

871. Rambling through my episode archive

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Hello!

In this episode I am going to

- ramble about lots of different things
- unbox my new YouTube creator award
- respond to listener comments on episodes from the past few months
- talk about a recent trip to Rome
- and more...



There's a PDF for this episode. You can find the link in the description.

Learn English with a Short Story

I know lots of you want short story episodes from me. Don't worry, my next episode will be a short story with vocabulary explanations, ok!

But if you can't wait, and all you want is story episodes, you could sign up to LEP Premium.

I have lots of other short story episodes there, with vocabulary and grammar explanations, as well as pronunciation practice. At the moment there are about 10 story episode series in the premium section, as well as many many more episodes in which I teach you English.

Premium story episode series

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P34, P35, P37, P44, P45, P46, P47, P48, P50, P51 and more coming...

The way it works is that when you sign up you add your LEP Premium subscription to a podcast app on your phone, then you can access the episodes there, and find the links for pdfs and video versions in the show notes for each premium episode.

Find out more at www.teacherluke.co.uk/premiuminfo

I shaved off my beard

Video viewers will probably immediately notice that I have shaved off my beard, and so I feel like I need to mention that right at the beginning.

Yes, I have shaved my beard off.

All that remains on my chin is some stubble, which actually represents approximately 9 days of beard growth. That's how long it's been since I shaved.

Sorry to disappoint the beard fans but it will grow back.

If you are only listening to the audio version of the podcast then obviously you do not need to worry about this, which in my opinion is a great advantage of the audio podcast - no visual distractions. You can just be free to focus on the sounds of spoken English.

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The status of my beard is not important information of course, but I always get comments about it and so I just wanted to say something in order to pre-empt what people might write in the comment section.

The other day I got a comment that simply said,

Never shave off your beard

Well, sorry but I have!

Some people will be deeply disappointed.

Others will be glad.

But most people will be ambivalent.

Nevertheless, here are the...

Reasons why I have shaved off my beard

- My son kept grabbing it and tugging at it. When I hold him in my arms, he puts his hand on my chin and grabs clumps of hair and pulls as hard as possible. He even does it when he's half-asleep.
He's 28 years old.
- It was itchy and made me feel scruffy.
- Food kept getting caught in it. (can be an advantage sometimes)

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- I went on holiday for a few days and wanted the sun to actually reach my face.
- It's nice to have a change!

It feels so good, and felt so good to do it.

I shaved it off with an electric razor or beard trimmer. It was very satisfying watching the clumps of hair fall away into the sink.

There was so much of it!

A mix of colours which I noticed in my beard (colour vocabulary - notice the way we can modify colour adjectives with other adjectives)

- Jet black
- Ruddy brown
- Copper ginger
- Golden blonde
- Silvery white

I look a bit different without the beard but does it make any difference to your English?

This episode is not about my facial hair, despite the fact that we have just had quite a lot of vocabulary on the topic:

Vocabulary: Beards & Facial Hair

- A beard

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- To shave it off
- A razor
- Shaving foam
- A beard trimmer
- To trim your beard
- To grow back
- Stubble
- Designer stubble
- Clumps of hair
- Itchy
- Beard growth
- Facial hair

Also

- Moustache
- Sideburns
- A goatee
- 5 o'clock shadow
- To stroke your beard

Never mind my beard, here's what I'm going to talk about and do in this episode

- Unbox my new YouTube creator award (gold edition)
- A ramble about stuff I've been thinking about recently including my recent 4 day holiday in Rome
- How I felt my life flashing before my eyes when I went through my episode archive recently
- Reading out and responding to comments on episodes from the last 12 months (ish)

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- A weird dream I had in which I was Jackie Chan's English teacher (but you'll have to wait until the end of the episode to hear about that)

If you listen until the end of this episode I will give you a gold* medal and a special certificate of achievement, proving that you made it all the way through.

*not actually gold

Hang out with me for a while and I'll speak English to you. Look, I'm already doing it.

You can repeat after me if you like, or do some shadowing (try to say what I'm saying while I'm saying it - yes, this is a thing), or you can pause the recording and say some things out loud to yourself in response to what I'm saying. (Like "Oh just get on with it")

Also, as you listen, see if you can notice and pick up some vocabulary, grammar or pronunciation along the way.

You could note things down if you like - little words or phrases or things that occur to you while you're listening, and then keep those notes in an organised vocabulary list with examples that you've found online, and notes about pronunciation and even recordings of yourself and others saying the phrases, or you could just not bother doing any of those things and just listen. It's up to you.

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If you would like me to teach you vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation all the time, then sign up to my premium subscription www.teacherluke.co.uk/premiuminfo

There is a PDF for this episode with a transcript of nearly everything I'm saying.

Sometimes I will go off-script and say things which are not written on the PDF, but if that happens I will try to remember to add some symbols, like plus symbols or something +++++ to show those moments, when I talk off script.

+++++

Luke talks off script for a moment to show what talking off script is like.

+++++

So you could do some language practice with this episode if you like, in the ways I just mentioned.

Alternatively, don't feel you have to do any actual studying or anything when you listen to my episodes, except breathing.

Just relax, and follow the words and sentences as they flow out like like endless rain into a paper cup.

Unboxing my shiny new YouTube Creator Award

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I received my YouTube creator award (gold edition) and I'm going to unbox it right now.

+++

Luke opens his shiny new creator award and feels very smug

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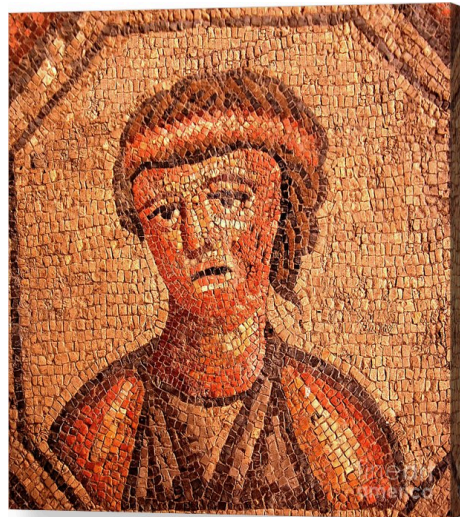
Holiday in Rome

+++

Most of this is spontaneous speaking

+++

Apologies to any Romans for not letting you know I was there, but it was family time.



An unhappy Roman

Pizza, pasta, ice-cream and ancient historical remains, and a lot of walking.

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We visited the Vatican museum, which is basically a long queue through some rooms with the most amazing Greek and Roman sculptures and works of genius by renaissance artists like Rafael and Michaelangelo. Not the ninja turtles but the painters they were named after.

It's weird because it's a combination of two very contrasting things - incredibly transcendent artwork and the most frustrating queue of brainless shuffling tourists being constantly shooed onwards by stressed out Italian security guards.

I also had to carry my son in his pram up and down countless flights of stairs.

But we saw the Sistine Chapel which is absolutely amazing.

Generally in Rome we saw loads of historical spots, including the colosseum, which is maybe my favourite. It's basically a 2000 year old football stadium but they didn't play football there. They mainly just killed each other.

When you go to these places have to use a lot of imagination, and picture how it used to be.

One of the main attractions of the colosseum is how much killing happened there, in very imaginative ways.

A lot of murder, and Russell Crowe.

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Russel Crowe killing people, basically.



From Wikipedia

It could hold an estimated 50,000 to 80,000 spectators at various points in its history,^{[4][5]} having an average audience of some 65,000;^[6] it was used for [gladiatorial](#) contests and [public spectacles](#) including [animal hunts](#), executions, re-enactments of famous battles, and dramas based on [Roman mythology](#), and briefly [mock sea battles](#).

The animal hunts utilized a great variety of wild beasts, mainly imported from Africa and the Middle East, and included creatures such as [rhinoceros](#), [hippopotamuses](#), [elephants](#), [giraffes](#), [aurochs](#), [wisents](#), [Barbary lions](#), [panthers](#), [leopards](#), [bears](#), [Caspian tigers](#), [crocodiles](#) and [ostriches](#). Battles and hunts were often staged amid

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elaborate sets with movable trees and buildings. During lunch intervals, executions [ad bestias](#) would be staged. Those condemned to death would be sent into the arena, naked and unarmed, to face the beasts of death which would literally tear them to pieces. Acrobats and magicians would also perform, usually during the intervals.

I was recognised, once.

“I used to listen to your podcast”

USED TO??

Things tourists do

- Queueing
- Milling around and getting in the way
- Getting scammed in front of sightseeing spots
- Mindlessly taking videos of everything, without actually looking at it with your own eyes and remembering it with your brain.
- Following strange people holding umbrellas in the air.
- Stressing about entering places.
- Jumping ahead of other people in queues, and then pretending not to know how queues work.

Approaching the colosseum there were lots of different queues and different entrances.

My wife asked a woman outside the colosseum who was attempting to join the queue.

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She replied with “IDONTKNOW” even before my wife had finished speaking.

What is wrong with people sometimes?

Another one, with her family, blatantly queue jumped us and when we called her out “excuse me but you just jumped ahead of us” she said to my wife “well if you’d spoken louder it would have been easier” (American).

This, obviously, made no sense at all.

I just repeated her sentence back to her, and she ran away.

Italian coffee is good. So is the food. Who knew?

Episode 869 happened but not on YouTube. You can hear it in a podcast app though. It’s good.

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Luke's ENGLISH Podcast
REAL BRITISH ENGLISH

Luke's ENGLISH Podcast - Learn British English with Luke Thompson

869. Working at UNESCO 🏛️ English in International Diplomacy

February 19 1h 26m Bookmarks

☆ ✓ ⋮ ⋮ ⬇ ⬆

In international diplomacy, "communication is everything". This is the main point of this conversation, in which I talk to my friend who works for the UK delegation at UNESCO in Paris. We discuss the work that UNESCO does, and the various communication challenges involved in working together with representatives from countries all around the world, including the collaborative writing of official documents where the use of a single comma can be debated for hours, and the meetings and conversations in which cultural sensitivity and good-will are essential elements for success.

Also includes some communication idioms and guitar playing near the end of the episode.

👉 Episode page with introduction transcript <https://teacherluke.co.uk/2024/02/19/869-working-at-unesco-english-in-international-diplomacy/>



SCAN TO OPEN LEP
IN A PODCAST APP

Listen to Luke's English Podcast on your phone



But Luke, why isn't it on YouTube?

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Well, basically my guest wasn't completely comfortable with it going up on YouTube and I always want to respect the wishes of my guests. It's the least I can do.

We recorded the episode in his free time but it was about his work, and so he wanted a bit of discretion, and he decided that he'd rather it was only available in audio version for my audio subscribers, rather than being freely available on YouTube where it would end up being recommended to anyone, and would show up in other search results and so on.

I understand. He wants a bit of discretion here because it deals with his professional career and normally his capacity at UNESCO is quite formal and so he just wanted to have a bit more control over how it would be received and if there might be any kind of blowback.

This is due to the nature of the YouTube platform and the way it recommends content to other people who aren't subscribed, and the way it invites comments, etc.

That's enough about that I think.

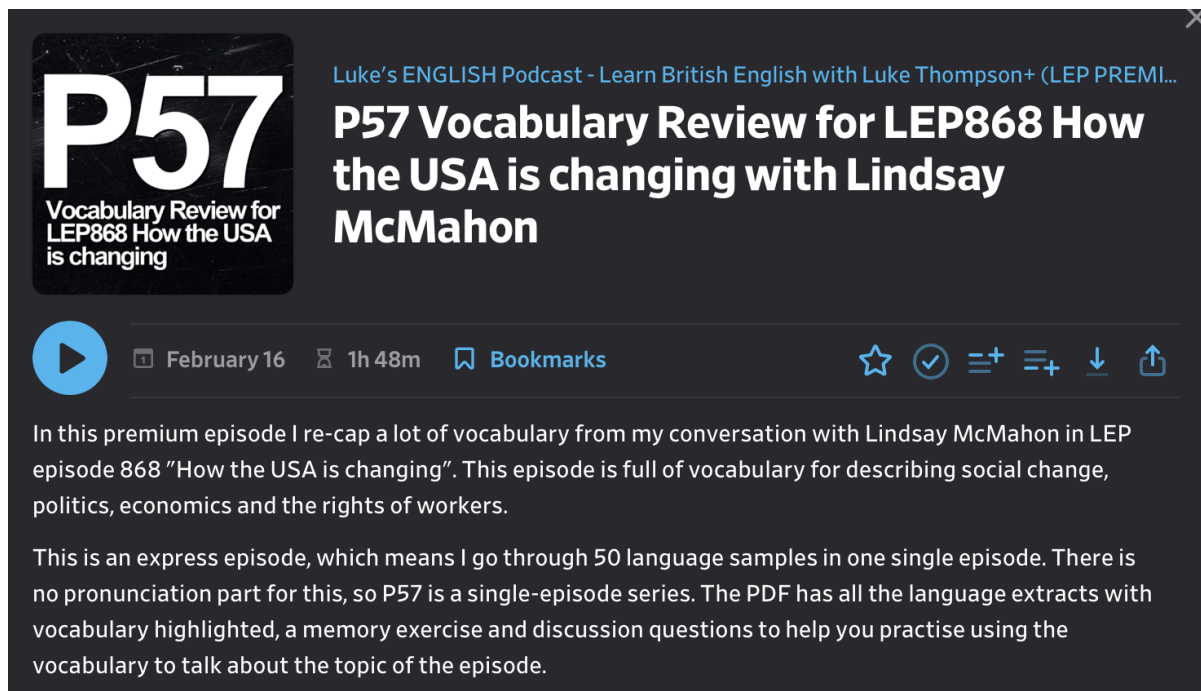
Essentially, he didn't feel comfortable having it published on YouTube and I totally understood. I always want to be completely sensitive to the wishes of my guests and I give them the option to make choices like this. It has happened before in fact, when I have not published certain content because it was decided later that it would be unwise to put it out in public. I hope you understand this

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too and that it's important to be respectful to the feelings and wishes of my guests who are being exposed online in my episodes.

P57 also happened. It is an express episode, like an express train.



The screenshot shows a podcast player interface. On the left is a dark square with 'P57' in large white letters and 'Vocabulary Review for LEP868 How the USA is changing' in smaller white text below it. To the right of this is the text 'Luke's ENGLISH Podcast - Learn British English with Luke Thompson+ (LEP PREMI...' in a small blue font, followed by the main title 'P57 Vocabulary Review for LEP868 How the USA is changing with Lindsay McMahon' in large white bold letters. Below the title is a blue play button icon, followed by 'February 16', '1h 48m', and 'Bookmarks'. To the right of these are icons for a star, a checkmark, a list, a plus sign, a download arrow, and a share arrow. Below the player controls is a paragraph of text: 'In this premium episode I re-cap a lot of vocabulary from my conversation with Lindsay McMahon in LEP episode 868 "How the USA is changing". This episode is full of vocabulary for describing social change, politics, economics and the rights of workers.' Below this is another paragraph: 'This is an express episode, which means I go through 50 language samples in one single episode. There is no pronunciation part for this, so P57 is a single-episode series. The PDF has all the language extracts with vocabulary highlighted, a memory exercise and discussion questions to help you practise using the vocabulary to talk about the topic of the episode.'

One long episode, or divided into several parts?

+++

I think I talked before (maybe at the end of one of the Trivia Quiz episodes) about maybe splitting episodes into shorter parts.

I also asked for your comments on this and I received comments on both sides. Some prefer one long episode, others prefer episodes to be divided into parts.

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After thinking about it, and releasing a few episodes divided into parts again, I've decided that I'm not going to do that. In fact, I decided that quite a long time ago and now I've remembered why.

Let me explain.

The main reasons for people preferring the episodes divided into shorter parts are these:

- It's more convenient to listen to a shorter episode
- I get tired after a certain amount of time
- I listen on my way to work and the commute time is about 30 minutes
- I listen in bed and I often fall asleep after 30 or 40 minutes and then I miss the rest of the episode or I wake up with your jingle at the end

There are solutions to all of those things.

Namely:

- Just stop whenever you want and your podcast app, and YouTube will remember where you stopped and you can carry on again from that point when you come back to the episode. So, when you feel you've had enough, or you're getting tired, or your commute to work has ended, just stop listening and then continue later.
- If you're falling asleep before the end of the episode, just set your phone to stop playing the episode after a certain time.

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Here's how.

On iOS use the clock app to set a timer. Set the time you want and then set the alarm sound to "Stop playing", then start the timer. When the timer stops, the phone will just stop playing the episode and will go silent. You can sleep in peace.

On Android, just download a free app called **Sleep Timer (turn music off)**. It's free in the Play Store and it does the same thing as the iOS timer. It stops playing the episode when the timer runs out.

[Sleep Timer \(Turn music off\) - Apps on Google Play](#)

So, I prefer publishing longer episodes, rather than splitting them up, for various reasons.

Reasons for not dividing episodes into parts

- People listen to them wrong (when an episode is in multiple parts! Part 2 gets more listens than part 1 for example)
- It breaks up the continuity and the flow of ideas that develop over the course of one single episode.
- If an episode isn't popular, people are forced to live with it for 2 weeks.
- If I publish part 1 on Monday and part 2 on Friday, neither part gets a proper opportunity.
- Dividing episodes is more work for me.
- Loads of listeners say that they like my podcast because the episodes are long.

Everyone else (other podcasters or content creators for

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learners of English) seems to think that shorter is better so why should I do what everyone else does? I should be distinctive.

- I've been doing longer episodes for ages now and it's working for me.
- I don't want to do what some other person defines is the right way to do it. I want to make that decision myself, based on my own judgement, experience and criteria.
- English lessons that you'd take in a language school are usually at least 2 hours minimum.
- Podcast apps and YouTube make it possible for you to stop listening whenever you want and come back later to continue from the exact same point. You do not need to listen in one go.

So that's why I probably won't divide episodes into parts and will probably publish longer episodes rather than episodes in multiple parts.

But having said that, I still might divide episodes into parts sometimes. It really depends. Sometimes it is just the right thing to do. No hard and fast rules here.

From a monetary point of view this is the wrong choice, by the way. This is because splitting an episode into two parts, and publishing them at different times means I get twice the amount of ad revenue from them.

But sometimes it's not always best to do things just for the money.

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Website admin (my life flashed before my eyes)

In episode 865 with Amber and Paul, I said I'd been doing website admin.

On my website you can find the Episode Archive. That is a massive list of every single episode of the podcast that I've ever done.

www.teacherluke.co.uk/episodes

Each episode has its own episode page where I post the audio embedded player, plus any notes, transcripts, photos or videos associated with the episode. There are comment sections for each episode there too.

This summer I had to go through every single episode page on my website and update all the embedded podcast players from Libsyn players to Acast ones

(something I'd been meaning to do since I switched to Acast in 2022).

This is extremely exciting information for you, I know.

All the website pages for every single episode now have shiny new Acast players on them.

There are almost 900 episodes, so updating all the html coding, artwork and other details was an extremely long and tedious job, but I managed it!

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It took me most of July actually, when my wife and I were at home with the baby and our daughter was at playschool.

July was mostly spent just changing nappies, and changing embedded audio players on my website.

Since I had to edit every single episode page, starting with episode 1, I revisited every single episode of the podcast that I've done over the last 15(ish) years and it felt like my life was flashing before my eyes!

Some thoughts which occurred to me while going through the entire episode archive

There were a lot of thoughts in response to a lot of episodes.

I couldn't write them all down of course but they included things like "oh that was a good episode" or "oh, that was a bit of a weird one" or "what on earth did people think about that?" and "I should do more things like that" or "I must get James back on the podcast, and Amber & Paul" and "Oh yes, I forgot about that episode!" and even "Oh, what was I thinking?" and of course that general feeling of melancholy when you realise how past moments or periods of your life are gone now, like remembering what it was like before we had kids, or even when I was living a completely different life in London.

But here are some more specific thoughts which occurred to me.

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- LEPsters come and go.

+++

Have any of you been here since the very beginning?

If you are a super long-term listener - listening since the days of podomatic.com - 100 bonus points!

- A lot of people - most people in fact, have not heard probably about 65% of my episodes, and that's a pity because there are some good moments in there, like The Pink Gorilla Story for example.
- If you are unaware of those older episodes, I invite you to go back into my archive www.teacherluke.co.uk/episodes and check them out, or just open up LEP in your podcast app and scroll back through the list. There are some crackers in there, and maybe some duds as well, but that's your call, isn't it?
- Gratitude. Thank you for sticking with me for so long (if indeed you have! Listeners who have been listening for more than 2 or 3 years seem to be rare).

I wonder if I have tested your patience sometimes, with some off-the-wall episodes, or episodes which were perhaps a bit too odd or too niche, or just those moments when I rambled uncontrollably, or repeated myself and never got to the point. It's hard to tell what people will like or not like, isn't it?

- There have been some quite wonderful moments even if I say so myself, some hilarious moments, some profound moments, some profane moments, some good lessons about language learning and of course some genuinely profound insights into the human condition.

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- All in all, it's probably best not to over-analyse (paralysis by analysis) and I should just trust my instincts, try to be fairly disciplined but also take little risks too, and just carry on.

Comments on recent episodes

In the second half of episode 870 with Kate, I went through some listener comments on recent episodes.

I mentioned comments from just the last few episodes (except the one about UNESCO because I hadn't published it at that point).

But now I want to go through comments and other thoughts relating to other episodes I've done over the last 12 months or so.

I originally intended to do this in the autumn of 2023 after having spent 2 months not recording any podcasts but watching comments and reactions come in and wanting to reply to them or add my thoughts.

But then I didn't get round to doing it. So here it is now.

I probably won't talk about every single episode I've done in the last 12 months because that's too much. I've published over 50 episodes in that time.

Let's just go back a few months, starting with...

809. Toilets, Titanic & TikTok with AMBER & PAUL

Published 1 February 2023

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Some website comments



Kristina Rozlivkova

a year ago

Ohh Gosh, that was brilliant! So funny! I nearly peed myself😂

👍 0 💬 0 Reply Share ›



Wenham

a year ago

Love this episode, the matrix you used to analyze different ways to wipe. That's so hilarious.

👍 0 💬 0 Reply Share ›

Top YouTube comments



@esraalev 1 year ago

That was absolutely the most amazing toilet conversation I've ever encountered 😊

👍 61 💬 1 ❤️ Reply



@exploreinsubria 1 year ago

🤔🤔🤔. I was hiking in the mountains while listening to the podcast. Fortunately there was no one else around seeing (and hearing) me laughing out loud all the time ...

👍 16 💬 1 ❤️ Reply



@josuegarcia8008 1 year ago

I just can't get enough of these guys 😊 They crack me up so badddd. Love the 'Amber and Paul' episodes.

👍 22 💬 1 ❤️ Reply



@VictorTai8899 1 year ago

This is the best English learning/listening podcast ever. 🤔

👍 4 💬 1 ❤️ Reply



@bielbl5124 1 year ago

I've been following this podcast for ages, absolutely helped me to improve my listening, pronunciation skills 😊 Highly recommended 🔥

👍 2 💬 1 ❤️ Reply

Moving on to...

815. A River Avon Year: The Wildlife & History of Shakespeare's Avon, by Rick Thompson (Dad's New Book!)

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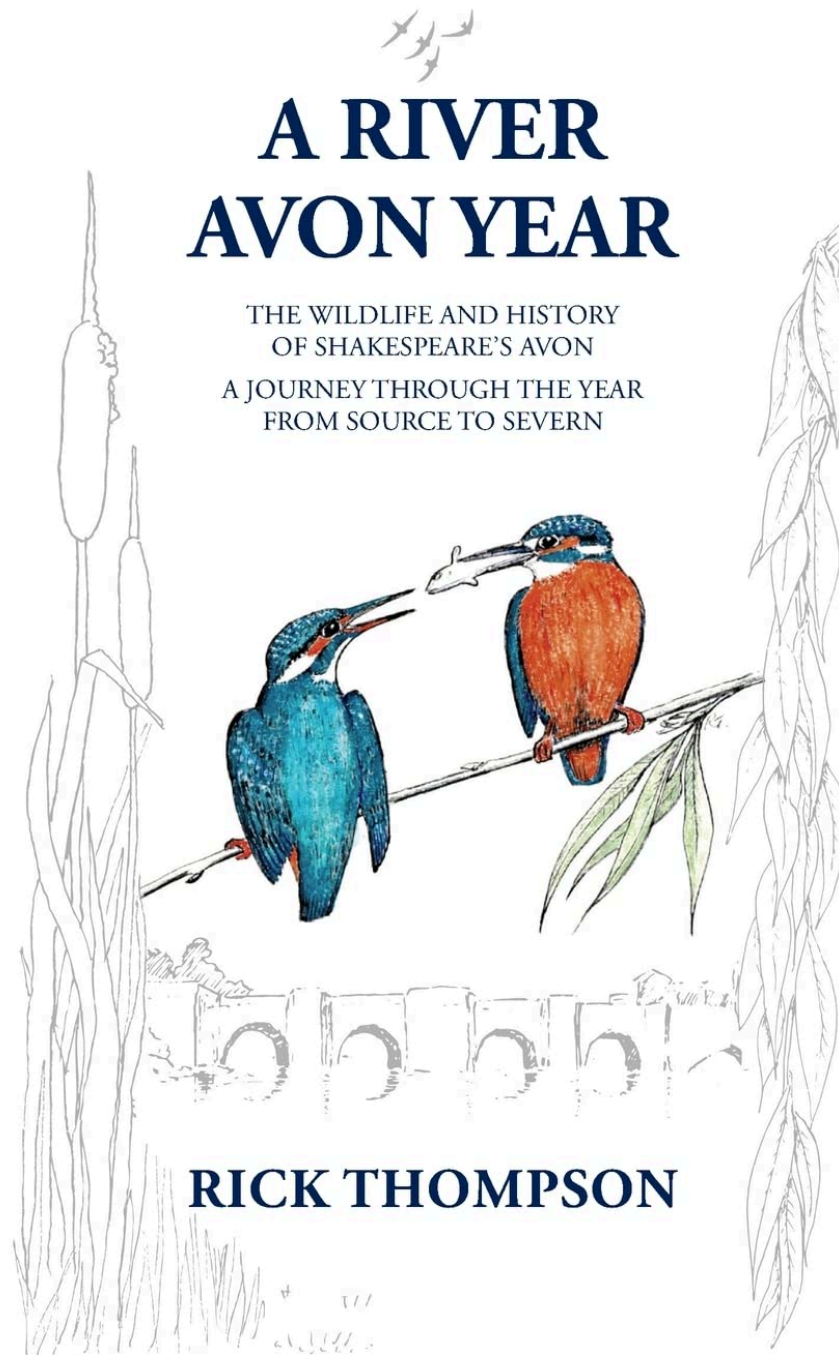


Pierre

a year ago

Hello, Luke! Very nice to see you next to your father in front of his house. The book looks very interesting. I wish him every success in selling his book.

0 0 Reply Share >



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Studying In The UK – Realities, Opportunities & Advice (with Lioba Berndt)




An audio-only episode full of useful advice about studying in the UK. Published 15 March 2023.

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816. Kate Billington in the Podcastle (22 March 2023)



@annecookepodcast 10 months ago

Hi Luke,
It was about 13 years ago when I first listened to your podcast. I was very interested in British music, culture and accent back then. Then I studied English in Edinburgh for a year. (As I remember, when I was there I messaged you on Facebook and you replied to me!)

Anyway, found a partner there, have my own English school in Japan, and then I started my podcast being inspired by you! Your podcast gave me good inspiration. And still is!

Thank you, and I'll keep on listening to your podcast 🎧

Show less


👍 37 💬 ❤️ Reply



@hosseinrasa3051 9 months ago

I am crazy about Kate's accent, love the way she speaks , please bring her again,

👍 8 💬 ❤️ Reply




@josebenito15 11 months ago

Such a perfect Video to watch after Lunch...Since I only watch YouTube on my TV, I made myself a cup of tea (Here in Spain We also drink Tea)sit comfortably on the Sofa and I watched the whole Video. It was even better than watching a movie and definitely easier to understand.Well done. Thanks so much for your dedication and keep on posting Videos like these 🙌

817. Parson's Pleasure (Learn English with a Short Story)

This was a big episode. It's currently got over 3 million views on YouTube and plenty of audio listens too.




@denisemonterisi8031 10 months ago

Hi Luke, I'm a 60 years old brazilian woman and I listen to your podcast and youtube lessons while I do the housework. Great teacher! Congratulations!

👍 1.2K 💬 ❤️ Reply


▼ 97 replies



@user-os4sh2mh9j 5 months ago

陈杰 This is the first time I've managed to read an entire english story in just 2 hours. Without your explanation, I wouldn't have been able to do that on my own. Thank you, Luke.

👍 61 💬 ❤️ Reply



@nanahuang2099 9 months ago (edited)

N Hi Luke, I am a mother from Taiwan. My children did love Roald Dahl stories. I didn't expected that I watched the whole video at one time after my breakfast when I just came to the channel at the first time! The story is extremely out of my imagination and your talking skill is attractive and easily understandable. I will watch other videos for more interesting topics and stories. It is exactly the way I want to be more familiar with English. Thank you for your works!

👍 45 💬 ❤️ Reply

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818. Monster Bogey (with Anna Brooke)



820. What does it really mean to be “good at English” (12 April 2023)

An episode inspired by my conversation with Santi from OUP. Santi is Spanish but speaks English at work in a top job at OUP.

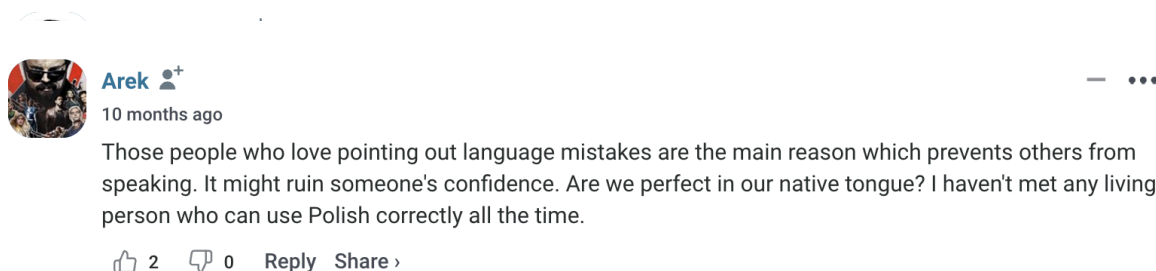
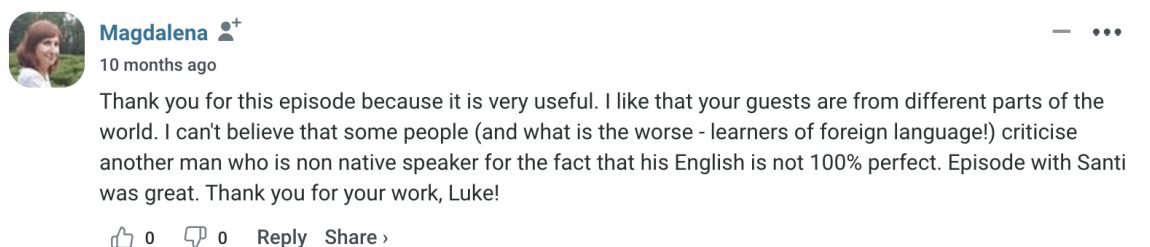
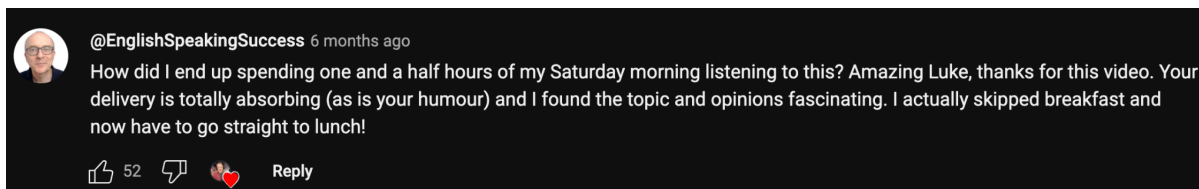
Some people couldn't help themselves and pointed out various errors he made in English.

This inspired me to make an episode all about how we really assess someone's level of English, and how it's not just about speaking with a British accent, making no errors, or using fancy vocabulary and idioms. It's more about being adaptable,

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making connections and being able to achieve measurable results in English, for example in a work environment.



821. A Springtime Ramble

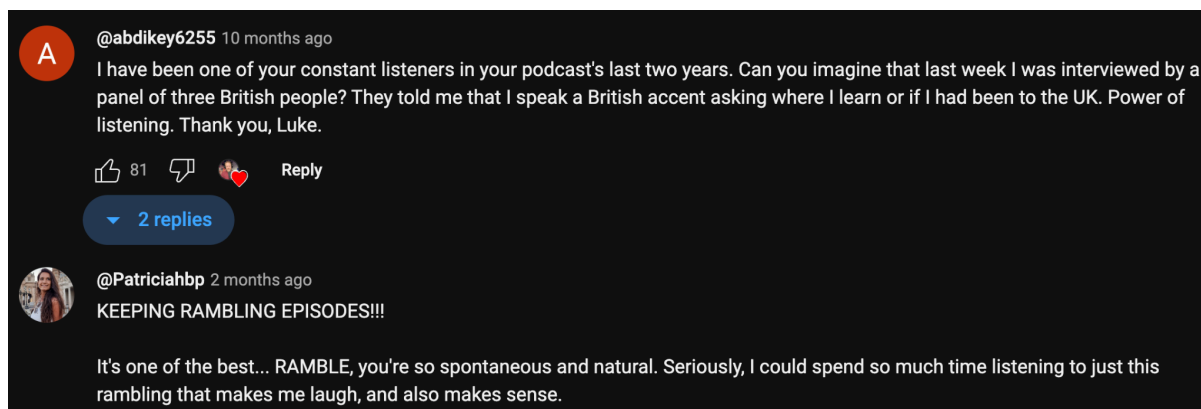
A lot of people wished me congratulations because I talked about the upcoming arrival of child 2.

A lot of people said that they weren't skeletons.

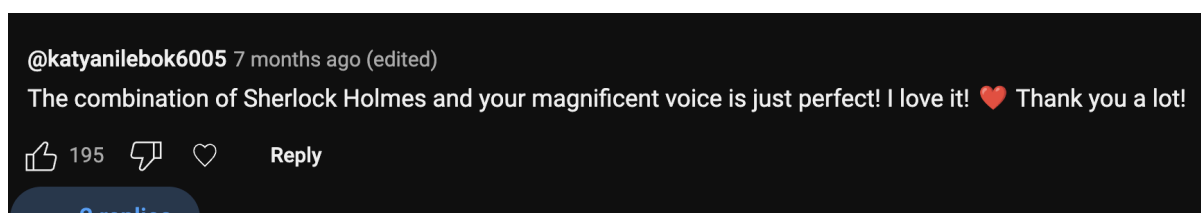
I am always blown away by people's enthusiasm for my rambling episodes.

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832. Sherlock Holmes “The Red Headed League”



This is a fantastic story (they all are), and a joy for me to read out.

It seems most people enjoyed it too. The story episodes are usually popular.

The aim was to let you enjoy some older literature and I really love doing some acting.

Pros and cons of this kind of episode (old stories which I read out, but don't stop to explain all the vocabulary)

Pros

Like I said, it's just a pleasure and I hope that my acting / voice over work can bring the story to life, and some explanations from me can help.

871. Rambling through my episode archive

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You get some culture in the form of some classic literature. It's immensely enjoyable.

It's really healthy for your English to listen to something in detail, with enjoyment, for over an hour.

Plus, you can get the PDF with the text, so you can check language, read it yourself, record yourself doing some parts, or all those other things.

Cons

The language is quite old fashioned but this is not bad as long as you're also consuming plenty of contemporary language too.

Although these Sherlock Holmes stories are technically "short stories", they are still pretty long for single podcast episodes. This one was about 9000 words long.

I find that about 1000 words in a story (more or less) is best for a podcast episode, because there's plenty of time for me to enjoy reading the story, for the story to have enough detail in it to be good, and for there to be enough time to explain some of the language in the story too, all within a reasonable episode length.

The Doppleganger episode had a story which was only 100 words long, for example, and that let me do more language work - I could really get into the details of every bit of grammar in that story.

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A long story = more entertainment but less language explanations and direct support for learners of English

A short story = less story-based entertainment, but more time for language work

It is possible to make the language work entertaining too, but it involves more work - thinking of funny examples.

Doing language work (grammar, vocab, pron) with stories is great because there's a meaningful context to work within.

It's all about preferences isn't it. Some people prefer the direct teaching (explaining language), some prefer the indirect teaching (presenting language).

A balance is probably the best way. The Mountain had the right balance. So did Parson's Pleasure.

A good story, not too long, with enough room for some language explanations and all done within about 90 minutes I think (shorter than the average English lesson).

So, basically, I love reading stories, but a short story which is quite long (like a Sherlock Holmes one), can become become tricky to turn into a podcast episode, for various reasons.

I'm still going to read more Sherlock Holmes stories on the podcast though, and other long ones (I have another HG Wells story in the pipeline).

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I just want you to know my thought process when making my content.

Comment from Pierre on the website

When I read this Sherlock Holmes story, I read it in sections, then stopped to re-cap what had happened in my own words, then continued reading the text.

Pierre, a regular website commenter (salut Pierre!) mentioned that maybe I could have just read the entire story in one go, and then gone through it again, breaking down vocabulary, like I normally do with short stories (like The Mountain).

In fact, here is Pierre's comment

Pierre

2 months ago

Hi Luke! Here's my review ;))

Great episode as always. And of course, *I love crime, detective novels...* especially Sherlock Holmes. And I think the modern television adaptation, with Cumberbatch and Freeman, is excellent, what do you think?

+++

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I would just like to say, even though I really liked the episode, that I prefer it when you read the story without interruption and add the explanations at the end of the story.

(Luke: Pierre might now be feeling a bit awkward - but it's ok
Pierre! I appreciate your input)

Pierre continues...

That being said, I can understand that some of your listeners may find the story a bit difficult to follow, and then not forgetting to add the little anecdote of the word "ejaculated" which I think had to be said at the time of its reading. To hear you very embarrassed during the word's explanation was worth interrupting the story 😂.

But on the other hand, when I think of your episode "The Moutain", you gave us an extraordinary experience with the story of this woman (I also think she was a woman, too many clues in this sense) with the right tone and the right rhythm. And the experience would have been, in my humble opinion, different with explanations in the middle of the story.

So after long deliberation with myself 😊, although I like both versions, I prefer the one with the explanations at the end of the

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story.

And as a narrator, what is your favourite experience? ;)

My reply (with a few edits and additional thoughts added now)

Luke Thompson **JEDI-PODMASTER** → Pierre

2 months ago

This story was too long for me to use the same technique that I used for "The Mountain".

I decided to interrupt the story at regular intervals to explain things, because I wouldn't have been able to remember all the details at the end of the whole thing, and because I know some listeners would get lost if I just read the story from start to finish, so they wouldn't have stayed for the explanation at the end.

“The Mountain” technique is to read the whole thing, and then to read it again and explain words, phrases and grammar as they arrive. But that would have taken over 3 hours with this Sherlock story, I think.

So I went for the more efficient version that wouldn't alienate too many people. Just read out the story, and then focus on

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helping people understand the general gist of the story by explaining it at regular intervals, without getting caught up in the meanings of individual words, even though there were so many I could have highlighted.

It could be interesting to go back through that story and pick out various words and categorise them → words and phrases we still use today which are worth picking up, and words and phrases which are antiquated (perhaps with their modern equivalents). But that would take a very long time for me to prepare. Maybe I'll do it though. We'll see.

Personally I enjoy whatever way works and creates an episode that most people can enjoy and find useful!

So, my approach to doing stories on the podcast depends on the length of the story.

833. Lemon Simulator (text adventure)

This episode was really good fun, if a little ridiculous.

It was not long, compared to the ones by Peter Carlson (Victorian Detective series, Camp Stabbiwaka, Zombolocaust) If you liked it, check out my other text adventure episodes.

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I didn't really do any vocabulary or grammar teaching, except for some off-the-cuff comments and little explanations, and some comments to help you notice things, but there was no word list. That's because I decided just to make the episode fun and spontaneous. I didn't want to read through the entire story before the recording and prepare language explanations. I wanted to discover the story while I recorded the episode. But nobody complained about this so I suppose it's fine.

Judging by one or two comments, I think some people didn't quite see the humorous, fun side of it and therefore failed to see the point of the whole episode, but you can't please all the people all the time.

+++

Surprisingly, not everyone is interested in seeing the world from the point of view of a citrus fruit, which is a pity isn't it, frankly?

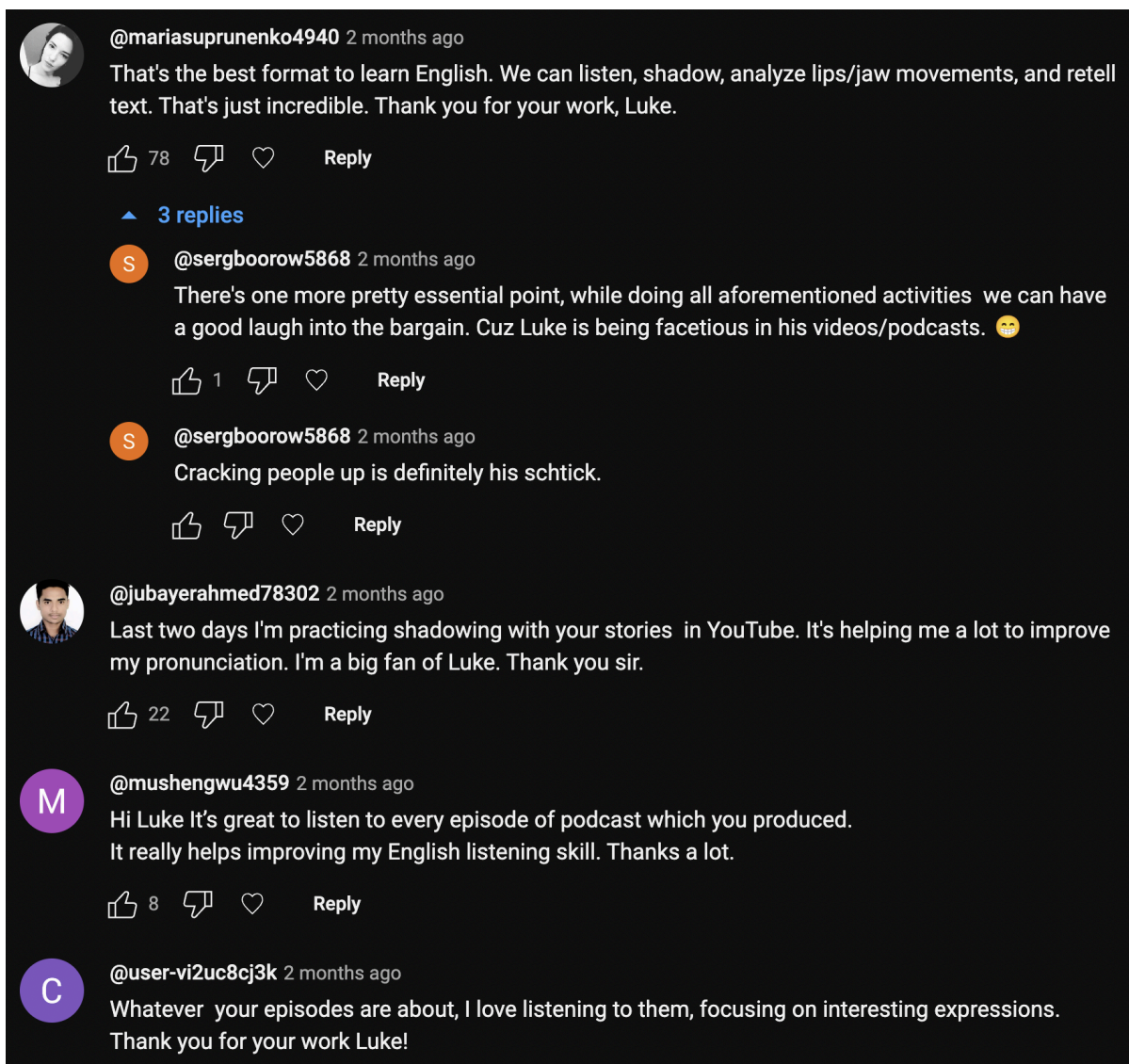
Sometimes I think that all the world needs is a bit more perspective and a bit more empathy.

To be honest, It was only a small portion of people who didn't enjoy that episode. Just 2 or 3 comments I think. Everyone else seemed to like it, and anyway, I decide what happens.

Some comments about 833. Lemon Simulator

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The screenshot shows a social media comment thread. At the top, a user with a circular profile picture of a woman (@mariasuprunenko4940) comments: "That's the best format to learn English. We can listen, shadow, analyze lips/jaw movements, and retell text. That's just incredible. Thank you for your work, Luke." Below this comment are icons for a thumbs up (78), a speech bubble, a heart, and a "Reply" button. Underneath is a blue arrow icon followed by "3 replies". The first reply is from a user with an orange circular icon containing the letter 'S' (@sergboorow5868): "There's one more pretty essential point, while doing all aforementioned activities we can have a good laugh into the bargain. Cuz Luke is being facetious in his videos/podcasts. 🤔". This reply also has thumbs up (1), speech bubble, heart, and "Reply" icons. The second reply is from the same user (@sergboorow5868): "Cracking people up is definitely his schtick." with similar interaction icons. The third comment is from a user with a circular profile picture of a man (@jubayerahmed78302): "Last two days I'm practicing shadowing with your stories in YouTube. It's helping me a lot to improve my pronunciation. I'm a big fan of Luke. Thank you sir." with thumbs up (22), speech bubble, heart, and "Reply" icons. The fourth comment is from a user with a purple circular icon containing the letter 'M' (@mushengwu4359): "Hi Luke It's great to listen to every episode of podcast which you produced. It really helps improving my English listening skill. Thanks a lot." with thumbs up (8), speech bubble, heart, and "Reply" icons. The final comment is from a user with a purple circular icon containing the letter 'C' (@user-vi2uc8cj3k): "Whatever your episodes are about, I love listening to them, focusing on interesting expressions. Thank you for your work Luke!"

How nice :)

“Facetious” isn’t really the right word here, because it’s pejorative.

“Don’t be facetious!” We say this to criticise someone for making funny comments when they should be serious.

A better word might be humorous or witty.

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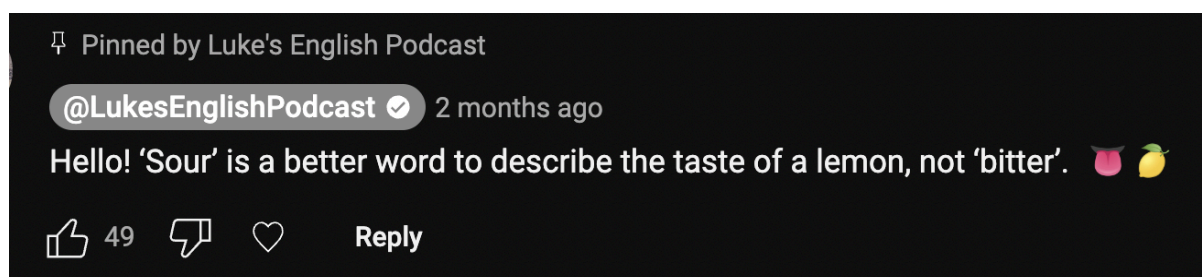
38

I am going to do more text adventures. Some of them are silly, some of them are serious. I simply enjoy doing them and enough people enjoy hearing them for me to carry on. I also believe they're good for your English, if you're able to follow what's going on and if you take the time to read the text as well, that can be a great opportunity to work on your English, if you are willing to do so.

I do recommend that you do those text adventure stories yourself. Read them and make your choices. It's a good way to reinforce the language that you have heard from me and you can read as well as listen. I always include the links to the stories on the website pages for those episodes.

Sour or bitter?

One more comment from the lemon adventure.



I made a mistake during the episode because I am a human being (not a lemon), which some people rightfully corrected me on.

I described the taste of lemons as **bitter**. But really, the word is **sour**. Lemons taste *sour*. *Sour* is associated with acidity. Lemons are full of citric acid.

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Things with a **bitter** taste - coffee, Guinness beer, dark chocolate, radish. The zest of a lemon can be bitter. This is why we have drink which you can get in most UK pubs called “bitter lemon”



Having worked behind the bar in pubs for quite a few years in my younger days, I've seen a LOT of those bottles of “bitter lemon” and so I guess the collocation is stuck in my head.

But no, lemons are sour.

Things with a **sour** taste - lemon, lime, vinegar, plain yoghurt (especially active yoghurt), fermented food like sauerkraut or kimchi.

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Sour describes a taste, but we can also describe other things as *sour* and they're always negative.

Listen to this list of example sentences. Can you spot which ones describe a taste (like a lemon) and which ones describe something else?

1. The lemonade tasted incredibly sour, making me pucker my lips.
2. She had a sour expression on her face when she heard her husband complaining about her mother again.
3. The milk had gone sour, letting off a foul odor.
4. His sarcastic comments left a sour atmosphere in the room.
5. The relationship between the two friends turned sour after they had a big argument.
6. His sour grapes comment showed that he was jealous of her success.
7. Adding a dash of vinegar can lend a pleasant sourness to the salad dressing.
8. The economy took a sour turn as unemployment rates rose.
9. The candy had a unique combination of sweet and sour flavors.
10. Despite the sour start, their partnership eventually blossomed into a successful business.

Those sentences showcase "sour" in various contexts, including taste, mood, relationships, and more.

834. The Best Way to Learn a Language (according to research)

871. Rambling through my episode archive

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This was really a chance to talk about a lot of the issues and considerations relating to language-learning, but this is a slippery subject.

The title of the episode is a bit click-baity, and although titles like that catch people's attention, I'm wary of them, because they raise people's expectations and also invite new people to my episodes and these newbies are often uninitiated in the ways of LEP, or they are native English speakers who don't realise who my podcast is for, and they get annoyed by my comments and explanations which they consider to be me "just repeating myself" or "waffling".

Poor fools, they don't realise this is the work of an innovative English teaching genius, using subliminal language instruction methods!

+++

Most comments were great and got the point, that I was just reading out an article and considering the most effective approaches to language learning in a very broad way, but I did notice some discord in the comments too, including some people who were a bit critical (fine) but also just rude (to be expected on YouTube).

I have said it before and I've said it again - I must not be affected by negative comments.

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While taking on board valid criticism, it's important to filter out the rude, thoughtless things that people write sometimes and not be negatively affected by them.

For some reason, even if it's just 2% of the responses which are a bit too negative, that 2% still leaves a bad taste in your mouth.

Imagine this. If you have a cup of coffee, that's great. But if just 2% or even 1% of that coffee is shit, like actual shit, then it's going to completely ruin your enjoyment of it and possibly convert you into being a tea drinker for the rest of your life.

I suppose it's a bit like that, but not as bad. But seriously guys, consider switching to tea.

The criticisms were things like this:

Where's the research? He says it's according to research but doesn't mention any.

You didn't say anything helpful.

Can't remember the rest, but still have a slightly bad taste in my mouth for some reason. Again, I shouldn't dwell on negativity, in any area of life. Learn from it, and move on.

Anyway, it seems hard to pin down specifically how language learning works, and there's quite a lot of disagreement (like with any intellectual issue).

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The subject can also be tainted by a kind of show-offy arrogance too, with people indirectly bragging about their language learning abilities.

If you make off-hand comments about language learning, there's always someone who steps in and disagrees, naming all the languages they've learned or all the studies or approaches they are aware of and it becomes more about showing off their language learning achievements, rather than actually getting to the heart of the matter, and this also suggests to me that there isn't one single way.

+++

Cara Leopold left quite a broad minded comment.

Cara LEOPOLD [@LeoListening](#) on YouTube

Thanks for going through this article with us. I need to catch up with the whole article but the summary looks fascinating - thanks for that AI!

(Cara must have used ChatGPT to read a summarised version)

The conclusion I've come to with language learning is that everything works - every method, resource etc has the potential to work.

(All roads lead to Rome)

I guess this comes back to the second point about finding a method that works for you as opposed to following the trends. Some people have even had great results with uncool methods like grammar-translation. Looking at the points though, I feel like language learning requires a lot of time, patience and effort and that's not the message that people want to hear!

True.

Maybe, just maybe I will dip into the world of the YouTube polyglots and invite someone to talk about language learning.

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There are quite a lot of successful language learners on YouTube (and some fakers too, apparently).

Maybe I'll invite one, as long as they don't make me feel guilty about my French or anything. Well, if that's what it takes to improve my French so be it.

Actually it isn't. What I *don't* need are any more feelings of guilt or shame about my learning of French.

I have enough of that, and believe me, it does not work. Guilt or shame will not help you learn a language.

More comments about the language learning article I read. You can see that there's still something bothering me about it.

It can be slightly frustrating to talk about language learning without getting into specific ways of doing it - and I mean very specific step-by-step instructions covering the minute details of exactly what to do while learning a language.

This actually makes me think of several of the WISBOLEP episodes from a couple of years ago - talking to some LEPsters who have done well with their English, including some specific step-by-step instructions.

Bahar from Iran is a good example, with her 7-step method.

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Episode 723

<https://teacherluke.co.uk/2021/06/04/723-bahar-from-iran-wisbole-p-runner-up/>

Specific step-by-step activities, routines, habits, methods - this is the really useful stuff, and although Gavin Lamb's article that I read out said that academic research lacks specific instruction on how to learn a language, he also didn't really suggest any, which left a slightly hollow feeling at the end of that episode.

But I have given step by step advice before. Just delve into the episode archive.

You could listen to other episodes I've done in the past, for specific tips, approaches and methods. In fact I listed loads of them on the page for episode 834. (Read out those title)

[834. The best way to learn a language, according to research \(Article\) !\[\]\(003082e50e3009141f59bd5df831749f_img.jpg\) | Luke's ENGLISH Podcast](#)

Some listener comments in response to this episode

[Mikhail Zernov](#)

[2 months ago](#) edited

Good overview.

I seem to have forgotten what I felt at the beginning.

I have to admit the beginning is like an intimidating brick wall, and here you are standing in front of it, barefoot, armed with an old fork with no way to get around but go through.

The good thing about it though is that the further you go the easier it gets, you understand more and express yourself more accurately.

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I think, essentially, one should aim at having rather a user-attitude towards English (or any other) language. I am not saying you should rid of all the studying bits and be all confident, swaggering around the place but showing a bit of confidence will not hurt anyone (or maybe it's just my gravitation towards Asian people that are a bit shy and timid in general ^_^).

Luke: I suppose by “a user attitude” Mikhail here means to focus on being a “user” of English, rather than a “knower” of English and to focus on *doing things in English* and *using the language for communication* rather than studying the technical stuff and seeing it as an abstract theoretical subject. English is something you do, not just something you know.

[Luke Thompson](#) JEDI-PODMASTER [Mikhail Zernov 2 months ago](#)

I think you're right and that in language learning you have to "grasp the nettle".

Fortune favours the brave, sort of thing.

Svet

[2 months ago](#)

Another interesting episode! Thank you !

I wanted to share my experience and point of view on the question of whether it is possible to learn a foreign language simply being surrounded by it everywhere and every day.

Well, I still remember the first time I came to France without knowing a single word of French. 3 months later I was still unable to say or understand anything. I could not grasp « the structure ». It's like a zero level multiplied by whatever amount of time in the country, will remain zero.

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However a year later I came back to France after learning it at home for a year (especially grammar) and that changed everything. The experience in the country in that context WAS precious.

I believe it's really important to understand at least the basic grammatical structures when you come to the country if you wish to improve your language. It doesn't really hold true for children I guess but for adults it is necessary.

[Mikhail Zernov](#) in reply to [Svet](#)
[2 months ago](#)

It is important, indeed.

I do not remember who came up with the theory, but the idea is that as long as you understand some bits of input (20% or more) the brain can work out the meaning of the rest (albeit some mistakes can be made).

Thus, there is no surprise that you did not learn for the first time. You simply hadn't learnt any foundation.

And consequently, you proved the theory, by making so much progress in the second time when you had the basics in place.

Luke: I find it is rare these days to find anyone who has absolutely no knowledge of English grammar. Most people these days have had at least basic grammar lessons at school.

Absolute beginners do exist of course and as a teacher I meet them sometimes, but the vast majority of learners these days are at least an elementary level, and most are at an intermediate level (which is actually a big level).

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I like the following message because it criticises the article (and not me, haha) but it does it in a very constructive and “good faith” way.

Pavlo

[2 months ago](#)

Hi, Luke!

To me you're an icon of the two crucial parts of my life - podcasting and English. My love to both of them started 6+ years ago with your podcast (lucky me :))

It seems here I went to town on this, though I'm not an expert in research into Second-Language-Acquisition.

Still I have 3 points on this Article and one bonus-point:

1. It is unclear to me how credible it is.

I did not see any research on which it was based. It sounds more like some sort of common sense (and it seems there could be many more other articles stating different or even opposite ideas). This Article was posted in 2014 in the Author's blog when he was just admitted to the PhD program. Then he changed his field of research to Environmental communication.

So, It seems that not so much research went into it and we cannot see the development/discussion of the ideas from this exact article. And he himself admits this article is "a tad dated".

2. I like this trifecta and Article itself.

Specific purpose is very important, indeed. Habits are crucial. Face-to-face conversation is what you try to achieve, so it's logical

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to do so. Great! I noted it all and will use it like an instruction in a new language acquisition.

3. It did not solve all my problems as a second-language learner (acqually, 4-5th language learner).

Basically, my aim sounds like this: "How to learn language to a sufficient level for [...speaking/writing and so on...] minimizing usage of time, money and energy".

"Solving" grammar exercises from Blue and Green "Murphy" is free. Does it help? Should I do them? What is the priority of different activities in my study - for example is 1 hour of speaking better than 5 hours of Listening? Is practicing Reading better than Writing? In what proportion should I do them to minimize expenses? To maximize result with no regard to expenses? Is Reading a face-to-face interaction in context? If not, does it help?

How about rote [rote] learning - should I memorise some passages? Face-to-face interaction for many learners is often prohibitively expensive. So How much more time will such learners spend on SLA without it? Or should they even bother? How should all learning activities be organised?

To me and probably many other learners who don't want to waste their life and money on ineffective practices these could be quite practical questions.

I had kind of epiphany listening to phrase "much of research is concerned with the complex social and cognitive processes involved in language learning, and not so much with prescribing practical strategies for learners"

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Yes! You're right! Gavin Lamb, Save us!! Give us such strategies!!! One article is Great!! I was full of hopes to read some other practical strategies in a such clear manner (I loved Gavin Lamb's writing style!).

And then I learn that Gavin Lamb changed his research interest to "Environmental Communication"... Really?

Is it what we need or just what was easy enough to write a PhD in this field without much effort and receive a position at some university? Total Disappointment.

I had only one guardian, championing mere mortal-learners, and now WE LOST HIM!!!

It's a disappointment on a par with Game of Thrones finale and BREXIT.

Is no one really studying working practical language-learning strategies. If so, why?

(I realise the questions I mentioned might spawn dozens of PhD's, but ~~the~~ Humanity really needs them! Please, Luke, be our provider (there must be a better word, but I can't remember it...) into the world of effective language-learning)

[Luke Thompson](#) JEDI-PODMASTER [Pavlo](#)

Great comment Pavlo and you raised very important practical questions. I also felt a bit underwhelmed at the end of this but didn't really comment on it during the episode. I agree - where are the specific practical strategies he mentions?

Damn, do I have to answer all your questions in an episode now?

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Pavlo [Luke Thompson](#)

[2 months ago](#)

nah, you've been sharing your teaching advice for like forever, I can listen to any previous episode!

[837. Describing a Car Accident in 15+ Styles of English](#)

Mention the graphic novel “99 ways to tell a story” ←- I wanted to do something like that

[838. A 3-Hour Mega-Ramble / Reflecting on a Wonderful](#)

[Spring Day in Paris](#)

Actually, this is the longest episode I ever did (838) and was one of the more popular episodes of last year and currently has over a quarter of a million views on YouTube. So there.

French listeners can't have missed that I mispronounced the name of a famous place in Paris.

Of course it's Les Halles, not Les Halles. There's no /z/ sound in there.

I thought there was one, as a linking sound between “Les” (you end with a vowel sound because the ‘s’ not pronounced) and “Halles” (the ‘H’ at the start of ‘Halles’ isn't pronounced because, well, I don't know) and so the word starts with a vowel sound /a/ and when you get two vowel sounds together, you often link them

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with another sound, in this case /z/ (e.g. in “Les Anglais”) but in the case of “Les Halles” - no, there’s no linking sound, for reasons which I haven’t worked out yet. French speakers, please feel free to enlighten me in the comment section.

Most of you didn’t notice that, but for the Francophones it must have been a glaring error and stuck out like a sore thumb. Je suis vraiment désolé d'avoir malmené votre langue. Bon, donc, voilà, quoi.

[840. Things that make you go “Hmmm”](#) ☐ [Life, Laughter &](#)

[Learning English](#)

This was basically a comedy episode, wasn’t it?

Spanish speakers - I made a bit of a mistake in that episode didn’t I?

When I was talking about the word “cargó” I said it originally came from a Spanish word “Cargar” /carGAR/

Pronunciations (LatAm & Spanish) here

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/spanish-english/cargar>

And, hilariously, I pronounced it /caGAR/ which as so many of you know, means *to shit*.

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So, sorry about that.

I did get a couple of comments, politely and funnily correcting me on that one - warning me that the verb has to have an /r/ sound (not an arse sound) in the middle.

So, just to be clear, “cargo” in English means to carry or to load, or a “load” of something - like some containers full of products or materials. It doesn’t mean just some shit you are carrying around. That would be far too casual and inappropriate in the world of international shipping, if that’s what they were saying.

“Yeah, the boat with all the shit is going to arrive later this morning”

or “Your shit is going to arrive later. We’re shitting all your shit to the UK as soon as possible, but there’s some shit we need to do before we can shit the shit over to you.” “What kind of shit?”

“Just paperwork and stuff, you know, Brexit shit.” “Oh, some Brex-shit?”

It still works somehow. But no.

Joking aside, sorry for getting that wrong. I have a strong ability to get foreign languages completely wrong on this podcast, with embarrassing and hilarious consequences.

CarGAR - to load/to carry

Cagar - to shit

871. Rambling through my episode archive

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To be fair, I still think there is a crossover there in terms of meaning, like “Does anyone know where the toilets are? I’m carrying a load here, you know what I mean?”

“¿Alguien sabe dónde están los baños? Necesito cagar esta carga (que llevo)”.

“Does anyone know where the toilets are? I need to shit this cargo which I am carrying.”

Has anyone ever said that before? Is that possible?

842. A Summertime Ramble

@paulk480 5 months ago (edited)

Thank you Luke for showing this conversation with your daughter! It was lovely! You can't imagine how valuable and important such type of content is for non-native speakers. When we learn English, we kinda try to dive into rather difficult things like watching news, movies, translating, listening to podcasts etc, or every time we attend lessons at school or university, we learn grammar and discuss different topics. But we can't see how the language is used in a daily life, how family members communicate. It remains sort of a huge mystery hidden behind the curtains. I suppose this is why non-native speakers are able to discuss, say, business issues, but completely ruin a simple home talk.

Show less

👍 26 💬 ❤️ Reply

▲ 2 replies

S

@geeta4402 5 months ago

Very true....even I use to feel this thing always...i can talk academic things effortlessly for few minutes but find no words sometimes when talking to my daughter...

👍 💬 ❤️ Reply

U

@user-tf4eg7gz1t 5 months ago

Very true observation. I also have noticed many times that I can discuss politics or economy but not able have a little talk about something insignificant. And of course, besides trying to overcome a barrier to high level English, it is also vital to master the simplest one. PS: your English is incredible

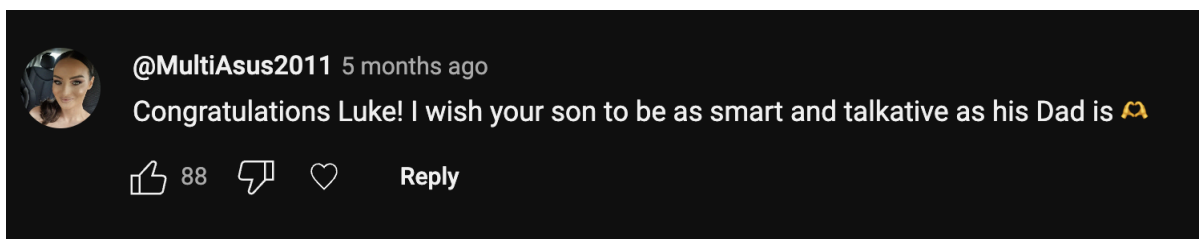
👍 1 💬 ❤️ Reply

843. The Birth of Our Son

Lots of people said “congratulations”! Thank you so much!

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We don't usually say "I wish someone to do something".

In fact we tend to use the verb "hope" for situations like this.

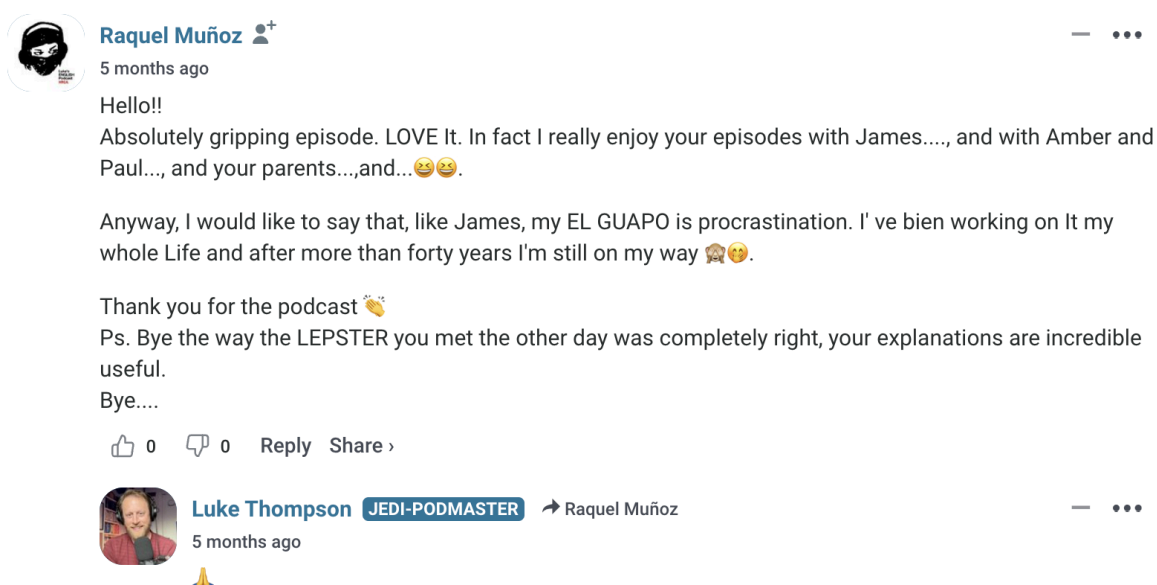
I'd say

"I hope that your son will be as smart and talkative as his dad is"

846. Topic Tombola with James

A lot of people talked about their own personal **El Guapo**.

Procrastination, addiction, shyness.



871. Rambling through my episode archive

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Anita

4 months ago

Another great one!! Episodes where you talk to your brother are some of my favorites, along with the rambling episodes! And this one is a rambling episode featuring your brother! 🍷

PS You made me apologize to Chat GPT for never saying hello or thanks whenever I asked him to do something for me 😊

PS2 My personal el guapo is addiction. But it's probably a good thing, because it's an addiction to this best podcast in the world! 🏆👑

Cheers & All the Best to you and your family! 😊

👍 0 💬 0 Reply Share ›

848. The Superpower of Starting English Early with Kids (With Bree Asie)



William

4 months ago edited

Hi Luke,

I wanted to extend my heartfelt thanks for your episode with Bree Aesie. Her insights deeply resonated with me, much like your episode with Alice and Alex did three years ago.

I'm in the midst of raising my 4-year-old daughter to be bilingual. I've been speaking to her exclusively in English since her birth, while her mother communicates in French. It's been nothing short of awe-inspiring to observe her linguistic journey. Her comprehension often outpaces her verbal expression, but she's now crafting full sentences in English. There are instances where she intermingles French and English, but it's a testament to her adaptability and the beauty of bilingualism.

Bree's perspectives were a reaffirmation of our approach. I've been diligent in ensuring English is the sole language I use with my daughter, so there's never room for her to protest about me speaking it. I wholeheartedly concur with Bree's sentiment: if you have a passion for a language, irrespective of your proficiency or external opinions, share that gift with your children if that's your desire.

Thank you for consistently offering enlightening content that supports and validates the experiences of many parents like myself. By the way: I loved your story on Bree's podcast ! hahaha!

👍 0 💬 0 Reply Share ›

849. Stories of Insects with Zdenek



@Staruha91 4 months ago

Can I just take a minute to praise Zdenek's English? He's so fluent and all these idioms and rare vocab items pop up so naturally and so fast, this is awesome, honestly. I am also fluent, confident, etc, but man, this level of control, fluidity, agility and pace is amazing.

I think there is a potential for yet another episode with Zdenek on how to master your English beyond C2, how to achieve native-like English not as a learner, but as someone who sort of adopted it all as a lifestyle rather than just a language. You could call it something like "Beyond Fluency" or whatever)

Show less

👍 22 💬 2 ❤️ 1 Reply

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There were loads more episodes, but as I said before, I can't talk about them all.

By the way, everyone - please feel free to leave me a review on Apple Podcasts, if you like the show.

If you don't like the show, just don't say anything, and also what are you still doing here, listening to me? Other podcasts for learners of English are available including (deep breath)

The Rock n Roll English Podcast

The Level Up English Podcast

The English Like a Native Podcast

The British English Podcast

UK English Uncovered

The BritLingo Learning Pod

The British English Binge

Grammar Rules Britannia

British English Tales from The British Isles

British English Bootcamp

English Isles Idioms Insights

The BritSpeak Breakdown

The English Pronunciation Meltdown

British English Explorers

Queen's English Quest

The British Invasion Podcast

What the hell are they talking about? (AKA The British Accents Podcast)

Whatever you do, don't say this!! (AKA The English Anxiety Podcast)

The Brexit English Podcast (only available in the UK)

The Britain First Podcast (Language Edition)

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The Colonial English Masterclass
The Beer, Blokes, & British Banter Podcast
The Billy Bollocks Britcast
and
Pip-Pip: The Proper Pronunciation Pod

Ok, some of those podcast don't actually exist and were completely made up by me. To be honest, most of them were made up. Only the first 4 are actual podcasts, which you probably already knew about. Still, some of them sound pretty good, right?

But anyway, other podcasts are available.

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Odd / funny comments

Why are there so many accents in the UK? LEP Video Podcast...



N

@nolanr1400 • 5 minutes ago

There are so many accidents because Brits drive on the wrong side of the road . That's obvious





@LukesEnglishPod... | • 0 seconds ago

It's "accents" not "accidents" 😐



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837. Describing a Car Accident in 15+ Styles of English 🚗 📖



Grantofat • 1 min ago

If cars didn't have safety features, then perhaps people would drive more carefully. What's the problem with running a red light and slamming into another car when you are saved by a belt and an airbag? It only makes people drive more carelessly.



838. A 3-Hour Mega-Ramble / Reflecting on a Wonderful Sp...

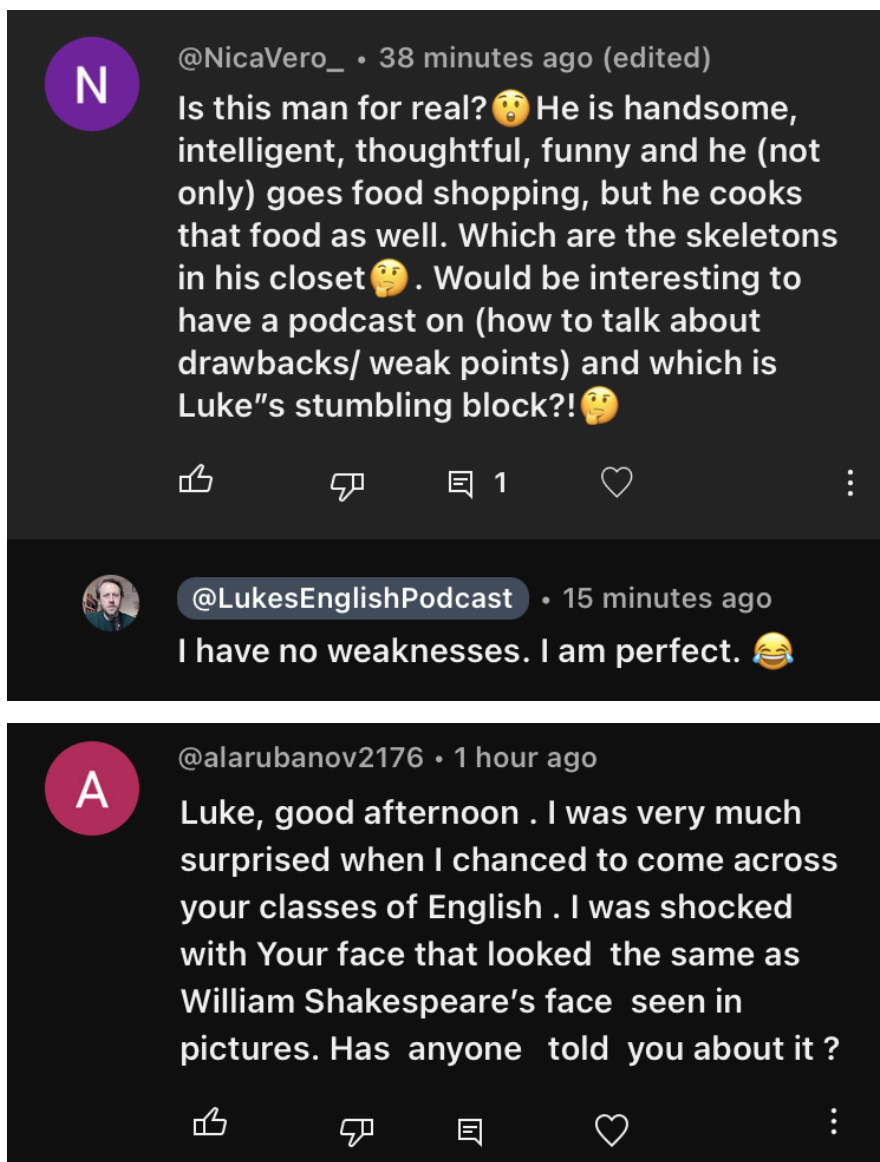


Francesco Gaeta • 8 min ago

Still alive, and not turned into a skeleton with headphones on, Luke! Thank you for this mega-ramble!

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I had a dream in which I became Jacke Chan's English teacher.

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Jackie Chan dream

23 August

Big thunderstorm.

I had a very vivid dream about meeting Jackie Chan.

I was working in a huge school.

New job. Young people.

University students.

Loads of people and nobody knew me. I felt a bit nervous.

I was walking through a corridor with books and stuff. A bit stressed. Then I walked past Jackie Chan and he recognised me and was super amazed and happy to see me because he knows me from the podcast.

I'm big in Hong Kong you see.

He was telling me how his whole family knows me and that they all think I'm this great, esteemed English teacher.

I was pleased because all the people in the school suddenly thought I was really important.

We arranged for me to give Jackie some English lessons to help him with deal with scripts in English. I was really nervous because I

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felt that it was a huge challenge and there would be a lot of pressure.

I decided to work directly on the scripts and asked him to repeat them after me, practice certain sounds etc.

More and more I started getting a sense of imposter syndrome.

Jackie was convinced I was “the best English teacher” and thought I had all the answers for him, to help him with his English and then his career.

I felt the burden of responsibility and expectation.

Jackie had praised me so highly, and because it was him, I felt really compelled to give him all the solutions to all his needs in English, and quickly.

I started feeling really out of my depth.

Anxiety dream

Couldn't quite get to the point in the lesson. Searching through materials.

I realised I had to teach in an American accent.

I noticed that these days his English is much better.

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I told him. (sometimes as a teacher I wonder if that's what learners want to hear, because they don't believe it "you're very good, you know" "really??" They doubt it and doubt your sincerity and then you're having to work to look and sound convincing and the more you do it the less convincing you seem.

Anxiety builds.

Then our lesson kept getting interrupted by moments of slapstick comedy.

For some reason there was bamboo involved. He was fighting guys with all this bamboo around.

I found these moments hilarious but they also badly interrupted my teaching.

The sense of space is so strange in a dream.

I was standing there, maybe 10 metres away, waiting to continue the lesson.

But Jackie had to deal with these guys and all this bamboo.

Jackie often seems surprised at the start of his fights, as if he doesn't know how he's got into the situation and he has to desperately use things around him to help him win the fight, or escape.

He had that surprised look on his face and was doing some incredible things with the bamboo. Very vivid.

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But I couldn't escape this feeling that my lesson was being interrupted and I wasn't going to achieve my aims and objectives, and that ultimately Jackie would be disappointed in me and I'd lose face as a teacher.

Then I woke up. Don't know if Jackie was happy with my teaching or not.

The dream didn't have a resolution. They often never do.

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Certificate & Medal Award Ceremony



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I pasted all the words from this document into a word counter. The result was **9599 words**.

It's definitely more than that - over 10,000 words.