Luke’s Improvised Storytelling: Jurassic Park 🦖 [1004] Listen & Learn English - Full Episode Transcript

Introduction

Hello listeners, welcome back to Luke's English Podcast. How are you doing today? I hope you're doing fine. So welcome to this new episode of my podcast for learners of English all around the world.

In this episode I'm going to tell you a story. So this is a story episode. I'm going to do it in a slightly different way to usual because most of this story is going to be improvised. I'm just going to kind of improvise my way through a story.

I'm going to try to do this, it's going to be a bit of a challenge, it's sort of an experiment, but it should be a bit of fun. Okay, now when you're telling a story, if it's a made-up story, I mean if it's a work of fiction, which is what I'm going to try to do today, one of the difficult things is obviously the structure of the story, the plot of the story, the actual narrative, you know, working that out can be really difficult if you're just improvising something. So what I've chosen to do with this one is, I'm taking an existing story, a story that already

exists, the plot of a film, a well-known film, and as I go through the story I'm sure you're going to identify which one it is.

But what I'm going to try to do is tell that story from the point of view of one of the main characters, okay? So yeah, this will be a challenge, but I also want to encourage you to do something like this and to show you that it can be fun to tell stories in different ways and it can be good speaking practise if, for example, you have one of your favourite films or even your favourite book or something, just try to tell the story of that film and it helps if you do it from the point of view of one of the characters.

You could do it like that, telling the story from the point of view of one of the characters, or you can just tell the story of the film as if you are explaining it to someone who's never seen it before, you know?

And yes, I'm encouraging you to do speaking practise on your own, you can do that. Obviously when you do speaking practise on your own you want to get feedback, so you could do that with a speaking partner, with a teacher, right, with a language instructor if you want to. You could always speak to AI. I don't want to encourage the use of AI too much, but obviously it has its uses, so you could talk to AI and then ask it to give you feedback.

This story that I'm going to tell you today, this episode is going to be fairly long, you don't have to do something as long as this, you could do something much shorter, even if you just tell a story for like five minutes or try to, I think it's a very good exercise, and if you do that kind of practise regularly it can be a great way to activate your English, because listening is great, reading is great, studying is great, but as I always say, English is not something you know, it's something you can do, so you should always find ways to actually practise producing English in writing or speaking, and improvising a story or describing the plot of a film can be a fun way to do it, so in the spirit of that, I'd like to do this episode today. So, an improvised story from the point of view of one of the characters. I'm going to start the story in just a moment.

The PDF, yes there's a PDF with a full transcript of this entire episode, so if you want to read what I am saying, check the episode PDF. If you are watching the video version of this on YouTube, switch on the subtitles, you'll be able to read the subtitles along with me, okay, but I recommend that you just listen to this episode and then check the PDF transcript later. That can be a good way to do a bit of both. You do listening and then you kind of add reading on the top of it. I recommend that you just listen and enjoy this episode and then check the PDF and read it later, and you know, then you add reading practise and you also can check the transcript for bits of vocabulary that you may have noticed during the episode. Right then.

Hold on a second. Hi, this is Luke from the future. Just before we start, I wanted to say a couple of other things. Firstly, I will be making a premium series based on this episode with a vocabulary quiz and vocabulary review focussing on words and expressions in the story, particularly things like phrasal verbs and idioms and other expressions.

And also in this series, there will be a pronunciation episode to help you practise pausing, sentence stress, intonation and connected speech by chunking a shorter version of this story and then reading it aloud with me.

So if you're serious about learning English with me and you want to get those episodes when they arrive, plus all the other premium ones in the archive, sign up to Luke's English Podcast Premium at teacherluke.co.uk/premium - link in the description.

Also stick around until the end of this episode in order to hear some comments from me on the specific words and terms I use when telling this story. I have a few little corrections and improvements to make, such as the fact that I should have said *roar*, not *scream*, because dinosaurs don't really scream, they roar. I don't know why I said scream, but there you go. And also, I should have said the word *flora*, not fauna, at one point. Flora refers to plant life, whereas the word fauna refers to animal life. And a couple of other little words and details that I want to correct. So stick around until the end of the for that. Various corrections of vocabulary, terminology, and a couple of scientific inaccuracies.

But anyway, now, without further ado, let's start the story. And here we go.

The Story

All right. So did I ever tell you about when I used to be a palaeontologist? Yeah, I don't think I ever told you about that.

I used to be a palaeontologist many years ago before I became an English teacher, because, you know, I've had a long life and there have been many different chapters. But before I ever became an English teacher and a podcaster, I used to work as a palaeontologist.

I mean, I stopped. Obviously, I had to stop because it was, you know, it was just too stressful. And you might think, well, you might think, wait a minute, what is a palaeontologist, Luke, and why is it stressful? A palaeontologist is someone who basically studies the past, the ancient past, and normally does that through the study of fossils, right? The remains of animals that are buried in the ground. I mean, we're talking about animals that have been in the ground for millions and millions of years.

You know, a palaeontologist. Yes, like Ross from Friends. Yes, like that.

So a guy who studies dinosaurs, let's say that. Too stressful. And you might be thinking, Luke, it's not that stressful.

Most of the time, palaeontologists, what do they do? What's stressful about that? You spend most of your time just digging in the ground or brushing, brushing the earth with a brush, looking for things and usually not finding them. And if you're lucky, you might find parts of a skeleton of something. But what's stressful about that? Well, you know, my experience as a palaeontologist was particularly stressful.

And so I had to stop because it was just too much for me. Let me tell you what happened, right? So this all started when I was doing a palaeontology job with my girlfriend at the time. Her name is Ellie.

She's not my girlfriend anymore. But Ellie was… Ellie *is* a brilliant scientist, not a palaeontologist. She's a paleobotanist, which means that she specialises, rather than specialising in animal life like I do or did because I don't do it anymore. Of course, she specialised as a paleobotanist in botany. Right. So that's plant life most mostly.

But she was also very knowledgeable about dinosaurs. She still is. But, you know, we're not together anymore.

But she is a brilliant, brilliant person. And at that time, we were together and we were working together as well on this dig. And it was a fantastic dig.

There were lots of, you know, interesting things that we were finding in the ground. And it was a great time, the two of us together digging in the ground. I mean, what more could you want? What more could a palaeontologist want than to be digging in the ground every day next to a beautiful woman who was also your girlfriend at the time, although not my girlfriend anymore? She's she's with someone else now, another palaeontologist.

Anyway, let's not let's not talk about that, anyway. So, yeah, I loved being a palaeontologist and I loved dinosaurs, of course, and they're fascinating.

One thing I didn't like about being a palaeontologist, one of the things was, well, the kids, the children, because for some reason, being a dinosaur expert meant that parents, normally parents of little children were always desperate to introduce you to their children.

There were always children coming, coming to you, always children coming. And children, children love dinosaurs as well. But I don't know why they love dinosaurs, because if they really understood about dinosaurs, they, I don't think they would love them because dinosaurs were, you know, really scary, like really scary things that would eat everything they could get their teeth into, the carnivorous ones anyway.

You know, they they were pretty monstrous, but children just love them. I don't know why, you know, but parents always come and bring their children to you and expecting me as a palaeontologist to tell them about dinosaurs. Well, I don't want to teach your children about dinosaurs.

I want to find dinosaurs and study them and dig them out of the ground with my beautiful girlfriend, my girlfriend at the time. She's not my girlfriend anymore. So the kids would come and it was I mean, if these children really knew how terrifying dinosaurs really were, how sharp their claws were, they wouldn't be so interested.

I think they should stick to other things, you know, like, you know, learning their other lessons at school and teddy bears and things like that. Don't mix children and dinosaurs. They just don't… They should never really go together.

I don't understand the connection. So I was working with Ellie on this dinosaur dig. There were children which I was… who I didn't really want to talk to.

And so we'd finished for the day. And this guy came in a suit saying he worked for some insurance company. I don't remember exactly.

Forgive me if I ramble. I have a tendency to ramble, but and it's also difficult to remember. It was quite a long time ago.

Anyway, apparently there was a visitor. So we went into our trailer. Ellie and I went into the trailer where we would, you know, rest at the end of the day, where we'd have our lunch and things like that.

We had a, we had a refrigerator in there that was full of bottles of champagne that we were waiting to open when we'd finished our dig. You know, we were planning to celebrate the end of the dig, which was coming soon. But this guy came in with his, with this with his insurance man, a man in a suit.

He came in. And I mean, I was quite, we were quite shocked, to be honest, at his rudeness. He just stormed into the room, didn't really introduce himself properly and went straight to the fridge, our fridge and opened it up and got out bottles of, a bottle of champagne and popped the cork.

And, you know, we just thought, who is this guy? But I have to say he was an interesting man, quite a charming man. This is what I was thinking at the time. And he popped it open.

He said, we have reason to celebrate. He was an English guy. We've got a reason to celebrate.

And I don't know, I felt like he was trying to sell us something or I don't know what was going on. But it turned out that this guy's name was John Hammond. Right.

And he was a billionaire. OK, and, you know, billionaires, what can you do? I mean, they just think that they run the world. They think they own the world and they probably do, don't they? Let's be honest.

But this guy, John Hammond was a billionaire and he started to tell us about this extraordinary thing that he'd done. I mean, I don't know how it was possible. I mean, it was mind blowing.

I still can't quite come to terms with it now. Basically, what he told us is that he had a project on this island somewhere off the coast of Costa Rica. It was, he owned the island.

Of course he did. He was a billionaire. And on that island, he was doing some interesting things.

Now, I know what you're going to say. This sounds, this sounds suspicious. Who is this guy? OK, I mean, I was a bit suspicious, but the more he talked, the more interesting it became.

Let me try to get to the point. He told us that on this island he was developing actual dinosaurs. He was breeding dinosaurs.

Ellie and I were both shocked. Sort of incredulous, like we couldn't quite believe it, but also fascinated because, as you know, for a palaeontologist, the idea that someone had been genetically engineering and breeding real living dinosaurs was irresistible. I mean, this was just irresistible to us.

And this man, John Hammond, told us that he developed this park. It was going to be a theme park, a bit like sort of Disneyland or or, you know, those those theme parks where they have dolphins and killer whales who do tricks, you know, that sort of thing. Sea Life Centre or something.

But it was for dinosaurs. And the insurance guy told us that they'd had some problem, one of the, one of the members of staff, that there'd been a health and safety issue and that they needed experts to come just to check the island, just to make sure that it was it was safe and that it could then be opened. It was a sort of an insurance problem and they needed us to come to look at it.

And we had been chosen. Ellie and I had been handpicked by John Hammond and his company and his insurance man. They'd chosen us.

They'd heard about our reputation as being leading paleo. What was it? Palaeontologists and paleobotanists. So this was very flattering to be chosen by this this billionaire to go and take part in this project.

And so despite the fact we had the dig and everything, we thought, well, this is this is extraordinary. We have to go. So we agreed.

I mean, I was a little skeptical. I thought this there's got to be a catch here somewhere. But we went and, you know, we took a helicopter flight and everything.

It was very exciting. And obviously it was just wonderful to have the experience with Ellie. And we landed on the island and I was, you know, both of us looking out of the window to see if we could see anything.

You know, we saw some fences and some bits of infrastructure and stuff like that. We landed on the island. The whole time, John Hammond was talking and talking and talking, telling us how how, you know, about how they developed this and these fences and the high levels of security and the expertise that they had, the members of staff, the brilliant I.T. crew that they had working on the island and that they'd spared no expense.

He kept saying "we spared no expense", the amount of money that they must have spent. He did also tell us that there was a company involved. It wasn't, he wasn't only, he wasn't the only investor in this project.

There was another company called InGen, I think it was, who had also invested money in this project. It was… astronomical amounts of investment had been put into this project. The insurance man told us about, you know, some of the investors.

I mean, to be honest, that stuff is pretty boring to me. So a lot of it went over my head. I was just thinking, let me see the dinosaurs.

You know, I kind of didn't believe it. I was thinking what, maybe they, maybe they've got, I don't know, a couple of little ones. Maybe they're just I don't know what, I didn't know what to think. Birds dressed as dinosaurs, who knows? I was just curious.

So we arrived on the island and the first thing that John Hammond… I mean, we were tired. It was a long journey.

But the first thing he insisted on doing was taking us on a tour of the island. So off we went. And he really swept us off our feet.

And we were in these really nice looking Jeeps riding through, driving through the island. I was thinking, OK, I'll see it. I'll believe it when I see it. That was what I was thinking. I'll believe it when I see actual dinosaurs driving along.

Ellie started to notice the plant life. And she was saying, "look at these plants. These are, these are, these are actually original. These are the same plants that we've seen in fossil records. This is incredible." And John Hammond, of course, was saying, "oh, yes, we've included lots of fauna as well here. Some of the original fauna has also been brought back. I'll show you exactly how we did all of this. We spared no expense" and Ellie was distracted by the plants.

And then as we drove up this hill, that is when I caught my first sight of the most incredible thing I've ever seen in my life, at that point.

There they were. Three, if I remember correctly, Brachiosaurus. Full size. I mean, these things are like the size of skyscrapers with huge long necks walking in a line, calling to each other. I was stunned.

When when I managed to… Ellie didn't. I was saying, "Ellie, look at this. Look, look, look." She was… she's a paleobotanist. She loves plants.

But I managed to get her to look in the same direction as me and she couldn't believe it, too. And I know we'd, we we couldn't help it. We got out of the Jeeps and walked towards them.

I mean, thinking back on it now, that was probably not a very wise idea. If you see three huge animals the size of churches, it's probably not a good idea to just walk right up to them. But we were so excited and I was amazed to actually see the actual, the bone structure, the way that they moved. It was indescribable.

And it's unreal to me now to imagine the sequence of events that happened afterwards and it all happened so quickly. But that was incredible.

But John was like, "get back in the Jeep. We've got plenty of other things to see. This is just the beginning."

And we drove on and then we saw in the valley herds of parasaurolophus. I've never been able to say that. Herds of these dinosaurs running through the, through the valley and feeding in the water.

I mean, absolutely mind blowing stuff. Eventually, we we kept travelling by Jeep. And what happened next? There was a, there by the side of the road, there was a, there was another dinosaur which was, which was lying down on its side.

It appeared to be sick. And there was some, there was a, members of staff there caring for it. So we wandered over and it was a triceratops, an actual triceratops, the most beautiful triceratops, so much more beautiful than I'd ever imagined.

But this one was lying down and it was clearly sick. It was unwell. How did we know? Well, there was a mountain of dinosaur poo next to it.

I mean, normally I would have been disgusted, but I was, I was fascinated. I'll be honest. And so was Ellie, even more so because she started to examine the, examine the dung of this triceratops.

And she was fascinated by exploring the things it had been eating. I mean, she's you know, I had to tell her, you know, make sure you wash your hands after this because you never know. She was fascinated.

Hammond was like, "come on, we've got to keep going." Ellie decided that she would stay with the triceratops. She wanted to try and help this sick triceratops. So she decided to stay.

That's Ellie. That's that's just always the way she's been. You know, if she decides to do something, she just does it and there's nothing you can do about it. Just typical of Ellie, always doing her own thing and never, never staying, staying with me.

But anyway, I got back in the in the jeep with Hammond and his insurance guy, whose name was Donald, I think. Donald Gerano. That's it. Gennaro… Guarno? Donald Gennaro.

That was his name. Poor Donald. It's terrible what happened to him. I'll tell you about that when we get there.

So we get to the headquarters of this place, of this incredible theme park. I mean, my mind was, I was, I was overwhelmed by everything and I just couldn't quite decide what to think of it all.

But I was keen to understand how he had brought these dinosaurs back to life. He'd been sort of hinting at it the whole time. Oh, scientific genetic this and cloning that and spared no expense, he kept saying.

And at that point he introduced me to his other guests. Now, remember, we'd been brought to the island in order, in order to do a sort of inspection for the benefit of the insurance company. They needed specialists to come to just check the park to make sure it was actually okay and that it would be safe for public, you know, to be open to the public.

I mean, I felt like it was a bit of a big responsibility to be honest, but I understand why they chose a palaeontologist to come as if to say, yeah, these are, I mean, what am I going to do? I'm going to say, okay, yes, these are, these are dinosaurs, that is that, they're incredibly dangerous, but I mean, yeah, it's safe, I suppose. I don't quite know what they expected from us. It was almost as if it was just a formality, like John Hammond was just ticking boxes. Yeah, palaeontologist inspection, fine, whatever.

There was another scientist there as well. His name was, what was his name? Ian, Ian Malcolm, Ian Malcolm, interesting character, Ian.

Now Ian was not a palaeontologist. He was, well, he described himself as a chaotician, a chaotician. That's someone who is an expert in chaos theory, which, I mean, it's a branch of maths, basically.

I mean, to be honest, Ian, he was a very flamboyant character, which you don't expect really from a mathematician, do you? I mean, really, I wasn't that impressed by Ian, to be honest. I mean, he was a, he was very, what's the word for it? He was very eccentric and flamboyant and didn't really act like a, he was very happy to be known as a chaotician. He was always telling, oh yeah, I'm a chaotician, I study chaos theory. You know what chaos theory is? Let me, let me show you with a drop of water.

And I was thinking, this is all very vague to me as a palaeontologist. It's never really been my, my cup of tea. Things like chaos theory, maths, just let me get into the ground and actually get my hands on some dinosaur bones. That's my approach to this, much more practical, but fine. Okay.

For some reason, Ian, as a chaotician, as a mathematician had been brought to inspect the Island. I mean, what, I don't know what, I don't know if he was qualified to do that, but anyway, he was interesting company and Ellie certainly seemed to seem to like him. Yeah.

I mean, as far as I'm concerned, he was just a jumped-up maths teacher, really, who wore dark glasses and a shirt unbuttoned and very handsome.

Anyway, Ian was there. We all sat down to eat. I mean, I, I wasn't particularly hungry. I mean, I'd lost my appetite to be honest, but we sat round and ate and talked and discussed stuff. And Ian made some, some interesting points about the ethics of it.

Um, I mean, what a, what a deep thinker he is. "Oh, you thought about, you know, your scientists have been so busy." Uh, what was it again? What did he say? "Your scientists have been so busy trying to work out whether you could do this. They didn't think about whether they should." Deep, deep stuff.

I don't know but that's what he brought to the meeting. Anyway, it didn't seem to make any difference. Like, to be honest, any of the things that we said or observed didn't seem to make any difference.

I think John Hammond had basically decided that he was going to do this and that he had the money. He had the influence. It was going to happen.

And the insurance company just needed to tick boxes. They needed to prove that they got some experts in to just verify that the park was safe. I mean, I don't know.

I think it's completely impossible to check that the park was safe. And anyway, as we know the park, well, was it safe? No, it wasn't. It was not safe at all.

Let me tell you exactly what happened. So after that, they showed us the laboratories where they developed these dinosaurs and they told us how they'd done it. And it's, it is actually fascinating and incredible what they did.

So they, how did they get the dinosaur DNA? Well, Hammond had found amber in the ground. Amber, not Amber, not my friend Amber, but amber, you know, it's like a dried sap that comes out of a tree. Okay.

You know, trees, inside trees, they have this stuff called sap. It's kind of like a sugary, sweet, gloopy sort of liquid, which if you, certain trees have a lot of sap inside them. It's kind of like the blood of a tree, let's say.

And, and certain trees, like I think pine trees, some types of pine trees, I think, I mean, I'm a palaeontologist. I'm not, I'm not a botanist. So, you know, don't expect me to know everything about everything.

Um, but they, the sap comes out and it drips out and it, it sometimes quite quickly will drip down the trunk of a tree. And for example, if there are insects just sitting on the tree, sometimes they will be trapped inside this amber, trapped inside and the amber then sets and it goes hard. And if it falls on the ground, it could be buried and it can actually last for millions and millions of years.

And John Hammond had been searching all around the world for samples of this amber because him [he] and his scientists had worked out that actually

some of the insects preserved inside the amber could contain not only their own DNA, but the DNA of other animals, and insects that bite specifically mosquitoes, because as we all know, mosquitoes bite, don't they? They bite, they draw blood from animals like us or indeed many other species of animals and they keep the blood inside them and they feed on it. Incredibly, John had, and his scientists and his teams had found perfectly preserved mosquitoes full of dinosaur blood.

These are mosquitoes that had been preserved in amber from the Jurassic period. They'd extracted the DNA. It must have taken them such a long time, but as he said, they spared no expense, extracted the DNA from the stomachs of these mosquitoes.

And in there, in that blood, they found yes, DNA, dinosaur DNA. And from that they cloned, they had cloned, I don't know exactly how they do it, but they cloned dinosaurs and started to produce real dinosaurs. I don't know how, how is that possible? I don't really understand it, but their, their lead geneticist, Henry Wu told us all about it.

A lot of it did go over my head, but they showed us, I don't know how, like the, what do you do? Create a dinosaur first and then it lays eggs and new dinosaurs arrive? I don't know how, but they had an egg. They showed us an egg in an incubator, an egg about the size of a rugby ball and it hatched right in front of us.

And we saw a dinosaur popping out and I identified it. It was, as I expected, it was an actual Velociraptor, a little Velociraptor baby popping out of the shell. And it was, well, a combination of, on one hand, cute and adorable and fascinating, and on the other hand, absolutely terrifying.

A whirlwind of emotions and feelings flew through my head. I didn't really have time to process it all.

It all happened so quickly, but there they, there they, there they had Velociraptors. And I said, wait a minute, what other, what other predators have you got? Do you, do you have a Tyrannosaurus Rex? And Hammond

was delighted to announce, "yes, we have a T-Rex." I couldn't wait to see it. I'll be honest.

Little did I know how much of it I would actually see. But they also told us that they didn't have the full genetic code for these dinosaurs, that the genetic information they had was about 98% complete.

Again, I'm not a geneticist, geneticist, so I don't really understand it. But what they did apparently is to, to complete the genetic code, genetic makeup. So they'd got a hundred percent. So they could actually continue cloning the dinosaurs. They had to take the remaining 2% of genes that they missed. And they took it from like the closest thing they could find.

And in this case, that was frogs. So they took 2% frog DNA and added it to the 98% dinosaur DNA. And that allowed them to clone the dinosaur.

So, I mean, the dinosaurs that we saw, they didn't look very froggy. So I don't know quite exactly where that, I didn't at the time know where that 2% frog DNA was really going in terms of the dinosaurs, because they looked very dinosaur-ish to me. I know that's not a scientific term, dinosaur-ish, but I'm just trying to put it in terms that, you know, the lay person would understand, because I'm assuming you're not a, an expert.

So I've learned in my years of being a palaeontologist, I learned when I was a palaeontologist that you have to talk to the public as you know, in terms that they will understand. So forgive me for using non-scientific language, but you understand. So I don't know, they didn't look very frog-ish, these dinosaurs.

They looked exactly like the dinosaurs as we expected they would look based on the research that we'd done. So I was very happy to, to, to see that our research was accurate mostly, but I was curious about this 2% frog DNA. It wasn't obvious at the beginning.

I'll come back to that. Now, the next thing that happened is that someone came in the room in the middle of this meeting, this discussion we were having and said, Oh, Dr. Hammond, um, your guests have arrived. And I was

thinking, Oh, other guests. Excellent. Maybe we've got some other scientists, maybe some more palaeontologists. I mean, hopefully it's not just some sort of rock star chaotician who, you know, is just flirting with my girlfriend.

Maybe we'll have some proper palaeontologists who I can, you know, uh, share my thoughts with. We went through and lo and behold, was it expert scientists? No, it was two children. Yeah.

Always children. Why? I don't understand. I still, to this day, don't understand why children always have to be involved when there are dinosaurs.

They're just keep the children away from the dinosaurs. But no, John Hammond had invited his grandchildren to come to the Island before it had been certified safe. I mean, a very questionable man, John Hammond, very, very questionable indeed.

And I mean, he's facing, obviously now, I don't know if you've heard about all of the, all of the legal issues and things like that, but he's, he is facing a lot of accountability. It's difficult to keep these billionaires in line, isn't it?

But so he invited his grandchildren and there they were Lex and Tim Lex and Tim, and everyone was so glad to see them. And Ellie, of course, was so great because she's, she's not like me. She's great with kids. She loves kids.

And I mean, at the time, if I can just share, I guess with you, at the time we were having this, not an argument, we were talking about, you know, we were talking about whether we should have children.

She wanted kids. And I was like, no, I'm, I just like to dig things in the ground, you know, dig old dead animals out of the ground, and children... It was a bit of an issue between us.

You know, that's Ellie. She's a loving, caring woman who not only is interested in ancient life, but wants to bring new life into the world. And that was her point of view.

And as I said, we're not together anymore. And she's with someone else now and she's, she's got children of her own. Anyway, she was great with the children, of course.

And you know, I, I didn't want to be rude. So I smiled and, you know, pretended to be happy to see them and stuff like that. Then John was like, right off we go.

We've got to go on the tour. We've got, I've got to show you everything else. You're going to, you want to see the T-Rex, right? Let's go and see the dinosaurs.

And Ian was being all sarcastic and, you know, "you're going to, you have dinosaurs on this island. Let's let, let's see the dinosaurs." That's, that's the way he spoke.

And, um, so we went in these sort of SUVs with glass windows on in the roof and all around giving you great visibility. I mean, I don't know how much they were going to charge the people coming to the island, but this was, it looked like top quality stuff. This was going to be an expensive attraction.

Let me tell you, they were going to make millions and billions. I mean, he, if they were looking to make billions and billions from this, this is just what happens when you, when you put money first, isn't it?

Anyway. Um, so off we went in these SUVs and well, I don't know how it happened, but I ended up, I, so I ended up in the same car as Ian and Ellie. Okay. And I mean, I was just thinking of dinosaurs, but Ian was more interested in Ellie. And there was a lot of interaction going on there, but Ellie is a very charming woman.

And, you know, so she was, she was, uh, sort of, you know, she was tolerating, tolerating it, but Ian kept sort of making these comments and jokes and things and she was laughing and okay.

Anyway. Uh, the children were in the other SUV with, uh, Gerard Genaro, Gerardo, Gerardo, the insurance guy.

So they were there, thankfully quite a relief because I didn't, you know, I didn't have to put up with them, but I had to put up with Ian anyway.

Sorry for my tangents. As I said, it's a long time ago. It's hard for me to remember, but we went and we were supposed to see what was it? Gigantopithia or Flacantopithia or, um, we sat outside this large pen. So the whole park was, had these huge electric fences around the different dinosaur areas. So they had the Velociraptor pit and they were kept in a pit with an electric fence around the top of it.

Because as you know, Velociraptors, cause they're, they're some of the most famous ones. Vicious hunters, very intelligent, very adaptable, uh, able to jump and move and run. Um, and so they dug a big pit there.

Working with Hammond was a man called Robert Muldoon, who was kind of like the park warden. And I think he'd worked in Africa with lions and elephants and other large animals. And he'd been brought in to sort of deal with the dinosaurs and he'd become a sort of expert.

And he told us about the Velociraptors and that they were, they were vicious. They apparently, they had eight Velociraptors originally, but the big one, there was one big Velociraptor, this one big female who, who was the dominant Velociraptor.

It was fascinating. I mean, I, I would have loved to have actually heard more about it if, if what happened hadn't happened. And, uh, he told us all about that and this one big Velociraptor, which would, you know, keep the others in line. And this big one had apparently killed five or four or five of the other Velociraptors and reduced their number to a, they essentially were like a small team.

It was fascinating with the big one in charge of two or three other, other, uh, subordinate Velociraptors. Fascinating to understand the, the herd, the group

mentality of these Velociraptors that they had the Velociraptor pen in a pit. They had different dinosaurs in different areas surrounded by electric fences.

And we were there at the Gigantopithea Flithiputea, to see them. And we sat for a long time with nothing happening.

It's a bit like, you know, when you go to the zoo and you go and you look in a cage and there's a sign on the side and it's, there's a picture of an animal, like the, you know, the, the, the lesser spotted warthog from Sumatra or something.

And you're like, you see a picture of it, and you see the name of it and you look inside the cage and there's just nothing in there. You're just like, where is it? Where is it? It's hiding under a log in the corner. And you, you don't see it. You don't see like most of the animals. You just never see them. Do you? Because they're hiding in the corner, understandably because they're terrified of all these humans. Awful business really.

But it was like that. Didn't see any dinosaurs. Kept going. Didn't see any dinosaurs. Kept going. Didn't, it was very disappointing to be honest. And I was thinking if I'd paid money for this, I would be, I would be wanting that money back by now. And then we ended up at the Tyrannosaurus Rex, enclosure.

And I was thinking, right, this is going to be interesting. Are we actually going to see it? Is this true? Is this, do they really have a Tyrannosaurus Rex? Do they really have any, is this all just some sort of sick joke? I don't know. We waited and waited and, and, and, and the weather turned bad because in that part of the world in off the coast of Costa Rica, these islands, the weather is very, very changeable.

And a storm came in and I was thinking, Oh, great. Uh, now we've got to deal with this storm. I've got Ian Malcolm and his chaos theory and his flirtations with Ellie and then a weekend with these children.

And now there's a storm and no dinosaurs. We rolled in front of the T-Rex enclosure. They, they brought out a goat and put it on a chain in the enclosure, which the T-Rex was supposed to feed on.

And the goat stood there and we looked at the goat, the goat looked at us and nothing happened at all. And the storm rolled in.

Now, unbeknownst to us, it's unbelievable, really. I can't believe it. I mean, Ellie thinks that we should take legal action, but I just, I don't know. Unbeknownst to us at the time, things in the security centre on this island were not going very well.

In fact, we learned this later, what actually was happening. They were experiencing major security problems. I mean, the park hadn't even opened, but already major problems, just our luck that we happened to be there when all of this kicked off.

But it turns out that the head of IT - that's information technology, as you know, the computer guy, the head of the computer stuff, again, I'm not, I'm not an IT specialist. I'm a palaeontologist. So the head of the computer stuff basically had decided that he wasn't being paid quite enough money.

And therefore he was going to sell, he was going to sell secrets to a rival dinosaur island company thing. Yeah. Apparently there are other islands with other people trying to do the same thing.

I mean, what, what, what are these people thinking? But there was another rival island and they had convinced the head of the computer stuff on Hammond's island that he should sell them some of the secrets so they could go off and develop, develop their own rival island.

It's a bit like Pepsi coming along and sneaking, stealing secrets from Coca-Cola so they can go off and make their own Cola, which is, you know, successful, but not as good, you know.

And so he, this guy, Dennis Nedry, that's his name, Dennis, he had to steal a dinosaur embryo from the laboratory. He had shut down the dinosaur park's security system. I know. Great.

He shut it down so he could access the embryos and then sell them. I mean, apparently what happened to him, I think he was found. They, he, he met a sticky end.

He got, I think he got caught up in the storm and, he got eaten by a dinosaur, you know? So that, you know, I suppose there's some justice in the world.

Anyway, he shut down the security system. And of course, of course, this meant that all the electric fences also went down. I know. What a nightmare.

So there we are sitting in these cars, right? Waiting, just right next to the T-Rex enclosure, when the storm rolls in, it's raining and windy and lightning, very atmospheric, to be honest, would have been great as a film.

And then the electricity goes down. And of course, that is when the T-Rex decides to show up. Now, let me tell you about the way it arrived.

We were all sitting there bored out of our brains. I think at this point, yeah, the kids were still in the, in the car with, with Gennaro, this insurance guy, but we heard all of us in both cars heard and sensed something big. The ground started to vibrate.

We could feel it slowly getting closer until suddenly there it was. We looked up through the pouring rain in the darkness and the lightning, a Tyrannosaurus Rex towering over us. And it opened its mouth and screamed and a deafening noise. Absolutely terrifying. I had no idea it was going to sound like that. It sounded like a thousand wild animals all screaming at the same time.

And again, it was a combination of absolute terror and absolute exhilaration and fascination. A real T-Rex. I mean, I didn't know how to react, but I couldn't stop looking at it.

And then I noticed something, the other car. Now this, the, the, the, the electric cables, the electricity was off and the T-Rex just cut through them as if they were made of butter. Ping, ping, ping.

They all broke and he came straight through screaming at the top of his voice. The, the goat, the goat was long gone.

In fact, the T-Rex swallowed it whole and then started to look for more food. Now as a palaeontologist, I know a few things about dinosaurs. Of course. It's my job.

And I know, well, we had theories about how the T-Rex sensed the world around it. We had theories about the way that they saw and heard and sensed the world. One of those theories is that they used movement.

They were highly visual. They had very good eyesight. That's what we thought.

And it turned out to be true. Very, very visual movement was instantly… They were a bit like a cat, you know, like the way if there's a cat, if you have a feather in your hand and you move the feather around, the cat just can't take its eyes off it and goes into like, attack mode and starts hunting that feather.

Well, the same thing turned out to be true with this Tyrannosaurus Rex. Female. All the, all the dinosaurs on the island were female.

This is what Hammond told us. He said, "don't worry. In order to control the population, we've made them all female so they can't reproduce."

So, so foolish. What did they, what were they thinking? I'll tell you more about that in a minute.

Anyway, the dinosaur arrived, the T-Rex arrived, screamed at the top of its lungs. And of course the children in the car in front of us panicked. Of course they did. Because despite the fact that little Tim was obsessed with

Tyrannosaurus Rex, has Tyrannosaurus Rex toys all around him, loves everything about Tyrannosaurus Rex. Yeah. When he saw a real one, it was a different story. He was terrified.

And so was his sister, the poor kids. And they were scrabbling around in the car and they'd got one of those torches, a big high powered torch, and they were shining it up into the sky. God knows why.

And I was thinking, don't do that. Put the torch away. Turn it off. Don't move. The movement, the light is going to attract the attention of that Tyrannosaurus Rex.

And of course, that's exactly what happened.

The T-Rex came right over the car and started attacking the car with the children inside. And they started screaming and shouting in terror. And Gerano, Gennaro, the insurance guy, what a coward.

What a, what a rat. What a, what a, what a coward he was. Of course, what did he do? He, he escaped. He ran away. What a pathetic coward he was. Opened the car door, ran out and hid in a, hid in a portacabin, a wooden, it turned out to be a toilet. And he sat in there and hid in there. He abandoned these poor children.

Now I'm no fan of children, as you know, but I certainly wouldn't abandon, I wouldn't abandon them in the face of an extinct Tyrannosaurus Rex.

I don't think I would anyway. Well, I didn't in this case. So there were these two children in this car and I was thinking to myself, right, what do we do now? I mean, we, what we, we, we let the T-Rex attack the kids and eat them? Because that's not, obviously that's not right, obviously.

But also I was kind of thinking, well, if, if Hammond's… you know, this could seriously jeopardise everything, because I did, I forgot to tell you that Hammond persuaded us to come to the Island and do this job by saying, "look, we will, we'll double your funding for your, your, um, prehistoric dig."

That was his promise. He said, "if you come and do this, I'll double the funding for your project."

And I was thinking, fantastic. We'll be able to dig in the ground, dig it, get my hands dirty and just dig in the ground for old bits of old dead animal for, for years. Oh, brilliant.

I thought if these kids get eaten by that T-Rex, he's not going to double the funding. The whole thing's going to fall apart, isn't it? So I was like, right, I better do the right thing.

Meanwhile, the dinosaur was, I mean, its power was incredible. It was, it rolled the car over. The poor children were screaming in the back. The dinosaur was attacking the car. Ian and I decided to do the right thing. And we went out with flares. I mean, I didn't have time to be scared. I'll be honest with you. And I was just as fascinated to see everything that this Tyrannosaurus Rex was doing. We went out with flares.

I went out first, holding the flare up and I said, "Hey!" like that. Because, I mean, I don't know if Tyrannosaurus is speaking English. "Hey, over here!"

I was shouting and I got its attention because it was attacking the car and it wasn't obviously wasn't feeding on anything. It was getting very frustrated.

"Hey, over here." I said, and it saw me and instantly saw the movement and I threw the flare way over there, over in the distance and stood perfectly still. And the dinosaur took the bait and it went to get the flare. And I thought this is my chance to get the children.

And I went in, to the car and quickly opened the door and got them out while the dinosaur was distracted by this flare. Meanwhile, Ian, what was he thinking? I mean, he's supposed to be a genius mathematician, but he didn't work out the math, the maths for this one. He got out with another flare and started waving it in the air and running with it.

This is what happens when you invite a chaotician to a dinosaur Island when they don't know anything about dinosaurs. I mean, what was he thinking? I think he was just trying to show off to Ellie, to be honest. But anyway, he started running with the flare.

"Hey, hey over here!" And he threw the flare like me, but not knowing what he was doing, he kept running. And, uh, am I remembering this correctly? The dinosaur got distracted and ran towards Ian, started chasing him.

And Ian probably said something cool like, "Whoa, that was…" you know, like probably something like, "Oh, shouldn't have done that!" as he ran. And the dinosaur chased after him and crashed into the portacabin that Gennaro was sitting in.

Ian went flying. He got injured, but the portacabin smashed into thousands of pieces and the T-Rex recovered itself and looked up. And there was Gennaro sitting on the toilet, right in front of him. And for a moment, the T-Rex and Gennaro looked at each other.

Gennaro looked at the T-Rex, the T-Rex looked at Gennaro and Gennaro couldn't believe his eyes. He was rubbing the water, the rainwater out of his face. And to be fair to him, I sort of understand his reaction because one minute you're sitting on the toilet, next minute you're face to face with a un-extinct, a de-extinct prehistoric predator, perhaps the most terrifying predator the earth has ever seen.

And they've never, you know, no one in human history, he was, Gennaro was about to become the first person, first human in history to, to be eaten by a Tyrannosaurus Rex. And he did. He got, the Rex chomped down on him, flicked him up in the air, *chomp* and swallowed him whole.

Horrendous, and wonderful, both at the same time.

Anyway, Ian had been knocked unconscious, lying on the floor, the T-Rex couldn't see him. I, at this point, had only got, I'd only got Lex out of the car.

And I was thinking, goodness, it's a good thing that Ellie, where is Ellie? Where was Ellie at this time? I'm just trying to remember. I can't remember. Ellie wasn't there.

Anyway. So, okay. So I had Lex, but little Timmy was still in the car. Okay. And then the T-Rex came back and I, I knew just what to do. I said to Lex, stay perfectly still.

She was very good. She was terrified, shaking, could feel her shaking, but she did exactly what I said. She stayed still.

And the T-Rex, I said, "Stay perfectly still. It can't see us. Its vision is based on movement."

I was pretty pleased with that. It sounded cool. And so the T-Rex was right there, was about to eat us and it was pushing the car. It couldn't see us. And it got so close that it, it, when it snorted, it blew my hat off my head.

Never got that hat back. It's a pity. It was a nice hat.

Anyway, the T-Rex was pushing the car and we kept trying to hide from it. We kept moving around. I mean, unbelievable really. And then the T-Rex went for the, went to try to get Timmy and it kept pushing the car.

It didn't understand what a car was. Of course it had never seen, it never, I mean, it had never actually had to, it never knew what a car was. Of course it didn't.

So it was trying to eat the car and pushing the car and the car was getting slowly closer and closer towards a cliff. Of course, not only did we have to contend with this huge predator, but also now there's a cliff and the car in the rain, all the mud was very slippery. And as the T-Rex was pushing and attacking this car, it started to slip over the cliff and over it went with little Timmy inside and crashed down.

I thought that's it. That's the end of Timmy. I mean, he was a little bit annoying, but still, this is a tragedy.

This is awful. And his poor sister. And so we slowly crept towards the T-Rex. I mean, the T-Rex was screaming down because it couldn't get the car, couldn't get Timmy because it had gone over the edge. And the T-Rex, not knowing that we were still there, left and chased after…

That's it. This is when Ellie arrived with Muldoon, right? The, the care, the, the warden, the park warden, they arrived on the scene to discover what had happened because they'd been, because Ellie had been looking after that triceratops. They arrived in the, in a car, another car, in a Jeep, and they found Ian and managed to get him onto the back of the Jeep. But then the T-Rex saw them and started chasing them.

And then there was a chase. The T-Rex chased the, the, the, Jeep and they drove off. So the T-Rex at that point was gone.

And, with Lex, we looked over the cliff and there was the car. It was stuck in a tree. Okay. There was a kind of a tree on the edge of the cliff and the car was all caught up in the tree. So we, we started to, there was a cable hanging down. So we started to climb down the cable.

I had Lex on my back and I was thinking, goodness me, this is not what I expected to be doing today. Anyway, let's, let's do this. So we climbed down and got to the bottom and I let, I sat Lex at the bottom of the tree and said, "Just stay there. Don't get eaten by any dinosaurs."

And then I could hear Timmy, "Timmy!" I was shouting "Timmy!"

And he was like, "I'm here. I'm up here."
"Just wait there, Timmy. Don't move."

And, I had to climb the tree and, climbed up the tree through the branches, got to the car and there was Timmy terrified in the car.

But I mean, I was quite impressed by these children. I have to say, you know, they showed quite a lot of strength and courage. And has, has, has the experience changed my opinion of children? Maybe. It's only now that it really, I sort of think like that.

Anyway, I said to Timmy, "You've got to get out of the car. Come with me. Let's climb down the tree."

And I climbed into the car to get him. And as I did so, I felt the car moving and I thought, Oh no, the car, it's not stable. It's stuck in the tree, but it's slipping. It's going to fall. All that rainwater, all that mud. Everything was very slippy. And I just managed to grab Timmy and get back to the tree as the Jeep, as the SUV or whatever, it slipped and fell, crashed to the ground. Luckily Lex was not underneath it and we climbed down.

And so there I was with the two children and we had to get back, get back to the main centre to try and find Ellie and the others in this park full of dinosaurs. And we trekked and trekked and trekked and trekked. And we had to sleep in a tree. And in the middle of the night, a Brachiosaurus came and I should probably not go into every detail.

And, we saw the T-Rex again, hunting the, Parasaurolophus. Fascinating to see the way that these dinosaurs moved and interacted. We finally got back to the base and Ellie and Ian were there.

Ian was, was injured and he was with Hammond. Hammond was looking after him and Ellie said that the Velociraptors have escaped. And I was like, Oh great.

That's all we need. Bloody Velociraptors. And, but, well I, yeah, that's it.

When I went to, when I saw Ellie, I ran to her and we embraced and I was like, Oh great. I'm glad that you still love me. And you haven't decided to go off with this Ian guy. And she was like, well, he's, he's injured. So you're the best I've got.

So anyway, we were delighted to see each other, but of course I had left the kids in the kitchen. They were eating. I'd left them there and, but the Velociraptors came. It all happened so quickly.

The Velociraptors came and the kids somehow managed to escape from these Velociraptors and we, we grabbed them and we escaped through the air conditioning system, just like in Die Hard. And then we got into the main area and the Velociraptors were there and they cornered us.

That's it. I thought, this is it. We've got no chance against these Velociraptors. They are, apex predators, even, you know, then they were, and now we stand no chance against these things.

The claws, the, the jaws, the intelligence. There were three of them cornering us and they, they seem to be delighted to have cornered, to have cornered us like that.

And I thought, well, that's it then, isn't it? We're, we're screwed. We're going to be breakfast for these Velociraptors now. But just then out of nowhere, I mean, none of us had even noticed it because we were so busy looking at these Velociraptors out of nowhere, T-Rex came thundering in and grabbed the, attacked the, the Velociraptors and killed them. Oh, like that. Lucky, really. Pretty good, pretty good luck.

And in the, you know, while the T-Rex was fighting with these Velociraptors, that's when we managed to escape and we joined Ian and John Hammond, the only two that were left, all the others had been eaten by dinosaurs. And, uh, we left the T-Rex, now the, the sort of, we left the island for the dinosaurs, the T-Rex being the apex predator on the island now and got into a helicopter and we flew away.

So that's what happened.

I mean, I, you know, some other details, I mean, we found, we did find eggs. That's, that's the thing about the, the frog DNA. I mean, I told you, right, they used 2% of frog DNA.

Well, it turns out that the 2%, just by sheer bad luck, it seems, accounted for the, the, the, the ability to, adapt, the, the sex in order to reproduce, you know, because some species of frog are able to change their sex when there's a, when necessary, right? For example, if in that particular pond, all of the frogs are female, some of those female frogs can sort of become male in order to make sure that the frog population reproduces and continues. I know it's incredible, isn't it? But it's very rare that that happens. Not all frogs can do that. Only some frogs. And I suppose it's only a small portion of their DNA that accounts for that ability, but just by bad luck, I suppose that happened to be the, the, the little bit of frog DNA that they put into the dinosaurs. That was the missing bit.

And yeah, it turns out the dinosaurs were able to reproduce. I mean, they, they were, they, they were, we found eggs. So I suppose that Island now is, is just, completely, over, overcome by dinosaurs. Now just full of dinosaurs.

I mean, I suppose we should, something should be done about it really, but, um, I'm sure that I'm sure it'll get sorted out in time, but anyway, that's basically what happened. And, uh, I know what you're thinking.

Did we end up endorsing the Island as a safe tourist attraction? Uh, no, no, we didn't.

No, but anyway, that's what happened when I was a palaeontologist. I think, I think that's, I think that's what happened unless, I don't know. Was that? Was it? Did that really happen or was that just a dream or maybe, uh, maybe a film I saw once or a book I read? I can't quite remember.

Ending

Right. That's the end. That's the end of that. I hope you enjoyed it. That was quite good fun for me. I think there were moments where I got a little bit caught up in details, but sometimes it's the details that are the fun bits.

You know, I don't know how accurate that was to the film, but it doesn't really matter. It doesn't matter. That's not the point.

The point is that you can just have fun telling a story and having the structure of a film, for example, following the structure of a film allows you to then just focus on the words you're using and the sentences you're constructing and the way that you're telling the story and different things like that.

Vocabulary Corrections, Improvements & Scientific Inaccuracies

Hello listeners. This is Luke from the future, again, just interrupting myself, just adding this extra bit of a recording that I'm doing here while sitting on a sofa in the living room in the countryside. And I've literally just started recording and there are gardeners working in next door's garden, making a big noise, making a terrible racket with their lawn mowers and things like that. So I thought this coming to the countryside was supposed to be a place for peace and quiet, but no, you just get different noises, different guys.

Normally, as you know, if you've been listening to my podcast for a long time, normally there are people working on roofs or people drilling holes in the walls in the building or changing the windows and making a big noise. But out in the countryside, there are just some other guys doing other work with other types of machine making noise in the background and you probably can't hear it. So I probably shouldn't really spend any time talking about it.

Anyway, here I am adding this extra bit of audio here. And this is where I'm going to do, as I mentioned earlier, corrections and improvements, talking about vocabulary, terminology and scientific inaccuracies. Having reviewed my story, I couldn't help but notice various errors that I made, including some wrong words, which I mistakenly chose because I was probably distracted by the challenge of improvising the story. At least that is my excuse.

Also some more accurate and specific terms I could have used to describe some things and a few scientific inaccuracies, which were in my story and indeed in the original film as well, which I feel should be corrected.

I wonder, did you notice these things too? Did you? I think the big ones in terms of just me picking the wrong word, I think the big ones were when I said scream instead of roar and perhaps the word fauna instead of flora, but I've got some others to point out.

And if you notice these, then I suppose - bonus points to you. And if you noticed them and you didn't, I don't know what, sort of jump into the comments to pour scorn all over me, then extra points for having a level of respect for me as a podcaster and a human being.

Anyway, let me list those errors now and other words I could have used and scientific terms just to clear up a few things and to correct myself here.

So yes, I did make a few mistakes. In my defence, improvising a story is quite a challenge. So I slipped up a few times, not literally, although I was standing up while recording this story, I didn't slip up literally.

It just means I made a few mistakes and there were moments when I was searching for exactly the right words and they just didn't come.

Did you notice moments like that? Which of course does happen to everyone, including native speakers speaking their own language, including you, in moments like that when you're just trying to find the right word and it doesn't come and you think, what is that word? It's on the tip of my tongue. Well, what do you do? You can't just stop, can you? No, you have to carry on and find the next word, which is a good thing to practise, I think.

But with the benefit of podcast editing and hindsight here, I can now add this extra bit here where I fix some of those errors and also mention some words and terms that I could have and perhaps should have used in my story. And it's a chance for us all to learn something.

So full disclosure, I did use ChatGPT to help me to find some of these errors.
I knew I'd made some, like the ones I mentioned, (scream instead of roar). I said a *team* of velociraptors and really I should have said a *pack* of velociraptors, for example. I know it's an unforgivable mistake, but I knew I'd made some errors and some others.

So here is how I used ChatGPT in this case to find some more errors that I suspected I'd made but didn't have time to look for in the video and in the transcript.

Now, it might be useful for you to know what my process was for doing this and the prompt that I used. So you can do a similar thing to check for improvements in your vocabulary if you do this too using AI, for example.

So the first thing I did was I fed the audio recording of my story into some transcription software, which I'm subscribed to. I use a programme called TurboScribe. It works pretty well as far as I can see and that produced a transcript.

I quickly read the script to fix any mistakes that the AI software had made. AI transcripts are still not completely correct and so I check them when I can and I have used loads of different AI transcription programmes and bits of software and services. I've used loads and loads and loads of them and TurboScribe is more or less the one that I find to be the most accurate.

It's the one I prefer. So anyway, I still have to check it though and when I'm recording on my own, the mistakes in these transcripts are usually minimal. It might mistake one word for another or spell a name wrong but transcription software generally manages to understand me word for word pretty well.

When I'm with guests, the accuracy of AI transcripts can be a lot worse because it struggles to handle the different voices, the faster speaking speed and interruptions and I guess it is the same for you when you listen

to me in conversation with Amber and Paul, for example. Probably harder for you to keep up as well. It's the same for AI transcription software so that's interesting.

Anyway, once I had my transcript right, I fed that into ChatGPT and I was kicking myself about the scream/roar thing and also I wasn't sure that *sap* was the right word, suspecting that *resin* would have been better. I wanted ChatGPT to help me find that kind of thing and quickly, and this was my prompt. This was the prompt I used.

So I pasted the text of the transcript and I added this prompt. I said, *are there any times in my script?* I didn't say this, I typed this of course.

Are there any times in my script when I used the wrong word or there was a better word or term I could have used? For example, dinosaurs roar, they don't scream. Amber is made of resin, not sap. Dinosaurs overran the island, not overcame the island, etc.

And here is the response from ChatGPT and I find this is one of the most useful functions of AI, saving a lot of time and giving tips on specific vocabulary usage.

All these notes are included in the transcript PDF by the way. Also by the way, I have added and changed the response from ChatGPT quite a bit. I find that what AI produces in terms of information or text can be a good starting point.

But I think the best results come when I make a lot of changes myself, adding my own comments, examples, thoughts, etc. So rather than just reading out verbatim whatever ChatGPT gives me, it's better to adapt it and personalise it, right? So let's go. Let's go through those things, those words and terms and scientific inaccuracies.

First of all, fossils. **Fossils**. I said that they are the remains of animals that are buried in the ground.

Now this is not wrong, but a more accurate definition would be that fossils are the preserved remains or traces of ancient organisms. I've got a question mark over the word ancient, actually, when we're talking about dinosaurs and fossils. But anyway, fossils are the preserved remains or traces of ancient organisms.

Now that sounds a bit more academic, right? Rather than just the remains of animals that are buried in the ground. Because that, you know, like an animal that was buried in the ground three weeks ago, you might, why would you do this? I don't know. Why would you dig up an animal that had been buried in the ground three weeks ago? But if you did, for whatever reason, you would be able to call what you found "the remains of animals that are buried in the ground", right? They would be like partially decomposed.

It's disgusting. Why am I talking about this? But they would not be fossils. So a more specific definition of fossils is that they are the preserved remains or traces of ancient organisms.

They aren't always animals and they aren't always actual physical remains. Fossils can include plants, footprints, *burrows* (this means holes dug by animals), eggs, faeces, et cetera not just animal remains.

And in most cases fossils, the animal remains or the remains of the organism have actually become part of the rock.

I also said to **dig them out of the ground**. Now talking about finding fossils or remains, I said, I used the expression to dig them out of the ground.

Now there's nothing wrong with saying it like this in normal conversation, but the more technical expression is to **excavate** fossils, excavate, excavation.

So a palaeontologist might talk about excavating a fossil or excavating a fossil site.

Obviously part of the comedy here in this story is or is or was that I'm obviously not an expert palaeontologist and I was pretending to talk like one and I ended up using general English terms when actually a real palaeontologist will have used more academic terms.

Ha ha ha, hilarious. I know.

Next word is paleobotany.

Paleobotany. I said it was the study of plant life rather than animal life. And this is slightly misleading because palaeontology itself isn't simply the study of ancient animals, right? So I kind of made a distinction between paleobotany is all about plants and palaeontology is animals, right? But palaeontology isn't simply the study of ancient animals.

Again, question mark over the word ancient. We'll come onto that in a moment.

So **palaeontology** is the scientific study of ancient life based mainly on fossil records.

So that's life. That's more than just animals. So it includes much more than dinosaurs or ancient animals or prehistoric animals.

That's the word. I think that's a better word. I'll come back to that.

So yes, palaeontology is more than just dinosaurs or ancient animals. It can involve paleozoology - ancient animals, paleobotany - ancient plants, ancient prehistoric. I'll make that distinction in a minute.

Micropaleontology is microscopic fossils, really, really, really small ones that you need a microscope to look at.

Palaeoecology - ancient ecosystems and how organisms interacted with their environments.

And ichnology, which is all about trace fossils, such as footprints, burrows and tracks. So the marks that are left behind by probably animals.

So paleobotany is actually a branch of palaeontology, specifically the study of fossil plants or ancient plant life. I know, I can't believe I got that one wrong. What a schoolboy error. And I'm sure you're very glad I've pointed it out for you and corrected myself.

So Ellie in the story specialises in ancient plants, whereas Alan, that was my character, his particular field is fossil animals or dinosauls.

Dinosaurs. Dinosauls? What's that? No, dinosaurs. Actually, I think it should be prehistoric or prehistoric rather than ancient.

Ancient times begin more or less when writing was invented. So when we're talking about ancient times, that is within the time of the humans and it's around the time that writing was invented, right?

Yeah. Before that, we can talk about prehistoric times.

So to be more specific, we should probably be talking about prehistoric things, not ancient things, but I think I'm splitting hairs here quite a lot.

Fauna and flora. Okay, I said fauna, I should have said flora. I got this the wrong way around.

So when Ellie notices the prehistoric plants and is fascinated by them, Hammond says that they've included lots of fauna. He says, oh, we've got, you know, we've included lots of fauna, lots of prehistoric fauna. We spared no expense, which means that they, by the way, "we spared no expense". This means that they did not avoid spending a lot of money. So they were happy to spend as… they spent a lot of money.

But anyway, fauna, I said, and I meant plant life. So that word should have been flora because flora is plant life and fauna is animal life. Okay.

I hope you forgive me for that one. So "we've included lots of prehistoric flora as well." Hammond could have said "we spared no expense and blah, blah, blah".

Right. Next Brachiosaurus, those huge dinosaurs with a very long tail, very, very long neck. The ones in famously in Jurassic Park, actually in the film, there's only one feeding on a tree and the characters get out of the Jeep and stand right next to it.

And he goes, "look, it's a, it's a, it's a dinosaur." You know, he's a, he's a palaeontologist and he's lost for words, you know, um, Brachiosaurus.

Now I said, it's actually one, but it doesn't matter. I said three and I said three Brachiosaurus. So let's talk about plurals and singular forms of this word that will you use regularly? I don't know. How are you? How are you today? You know, uh, Monday morning when you come back to the office in a, in a job where you have to speak English.

Morning. Morning. How are you? Fine thanks. So, uh, did you see any Brachios, any, any, uh, any Brachiosaurus? Sorry, what? Brachiosaurus? Oh, I had a, I saw a Brachiosaurus. No, you didn't. Sorry. I'm just trying to use a word that Luke taught me. Brachiosaurus.

Instead of three Brachiosaurus for ordinary general English, it should be three Brachiosaurs. That's the right plural. Brachiosaurus is the genus name, the name of the species.

So a Brachiosaur is a convenient common noun. That's a singular one Brachiosaur, two Brachiosaurs. But the name of that species is, or the genus for that species is called Brachiosaurus.

You're welcome.

Bone structure, bone structure. I said that I was fascinated by the bone structure of the animal.

Now this is again, not really wrong, but a palaeontologist would be more likely to talk about the dinosaur's **skeletal structure** or the dinosaur's **skeleton**. Although looking at a real live dinosaur, you wouldn't be able to, you would not be able to see its skeleton. So you might talk about its skeletal structure or its **anatomy** maybe.

So maybe I should have said, I was amazed to see their skeletal structure and the way they moved. Would you really say that though, if you were looking at, I don't know, I think that I'm going to give myself a pass for that one because I don't think you would, if you were looking at a real live animal, even if you were, you were, you know, a biologist or whatever, you wouldn't say, wow, look at its skeletal structure. You would say that if you were looking at the skeleton, you know, like in a museum.

But if you were looking at a real animal, you might talk about its bone structure. So I think that's not so bad. Bone structure is usually used to talk about a person's body shape or their, or their face.

You know, you might talk about a woman or a man's bone structure, cheek bones, et cetera, on the face. Like "she has beautiful bone structure, doesn't she?" Okay. But anyway, skeleton, skeletal is the adjective, skeletal structure.

All right, moving on, **dinosaur poo**. Moving on to dinosaur poo. Now, no correction needed here really, because that's not incorrect.

So my dignity remains intact, but I could have said **dung**, D-U-N-G or **faeces**, which are the more formal words for the stuff that comes out of the back of an animal.

Still dinosaur poo is funnier. So I don't know if you are walking through a forest and you see some poo on the ground and you don't want to use the childish word poo, you might use dung.

Like the animal, animal poo is often called dung, especially if it's like wild animals or faeces, which is the general sort of formal word for poo. Okay. But still dinosaur poo is a lot funnier, isn't it?

Sap should have been the word **resin**.

So this is a definite correction. I hold my hand up. I was wrong about this one, but I think you can forgive me because sap and resin are both things that you find in trees.

But I described amber as something like dried tree sap. It is something like dried tree sap. It is not specifically dried tree sap though.

Amber is actually fossilised tree resin. Again, I'll be kicking myself for weeks over this. Sap and resin are different substances.

So sap is a thin watery fluid that acts like the tree's circulatory system. This is like tree blood. So sap is kind of like liquid, okay, that is inside a tree.

But resin is a thick, sticky and aromatic goo. If it comes out of the tree, it moves very slowly, unlike sap, which can kind of spurt out of a tree like liquid, not all trees, but some trees. But resin, thick, sticky, aromatic, so it's smelly.

It's a goo. It's a thick, liquidy, half liquid, half solid substance that acts as a physical defence barrier for a tree. It oozes out of the tree to seal wounds in the tree's surface on its trunk, for example, or branches.

The sap slowly oozes out. So if you were to, you shouldn't really do it, but whack an axe, chop an axe into a tree and take the axe out and leave it, especially if it's like a conifer tree, like a pine tree. Then you come back in a day or two, you might find that resin oozed out of that wound that you just inflicted to the trunk of the tree and resin would have come out.

It oozes out of the tree to seal wounds, to trap wood boring insects. That's insects that bore into the tree that can actually really be harmful to the tree. So the tree releases resin to trap those insects and stop them.

These are wood boring insects. They bore into the tree, you know, boring insects. And tree resin protects trees against fungi or bacteria.

It functions a lot like a **scab** on your skin, which forms after bleeding. Your skin does a similar thing. If you cut your skin, blood comes out and slowly the blood dries and you end up with a scab there, which protects the wound. Right, that's a scab.

So you're learning words here, aren't you? Resin, sap and scab, ooze, goo. Lovely words.

So the sequence should be, the tree produces resin, the resin hardens and then over geological time, this is over a million of years, it becomes amber. It turns into a kind of stone. Is it a kind of stone? Am I going to check that? A kind of stone, a very hard substance.

This is the beautiful hard stuff, amber, that can be used to make jewellery. It's that lovely deep orangey kind of colour. So also when the insect initially gets trapped in the resin, it isn't trapped in amber yet, it gets trapped in resin, which eventually becomes amber.

So an insect gets trapped in sticky tree resin, the resin hardens and over millions of years can become amber and then scientists from the movies drill into that amber and extract blood from mosquitoes that are trapped within it. Okay, so now you know.

Next, **genetic code**.

I said genetic code. So this is another correction that is definitely worth making, I think, because it's worth learning about the right word for describing genetics. Did you notice in the story that I was searching for the right word here when I was talking about the genetic code? Is that the right

word for the dinosaurs and how they needed to use frog DNA to fill the gaps in the genetic code? I was using genetic code.

I used the phrase to mean all the genetic information belonging to the dinosaur. But the more accurate term is, and if you spotted this one and thought about it in your head, then you get 10 bonus points for being brilliant, the word is genome. The **genome**.

G-E-N-O-M-E. The genome is an organism's complete genetic material.

The genetic code, on the other hand, is something else. It is specifically the system by which sequences in DNA and RNA correspond to... It's difficult to say that. So the genetic code, on the other hand, is different. It is specifically the system by which sequences in DNA, RNA correspond to amino acids in proteins.

Okay, I don't fully understand that, but we get the point. The genome is the full genetic material for an animal. So instead of saying there were gaps in the dinosaur's genetic code, it is better to say there were gaps in the dinosaur's genome.

All right. So this is actually quite a nice English/science distinction to explain.

Two percent of the genes were missing, I said, I think.

It would be better to say there were gaps in the genome or some DNA sequences were missing. Saying that two percent of the genes were missing isn't necessarily the same thing. Okay, now I'm assuming that you will forgive me for the gaps in my knowledge of genetics, not the gaps in my genome.

I don't know if I have any of those, and if they were replaced by frog DNA, that would be weird. Certainly would make it ironic when I dissect frogs on this podcast and when I explain jokes. Anyway, am I confusing you? Sorry for that.

Let me continue. I hope you could forgive me for the gaps in my knowledge of genetics. I think that Jurassic Park, the film, also takes a few liberties with the science too.

So it's okay, isn't it? I think it is. It's just a fun story about dinosaurs attacking some children. So let's not worry too much about specific scientific accuracy here and just enjoy the story, the dinosaurs attacking children.

No, I'm just joking. By the way, that stuff about me not liking children, I want to be sure that you understand that I was in character there. The character I was playing, Dr. Grant, if you've seen the film, you'll know he doesn't like children.

Me, I love children, especially my own children, and I would not hesitate for a second to go and rescue them if they were being attacked by a dinosaur.

Yeah, so they were **breeding** dinosaurs. There's another thing I said about the goings-on on this mysterious island.

They were breeding dinosaurs. So at the beginning, breeding isn't really the right term because the dinosaurs aren't reproducing with each other. So breeding animals, which farmers might do, they might breed cows, sheep, pigs, chickens.

That means essentially reproducing those things, which obviously involves the reproductive process. I'm sure you're familiar with that. If you're not familiar with reproduction, there are some films that you can watch.

Anyway, so the scientists are not breeding dinosaurs on this island. They're **cloning** dinosaurs, **creating** dinosaurs, you could say, or **genetically engineering** dinosaurs. Now later when the dinosaurs start reproducing themselves, breeding becomes appropriate as the word.

So breeding means making dinosaurs have sex with each other, right? Or when dinosaurs have sex with each other and make more dinosaurs. That is breeding. And it's also something that people can do with animals.

I mean, whoa, hold on a minute. Don't get me wrong. I'm not talking about people breeding with animals. No, that's a terrible idea.

But I mean that farmers might breed chickens, for example. That would mean that they make the chickens have sex with each other.

I don't know if they really *make* them have sex with each other. It's more like *encouraging* them to have sex. How do they do that? How do you encourage a chicken to have sex with another chicken? Put on the right music, light a candle, put down its favourite chicken feed, and just hope.

But I don't know. Or maybe just letting chickens or animals have sex with each other to reproduce. Right, let's stop talking about this bit now.

I think you understand the difference between breeding dinosaurs and cloning dinosaurs. That's the distinction I needed to make there.

Next we have T-Rex **screaming**.

I talked about T-Rex screaming. This is a big one. I repeatedly said that the T-Rex was screaming.

But the much more natural dinosaur verb would be to **roar**. R-O-A-R. Now we usually use the word roar when talking about big cats like lions, tigers, panthers, jaguars, etc.

Right? Roar. Now it's natural to use the same word for what a dinosaur would do when the T-Rex opens its mouth. Roar.

The T-Rex roared. So the T-Rex opened its mouth and roared. Or it **let out a deafening roar.**

Because roar is a noun, it's also a verb. It's a regular verb. Roar, roared, roared.

Now scream isn't completely impossible as a description of an animal sound. It worked, right? But roar is the obvious choice for the classic Jurassic Park T-Rex sound. Scream is not quite right because scream sounds a bit too high pitched.

That's a scream. And the T-Rex definitely didn't, it wasn't doing that, was it? No, that would be ridiculous. If the T-Rex came out, humans, get away from me.

No, that wouldn't be right. So it was definitely the T-Rex roared.

Also, the bit where the T-Rex broke through the wires, the cables of the fence.

I think I said the T-Rex **cut through** the electric cables, cut through. It would have been better to say the T-Rex **broke through** the electric fence or cables or the wires **snapped** as it pushed through them. Cut through, saying that the T-Rex cut through makes it sound as though the T-Rex deliberately cut the wires with like a pair of wire cutters or something, you know, like those things that you would use to cut wires.

So, you know, the T-Rex wasn't doing that. I mean, it couldn't do that, could it? With those little arms, those pointless little arms, it wouldn't be able to do it with those arms. But anyway, yes.

So not cut through, but like break through the fence, the wires or cables snapped.

Now, remember, these are just corrections to some of the words I used in the story, right? What I'm doing here, these are just some corrections. Now, for a proper vocabulary review of things like phrasal verbs and other expressions that I used correctly, all the other natural language that I used totally correctly, for a proper vocab review of all that stuff, sign up to Luke's

English Podcast Premium for the upcoming premium series based on this episode.

There will be a vocab quiz, vocab review of English phrases, expressions, useful language that you can use to talk about all sorts of things, not just dinosaurs and the things that they do or did or would do or would have done.

Right, so moving on. **Its vision is based on movement.**

Keep perfectly still. Its vision is based on movement, right? That's what Dr. Alan Grant says when he's faced with the T-Rex and he's trying to rescue the kids. He says to Lex, the girl, keep perfectly still.

Its vision is based on movement. Now, this isn't a vocabulary error. You'll be glad to know it's a Jurassic Park science error.

The famous idea is that T-Rex couldn't see you if you didn't move. Now, there's no good reason to think this was true. T-Rex appears to have had quite good vision.

So this is just something that they invented for the film because it was good for the drama of the film. I mean, you know, **artistic licence**, **poetic licence**, artistic licence. They made that up, the idea that the T-Rex couldn't see them if they didn't move.

It made for a really exciting scene in the film. So there's no good reason to think that this is actually scientifically true. T-Rex appears to have had quite good vision.

But since I was effectively playing Alan Grant in this story, let's keep that its vision is based on movement because that is part of the joke or the story and it's an iconic line from the film. But if you ever get cornered by a T-Rex, staying perfectly still will not help. It will eat you.

Okay. Okay. Right.

So an **extinct** T-Rex, I said. Now, once a T-Rex is standing in front of you, trying to eat you, technically it is not extinct anymore. But, you know, let's call this poetic licence or artistic licence.

This is when we, by the way, poetic licence is when we allow poets to break the rules of grammar or to break the rules of reality in poetry. And so, yes, I suppose I am a kind of poet. Artistic licence is another one.

That's kind of, you know, in works of art, you allow the rules to be broken. So that's okay, I suppose. But still, it would be better to say a **de-extinct** T-Rex or a **resurrected** T-Rex, although that sounds like that particular T-Rex was dead and has been brought, like dug up and somehow brought back to life like a kind of Frankenstein situation with electricity or something and it's alive, you know.

That would be a resurrected T-Rex. A de-extinct T-Rex is the best one, I think. A formally extinct animal.

Interestingly enough, later in the story, I struggle for the word and say something like this. I say an *un-extinct, de-extinct* prehistoric predator because I was hesitating between un-extinct and de-extinct because those prefixes un- and de-, you know, sometimes both are possible with slightly different meanings. But de-extinct means that they were extinct and now are no longer extinct.

We have also **uninterested** and **disinterested** is a similar example. Oh, that's dis-, not de-. Anyway, disinterested means that you were interested but now you're not interested anymore.

I became disinterested, and uninterested just means you weren't interested in the first place. I didn't listen to Luke's Jurassic Park episode because I'm uninterested in dinosaurs, or the episode was great but then when he started talking about, like, genomes, I became a bit disinterested. You see? Right, with de-extinct here is actually the useful term that I was looking for while I was struggling.

Un-extinct would be used to describe animals which are still surviving and which have not died out or become extinct. So sort of **endangered** animals, normally we would say endangered animals are un-extinct. They are not extinct yet.

I don't think that's very common but endangered is a much more common word to mean animals that could become extinct if we're not careful. Like, oh, whoops, oh, I wasn't careful and all those animals are extinct now because I stepped on them by mistake. Oh dear, I'm sorry.

Yes, silly joke.

Velociraptors, **herd** mentality. I said herd.

Herd is the wrong word. For predatory animals like the raptors, herd sounds wrong because a herd of animals is a common collective noun. There we are, going back to collective nouns.

Only about a month ago I was in the garden out there talking to my daughter about collective nouns in episode 1000, if you remember. So a herd of animals, this is a collective noun for a large group of animals and it's normally for, typically for, like, herbivores, right, animals that are not predators, they just eat grass and plants and there's normally a large number of them. Sheep, cows, zebras, a herd.

A herd of sheep, a herd of cows, a herd of zebras, a **flock** of birds. But for a small group of velociraptors, the better word would be a **pack**. They hunted as a pack.

Pack hunting. So instead of herd mentality, it would be like **pack mentality** or maybe pack behaviour, **group dynamics**, **social hierarchy**. Wolves also hunt in packs.

You could say a pack of wild dogs.

But I was trying to describe the group dynamics, the pack behaviour of these velociraptors with the one **dominant** female and then the **subordinate** velociraptors, which is quite an interesting detail. If you watch the film, you can notice that there is a dominant velociraptor and subordinate ones and the dominant one is keeping the other ones in line, you know, it snaps at them sometimes.

Anyway, a pack of dogs, a pack of wolves, a pack of velociraptors.

I described velociraptors as **apex predators**. Now this is not strictly true in the context of the story.

An apex predator is at the top of its food chain and is not normally preyed upon by other animals. So you think of things like killer whales. No other animal is hunting killer whales. Maybe killer whales might get attacked in an act of defence by large numbers of pilot whales or something like that, or maybe sperm whales. But no other animal is hunting killer whales. Killer whales are **at the top of the food chain**. They are the apex predators of the ocean.

So an apex predator at the top of the food chain. Now on an island containing a tyrannosaurus rex, which subsequently kills the velociraptors, calling the raptors apex predators is questionable.

I mean, it doesn't really matter because it was just a fun story. But nevertheless, I'm using this as an opportunity to teach you some other stuff, including some words I felt I should have used in the story. Apex predators.

The velociraptors aren't really the apex predators on the island. It turns out the T-Rex is the apex predator. Now in my defence, I just wanted to say that the velociraptors were just the best predators around.

But of course, Terry T-Rex was there being the boss. So please find it in your hearts to forgive me if you can.

Terry T-Rex. Actually not Terry T-Rex because she's female in the film. So what? If not Terry, what? Tanya? Tanya the T-Rex? In fact, the makers of the film nicknamed her Rexy. Very imaginative. It's a T-Rex. What should we call it? Rexy? Okay, well, that'll do.

Anyway, if you don't want to make the same terrible error as me, like for example, if you are stuck on a dinosaur island one day and you need to explain just how dangerous the velociraptors are, you could just say that they are **highly effective predators**, **formidable predators**, intelligent predators.

But don't say that they're the apex predators because, no, Rexy the T-Rex is over there and she's listening to you.

The big female. So one of the velociraptors is bigger than the others and is sort of like the leader of the others.

Again, non-scientific terminology there, "sort of like the leader". But better scientific-ish language would be the **dominant female**. Okay, when you're talking about the working groups with a hierarchy, you have a dominant male, dominant female, the dominant female.

Now, although in the film the character of Robert Muldoon, who in the film is the guy who is, he thinks he's hunting the velociraptors who've escaped, he's got his shotgun, he's tracking them through the forest, right? And he can see one and he's tracking it and then he realises the dominant female is actually tracking him. She's flanked him and she comes at him from the side and he looks and he goes, "clever girl". And then she attacks him and I think bites his head off, I think, although you don't really see it very clearly.

So Robert Muldoon does call her the big female at some point in the film. But anyway, I could have also said the alpha female, although dominant female is probably safer in terms of choosing the accurate word because alpha can suggest an oversimplified model of animal social organisation and we wouldn't want to oversimplify a model of animal social organisation, would we? No, we wouldn't. Especially where they're listening to you.

Don't oversimplify a model of our animal social organisation. Right, get him. Now, frogs.

I said frogs adapt their sex. This isn't right. It's better to say that frogs **change sex** or the biological term, they **undergo sex reversal**.

So some amphibians like frogs can undergo sex reversal under certain conditions. That would have been better.

The ability to reproduce. Now, the special ability being discussed isn't really reproduction itself. It is the **capacity for sex reversal**, which fair enough, then leads to reproduction. And again, I don't need to explain what that involves. I'm sure you've watched all the documentaries, right?

But surely sex reversal is a necessary step towards reproduction. That's kind of what I've just said. So I'm giving myself a pass here.

Anyway, the idea of the story is that the frog DNA gave the dinosaurs the ability to change sex, allowing a supposedly all-female population to reproduce. So they had the capacity for sex reversal, which they got from the frog DNA, which was added to complete their genome. And that's not scientifically accurate, but it's just a fun movie, right? This is largely Jurassic Park science, not something I should present as an accurate description of how dinosaur genetics would actually work.

I also said the island was overcome by dinosaurs. This is a genuine vocabulary slip, meaning just sort of like getting the wrong word. And I knew I was doing it at the time.

I just couldn't get the right word out and I needed to continue the story. So I just settled on the island was overcome by dinosaurs. Of course, the word I wanted was **overrun**.

Overrun with dinosaurs or **overrun by dinosaurs**. So the island is probably completely overrun with dinosaurs by now, is what I said. Someone really should do something about it.

In normal life, in non-dinosaur life, I mean, we use the word overrun to talk about a situation where there are a lot of pests in a place. Pests, these are animals that you don't want around. And sorry, but this generally means mice, rats, insects, and invasive species that have multiplied out of control and taken over a specific area.

That area is overrun. The city's subway system is overrun with rats or we had to call an exterminator because our back garden was being overrun by ants. Okay.

Overcome. A person would be overcome with emotions or feelings. I was overcome with feelings of, I don't know, what would it be? Terror.

I was overcome with feelings of terror while listening to you describe that awful dinosaur attack on those poor children. And you stayed in the car and you didn't do anything for two minutes. What were you thinking, Luke? Maybe that's, I don't know how you reacted.

Maybe you were overcome with all sorts of different emotions, a **whirlwind of emotions**. Anyway, there you go. That's the end of that section.

There were actually three useful categories there. Three, one, two, three.

Things I genuinely said wrong. That's the first line. I should have said flora instead of fauna. I should have said resin instead of sap. I should have said overrun instead of overcome. And I should have said roar instead of scream. Please forgive me.

But there are also, the second thing is things where a more precise technical term exists. So that's genome, not genetic code. Pack instead of herd.

There's also blood meal instead of stomach, but let's not worry about that now.

And things which are really Jurassic Park's dodgy science rather than my dodgy English. So the blame lies with the makers of the film.

Just, you know, email Steven Spielberg if you've got a problem with these bits. Like T-Rex's vision being based on movement, not true. Frog DNA, just don't worry about that.

I'm sure it's impossible to just, oh, we'll just take some DNA from a frog and stick it in and that'll be fine. And mosquito DNA as well. Mosquito DNA? The DNA of the mosquitoes wasn't involved, was it? Anyway.

So, ChatGPT did correct me on my use of **register** in this story. Did you notice that? That means talking about palaeontology in the way that a palaeontologist would talk, especially if talking to other palaeontologists. So ChatGPT was kind of like correcting me on that and upgrading my general English and making it more like palaeontology English.

So palaeontologists would use the scientific academic register, but I'm not a palaeontologist, so I ended up using more general terms. Hopefully it was funny to hear me doing that. Also instructive in some way, showing you how you can manage to describe things without necessarily knowing exactly the right terminology.

You have to keep going and find other ways to describe these things. Sometimes you just have to prioritise spoken fluency over perfect accuracy. Right.

Now we are nearly at the end. I just wanted to give you a reminder again of LEP Premium. I will do a vocab review, vocab quiz, and pronunciation episode based on this story, focussing on so many words and expressions that I used completely correctly, of course, and that's things like, you know, phrasal verbs and fixed expressions.

Like I said, to go over someone's head. A lot of it went over my head to be honest, meaning I didn't really understand it. To get caught up in something.

What happened to Dennis? Oh, he got caught up in the storm. So he became involved in the storm or affected by it, often unintentionally, to get involved in all of the confusion, to get involved in this, to get caught up in the confusion, get caught up in the storm. I got really caught up in the details, right? To be involved or affected by it without intending to.

To show off. I thought that Ian Malcolm was just trying to show off to Ellie, like, hey, look how cool and intelligent and sexy I am. So deliberately trying to impress someone. So going on about chaos theory and running out to rescue children from a dinosaur when I'd already done it.

To sweep someone off their feet, to tick boxes, to meet a sticky end and to be bored out of your brains. Stuff like that, right? There will be a quiz, review, practise exercises and speaking questions for all of that and many more expressions along those lines that I used in the story and it'll all be done in the usual premium way.

So check that out and also a story, a shorter story version of the story I told which we will practise, which we will use to practise chunking, right? Pausing, sentence stress, rhythm, intonation, connected speech, weak forms.

So that will all be included in a premium series coming soon. That's going to be the next thing I work on. So check that out and subscribe to Luke's English Podcast Premium today if you know what's good for you.

Teacherluke.co.uk/premium - link in the description.

Now having added all of that extra stuff, extending the length of this episode beyond what I expected it would be. Now that I've done that, let's go back to what I recorded earlier this week in my podcasting room.

Just some closing comments from me at the end of the episode and you're going to hear me talking about how you could also try telling a story like I did in this one in order to practise your speaking skills. So let's go back to me a couple of days ago. Here we go.

So I recommend that you try doing that. It doesn't, again, it doesn't have to be an hour long like mine was. You could just try and tell the story as if you are in conversation.

For example, let me tell you about the story of this film, Jurassic Park. You must have seen it. It's one of the most popular films. And Jurassic Park, it's about, well, it's about, there's an island and there's this billionaire and he has developed a theme park with dinosaurs. Okay. And what they've done is they've managed to extract dinosaur DNA from the blood of mosquitoes that are preserved in amber.

Right. So they've managed to get in, get the, extract the blood from the stomachs of these prehistoric mosquitoes, because mosquitoes have been on earth for millions and millions of years. They extracted the blood and extracted the DNA from those mosquitoes.

And then they have used cloning techniques to actually bring back dinosaurs. Don't worry about the details too much. So there are dinosaurs and they've made a dinosaur theme park.

And then there are these palaeontologists, these scientists who are brought on just to confirm that everything's safe and okay. Okay. Cause I mean, I guess this is, there's no precedent for this kind of thing.

So how can they actually accurately and safely confirm whether or not it's okay to do this? I mean, there are massive ethical questions throughout the entire film, including, is it ethical to bring back previously extinct animals and what are the terrible consequences of doing that? And what are the ethics of letting profits be your motivation? Right. And the ethics of bringing children to the, to the park and all sorts of things. It's very interesting.

I'd like to do an episode kind of exploring the themes of Jurassic park, and I would prepare that one in a lot more detail. But anyway, I was just demonstrating how you could just kind of like describe the story of the film as if you're talking to a friend, have you seen Jurassic park? Oh, it's brilliant. So they bring back dinosaurs and the dinosaurs escape, you know, cause there's a security problem on the Island and the dinosaurs escape and the characters have to try and deal with them and avoid them and escape them.

And they get attacked and the special effects are fantastic. It was made in 1993, which is a long time ago now, but it was one of the things about Jurassic park is that it was maybe the first example of computer generated effects being used successfully in the film. They use a combination of computer generated images of dinosaurs walking and stuff.

These days they do look a bit dated, but the film is so well directed that it doesn't really matter if the special effects are not perfect, you know, combination of computer generated effects and animatronic like models that move like the T-Rex part of the T-Rex is an actual sort of model that moves. And then some of the scenes with the T-Rex it's computer generated. It's very cleverly and effectively done.

And the velociraptors, I think are completely computer generated. There may be some moments where they're not like a, maybe a head that appears through some pipes. That is a mechanical head, but then there are other scenes with the velociraptors where they are done with computer generated images.

So it's a very successful use of special effects and very well directed and really exciting. I remember seeing it in the cinema when I was, how old was I? 16, 15, 15 or 16 years old. And it's great.

It's just a really thrilling and exciting film with some really great elements in it. But yeah, try just telling the story of a film that could be, that could be good practise for you. And obviously you'll need to pick a film that you know pretty well.

So what's your favourite film? Could you try describing the story of your favourite film? Who are the main characters? What are the main things that happen? And when we tell the story of a film, we do use the present tenses. Okay. So the Tyrannosaurus Rex escapes, it breaks through the fence, it attacks the car, the children, you know, are terrified.

So we do use present tenses to describe the plot of a, of a book or a film. What I was doing was trying to tell the story as if I was one of the characters and I was remembering moments from my past or maybe just a dream that I'd had. So there I was using past tenses, but there you go.

That's the end of the episode. Let me know what you think in the comment section. I enjoyed doing another improvised story.

It's something that I need to practise, you know, practise, practise, practise makes, makes perfect. Well, not perfect, but practise, practise, practise helps you to do things more easily each time. So I used to do improvised stories quite a lot on the podcast.

And it's been a while since I did one. I wanted to get back into it, but it is a, it is a thing you need to practise. So it's perhaps I'll do some more of these.

Let me know in the comment section, if you liked this and if you'd like to get more episodes like this, if you liked this and you do want to hear more in the meantime, go back into the episode archive and look for the pink gorilla story, the pink gorilla story to what else? The prawn story. What's the other one? The talking dog story. Okay.

So the pink gorilla, pink gorilla to the prawn story, the talking dog story. There are quite a lot of others as well. Like there's the Lampton worm and a few others as well, which are similar to this one.

So you could check those out at the archive on the episode page for this, on my website, I'll put links for those episodes. So you can find them more easily. Okay.

All right. I look forward to reading your comments. I hope you enjoyed this episode.

I enjoyed doing it and I will speak to you again on the podcast soon. All right. So, and by the way, if you are a palaeontologist do get in touch to let me know how accurate both the film and my attempt at talking about it have been.

And also tell me what would you do if a billionaire came to you and said, we'd like you to investigate this potentially extremely dangerous Island full of dinosaurs and just, you know, just check that it's okay. Would you go? Would you risk it? Would you want to see the actual dinosaurs in real life or would you think it was too dangerous? There's an interesting question for you. All right.

Thanks for listening. Thanks for watching. Have a lovely morning, afternoon, evening, or night, wherever you are in podcast land.

And until next time, it is now just time for me to say good. Bye. Bye. Bye. Bye.