

Pet Peeve: The Vocabulary of Dislike

In my English classroom, we don't often talk about the things we *don't* like. Maybe it's because, as a teacher, I don't like 'negative' conversations. I like to have things *positive*. I like to talk about what's good, what's interesting, what we like.

But, when you speak English, you're going to talk about the things you *don't like* at least as often as you talk about the things that you do like. And to do that, you're going to need a bit of vocabulary. Sure, you probably know the words love and hate, but most of what we do falls between those two extremes. Here are a few verbs that are milder than hate, but mean that you *don't like* something:

- Irk
- Bug
- Annoy
- Bother

After You've Heard the Recording

What do you think? What irks you? What annoys you? When will you use these words? I think that these are all good words to have, because they're milder than the vocabulary that you might have learned first in English. And, because they're milder, they probably won't annoy other people if you use them.