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Episode #204

Flaws in English #2

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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.

In this episode:

- We continue with the flaws in English. We're going to learn four more words.
- In part two, you'll practice grammar with a point of view lesson.

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Last week I talked about flaws. Unlike **virtues**, flaws are undesirable characteristics of someone's personality.

I talked about this:

Stinginess: when you don't ever want to spend money.

Indifference: When you have no interest or empathy for something or someone.

Intransigence: When you are rigid in your positions and never make concessions.

Gossip: When you are indiscreet in talking about others.

Today we are going to look at four more flaws.

Let's start!

#1 Greed

In a previous episode, I talked about **stinginess**. If you remember, it means trying not to spend money. Well, we have another word that may have some relation. I'm talking about the word **greed**. A greedy person desires to possess and acquire wealth to keep it. For sure, a stingy person can also be **greedy**, although not necessarily.

The idea is to accumulate wealth. Let's look at an **example**:

"Although their offer isn't very appealing, I have to be careful not to be **greedy** and spoil everything."

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#2 Envy

Ah, **envy**. It is the feeling of longing or resentment caused by another person's possessions, qualities, or good fortune. That is, an **envious** person feels bad when someone else has or gets something beneficial or desirable.

Example:

- Look at Tom and his new car. How did he afford it? I wish I had a car like that.
- Maybe you're a little **envious**.
- Me? **Envious**? No. It's just that I am a better driver than he is.

Sometimes **envy** can stimulate **greed**.

Let's continue!

#3 Unpunctuality

Who hasn't been **unpunctual** at some time? Being **unpunctual** -or being late- regularly can be quite annoying to others, as it is a waste of their time.

I love being **punctual** and appreciate it when others are more or less punctual. However, I have a friend who is always twenty minutes late. I guess she has no understanding of time management.

Okay, let's look at the following example:

"Alice, this is the fourth day in a row that you have been **unpunctual** for work."

#4 Narcissism

I once read that the most common type of photo is a selfie. And no wonder. It seems that many have an inflated sense of self. And this leads them to have a deep need for excessive attention and admiration. Especially young people tend to get depressed if they don't get enough "likes" on their videos or photos.

Example:

A **narcissist** meets a girl in a bar, and after talking for two hours about himself, he says to her, "Well, but

let's not talk about me anymore, let's talk about you. What do you think of me?"

Okay. Today you've learned some more vocabulary regarding **flaws**. The list is huge, but we don't want to overdo it.

By the way, if you want to know how to **speak English** using the right techniques, visit SpeakEnglishPodcast.com and subscribe to my mailing list. **I will send you my five golden rules to speak English fluently. And it's completely free.**

Okay! Now it's time for you to learn grammar in context with a point of view story.

Point of View Story

(learn grammar in context)

I'll tell you a short story more than one time. Every time, I'll change a grammar point. I can change the tense or the person. This way, you'll notice the changes in context.

First, in the past tense:

Bill was one of the stingiest people in the whole world. He always tried to spend as little as possible. For example, he slept on a side because he thought this way it would wear out the sheets less. One of the things he liked to do was going fishing. His neighbor would lend him the boat and rod. That way he didn't have to buy anything.

One cold winter day Bill went to a fishing lake. At one point he got up to get his rod ready and a coin fell out of his pocket. He was so unlucky that the coin fell into the lake.

Bill figured that just one coin was not worth jumping into the cold water to fetch it.

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So he pulled out a second coin and threw it into the lake, and said to himself, "Now, two coins are worth jumping into the water!"

Now imagine it's Bill's friend telling what happened, also in the past tense:

Bill, you were one of the stingiest people in the whole world. You always tried to spend as little as possible. For example, you slept on a side because you thought this way it would wear out the sheets less. One of the things you liked to do was going fishing. Your neighbor would lend you the boat and rod. That way you didn't have to buy anything.

One cold winter day you went to a fishing lake. At one point you got up to get your rod ready and a coin fell out of your pocket. You were so unlucky that the coin fell into the lake.

You thought that just one coin was not worth jumping into the cold water to fetch it.

So you pulled out a second coin and threw it into the lake, and said to yourself, "Now, two coins are worth jumping into the water!"

Okay! That's the end of this little exercise. Notice that the changes between grammar points are subtle but important.

My advice is not to try to memorize grammar rules. It's better to see the changes in the proper context. With a story it is much easier to remember all this.

It is one of the techniques that I use in my [premium courses](#).

I recommend you to you take a look at: SpeakEnglishPodcast.com/courses

Ok! We have reached the end of this episode.

Remember to listen to it several times. It will help you with your English.

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That would mean a lot to me. Thanks.

See you soon! Bye! Bye!



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