



043 – Lori scores a year’s supply of toilet paper

Introduction

Hi English Learners! Lori here, your teacher from Better at English.com. For your listening practice today, I’ve got another Real English conversation. It’s actually one of my favorite conversations from deep in the Better at English archives. I’ve re-edited it so that new listeners can enjoy it.

This conversation features lots of idioms and slang, and is a good example of



a spontaneous, authentic English conversation between two people who know each other well.

As always, you can find the complete transcript and vocabulary study guide at betteratenglish.com/transcripts.

Are you ready to practice your English listening skills? Here comes the conversation.

Conversation transcript

Lori: Yeah, something kind of **funny** happened to me when I was shopping for office supplies today.

Andy: OK, what happened?

Lori: Well, my **boss** had, had given me a list of office supplies to buy on my way home from a teaching **gig**, because I drive right past the office supply shop.

And I’m always happy to do it, ’cause, as you know, I LOVE office supplies – it’s almost like my, my “**office-supply porn**” – I can go in and **get my**

daily fix of all the nice things for, you know, keeping organized, and folders and notebooks, and...I had a whole list of things to buy.

And when I got up to the **register** and the clerk was **ringing me up**, the total came to over a thousand Swedish crowns. Which is not a problem, I mean, they just send us an **invoice**; it wasn't like I had to worry about money. But then he said, "Because you spent so much money here today, you can go pick one of those rolls of toilet paper over there."

Andy: Toilet paper!

Lori: Yeah, toilet paper! And, I mean, we're always happy to get free toilet paper; you know, it's one of those useful things that, that, you know, a business has to buy...

Andy: You can never have too much.

Lori: Yeah, exactly. But the thing is, I looked at where he was pointing, and it was these **huge, gigantic, industrial-sized** packages, all shrink-wrapped in plastic, of toilet paper...I mean, it was huge, I could not believe that I was getting one for free.

Andy: OK, like a year's supply of toilet paper.

Lori: At least.

Andy: [laughs]

Lori: I'm serious! When...**standing on end**, the thing **comes up almost to** my chest.

Andy: OK.



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- Lori: I mean, it's huge. I, I forgot to count the rolls, but it was...it had to be... maybe... At least 20 packs of six rolls each.
- Andy: Wow.
- Lori: Seriously, it was one big, **honking** supply of toilet paper. And it was good toilet paper as well!
- Andy: And this is free?
- Lori: Yeah, free just because I'd spent, you know, in one, you know, one purchase, we had spent over a thousand crowns. And I, but I could not believe they were giving away for free, and so I had to ask the guy, "Really? **Are you kidding?** I get to take one of these?"
- And he was like, "Yeah, yeah."
- I'm like, "No!"
- He was like, "Yeah!"
- "No!"
- And he says that, "You know, you can look, see the sign up above...it says...I can show you."
- I'm like, "No no, it's not that I don't believe you, I just can't believe you are giving away such a huge supply of toilet paper!"
- I was REALLY happy. And of course there was a line of Swedes standing waiting to pay for their things, and they were **raising their eyebrows** at me, you know, someone getting so excited about getting a huge supply of toilet paper. But you know, I thought that was just a really really cool thing...
- Andy: Mmm, definitely.
- Lori: ...for or the company to do.
- Andy: Yeah.
- Lori: 'Cause say they had just given away one little pack, or two little packs. Like, oh, wow, 12 rolls of toilet paper. [sarcasm]

- Andy: Right, right
- Lori: For spending a thousand crowns...
- Andy: Yeah. No, free stuff is good!
- Lori: Yeah, and the good news is, you know here at home we're **on our last roll...**
- Andy: [Laughs]
- Lori: And because I **scored** this huge supply of toilet paper for my boss, she's like, "Take some, take some!" And...
- Andy: NOW I see why you're so happy.
- Lori: That's why today I came home with that, you know, with...
- Andy: Your arms full of toilet paper.
- Lori: Exactly, exactly.

Final words

That's all for this time. I hope you enjoyed the conversation. Remember you can find more real English conversations with full transcripts on my website, betteratenglish.com. Until next time, have fun practicing your English. Bye for now!

Vocabulary and usage notes

funny

Something is funny if it makes you laugh, or if it is strange or unusual.

boss

Your boss is the person you work for, your manager, the person you report to.
Boss is an informal way to refer to this person.

gig

Here, Lori means a teaching assignment out at a company.

office supplies

Goods and materials that you need in an office, e.g, paper, paper clips, folders, binders, printer ink, coffee. In the USA there are huge stores that specialize in office supplies, such as Staples or Office Depot.

office supply porn

Porn is short for “pornography.” In this context Lori doesn’t mean actual pornography, of course. She is using the word “porn” in a playful way to describe the unusual (perhaps even unhealthy!) pleasure she gets from shopping for office supplies. YOU can add the word “porn” to just about anything that gives you an unusual degree of pleasure. For example, you can also talk about “food porn” (looking at recipes, watching cooking shows), if you are very interested in food and cooking.

my daily fix

Lori talks about her “daily fix” of “office supply porn.” This is a playful use of language. A fix is “a supply or dose of something strongly desired or craved” usually said about addictive drugs. But people often use it in a humorous or playful way, e.g. “my daily fix of coffee” or “my chocolate fix for the day.”

register

a cash register. The machine that records the transaction when you buy something, and where the cashier or clerk keeps the money

ringing me up

To ring someone/something up (in this context) refers to the cashier operating the cash register to record the items you are buying.

invoice

When you buy something from a company but don’t pay right away, they send you an invoice, like a bill, that tells you how much money you must pay and when you must pay it.

huge, gigantic

Synonyms for “extremely large”

industrial-sized

large packages of goods for businesses and industries

standing on end

If something is *on end*, it is in an upright position instead of in its normal position (for example, lying flat or on its long side). Things usually *stand* on end and *lie* flat.

comes up (almost) to

To (almost) reach a certain point, or to extend to a certain point. The package of toilet paper *comes almost up to* Lori's chest.

honking

Informal slang for "very large," often used in combination with big: I can't believe I ate that entire big, honking piece of chocolate cake!

Are you kidding?

"*Are you kidding?*" is an informal way to ask "Are you serious?" or "Is this really true?" We usually say this when we've heard something that we find hard to believe.

raising their eyebrows

If you talk about someone *raising their eyebrows* at someone or something, it means that their facial expression is showing disapproval of that person or thing. The stereotypical Swede is known for being quiet and reserved, so Lori's obvious excitement about getting the huge packet of free toilet paper was probably breaking a Swedish social taboo.

on our last roll

To be "on one's last X" means that you are using the last item in your supply of something. For example, "We're on our last carton of milk; could you buy some when you go to the shop later?"

scored

To *score something* in the sense Lori uses here means that you manage to buy or receive something that you find very attractive.