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Episode #084

Friends (TV Show)

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Hello, everybody! I am Georgiana, your English teacher and founder of SpeakEnglishPodcast.com. My mission is to help you speak English fluently. Speaking English is easier than it seems! You just have to use the right material and techniques.

Hey, do you watch **TV series** to practice your English? Let's talk about that. One of the most popular series of all time is...can you guess it? No, it's not House of Cards. Let me give you a hint: Currently, it's the most-watched **TV show** on **Netflix**. Still, not a clue? Well, I'm talking about "**Friends**." You know: Rachel and Ross, Monica and Chandler, Joey and Phoebe. Right?

Not only is "**Friends**" entertaining, but also it's an excellent resource for improving your **informal English** by learning **tons of phrasal verbs** and **slang**.

In this episode, I'd like to talk about this **TV show**. By the way, I recently rewatched all the seasons in a row. That's called **binge-watching**. And boy, how I enjoyed it!

Apparently, when you are **binge-watching** your favorite show, your brain is continually producing dopamine, so it becomes an addiction.

The TV show has ten seasons, and the duration of each episode is 30 minutes. And I guess half an hour is more than enough. Besides, that makes it even more addictive. As the episodes are short, you end up watching 3 or 5 in a row.

Some say that "**Friends**" is still one of the most popular television series of all time for a reason: **it's not just a TV show; it's a way of life**. And that may be true.

Regardless of your age, gender, and nationality, you should watch this TV show. It's the perfect excuse to learn English and learn new expressions and have fun!

Before we continue with the mini-story, I'd like to share with you two of the most popular expressions from "**Friends**".

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THE FRIEND ZONE

The expression "friend zone" is used to point out that one person wants to become involved romantically, but the other person just wants to be friends.

For example:

"I really like you, but what we already have—it's so good, and we don't wanna ruin it."

WE WERE ON A BREAK

If you've watched the show, you know Rachel and Ross went out in the second season until they broke up because of a misunderstanding.

Rachel told Ross she'd like to take a break from the relationship, and Ross ended up being unfaithful to her. Ross, on the other hand, repeated throughout the show that **they were on a break**.

"Being on a break" is used when a person needs time to make some changes in his or her life. Maybe they're just stressed out and need some time alone. However, this expression is often used when things are not going well in a relationship.

Mini-Story

(Practice your Speaking)

Great! Now, you can practice with a mini-story. You will be able to go over this vocabulary we saw in the first section.

A mini-story is very simple. I give you information using phrases, and then I ask you questions.

I recommend that you listen several times until it's easy to answer.

Let's start!

Friends was originally called Insomnia Cafe.

Was the TV show originally called "Sleepy Cafe"?

No. No. The TV show wasn't originally called "Sleepy Cafe. It was called "Insomnia Cafe."

What TV show was originally called "Insomnia Cafe"?

The TV show Friends. Friends was originally called "Insomnia Cafe."

Was the TV show finally called "Insomnia Cafe" or "Friends"?

No. It wasn't called "Insomnia Cafe." The TV show was finally called "Friends."

The cast made a trip to Las Vegas together before the show was aired and before they became famous.

Did the cast take a trip to Las Vegas together to get married?

No. No. The cast didn't take a trip to Las Vegas to get married. They took a trip to Las Vegas before they became famous.

Where did the cast take a trip to?

To Las Vegas. The cast took a trip to Las Vegas.

When did that happen? Before or after the show was aired?

Before the show was aired, the cast made a trip to Las Vegas before the show was aired.

Did the cast become famous after or before taking the trip to Las Vegas?

After they took the trip to Las Vegas, the cast became famous.

The character Phoebe didn't know how to play the guitar.

Was Phoebe a bad guitar teacher?

No. No. Phoebe wasn't a bad guitar teacher. She wasn't a teacher.

Did Phoebe know how to play the violin?

No. Phoebe didn't know how to play the violin. And she didn't know how to play the guitar either.

The TV show was filmed in front of a live audience except for the cliff-hangers.

Was the TV show filmed in front of an audience?

Yes. The TV show was filmed in front of a live audience.

When was the show filmed without an audience?

The show was filmed without an audience except for the **cliff-hangers**.

(A **cliff-hanger** is a situation of great importance, where two opposite results are possible, and it is not known what the result will be until the last moment.)

Was the audience alive when they filmed the TV show?

Yes, of course, they were. They weren't zombies. That would be a different program.

They were the first TV cast to negotiate the salary as a group.

Were they the first TV can to negotiate individually or as a group?

No. No. They didn't negotiate individually. They negotiated as a group.

What did they negotiate as a group? The amount of coffee they could have for free?

No. No. They didn't negotiate the amount of coffee they could have for free.

They negotiated the salary as a group.

Who negotiated as a group? The cast or the producers?

The cast. The producers didn't negotiate for the salary of the cast.

The orange sofa that appears in many scenes was found in the basement of Warner Studios.

What color was the sofa that appears in many scenes?

Orange. The color of the sofa that appears in many scenes is orange.

Where was the sofa found?

The sofa was found in the basement of Warner Studios.

Did the sofa negotiate a good salary?

No. No. Unfortunately, the sofa couldn't negotiate a good salary because it's an object.

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Perfect! It's the end of this mini-story. As you can see, through questions and answers you can practice and improve your speech.
If you want to get hours of audio with mini-stories and point of view lessons, I'd like to recommend to you my **Fluency Course**.

You can get it at SpeakEnglishPodcast.com/fluency

Well, I think that's enough for today. Try to listen to this content several times.

I'll see you next week!

Take care! Bye! Bye!



Georgiana

founder of SpeakEnglishPodcast.com

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