EPISODE 391

# How English Helps You See More of the World

Full transcript · point of view · vocabulary review

Hi, everybody!

I'm Georgiana, your English teacher and founder of SpeakEnglishPodcast.com.

Have you ever heard a news story and wished you knew a little more?

Maybe you first heard about it in your own language.

But English can give you another way to learn about the same event.

You can read another report or listen to an interview from somewhere else.

Then you can compare it with the news you already know.

I do not mean that English reports are always right.

No language has all the facts.

But English can give you more choices.

And more choices can help you understand a story better.

That is useful, right?

Let's try an example.

Say your town is planning a new train line.

One report tells you which streets may close during the work.

Another report talks about people who hope the train will make their trip easier.

Both reports can be true, but they give different perspectives.

A perspective is simply a way of seeing something.

The news coverage is what different reports say about an event.

Now, does an English report have to be more reliable?

No, of course not.

The language does not tell you if a report is true.

So let's ask a few simple questions when we read or watch something.

First, who made it, and when?

A reliable source usually tells you where its information came from.

Next, what is the main claim?

A claim is something someone says is true.

Can you verify it by checking another source or an official page?

Can you find evidence to support it?

And what is the context?

A video may be real but leave out what happened before.

A photo might be real but come from another year or another town.

That missing information can make a post misleading.

Some news stories may also show bias.

That means they favor one side or leave out other views.

When possible, look for a primary source.
That is the original information, like a city plan or an interview with a person involved.
Try not to make an assumption before you check the details.
You are just learning how different people see the same event.
That can broaden your perspective.
Here's a simple way to compare what you find.
Imagine there is a big storm near your town.
You see a short post in your own language.
It says some roads are closed.
First, check when the post was made.
A road that was closed this morning may be open now.
Next, look for information in English.
You may find a local news site or an update from the city.
Now compare the details.
Do both name the same roads?
Do they give the same time?
Does one explain why the roads are closed?
Maybe the city update has the newest information.
Maybe the news report includes comments from people who are waiting.
Each source may help you understand a different part of the event.
If they do not agree, you do not have to choose right away.
You can look for a newer update.
You can check the city's own page.
You can wait until more information is available.
That is not a failure.
It is a careful choice.
You can use this method with many stories.
Start with the main facts.
Check the date.
Then ask yourself, "What do I still want to know?"
You do not need to read every article online.
You can compare two clear sources and take your time.
You can also look up one word that is new to you.
Maybe that word changes how the event sounds.
Listen to the sentence again.
Look at how another article describes the same thing.
You may not understand everything.
That's okay.
First, try to understand the big idea.
Then notice what each one explains.
Maybe one gives a number.
Maybe the other tells how people feel.

Both details can help you picture what happened.
And if you feel confused, stop for a moment.
You can come back later.
English gives you one more place to look.
You can use that extra information to make up your own mind.
Okay, let's practice with a short story.
And yes, it has a very strange lake monster.
First, I'll tell the story in the present tense and use "I."
Then I'll tell it again in the future tense and use "you."
Just listen and notice what changes.

# Point of View

## Grammar in Context

Listen to the same story twice. Notice how the point of view and tense change naturally.

### First, the present tense.

I see a post with a huge claim: "Lake monster spotted!"
I watch the video, but I can only see a dark shape in the water.
I want to verify the claim, so I read the local news.
Then I find an English article about a giant yellow sculpture coming to town.
The article says the sculpture is part of a summer art festival.
The two stories give different perspectives.
One talks about a strange shape, and the other explains the festival.
I look for a reliable source and find the festival page.
It is a primary source because it comes from the people running the event.
The page has the original photo, and that is the evidence I need.
And there it is: the lake monster is a giant rubber duck wearing sunglasses!
The video is real, but it leaves out the context.
It shows only a close-up, so the post is misleading.
The duck does not eat fish.
It floats beside them.
I stop and check before I make an assumption.
I expect a monster, and I find a duck in sunglasses.

### Now, the future tense and the second person.

You will see a post with a huge claim: "Lake monster spotted!"
You will watch the video, but you will only see a dark shape in the water.
You will want to verify the claim, so you will read the local news.
Then you will find an article in English about a giant yellow sculpture coming to town.
The article will say the sculpture will be part of a summer art festival.
The two stories will give you different perspectives.
One will talk about a strange shape, and the other will explain the festival.

You will look for a reliable source and find the festival page.
It will be a primary source because it will come from the people running the event.
The page will have the original photo, and that will be the evidence you need.
And there it will be: the lake monster will be a giant rubber duck wearing sunglasses!
The video will be real, but it will leave out the context.
It will show only a close-up, so the post will be misleading.
The duck will not eat fish.
It will float beside them.
You will stop and check before you make an assumption.
You will expect a monster, and you will get a duck in sunglasses.
Very good.
The story stayed almost the same, but the point of view and tense changed.
Listen to both versions again and notice the changes.
You do not need to analyze every word.
Just listen and let your brain notice the patterns.

**Review**

# Vocabulary from This Episode

Let's quickly review the useful words from today.

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|---|---|
| 01 **perspective**<br>a way someone sees or thinks about something. | 02 **news coverage**<br>what different sources say about an event. |
| 03 **reliable source**<br>a source you can usually trust. | 04 **claim**<br>something someone says is true. |
| 05 **to verify**<br>to check if something is true. | 06 **context**<br>extra information that helps explain a story. |
| 07 **bias**<br>a preference for one side that can affect how facts are shown. | 08 **misleading**<br>giving you the wrong idea or leaving out important facts. |
| 09 **evidence**<br>information that helps show if a claim is true. | 10 **primary source**<br>original information about an event. |
| 11 **assumption**<br>something you believe before you check it. | 12 **broaden your perspective**<br>to learn about more views. |

When you know English, you can learn about an event from more than one source.
You can compare what you read in English with the news in your own language.
Then you have more information to think about.
You do not need to understand every word.
Listen to English you understand, and listen more than once.
Little by little, English will feel more familiar.
Thanks for listening, and I'll see you next time.
Continue your speaking practice

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