

FILLER WORDS

A word parasite is a word which does not have a special lexical meaning. However, such words are often used to fill a pause that is why in English these words are called fillers, filler words, time-fillers. There are a great variety of such words: well, wow, ok, yeah, so, right, anyway, like and many others. Besides, they can be not only the words but also interjections: um, uh, oh, mmm, uh-huh and even phrases: you know, sort of, kind of, you see, I mean.

Many scientists think that people use fillers when they lack lexicon. Nevertheless, it is not the only opinion. Many people who have huge lexicon can use them because of habit or something like fashion, some people think that it is cool to use fillers. And people for whom English is not a native language and their knowledge is not perfect the use of fillers gives time and opportunity to think a bit and build next phrase or sentence.

It should be noticed that fillers must not be used in formal English but they can be used in informal and colloquial English.

Well - Russian equivalent of the word "Ну". It is used to get some time to remember about something or to collect your thoughts.

Ok - Russian equivalent of the word "Хорошо, ладно". This filler is used to express agreement, usually can be used instead of "yes".

You know - Russian equivalent of the phrase "Знаешь"; by the way - Russian equivalent of the phrase "Кстати"; you see - Russian equivalent of the phrase "Видишь ли". These fillers have no sense, but are often used just like words parasites.

No way - Russian equivalent of the phrase "Не может быть". It is used to express feelings more often shock, when it is difficult to find necessary words. It can have both positive and negative sense.

Tell me something - Russian equivalent of the phrase "А расскажи-ка мне". This phrase is used when someone doesn't want to ask directly and creates more informal situation.

I mean - Russian equivalent of the phrase "В смысле, я имею ввиду". It is used like introductory phrase to express your opinion.

Like - Russian equivalent of the phrase "Вроде бы". This is used when you are not sure about truthfulness of the information.

Such fillers as Uh, Um, Oh, Mmm, Uh-huh are used to express different feelings.

As it has been mentioned above filler words may be helpful and useful if they are used moderately and appropriately. But excessive use of such words should not be approved.