

## Real English Conversations: Don't step in the dog doo (part 2 of 4)

Hi! Lori here, welcoming you to another episode of Real English Conversations from betteratenglish.com. In today's conversation, which is part 2 of 4, my British friend Michael and I continue discussing cats and dogs, and which we prefer. As always, you can find the full transcript and vocabulary notes on our website, [www.betteratenglish.com](http://www.betteratenglish.com). OK, here we go!

### Conversation Transcript

- Lori:** Well anyway, we're digressing. Enough about dog poo. What do you think the best thing about doggies is?
- Michael:** Well, it's difficult to say any one thing. But I like the kind of nature and the relationship that dogs have with their owners. And they are generally interested. And they are genuinely affectionate—or they can be—genuinely **affectionate** to their owners, which is something that I really don't see in cats.
- L:** Yeah, cats are interesting. They're interesting. It's hard to **know where you have** a cat.
- M:** Uh huh.
- L:** I mean, if a cat is coming up and rubbing against your legs and being what looks like affectionate, it's like, are they really...?
- M:** Right. [laughter] That's called **cupboard love**.
- L:** Cupboard love. Yeah, are they really just **in it for** the food? Or are they really...? You know, 'cause dogs -- I agree with you -- dogs really can seem to be genuinely affectionate towards their owners. I mean, the best thing in the world has to be coming home, when you left your dog at home for a few hours, and you come home and your dog is so happy to see you. And you're the best person in the world and it's just the most exciting thing ever that you've come walking through the door.
- M:** Right.
- L:** One of my favorite sayings is "I wish were the person my dog *thinks* I am."
- M:** Aww. Yeah. I know what you mean.
- L:** Because they just think that you're just the best thing ever, and every time.
- M:** Well some people can be like that too.  
[laughter]
- L:** Yeah, but not every time.
- M:** No. Maybe not.
- L:** I mean, seriously, with dogs it's, like, every time. You only have to leave them for 20 minutes and then come back and they're just **all over you** 'cause they're so...just...overwhelmed with happiness.
- M:** That's true. Yeah. Without fail. Without fail.
- L:** Yeah it's fantastic.

- M:** You know I like that. The interaction you can have with a dog. They really want to play. And yeah, that's just... I'm a dog person.
- L:** Yeah...I think...I like cats too. I know we **differ** about that, but I do like cats. But I would have to say I feel more **affinity** towards dogs.
- M:** Well, I like kittens. You know?
- L:** Oh kittens! Don't even get me started on little kittens.
- M:** Kittens... well yeah they like to play and they're full of mischief. They can be fun. That's before they turn into cats and that's when it all goes horribly wrong for me.
- L:** Oh, yeah. Kittens are just the cutest thing. And...but cats like to play too. You remember Janne and Ozzie's cat, with the laser pointer. What fun we had.
- M:** Yeah, that was a lot of fun, yeah.
- L:** Yeah. Cats go absolutely crazy if you have one of those laser pointers and **taunt** them with it.
- M:** Yeah, but...the thing is though, they're trying to kill it.
- L:** [laughing] Yeah, that's true again!
- M:** That's the problem. While we're going, "Aww, that's so cute." But the cat is thinking, "What is that little creature? I'm going to kill it and eat it."
- L:** Exactly. [laughing] And, no, "I'm going to catch it and **toy with it** first and then I'm going to kill it."
- M:** Right, yeah. "I'm going to toy with it until it dies of a heart attack and then I'm going to eat it."  
[laughter]
- M:** You know, "Tear it apart and bring its **entrails** to my master."
- L:** Exactly. Yeah, that's a funny thing that cats do. I don't know if that is just **anthropomorphizing**, you know, when you want to, kind of, **impinge** human qualities onto animals. People tend to say that, if their cat has been out in the garden and killed a bird and left it inside the house, that the cat has left them a "present." And I don't know if the cat is just saving it for later...or something...you know, why does it have to be a present?
- M:** It's bringing it to you saying, "Hey, can you stick this in the **fridge** for me?"  
[laughter]
- L:** Exactly. "I want to save it for my dinner."
- M:** That's the reason. It is because the cat can't open the fridge, that's why.
- L:** When I used to have cats, I used to find dead birds and things in my room that the cat had...you know...killed and left under the bed... and...that's kind of **unsettling**.
- M:** Yeah, that's not so much fun.
- L:** Yeah, that's horrible. Well, you don't have a dog now, though, right? You personally.
- M:** No, not anymore.

## Final Words

That's all for today. If you found today's topic interesting, we'd love to hear your comments. You can leave a comment at our web site, [www.betteratenglish.com](http://www.betteratenglish.com), or e-mail us at [info@betteratenglish.com](mailto:info@betteratenglish.com).

## Vocabulary notes

<b>affectionate</b>	If someone is <i>affectionate</i> , they show feelings of liking or love.
<b>know where you have</b>	<i>To know where you have someone</i> means that you understand how they feel about you.
<b>cupboard love</b>	<i>Cupboard love</i> is affection shown by someone, usually a child or animal, to get what they want from you.
<b>in it for</b>	<i>To be in it for something</i> means that you are interested or involved in something for a particular reason. Example: I don't really like my job; I'm <i>in it for</i> the health insurance.
<b>differ</b>	<i>To differ</i> means to be unlike something or somebody else, to be different in some way.
<b>affinity</b>	An <i>affinity</i> is a feeling of sympathy or attraction for something.
<b>taunt</b>	<i>To taunt</i> someone is to intentionally annoy or provoke them.
<b>toy with</b>	<i>To toy with</i> something means to amuse yourself by playing with something as if it were a toy.
<b>entrails</b>	<i>Entrails</i> are the intestines and other inside organs of the body, particularly when they are outside.
<b>anthropomorphize</b>	<i>To anthropomorphize</i> something means to attribute human qualities to things that are not human.
<b>impege</b>	Even native speakers can make mistakes when speaking spontaneously. The word Lori was looking for is actually <i>impute</i> , which means to believe that somebody or something has a specific quality.
<b>fridge</b>	<i>Fridge</i> is the short form of <i>refrigerator</i> , which is a piece of kitchen equipment used to keep food cold.
<b>unsettling</b>	If something is <i>unsettling</i> it causes you to feel anxious or worried.

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