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ENGLISH CAFÉ – 68

Throughout, with an “out” at the end, means in all the different places or in all situations, for example, “It is raining throughout California today.” That means it's raining in almost all the different parts of California. It can also mean at different or at all different points in time. For example, “Throughout the month of January, we are going to have a big sale at our store” means during this time of January - at every day in January - we will have a sale.

Our final question comes from Marie, “Marie,” in France. Marie wants to know what the meaning of the expression to call it quits. “I'm going to call it quits” means I'm going to stop - I'm going to end - I'm going to stop doing what I am doing. “I work until five o'clock in the afternoon, then I call it quits,” “quits.” I call it quits - I end - I stop working.

It's not possible to say, “I called it to quit,” or “I called to quit to it” because this is an idiomatic expression - it's just the way that this expression is used. If you said, “I called to quit,” that would mean that you called on the telephone and talked to your boss and said that you were going to quit your job - you were going to leave the company. That's something completely different. To call it quits then means to stop, and you have use quits, with an “s,” not just quit.

We're very interested in your opinions and comments about some of our new sections on ESL Podcast, such as interviewing different people, what we call the “Ask an American” series. If you have questions that you want to ask someone and have us interview someone here in Los Angeles or in other places, email us. Our email address is eslpod@eslpod.com. We'd love to get your feedback on our new sections in the Café.

From Los Angeles, California, I'm Jeff McQuillan. Thanks again for listening. We'll see you next time on the English Café.

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