



American Expression E2122 Come to think of it

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"Come to think of it" is an idiomatic expression that often signals a sudden realization or a new perspective on a matter. It implies a shift in focus or attention, prompting the speaker or listener to reconsider a topic or idea in light of new information or insights.

When someone says "come to think of it," they are typically pausing to reflect on a subject that may have been mentioned earlier or that has been on their mind. This phrase suggests that the speaker is now considering the topic more deeply or from a different angle, perhaps uncovering connections or implications that were not immediately apparent.

The expression can serve various functions in conversation. It might be used to introduce a related thought or observation, adding depth or context to the discussion. Alternatively, it could signify a moment of enlightenment or recollection, as the speaker suddenly recalls relevant information or experiences.

"Come to think of it" often arises when someone is discussing a topic and suddenly realizes a connection, contradiction, or overlooked detail. It's like a mental light bulb moment, where the pieces of the puzzle start to fit together, leading to a clearer understanding of the situation at hand.

This phrase can also be used to express agreement or acknowledgment. For example, if someone suggests an idea or solution, another person might respond with "come to think of it, that's a good idea," indicating that they now recognize the merit of the proposal after considering it more carefully.

Moreover, "come to think of it" can be a rhetorical device employed to introduce a thought-provoking statement or argument. By prefacing a statement with this phrase, the speaker invites the listener to reconsider their perspective or to contemplate a different viewpoint.

In informal settings, "come to think of it" can be used playfully or sarcastically to draw attention to an amusing or ironic observation. It adds a touch of informality and spontaneity to conversation, signaling that the speaker is sharing a spontaneous thought or reflection.

Furthermore, this expression can be a valuable tool for critical thinking and problem-solving. By encouraging individuals to pause and reassess their assumptions or conclusions, it fosters intellectual curiosity and encourages deeper engagement with ideas.

In conclusion, "come to think of it" serves as a linguistic cue for moments of reflection, insight, and reconsideration. It invites individuals to pause and contemplate a topic from a fresh perspective, uncovering new connections and insights along the way. Whether used in casual conversation or more formal discourse, this expression facilitates deeper engagement with ideas and promotes critical thinking skills.

Questions for Discussion

1. How does the phrase "come to think of it" contribute to the flow of conversation, and can you provide an example from your own experiences where this expression prompted a new line of thought or revelation?
2. In what ways does "come to think of it" serve as a catalyst for critical thinking and reflection, and how might its usage enhance problem-solving and decision-making processes?
3. Can you share an instance where someone used "come to think of it" in a playful or sarcastic manner to highlight an amusing or unexpected observation, and discuss the impact it had on the conversation?
4. How does the use of "come to think of it" differ across various cultural and linguistic contexts, and what insights can be gained from comparing its usage in different languages or communities?
5. When employing "come to think of it" in persuasive or argumentative discourse, how does this phrase help in introducing new perspectives or challenging existing assumptions, and what strategies can be employed to effectively utilize it in debate or discussion?