



Hi, everyone. How's it going?

Nesse episódio do podcast Inglês Online eu continuo falando sobre expressões que usam partes do corpo. Hoje, uma delas é sobre "agir pelas costas", e a outra é sobre fazer valer a sua vontade.

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Transcrição

Hello, everyone. How's it going? Today we have a new episode of the inglesonline podcast. To download or just listen to other episodes and download transcripts, go to inglesonline.com.br and click Podcast Inglesonline.

Like I said in the previous podcast, there are tons of expressions in English involving a body part, and today we talk about another two terms, or expressions, with the words back and foot. Now, let me start off with an example for the first term. Let's say you tell a friend that you visited your favorite store today and you found a beautiful dress that you wanted to buy. However, you realized you'd left your wallet at home, so... no way to pay for the dress on the spot. But since this is your favorite store, the manager knows you personally because you've been shopping there for years, and she tells you that since you like this dress so much, and since it is the last one they have, she's going to save it for you for the next 24 hours. Or, she's gonna hold it for you.

This is perfect, you think. Tomorrow after work I'll swing by the store and pick up the dress! And, of course, I'll be really careful not to leave my wallet at home once again. You're so happy that the next day you tell your coworker, Jane, about the dress. You tell her that the store manager is holding the dress for you and you couldn't be happier. Jane is impressed and she wants to know where the store is. You, of course, tell her. And here's what happens next: when you get to the store, the manager is very surprised to see you. She asks "Is everything alright?" and you say "I'm here for my dress!" The manager looks even more surprised and she tells you that your friend Virginia came by around lunch time to pick up the dress. Virginia said that you wouldn't be able to leave work early, so she was doing you a favor.

You can't believe what you're hearing. There's only one person who could have done that, and her name isn't Virginia: it's Jane! You ask the store manager what this Virginia person looked like, and voilá: it's Jane. You told Jane about the dress and she went behind your back and bought it to herself! Alright, so that's the first expression: she went behind your back. Easy, huh? We have a similar expression in Portuguese that involves the same part of the body. What does 'going behind someone's back' mean? Well, every time someone uses, let's say, information about you to their advantage... especially if it's something that will put you in a position of disadvantage in some way... We can say that person **went behind your back** and did something that feels like that person betrayed you.

It could be something you told that person in confidence; it could be something that someone found out about you and then they did something with that information to get something out of it, maybe... It could be that they told someone something that you wanted to keep from that person. For



example, you didn't want your friend Mark to know about your new boyfriend. You told your other friend Daniel about your new boyfriend and you asked him not to mention it to Mark. Well, Daniel **went behind your back** and told Mark everything about your new boyfriend. And now Mark is mad at you and he won't even pick up the phone when he knows it's you calling!

So, let's recap: you told Jane about the dress, and then she **went behind your back** and bought the dress to herself. You told Daniel about your new boyfriend, and then he **went behind your back** and [spilled the beans](#) to Mark! So, do you have any examples where you feel someone **went behind your back** and you felt betrayed?

OK, do you remember one of the terms from [last week's podcast](#), compromise? People who are easygoing and mellow usually compromise a lot. They're OK with making concessions or making compromises, you know, just to make sure that everyone is OK, everyone is happy in a particular situation, and so on. But even easygoing people will occasionally put their foot down for something. They will occasionally put their foot down. That means, they will occasionally insist that what they want has to be done. People may say something like "Tonight I want to watch novela das 8 and that is that! **I'm putting my foot down.**"

Going back to the example from last episode, you wanted to have pasta for dinner and your spouse wanted salad. Remember? Let's say that for some strange reason you guys can't have both. It's either one or the other. And let's say that you have eaten salad for a week already and you've had enough! You tell your spouse "I've had enough salad and tonight we're gonna have pasta! **I'm putting my foot down**"

So why don't you give us your example in the comments? You can say something like this: my brother wanted to go to the beach and I wanted to go to the mountains. So **I put my foot down**, and we went to the mountains. Or you can say "My girlfriend wanted to watch an art movie, but **I put my foot down**. We went and watched Transformers"

Talk to you next time!

Key expressions

- behind my back
- put (my, his, etc) foot down

Glossary

swing by = dar uma passada

this Virginia person = essa tal de Virginia

something you wanted to keep from that person = algo que você não queria que aquela pessoa soubesse

and voilà = e não dá outra

something you told someone in confidence = algo que você contou a alguém confidencialmente

get something out of it = tirar algum benefício daquilo

it's either one or the other = é um ou outro