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

Episode #192

How to avoid uncomfortable
conversations in English

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Hi, everybody! I am Georgiana, your English teacher and founder of SpeakEnglishPodcast.com. My mission is to help you speak English fluently.

Today, in this episode:

- We're going to continue to see some **bad strategies that I don't recommend in conversations.**
- Next, you will practice some grammar in an intuitive way with a point of view lesson.

Okay. First of all, thank you very much for listening to this podcast. Many of you send me messages explaining that my lessons help you a great deal.

Thank you for following me! If you want to help me make the podcast even more popular, please write a review or share the podcast on social media.

On **iTunes**, you can "**Tap to rate**" in order to rate the podcast and give it 10 stars. I'm kidding. The maximum rate is 5 stars. Also, take a minute and **write** an honest **review**.

Okay, let's start!

If you remember, last week, we saw some unwise ways to interact in a conversation.

Today we are going to continue with more things that we should not say or do when you have a conversation in English.

This is what we saw in the previous episode:

- Talking about the **weather**.
- **Not listening** to the other person.
- Talking **too fast**, too **softly**, **not articulating well**, or **not pausing**.
- Talking about **negative** things.
- Talking about **boring** things.
- And my favorite: **messing up**. Remember, I told you how easy it is to mess up? That's why we always have to be careful.

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If you didn't listen to the previous episode, I suggest you do it along with this one.

Cool! Let's look at some more bad strategies. This way, you can avoid having **uncomfortable conversations** in the future.

Interrupt others.

Interrupting someone always has its risks, especially in more formal settings or with people we don't know.

I don't like being interrupted at all, especially since I can lose track of what I was saying. This means that sometimes I don't remember exactly what I was going to say.

Of course, the worst thing is when they interrupt you to change the subject. Sometimes you just want to finish what you want to say, but they won't let you. Imagine you're telling a joke, and someone interrupts you. That completely ruins the moment.

Okay, let's move on to the next one:

Always wanting to be right.

It's a classic. We always want to be right, even with strangers. We always know best. However, it's better to be diplomatic and not try to impose on others.

Sometimes someone says something we know is not true. We have to evaluate whether it is worth correcting that person or simply expressing our disagreement. It all depends on the type of relationship we have with that person and whether different opinions are accepted.

Of course, if it is a brainstorming session, different points of view must be expressed. After all, this is the goal of the exercise.

Okay, let's see the next one:

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Stay away from sensitive or controversial topics.

If you don't know the other person, it's better not to have a conversation about potentially polemical topics such as politics, diverse ideologies or even sports (in some countries soccer is almost a religion). So be careful with that topic. Today we live in an era where any minimal controversy can trigger major conflict. So, it is better to stay away from anything that is potentially controversial.

Something you should never do is...

Showing off

Showing off your car, your country, your economic status, how much weight you can lift at the gym, etc. is not usually a good subject to discuss with someone you hardly know. You are, in a way, making a comparison. I guess it's better to be humble and avoid taking too many risks.

Let's see another one:

Talking about only one thing.

Sometimes, we just talk about the same thing over and over again. The other person, even if they're bored, might actually pretend to be interested in what you're saying. And so, you'll keep going on about the same subject until the person falls asleep. I know I'm exaggerating a bit, although I'm sure it's happened before.

So, don't just talk about one topic, try changing the subject every now and then, just in case.

Let's look at the next one:

Talking too much or too little.

On the other hand, there are people who, when they speak, they do so very briefly.

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For example:

- Hello, my name is John, and you?
- Georgiana
- What a great party, right?
- Yeah.
- So, how was your day?
- It was good.
-

As you can see, it's not very nice to be with someone like that. Nor should you do the opposite, which is to talk endlessly. Moderation is the most important thing.

Okay, last one:

Do not overdo it.

If we don't trust the other person, it's better not to overdo it. Don't try to be too funny with inappropriate jokes, or using sarcasm.

For example:

- Hello, my name is John, and you?
- I'm not.
- You don't... What?
- My name is not John.

Well, now we know a little bit more about what to avoid in conversations. Most of these things I think are common sense.

Ok, Let's continue with a point of view story.

By the way, on my website, you can get the text of this episode and much more.

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POV Story

(practice your grammar)

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Okay, now let's move on to the point of view lesson. This will allow you to practice grammar intuitively and without memorizing anything.

I'm going to tell you the same story twice, but change some grammar the second time. In this way, you will be able to observe how a given grammatical aspect changes.

This is a technique that I use intensively in my courses.

You just have to listen and enjoy :)

Let's start!

First, I'll tell the story in the first person in the past tense:

My refrigerator broke, and I needed a new one. So I thought I'd go to the nearest appliance store. I was a little nervous because I didn't want the food to spoil.

I drove my car to the place and parked nearby. I entered the store quickly and saw someone I assumed was an employee. I didn't know what refrigerator to buy, so I asked him about the models on display there.

The employee told me that he didn't know much about refrigerators and therefore couldn't help me.

I was angry because I thought the store had terrible service. How could a shop assistant not be able to give me advice!

A customer had to be able to ask about the differences between the models they were selling!

However, something happened. I realized that this so-called shop assistant didn't work there. He was simply a customer like me.

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Given the situation I was in, I was very embarrassed. Since then, I try not to assume anything, and if a shop assistant asks me if I need help, I ask him if he is a customer. And they always look surprised.

Now, the same story in the second person in the past tense:

Your refrigerator broke, and you needed a new one. So, you thought you'd go to the nearest appliance store. You were a little nervous because you didn't want the food to spoil.

You drove your car to the place and parked nearby. You rushed into the store and saw someone you assumed was a shop assistant.

Since you didn't know which refrigerator to buy, you asked him about the models on display there. The employee answered that he did not know much about refrigerators and, therefore, could not help you.

You got angry because you thought the store had lousy service. How could a shop assistant not be able to give you advice! A customer had to be able to ask questions about the differences between the models they were selling!

However, something happened. You realized that this so-called shop assistant didn't work there. He was simply a customer like you.

Given the situation you've experienced, you were very embarrassed.

Since then, you try not to make assumptions, and if a shop assistant asks you if you need help, you ask him if he is a customer. I don't know why they always look surprised. :)

Perfect! It's the end of this point of view lesson. Have you seen the power of point of view technique? We have checked a lot of grammar by merely using the same story. It's very easy to compare the different structures because you compare them in parallel.

Let me ask you something. Is my podcast helping you with your English?

Though the podcast is a useful resource, because of time limitations, I can hardly develop these lessons, although they allow you to try out my method.

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Well, that's all for today.

I will be back next week!
Bye! Bye!



Georgiana

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