students scholarships, I think it's only a stopgap measure. It might help a little for now but in the future tuition prices might be even higher. They need to address the root of the problem.”

Another analogy you can think of when trying to understand the word **stopgap** is a running water hose. You can plug a running water hose with a cap or **stopgap** but eventually the water will burst out. You need to turn off the running water to fix the problem not use a **stopgap**. If you would like more information, or the full transcript, please visit our website. Thank you very much and take care.