

TOPIC OF THE WEEK

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? NOW?

ARIA: The term "now" is quite fascinating! It primarily functions as an adverb and refers to the present time or moment. Here's a deeper look at its meaning and usage:

Definition of "Now"

1. At the Present Time:
 - It indicates something happening right now or at this moment. For example, "Now is the time for action."
2. Immediate Context:
 - It can refer to the time immediately before the present, as in "I thought of them just now."
3. Fashionable or Up-to-Date:
 - In some contexts, "now" can describe something that is currently in style or relevant, such as "See more of what's now during our autumn catwalk show."

Usage Examples

- In Conversation: "Where are you living now?"
- In Requests: "Either do it now or not at all."
- In Contextual Statements: "They spent a lot of time together now that he had retired."

Synonyms

- At the moment
- Currently
- Right now
- At this time

In summary, "now" encapsulates the essence of the present, emphasising immediacy and relevance.

AS IN "NOW AND THEN"

The expression "now and then" is an idiom that means from time to time or occasionally. It refers to something that happens sometimes, but not very often or regularly. Here's a closer look at its meaning and usage:

Meaning of "Now and Then"

1. Occasional Events: It indicates that an action or event occurs every once in a while. For example, "We still meet for lunch now and then, but not as often as we used to."
2. Informal Usage: It's often used in casual conversation to describe infrequent activities or interactions.

Examples in Sentences

- "I like to go hiking now and then when I have free time."
- "She calls her old friends now and then, just to catch up."

Synonyms

- Occasionally
- From time to time
- Every now and again

In summary, "now and then" captures the essence of infrequent occurrences, making it a handy phrase for describing things that don't happen regularly.