

Notes for Using This Resource: Teachers

This podcast was created with advanced learners of English in mind, but it can certainly be useful even for students who are not yet at an advanced level. Because this is a natural conversation between native and near-native speakers of English, students may find some of the vocabulary challenging. It is not necessary for them to understand 100% of the conversation, but just to follow the main ideas and use the show notes to help them. You may wish to go over some or all of the vocabulary and other show notes before students listen to the conversation to prepare them for what they will hear.

There are many ways you can use this with your students. Of course, it can be great listening practice just as it is, but you can also create extension activities to go along with the listening. Here are a few ideas:

- After students have listened to the conversation one or more times as needed (since the conversations are in the 30-45 minute range, you would probably have them do this part on their own), put students in groups and have them discuss the questions in the Join the Conversation section.
- Use the same questions described above for journal writing prompts.
- Come up with comprehension questions based on the conversation.
- Have students further investigate a word or phrase from the conversation that was listed in the show notes and present what they learned to the class or in a group.
- Use as a springboard for a related reading topic or class discussion.
- Use the vocabulary from the show notes to form discussion questions. For example, some phrases from Episode 1 are: *picky*, *be hooked on*, *out of this world*. You could create discussion questions such as: Are you a picky eater? What things (food, clothes, etc.) are you picky about? What are some things, such as TV shows, activities, etc. that you have become hooked on? Describe something that you have eaten that was out of this world.
- Pair up students and assign them 4-5 words or phrases and have them write a dialogue using them.
- Ask students to look out (or listen out) for some of the words and phrases that were used in the conversation to see if they can find them in a reading or while listening to people talk. Students can write down notes about what they heard/saw and the context. This is a great way to make students aware of their learning and start noticing words and phrases used in everyday life that they hadn't paid attention to before.

As mentioned above, these conversations are real and unscripted, so some students may find that the pace a bit too fast for them. Note that if they listen to the audio from a Podcast app, they should have the option to slow down the speed 50%. They might find it helpful to listen one time at a slower speed, and then again at natural speed.

We hope you enjoy the conversations and that you will find them helpful to use with your students!

If you enjoyed these conversations and activities, you may be interested in the following resources for your upper intermediate and advanced English Language Learners:

