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Episode #355

Ep. 1 State Name Series Southeast

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Are you ready for a trip through the United States?
Pack your bags — because today we're starting a
special journey!

Hi! I'm Georgiana, and I'm back with a new episode of
the *Speak English Now* podcast—the podcast that
helps you speak English fluently, with no grammar
and no textbooks.

Before we start, you can get the transcript at
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And if you enjoy this episode, please share it with
your friends. Thank you!

This is the first episode of a four-part series all about
state names.

Yes, every state in the US has a story, and many of
them are funny, surprising, or full of history.

In this first episode, we'll travel to the Southeast:
Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama.
Next time, we'll continue our trip to the Northeast,
then to the Midwest, and finally we'll finish in the
West and Southwest.

So, stay with me, and let's discover why some states
are named after kings, others after flowers, and even
some after Native American villages.

Let's go on a little trip together. Don't worry — no
passport, no suitcase. We're going to the Southeast of
the United States.

The Southeast is famous for many things: warm
breezes, sandy beaches, country music, and... fried
chicken. (Yes, food always makes a trip better, right?)
But today, we're not eating. We're learning about the
names of the states. And believe me, these names
have some fun stories behind them.

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Florida

Let's start with Florida. When you hear "Florida," what do you imagine? Palm trees? Disney World? Retired people playing golf? Yeah, me too.

But here's the real story: many years ago, Spanish explorers arrived in this land. It was springtime — Easter. In Spanish, Easter is called *Pascua Florida*, which means "Feast of Flowers."

So they looked around and thought: "Flowers everywhere! Okay, let's call it Florida." Simple, right?

And honestly, Florida does feel like a giant garden... except with more alligators. And mosquitoes! "Feast of Flowers?" More like a "feast on me."

Georgia

Next stop: Georgia. And no, not the country near Russia — we're still in the US.

This Georgia was named after King George II of England. Can you imagine? A whole state named after you.

I mean, I'd be happy if someone named a cupcake after me, but a state? That's next level! Although Georgia and Georgiana are quite similar. :)

And Georgia is also famous for peaches. Sweet, juicy peaches. That's why they call it "The Peach State." So, King George gets the credit, but really, the peaches are the stars.

Tennessee

Now let's head to Tennessee.

The name comes from "Tanasi," a Cherokee village. The Cherokee were Native Americans who lived in that area long before Europeans arrived.

Today, when people say Tennessee, they think of music. Nashville, country songs, guitars, Elvis... okay, Elvis was from Mississippi, but close enough.

Either way, music is everywhere in Tennessee. Have you ever listened to country music?

Alabama

And finally, Alabama.

The name comes from the Creek language. It may mean "people who gather plants" or "people who clear the land." Pretty cool, right? It shows us how the first people used and shaped the land.

Today, Alabama is green, full of forests and rivers. If Florida is beaches, and Tennessee is music, then Alabama is all about nature.

Wrap-up

So, what did we learn today?

Florida: named by Spanish explorers during Easter.

Georgia: named after King George II — but peaches steal the show.

Tennessee: from a Cherokee village — now all about music.

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Alabama: from the Creek language — connected to nature.

See? State names aren't just names. They're little history lessons.

Which one is your favorite? Flowers, peaches, music, or forests?

Now, let's practice with a **point of view story**.

Point of View-Story

(Learn Grammar)

Now, let's practice with a **Point of View Story**.
I will tell you the same story, but in different points of view. This will help you practice grammar in a natural way.

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Let's start!

Last summer, Emma decided to take a road trip through the Southeast of the United States.

Her first stop was Florida. She imagined flowers, beaches, and palm trees. But instead of relaxing, she spent most of the time running from mosquitoes.

“Feast of Flowers?” Emma said. “More like a feast on me.” Florida means “flowery land” in

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Spanish. But for her, it felt more like “mosquito land.”

Then, she drove to Georgia. She couldn’t wait to try the peaches. She bought a giant peach pie... but forgot it in the car. The hot sun turned it into peach soup. Not exactly the sweet memory she wanted.

Next, Emma went to Tennessee. She expected country music on every street corner. But when she walked into a store, the speakers blasted heavy metal. Emma covered her ears and shouted: “Is this really Tennessee?”

Finally, she arrived in Alabama. She wanted to enjoy nature, the forests, and the rivers. But she got lost in the woods. After two hours, she finally found her car and collapsed in laughter.

When she returned home, her friends asked: “So, Emma, how was your trip to the Southeast?”

Emma smiled and said: “Well, Florida ate me, Georgia cooked me, Tennessee confused me, and Alabama lost me. But hey... at least now I’ll never forget the state names!”

Let's listen to the story in the Future Tense:

Next summer, I will take a road trip through the Southeast of the United States.

My first stop will be Florida. I’ll imagine flowers, beaches, and palm trees. But instead of relaxing, I’ll spend most of the time running from mosquitoes.

“Feast of Flowers?” I’ll say. “More like a feast

on me.” Florida means “flowery land” in Spanish. But for me, it will feel more like “mosquito land.”

Then, I will drive to Georgia. I’ll be excited to try the peaches. I’ll buy a giant peach pie... but I’ll forget it in the car. The hot sun will turn it into peach soup. Not exactly the sweet memory I want.

Next, I will go to Tennessee. I’ll expect country music on every street corner. But when I walk into a store, the speakers will blast heavy metal. I’ll cover my ears and shout: “Is this really Tennessee?”

Finally, I will arrive in Alabama. I’ll want to enjoy nature, the forests, and the rivers. But I’ll get lost in the woods. After two hours, I’ll finally find my car and collapse in laughter.

When I return home, my friends will ask: “So, how was your trip to the Southeast?”

I’ll smile and say:

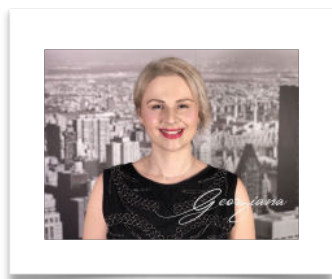
“Well, Florida will eat me, Georgia will cook me, Tennessee will confuse me, and Alabama will lose me. But hey... at least I’ll never forget the state names!

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Georgiana

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