



Coffee and Conversation for ESL Listening



with Donielle and Khrystyna

Episode 1: Coffee Talk

Hi! Thank you so much for checking out our podcast! A quick background about us: Donielle and Khrystyna are ESL teachers who have realized that there is not enough material for advanced English learners, and in particular, it is extremely difficult to find authentic examples of conversation. We thought this would be a great way for students to practice listening skills and also learn some words and phrases that people naturally use when they are speaking. For more information about ways to use this podcast, download notes for [students](#) or [teachers](#).

We will also introduce cultural notes or grammar points as they come up during the conversation. Because the dialogue in each episode is unrehearsed, we listen to it afterward to create show notes with language and grammar points that we noticed during our conversation. You may wish to review the notes before listening to the conversation, or you can wait until the end if you prefer. On the last 2 pages of this document, you will find tips for English learners and teachers for using the podcast and the show notes. We hope you enjoy the conversation and the resources!

Oh, one more note about this episode: It was our very first, and unfortunately, we encountered some audio issues. Toward the end, you will notice that the sound is not great. However, we have fixed this problem for future episodes. Thank you for your understanding!

In today's episode Donielle and Khrystyna discuss their love of coffee and have a conversation about all things coffee related.

Here are a few words and phrases about coffee that you may find useful:

Talking about coffee preferences	How do you [like/take/drink] your coffee? -black (no cream or sugar) -with cream/with sugar
Talking about ordering in a coffee shop See this blog post I found with more great tips on ordering from a coffee shop!	I'll have a/an ____ [to go] [for here*] (Note that unless you are in a small, local café, you will normally be given a to-go cup unless you specify "for here.") *In some regions of the U.S. Northeast they say "to stay"
slang words for coffee	joe/cup of joe, java, cuppa, brew
café vs. cafeteria	This can be a bit confusing because in some languages, <i>café</i> means <i>coffee</i> , and <i>cafeteria</i> could be a place to drink coffee. However, in English the <u>place</u> is called a <i>café</i> or <i>coffee shop</i> . The word <i>cafeteria</i> is used for a lunchroom (e.g. in a factory, office, or school) where people buy food at a counter or vending machine or eat their own food they brought from home.

See the following pages for vocabulary and grammar focus from this episode.



Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

rub it in	To make someone feel worse about an already bad situation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is generally used in a joking way. They are usually making light of something not very serious, as for example the situation in this conversation about the fact that Khrystyna lives in a cold climate, while Donielle lives in a warmer area.
have/take a sip	to drink slowly by taking a small amount into your mouth
chitchat	friendly conversation about things that are not very important (short form: chat) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long form only when people are actually speaking; texting is always "chat"
come over	go to a person's home, usually for a social visit Ex. Do you want to <u>come over</u> for coffee this afternoon?
[get/be] hooked on [something]	very enthusiastic and interested in something Ex. That's when I <u>got hooked on</u> lattes and coffee with milk.
a chain	a business, such as a store or restaurant with multiple locations across the country or around the world.
Don't come at us	to come at someone = Make an aggressive move toward someone, usually physically, but in this case: don't sue us (take us to court)
have a soft spot [for something or someone]	have a strong liking for something, often with the idea of having a weakness and being unable to resist
coffee sleeve	the (usually) brown cardboard protector that you insert a to-go coffee cup into so that your hands won't get burned (also sometimes called a java jacket)
collage	a work of art that is made by attaching pieces of different materials (such as paper, cloth, or wood) to a flat surface
I'm with you there	I agree with you about that Ex. A - I like a local coffee shop better than a large chain. B - <u>I'm with you there.</u>
I could kick myself for [doing something]	to express regret over having done (or not done) something in the past. Ex. <u>I could kick myself</u> for not asking what kind of coffee it was. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also: I kick myself every time I think about...
It's a shame* *similar to <u>pity</u> , which is not generally used in the U.S.	used to express that you wish a situation were different. Although it sounds very strong or that it's about something serious, in this context, it generally isn't. Ex. <u>It's a shame</u> I can't remember where I got that coffee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also: what a shame; that's a shame
funky	This word can have a positive or negative connotation based on context. If used to describe music or art, it's probably positive, but if it's describing a smell or a taste, it's probably negative: meaning unpleasant.
[someone's] take on [something]	someone's opinion, attitude, or perspective on something Ex. We both feel that way about coffee, but <u>our take on it</u> is a bit different.

picky	very careful [or too careful] about choosing or accepting things: hard to please Ex. I'm kind of <u>picky</u> about my coffee.
rind	the tough, outer skin of citrus fruits and melons that is usually removed before the fruit is eaten (e.g. orange, lemon, watermelon, cantaloupe, etc.)
overpowering	affecting (someone) very strongly or severely Ex. The smell wasn't <u>overpowering</u>
out of this world	extremely enjoyable or impressive
It doesn't go	shortened form of "doesn't go together" - a combination that doesn't work well together Ex. Orange and coffee – that doesn't seem like something that would <u>go</u> .
rinky dink	slang - multiple meanings, but generally something small, insignificant, inferior, unimportant, etc. Ex. It's faster than getting one <u>rinky dink</u> avocado 10 years from now.
Come on!	multiple meanings, but in this case it is an interjection to express disbelief

Grammar Focus: Talking About Habits and Customs

Throughout the conversation, we referred to our habits and routines several times. You may notice that sometimes we say things like,

“Even if I’m going to sit in the café to drink my coffee **I will [I’ll]** ask for a to-go cup.”

“When I lived in Chicago, I **would [I’d]** go a coffee shop in my neighborhood on the weekends.”

We use will and would to talk about personal habits that are typical for a person. When we are talking about our habits generally (that we still have these days), we say will, and when talking about habits that we had in the past (that we no longer have), we say would.

In the above example, it is still my personal habit to ask for a to-go cup, so I used will. However, since I no longer live in Chicago, of course I don’t have the habit of going to that particular coffee shop anymore, so I used would. *Note that while native speakers often use this construction, you do not have to do it this way yourself. You can use the simple present to talk about current habits or routines or “used to” to talk about habits or routines in the past that are no longer true.*

Join the Conversation

- Do you like to drink coffee, tea, or something else? How do you take your coffee or tea? How often do you drink it? Do you like to drink it at particular times of the day or while doing certain activities?
- What is your favorite coffee shop or café? What do you like to get there? Do you enjoy going to a café alone to read, study, etc.?
- Do you like to go to a café with friends to chat? What other kinds of places are good to sit and chat with friends?
- In our conversation, we talked about themed cafes, such as a cat café, a library café, a café with board games, etc. What do you think about cafes like these? What other types of cafes would you like to go to?

Thanks for checking out our podcast!

We are enjoying these discussions, and we hope that you are finding them helpful!



Get tips for ways to use this podcast as a [learner](#) or [teacher](#) of English.




We would love to hear from you with any [comments or suggestions](#) for future episodes.



If you are listening on a podcast platform, we would be super grateful for your review.



And if you're enjoying these conversations and want to [support the podcast](#), you know we'd never turn down a cup of coffee! 

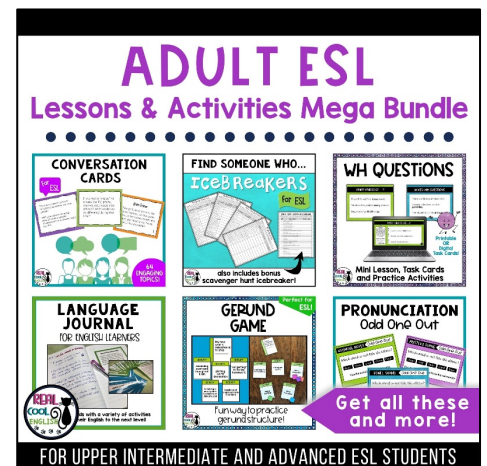
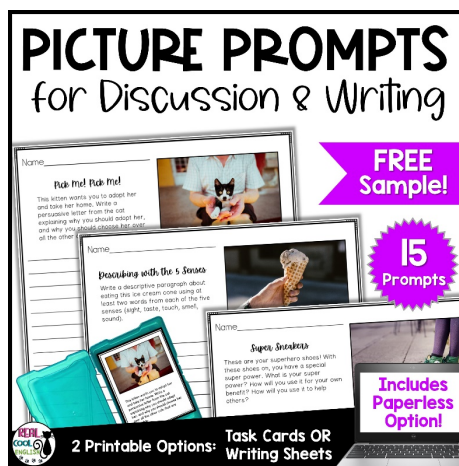

Are you a teacher using this podcast with your students?

Here are more resources that we think you and your students will love!

Conversation cards based on the discussions in this podcast

Subscribe for a FREE sample!

Get ALL the writing prompts, conversation cards and MUCH more!



CLICK HERE
to buy now or
add to wish list

CLICK HERE
to get your
FREE Sample!

CLICK HERE
to buy now or
add to wish list