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With No ~~Grammar~~ and No ~~Textbooks~~!

Episode #059

THE PUNCTUALITY

THE BENEFITS OF READING AND LISTENING

Hi, everyone! I'm Georgiana, your online English teacher. My mission is to help you to speak English fluently. Speaking English is way easier when you use the right material and techniques.

- In the first part of this lesson I'll talk about **punctuality**.
- In the second part, you will practice your spoken English with a mini-story.
- And in the last section I'll mention the **benefits** of **reading** and **listening**.

"Hi, are we meeting at 5:00 p.m. to go to the movies? "
"Yes, of course! No problem. "
"I'll see you then at 5 pm, **sharp**! Just be **punctual** this time! The movie starts on time."

This would be a typical conversation between two friends. Unfortunately, for some people, **punctuality** is something, let's say, flexible. I particularly like to be very **punctual**, and if I meet a friend, I always arrive a few minutes early.

Punctuality: It's when we arrive somewhere on time.
Someone **unpunctual** doesn't arrive on time.
Sharp means exactly on time.

If you hang out with friends it's ok if you're 5 minutes late. It's best to arrive exactly on time, but very few people arrive exactly on time. Besides, it's not the same whether someone is waiting for you outdoors or in a coffee shop. Of course if you have a meeting with a client, or it's business related, it's better to be **punctual**.

When you are late it's best to inform people that you won't be there on time, so send a message or just call.
By the way, this is the typical phrase used by people who are late.
"Have you been waiting long?"
Here the honest answer should be:
"I've been waiting since the time we agreed to meet! :)

Talking about **unpunctuality**, I have an incredibly **unpunctual** friend.
I remember that one day we met at 8 pm to have dinner at a new fancy restaurant. I knew she wouldn't be there on time so I made a reservation half an hour later. After waiting for about one hour I decided do give her a call to find out if she was on her way. Guess what? She was still about 40 miles away so she couldn't make it in time for dinner.
That night I ended up having dinner alone. Luckily the food was absolutely delicious :)

Mini-Story 📖

(improve your speaking)

Great!

Now, you can practice with a mini-story. You'll be able to go over the 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. Just relax and enjoy!

Let's start!

Brian wasn't punctual because he was always late.
Was Brian punctual?
No. Brian wasn't punctual. He was always late.
Was Brian sometimes late?
No. Brian wasn't sometimes late. He was always late.
Was Brian unpunctual?
Yes, he was. He was unpunctual.
Was Brian late?
Yes, he was late.
Why was Brian unpunctual?
Because he was late. Brian was unpunctual because he was late.
Who was late?
Brian. Brian was late. It was very unpunctual.

Brian was always 7 hours late.
Was Brian late?
Yes, he was late.
Was he 5 hours late?
No. He wasn't five hours late. He was seven hours late.
Why was Brian unpunctual?
Because he was 7 hours late. He was unpunctual because he was 7 hours late.
Was Brian always 7 hours late?
Always. He was always seven hours late.

Brian's friends were very angry because he was late!
Did Brian's friends get angry?

Yes, they got very angry. They were angry because Brian was late.
Did Brian's friends get very angry?
Yes, Brian's friends were very angry. They got very angry.
Whose friends got angry?
Brian's friends. Brian's friends got very angry.
Why did they get angry?
Because Brian was late. That's why they got angry.

Brian always said, "Have you been waiting long?
Did Brian say, "Have you been waiting for a short time?
No, he didn't say that. Brian didn't say that. He said, "Have you been waiting long?
Who said that?
Brian. Brian said that.
Who did Brian say that to? His friends?
Yes, to his friends. He said that to his friends. Brian was always late and said that.
Did Brian say that to his enemies?
No, not his enemies. To his friends. He said that to his friends.

Brian's friends solved the problem by also arriving 7 hours late.
Did Brian's friends solve the problem?
Yes, they solved the problem. They solved the problem.
What did they solve?
The problem. Brian's friends solved the problem by also arriving 7 hours late.
Did they solve the problem by arriving sooner?
No. They didn't solve the problem by arriving sooner. They solved the problem by arriving 7 hours late.
How many hours?
Seven. By arriving seven hours late.

Perfect. This is the end of the story. Brian was always seven hours late. Always. Then, his friends solved the problem by arriving seven hours late too. This way, everyone arrived at the same time.

Let's continue with the next and last section of this episode.

The Benefits of reading listening.

In this last part I'll explain the benefits of **reading** and **listening** and the relationship among reading, writing, speaking and listening.

As a language student, the main activities to learn a new language are**:
reading, writing, listening and speaking**. This is what we naturally do in our mother tongue.

One key aspect to keep in mind is that we can categorize these activities as **input** and **output**. As you may guess, listening and reading are input activities, and writing and speaking are output activities.

In other words, when you're listening or reading, you are being exposed to the language, and when you're writing and speaking, you are "producing" the language.

The traditional approach tells you that the more you write and speak, the better. That's why language schools insist on writing a lot and "practicing" your speaking with other students, sometimes in groups.

This seems reasonable, but it's not effective. There's a lot of research that points out the contrary: Basically, in order to develop your English, you need to do **input activities** most of the time.

Why is that? Because you can't **produce** the language if you haven't previously **learned it**, and the only way to learn it is through **comprehensible input**, as simple as that.

But then...is speaking and writing a waste of time? No, I didn't say that.

When you speak in a conversation, you can see what areas of the language you need to improve. Then, when you listen again, you will naturally pay more attention to those areas. For example, if you're in a conversation, and you have to describe something in the past tense. When you try to do it, you see that you make some mistakes. The next day, when you listen to your materials again, I bet you'll pay more attention to the past.

A good schedule may be listening one hour a day (a course, a podcast, etc.) and practicing your speaking with a tutor or friend a couple of times a week. You will improve a lot.

Last but not least, there's an interesting consequence when you listen and when you read:

- **Listening** will naturally help you with your **speaking**.
- **Reading** will naturally help you with your **writing**.

So, if you are interested in developing your **speaking**, your fluency, you will need to **listen** a lot. Then you can practice with a friend or tutor. The same thing happens with reading and writing.
You can use this <u>podcast and my English courses</u> to improve your <u>listening comprehension</u> and your <u>speaking</u>.

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and get my free video course along with some samples of my Speak English Now courses.

All right, this episode ends right here.

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See you soon!

Georgiana

founder of SpeakEnglishPodcast.com