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The **Podcast** That Will Help You **Speak** English Fluently.  
With No Grammar and No Textbooks!

## **Episode #138**

Speak English Like an American  
Informal contractions gonna, wanna, gotta (rep)

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Hi, everybody! I am Georgiana, your English teacher and founder of [SpeakEnglishPodcast.com](http://SpeakEnglishPodcast.com). My mission is to help you speak English fluently.

In this episode:

- I'd like to help you to understand how to use words like **Gonna, Wanna, Gotta, and similar**.
- Later, a point of view story to practice your English grammar, and consolidate the information that I'll be teaching in the first part.

Let's get started!

Are you confused about how and when to use the words **GONNA, WANNA, and GOTTA?**

We refer to these kinds of words as contractions.

What's a contraction?

A contraction is created when two words in a row come together and become one.

For example:

I am= **I'm**

It is = **It's**

Do not = **Don't**

Will not= **Won't**

These are some **contractions** which are accepted as **grammatically correct** and are taught in all English courses.

However, in this lesson, I'll focus on the **informal contractions**. These are **not taught in grammar books** because their use is mostly colloquial.

**For example:**

If you say **going to** really fast, you can shorten it to **GONNA** by dropping the final sound. If you say **want to** really fast, it shortens to **WANNA**. These are **informal contractions**.

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You probably noticed that the grammatically correct English we learn in school is not the same as the **colloquial English** in the street. **However, informal contractions** are very common in **colloquial** English.

That's why **you should familiarize yourself with them**. You don't need to start using them right away. The most important step is to make sure that you **understand how to use these informal contractions**.

Many conventional teachers sustain that it's wrong or inappropriate to use these **colloquial contractions** when speaking English in formal situations.

But let me tell you that words like "gonna," "wanna," and "gotta" are perfectly OK to use in all **spoken situations**, both formal and informal.

In the US, everyone seems to use "gonna" and "wanna"; even highly educated people use these words several times a day. People in **business meetings, professors** giving lectures, everyone.

So, don't worry. You can also use them, and **you'll sound just like an American**.

And now, let's see some examples:

**GONNA**= "Going to" in the simple future.

Avoid making Common mistakes with Gonna:

Some students say "I gonna" **X** or "I'm gonna to" **X it's incorrect!**

The correct form is always "I'm **gonna**". **✓**

**Examples:**

I'm **gonna** go to work.

I'm **gonna** eat a burger.

She's **gonna** call me back.

I'm **gonna** help my friends.

**WANNA**=**want** + verb

**(but it can be followed by a verb or a noun)**

Let's hear some examples with wanna + verb:

"I **want to** have fun."  
"I **wanna** have fun."  
"I **want to** eat dinner."  
"I **wanna** eat dinner."

**Wanna=want + noun (I want a)**

Now some examples with wanna + noun:

"I **want a** new car."  
"I **wanna** new car."  
"I **want a** book."  
"I **wanna** book."

Sometimes you'll notice that the subject in the beginning disappears:

Instead of saying, "Do you wanna stay?"  
you might listen to an American say: "**Wanna** stay?"  
or "You **wanna** stay?"

Awesome! Let's continue with **gotta**.

**GOTTA** – is short for "I've **got to**." Or "**got to**."

**With a verb:**

"I gotta **go** now."  
"I gotta **be** there in 10 minutes."

And now some examples with **gotta + noun**:

"I gotta new car."  
"I gotta cell phone."  
"She hasn't gotta penny."  
"Have you gotta job?"

Let's learn some new words:

**Doncha,**  
(**don't cha, dontcha=Don't** you?)



You know this song right? :)

Examples:

**Doncha** wanna come with me?

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You're really enjoying yourself. **Doncha?**  
**Doncha**, like the movie?

**Kinda**=kind of  
I **kinda** like her.  
What **kinda** music do you like?  
It's **kinda** selfish, **doncha** think?  
My mom says I **kinda** look like him.

**Try to say let me really fast. You will end up with LEMME.**

**Lemme**= let me

**Examples:**

**Lemme** get you a drink.

**Lemme** see it!

**Lemme** go!

Hey, **lemme** pay you back tomorrow, OK?

**Let's continue with...**

**Dunno=Don't** know

I **dunno** what time it is.

Who did it? I **dunno!**

I **dunno**, maybe he's telling the truth.

Ok, you're learning so fast! I've got two more contractions for you today.

Let's go!

**WhaTcha / what' cha** = what are you/what you/what do you

**Whatcha gonna** do? = **What are you going to do?**

Do **whatcha** gotta do! = **Do what you have to do!**

**Whatcha** wanna do now? = **What do you want to do now?**

**Whatcha want?** = **What do you want?**

**Whatcha** doing? = **What are you doing?**

Ok, and the last one is...

This one is simple. Don't say because, just say 'cos.

'Cos = because

I'm sad, 'cos my girlfriend left me.  
They canceled the trip 'cos of the snow.  
I love ya 'cos you're pretty.

I hope that you're enjoying today's episode. As you can see, it's not so easy to understand **English** unless you start listening to **real conversations**. Once you get familiarized with the **informal contractions**, you'll have less difficulty understanding songs and movies in English.

By the way, you can get the transcript of today's episode at [SpeakEnglishPodcast.com](http://SpeakEnglishPodcast.com)

Let's move on to the next section.

## POV-Story

**(Improve your grammar)**

Let's practice some grammar with the Point of View Technique. This technique will help you to learn grammar intuitively, without boring exercises or memorizing rules.

This is how it works: I'll tell you a short story more than one time. Every time, I'll change a grammar point. This way, you'll intuitively recognize the changes.

OK, let's get started!

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## I'm gonna start telling you the story without using the informal contractions.

**Let me** tell you something. I **want to** learn English. In fact, I'm **going to** study by myself. But, my friends are **kind of** skeptical. They ask me:

**Don't you** need to go to a language school?"

and I answer:

"No, **let me** explain. I can learn English by listening and reading".

Some of my friends don't understand it. They don't get it. They say things like:

"Oh, man, **what are you going to** listen to? I **don't know** if it's such a good idea." or

"But, **don't you** need a teacher?".

I answer them that I **kind of** have a teacher. Her name's Georgiana. She's super professional, and she always **wants to** help.

Despite my friends' hesitations, I'm **going to be** motivated **because** I'm learning more and more.

When you **want to** get something, you just **got to** fight for it. OK, **I've got to** go now. See ya!

I'm not sure if you've noticed, but not using informal contractions in this short story is just unnatural. I had to make an effort not to use **gonna, wanna, gotta,** etc.

## Now, the same story but with the informal contractions. Let's have some fun! 😎

**Lemme** tell you something. I **wanna** learn English. In fact, I'm **gonna** study by myself. But my friends are **kinda** skeptical. They ask me:

"**Doncha** need to go to a language school?"

and I answer:

"No, **lemme** explain. I can learn English by listening and reading".

Some of my friends don't understand it. They don't get it. They say things like:

"Oh, man, **whatcha gonna** listen? I **dunno** if it's such a good idea." or

"But, **doncha** need a teacher?"

I answer them that I **kinda** have a teacher. Her name's Georgiana. She's super professional, and she always **wanna** help.

Despite my friends' hesitations, I **gotta** be motivated 'cos I'm learning more and more. When you **wanna** get something, you just **gotta** fight for it. OK, I **gotta** go now. See ya!

**Lemme** tell you the story from a different perspective:

My brother says he **wanna** learn English. In fact, he's **gonna** study by himself. But his friends are **kinda** skeptical. They ask him:

"**Doncha** need to go to a language school?"

and he answers:

"No, **lemme** explain. I can learn English by listening and reading".

Some of his friends don't understand it. They don't get it. They say things like:

"Oh, man, **whatcha gonna** listen? I **dunno** if it's such a good idea." or

"But, **doncha** need a teacher?"

He answers them that he **kinda** has a teacher. Her name's Georgiana. She's super professional, and she always **wanna** help.

Despite his friends' hesitations, he's **gotta** be motivated 'cos he's learning more and more. When you **wanna** get something, you just **gotta** fight for it. OK, I **gotta** go now. See ya!

This is the end of this short lesson. I really hope that you've enjoyed this story.

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By the way, this is one of the techniques that I use in my [premium courses](#). I recommend you to take a look at:

[SpeakEnglishpodcast.com/courses](https://speakenglishpodcast.com/courses)

Awesome! This is the end of this episode. Remember to **listen to it several times. It will help with your English.**

You can get the text of this episode at:

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Take care! Bye! Bye!



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