

10 COMMON ENGLISH FILLER WORDS YOU SHOULD KNOW

BY MPEC

1. Well

You can use it to show that you're thinking.

"Well, I guess \$20 is a good price for a pair of jeans."

You can also use it to put a pause in a sentence.

"The apples and cinnamon go together like, well, apples and cinnamon."

2. Um/er/uh

They are mostly used for hesitation, such as when you don't know the answer or don't want to answer.

"Um, er, I uh thought the project was due tomorrow, not today."

1,2

3. Actually/Basically/Seriously

Change the strength of a statement.

"actually" = points out something you think is true, when others might not agree:

"Actually, pugs are really cute!"

Basically = summarising,
Seriously = a lot, really

4. You see

Used to share a fact that you assume the listener doesn't know.

"I was going to try the app, but you see, I ran out of space on my phone."

3,4

5. You know

Used to share something that you assume the listener already knows.

"We stayed at that hotel, you know, the one down the street from Times Square."

6. I mean

Used to clarify or emphasize how you feel about something.

"I mean, he's a great guy, I'm just not sure if he's a good doctor."

5,6

6. At the end of the day

means "in the end" or "in conclusion."

"At the end of the day, we're all just humans, and we all make mistakes."

7. Believe me

A way of asking your listener to trust what you're saying.

"Believe me, I didn't want this tiny house, but it was the only one I could afford."

It's also used to emphasize what you're about to say.

"Believe me, this is the cheapest, tiniest house"

7,8

9. Okay/so

Usually used to start sentences, and can be a sign that a new topic is starting.

"So what are you doing next weekend?"

They can also be used to introduce a summary.

"Okay, so we're going to need to buy supplies for our trip this weekend."

10. Right/mhm/uh huh

Affirmative responses—they all mean a "yes" response.

"Right, so let's prepare a list of all the things we'll need."

9,10