EPISODE 073

Learn English with Netflix

Full transcript · mini-story · vocabulary review

Hi, everyone! I'm Georgiana, founder of SpeakEnglishPodcast.com. My mission is to help you to speak English fluently.

In this episode, I'll recommend some of my favorite TV shows that will help you with your English. I'll give you some useful tips on how to use **Netflix** to improve your English. And later, you'll practice your English speaking with an exciting mini-story.

Alright! Let's start!

Netflix has changed the way we spend our free time. We spend a lot more time watching our favorite shows, so why not use all this time to speed up the way we learn English too? English-language TV shows can quickly introduce you to **authentic English** and can help keep you motivated and entertained as you learn. In today's episode, I'll let you know how watching TV can help you improve your language skills. You'll stop feeling guilty about watching TV!

The next time your friends ask you what you did all weekend, you can proudly say that you spent all weekend watching TV.

Here's what you can do while you're watching a TV show in English:

1)Always choose an English show which you are interested in watching. And always use **subtitles** in English.

2) To make it easier for you to start watching TV series which you've already watched in your own language. Since you already know the plot, you'll spend more time focusing on the language.

3)Practice listening to different accents. The more you listen to different accents, the easier you'll understand them. Remember to use subtitles in English.

And because there are so many series worth watching nowadays, it's hard to choose.

I'll start recommending my favorite series that can also help you to improve your speaking and to learn new vocabulary in English:

SCIENCE FICTION

Star Trek: The Next Generation (1987-1994) begins with the Enterprise-D crew tested by an omnipotent being known as Q. After successfully solving the mystery and avoiding disaster, the crew continues on their mission to explore strange new worlds, "to go where no man has gone before."

Star Trek: Discovery (2017-) follows Starfleet's travels in its quest to explore new planets and new life forms. It explores the war between the Federation and Klingon while following the crew of USS Discovery.

Although it's hard to compare these two amazing series, I could mention that you'll find better special effects and much more action in the Star Trek Discovery series. I guess I like them both mainly because they're so different.

DRAMA

Mad Men (2007-2015) is a drama about one of New York's most prestigious advertising agencies in the early 1960s, focusing on one of the firm's most talented advertising executives, Donald Draper. I simply loved this series! The costumes, the makeup, the hair, the sets. It's all a work of art!

Ozark (2017-) is a dark and twisted series, and after every success, it seems that there's a failure. The main character flees Chicago with his family to escape a drug cartel, though, to his surprise, he finds a drug cartel in his new home in Missouri. Although many people could compare this series with Breaking Bad, I consider Ozark to be unique.

Suits (2011-) focuses on Mike Ross, who's a brilliant college dropout, and begins working with Harvey Specter, one of New York City's top lawyers, forming a winning team. The series is very entertaining and can help you improve your English since it's easy to follow. Plus, the actors' pronunciation is very clear.

House of Cards(2013-2018) is one of the best series ever produced. It's about a congressman named Francis Underwood who begins to take revenge on those he feels have betrayed him. Together with his wife, Claire, they take Washington by storm. This series is certainly one of my favorites. Most of all, I love the main character played by Kevin Spacy.

Outlander (2014-) is based upon author Diana Gabaldon's historical time travel book series of the same name. And tells the story of Claire Randall, a combat nurse who is mysteriously dragged in time until 1743, when she is forced to marry Jamie Fraser, a young Scottish warrior. Although it's my favorite series, I only recommend it if you have an advanced level of English.

COMEDY

The Good Place (2016-) Is about four people and their common enemy from the other world who struggle in the afterlife to define what it means to be good. It's a really funny series, and the dialogues are easy to understand.

Mozart in the Jungle (2014-2018) set in New York where a daring new maestro Rodrigo takes over the New York Symphony while young oboist Hailey waits for her big chance. This show is fresh and sarcastic. It's beautiful because of the performance, the music, and the genius of "Rodrigo," the Maestro.

Silicon Valley (2014-) follows the struggle of Richard Hendricks, a Silicon Valley engineer trying to build his own company called Pied Piper. I've been very impressed with this series since I saw the pilot episode. A lot of laughs, very precise for the freaky world of programmers and characters, are normal.

The Marvelous Miss Maisel (2017-) focuses on Miriam Maisel, an energetic and sharp Jewish girl whose perfect life is turned upside down when her husband suddenly leaves her for another woman. It's when she accidentally stumbles upon the stage of a comedy club and soon discovers her comedy skills.

Mini-Story

Speaking Practice

Answer the questions aloud with short and quick responses. Repeat the Mini-Story several times to improve your speaking and listening.

Jamie's biggest hobby is watching TV.

Does Jamie have a hobby?
Yes, Jamie's favorite hobby is watching TV.

Does Jamie like TV?
Yes, he likes TV. In fact, watching TV is his favorite hobby.

What's Jamie's favorite hobby?

Eating fries?
No. No. Jamie's favorite hobby is not eating fries. His favorite hobby is watching TV.

Who watches TV as a hobby?
Jamie. Jamie watches TV as a hobby.

What's Jamie's favorite hobby?
Watching TV. Jamie's favorite hobby is watching TV.

He watches 88 shows a week.

Does Jamie watch any programs?
Yes. Jamie watches some programs. In fact, he watches 88 programs a week.

How many programs does he watch?
Eighty-eight. Jamie watches 88 programs a week.

What kind of programs?

Radio programs?
No. Not radio. They are television programs.

Does Jamie watch 88 programs a month?
No, not a month. He follows them every week.

Who watches the programs?
Jamie. Jamie watches them.

He has a TV in every room of his house.

Does Jamie have TVs at home?
Yes. Jamie has TVs at home. He has one in each room.

What does Jamie have?

Radios?
No. No radios. Jamie has a TV in every room of his house.

Where does Jamie have the TVs?
In every room. He has them in every room.

Does he only have them in the kitchen?
No, no. He has them in every room. He has one in each room.

Where are Jamie's rooms?
At home. The TVs are in the rooms, and the rooms are in his house.

In the dining room, he has four TVs, and he watches four channels at the same time.

Does Jamie have 5 TVs in the dining room?
No. Not five. Jamie has four TVs.

Does Jamie have four TVs in the kitchen?
No! Not in the kitchen. He has four of them in the dining room.

Where does he keep them?
In the dining room. Jamie keeps them in the dining room. He also watches four channels at the same time.

Jamie watches so much TV because he's a TV critic.

What is Jamie's job?
He's a TV critic. He works as a television critic. That's his job.

What's Jamie?

An astronaut?
No, he's not an astronaut. He's a television critic.

Why does Jamie watch so much TV?
Because he's a television critic.

Is he a television critic?
Yes. Jamie watches TV for many hours because he's a television critic. That's his job.

Thanks for listening, and I'll see you in the next episode.

Review

Vocabulary from This Episode

Review the most useful words and expressions before listening again.

01 Subtitles
Written text on the screen showing what characters are saying.

02 Plot
The main story or sequence of events in a film or TV show.

03 Accent
A particular way of pronouncing a language associated with a region or group.

04 Omnipotent
Having unlimited power; the episode uses the word to describe the Star Trek character Q.

05 Prestigious
Highly respected or admired.

06 College dropout
A person who leaves college before finishing a degree.

07 Take revenge
To harm or punish someone in return for something they did.

08 Afterlife
A life or existence believed to continue after death.

Continue your speaking practice

Build fluency with **guided audio lessons** and mini-stories.
Explore my Premium Courses >

Georgiana
Founder of Speak English Now Podcast
SpeakEnglishPodcast.com