

# **Learning English Faster Podcast**

-No grammar, no lists to memorize, no textbooks-

**In this episode we will be discussing the following:**

- The problem with traditional English classes
- Different language learning options
- Short story

## **THE PROBLEM WITH TRADITIONAL ENGLISH CLASSES:**

Let's be honest, around 90% of students in traditional English courses cannot speak English. They spend countless hours learning grammar and memorizing lists of vocabulary and even if they get an A in the class, they still cannot have a simple conversation with a native English speaker. This is because learning grammar does not help you to speak fluently. If you want to learn a new language as quickly as possible, you need to develop your hearing. Another way to say the same thing is that you need to get used to hearing the new language and the best way to do this is by repetitive listening. When I was learning Spanish, I was frequently frustrated because I could not understand native speakers when they spoke, even though I knew the grammar and the vocabulary. The words just seemed to blend together and every sentence sounded like one very long word. This is because I had not yet developed my ear or my hearing. Fortunately, there is a solution to this problem.

## **DIFFERENT LANGUAGE LEARNING OPTIONS**

The way to develop your hearing or your ear is to listen, listen, and listen to English that is easy to understand. There are a few different ways to accomplish this goal. I will list these options in order of effectiveness, starting with the least effective.

- Movies

- Music

- News

- Television series

- Podcasts

- Podcasts specifically designed to help you learn English faster

Movies are fun to watch and I highly recommend that you do watch movies in English, but not until you are at an advanced level with your English. Movies have a lot of background noises and the voices of the different actors all vary, which means you never really get used to any one actor's style of speaking. Music is also a great way to expose yourself to more English in an entertaining way, but again I would recommend this for more advanced English students because the lyrics can be very difficult to understand, even for native speakers. Daily news is a better option because you can get a feel for what the story is about by watching the video, and you tend to get used to the style of the person presenting the news. However, I would hold off until you have at a high-intermediate level of English because it tends to be very fast. Television series are a good high-intermediate option because they are consistent in style of speech and you can usually turn on the subtitles. Although series are a better option, they still tend to have a lot of variation and distractions. Podcasts are generally easier to understand, have a very consistent style, and can be easily accessed in just about any environment, so they are a good option for intermediate learners. Of course, a podcast that is specifically designed using techniques based in context to help you learn English faster would be my top pick. However, I will point out that you will need a basic level of English vocabulary, even for this technique to be

effective. Fortunately, it is easy to develop a basic vocabulary in a very short period of time. I frequently recommend free online programs such as what you can find at [duolingo.com](https://www.duolingo.com) for learning basic vocabulary. However, these online programs will not help you to develop your hearing.

### **SHORT (TRUE) STORY:**

**After moving to Puerto Rico, David decided that it would be a good idea to learn Spanish. He started by learning list of common vocabulary words, but progress was very slow. He decided that he would learn grammar by using some expensive computer courses. Although they were very boring, he did learn a great deal of grammar with the computer programs and continued to learn more vocabulary, but he still could not think or speak in Spanish. One day David decided that he would learn best in a language school, so he traveled to Mexico to attend a language school for three months. Sadly, after three months of full-time class and spending thousands of dollars, he still could barely have a basic conversation with native Spanish speakers. David was so frustrated with his lack of success that he quit studying Spanish for a whole year. This is when he discovered an audio course using techniques based in context. David was able to develop his hearing and actually begin to think in Spanish. He realized that the problem was the language learning methods he was using and not his ability to learn a new language. David decided to develop his own audio courses utilizing the same methods to help people who are trying to learn English faster.**

*Now I will be telling part of the short story, to provide context. Then, I will ask you a very simple question about the story. There will be a short pause after each question. This is your chance to answer the question out loud, as if you were having a conversation with another person. Short one or two word answers are just fine.*

**After moving to Puerto Rico, David decided that it would be a good idea to learn Spanish.**

-Did David decide to learn Spanish before he moved to Puerto Rico?

No, David decided to learn Spanish after he moved to Puerto Rico.

**He started by learning list of common vocabulary words, but progress was very slow.**

-Did learning lists of vocabulary help David to learn Spanish quickly?

No, David was learning very slowly.

**He decided that he would learn grammar by using some expensive computer courses.**

-Did David try and learn grammar by using computer courses?

Yes, David decided to learn grammar by using some expensive computer courses.

**Although they were very boring, he did learn a great deal of grammar with the computer programs and continued to learn more vocabulary, but he still could not think or speak in Spanish.**

-Were the computer programs fun and helpful?

No, the computer programs were very boring and did not help David to think or speak in Spanish.

**One day David decided that he would learn best in a language school, so he traveled to Mexico to attend a language school for three months.**

-Did David try learning Spanish using a different method?

Yes, David tried to learn Spanish by attending a language school in Mexico for three months.

**Sadly, after three months of full-time class and spending thousands of dollars, he still could barely have a basic conversation with native Spanish speakers.**

-Did paying thousands of dollars to attend a language school in Mexico help David to speak in Spanish?

Sadly no, after traveling to Mexico and spending thousands of dollars, David could barely have a basic conversation with native Spanish speakers.

**David was so frustrated with his lack of success that he quit studying Spanish for a whole year.**

-Was David frustrated?

Yes, David was so frustrated that he quit studying Spanish for a whole year.

**This is when he discovered an audio course using techniques based in context.**

-What did David discover?

An audio course that uses techniques based in context.

**David was able to develop his hearing and actually begin to think in Spanish.**

-Did David begin to experience some success?

Yes, David was able to develop his hearing and actually begin to think in Spanish for the first time.

**He realized that the problem was the language learning methods he was using and not his ability to learn a new language.**

-What was the problem: David's ability to learn Spanish or the learning methods he was using?

The problem was that David was using the wrong learning methods.

**David decided to develop his own audio courses utilizing the same methods to help people who are trying to learn English faster.**

-Did David decide to develop his own courses using the same methods to help people learn the English language?

Yes, David decided to help other people learn English using the same methods that helped him to learn Spanish.

