



Episode 18: Coffee Break 1 – Never Have I Ever

Hi! If this is your first time listening to our podcast, this is an opportunity for upper level English learners to practice listening skills and learn new vocabulary by listening to authentic conversations. For more information about ways to use this podcast, download notes for [students](#) or [teachers](#).

Today we are trying something new! In addition to our regular, full-length episodes, we are starting a new series we are calling Coffee Break. Each episode will be a short discussion about a topic, a quick Q&A or a fun game. Because these are short conversations that we will be sprinkling in with the regular episodes, the show notes will also be brief – just focusing on a few key words and phrases used in our discussion that we think may be helpful to explain. In today’s episode, Donielle and Khrystyna are playing a mini version of the party game Never Have I Ever. We hope you enjoy it!

Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

happy belated birthday	This a useful way to wish someone a happy birthday after it has passed – generally a day or two or a week after the fact.
low-key	describing something quiet and simple, not a big production. For example, if you have a low-key birthday, maybe you just spend it with your immediate family.
jinx [oneself]	bring bad luck upon yourself by saying something positive about the current situation, and then as soon as you say it the opposite (negative thing) happens. For example, in the episode, Donielle said, “I don’t want to jinx myself, but I’ve never broken a bone.” It’s a superstition that because I’ve verbalized the positive situation: “I’ve never broken a bone” means now it will happen.
knock on wood	Related to the idea of jinxing yourself, we say (and perform the action) “knock on wood” after making a confident or positive statement, to express a hope for one’s good luck to continue (in other words, to avoid a jinx)
get away with [something]	be able to do something without being stopped <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have a 9-year old son, so you won’t be able to <u>get away with</u> avoiding Disney World for much longer.
be into [sthg]	have a strong interest in something - Your family <u>is really into</u> Star Wars.
dress up as [someone/something]	Wear a costume to look like someone or something, esp. for Halloween <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Halloween I <u>dressed up as</u> Cruella Deville from 101 Dalmatians
be/get pulled over	be stopped by a police officer for a driving violation
feat	an achievement that requires great courage, skill, or strength.
talk [one’s] way out of something	get out of a difficult situation through verbal persuasion
sketchy	slang: used to describe something in a negative way; often to say that something is suspicious, untrustworthy, or suspect.

Are you a teacher using this podcast in your classroom?

Check out these printable conversation cards to give your students even more discussion practice with this topic!

Have you ever...?

Have you ever used a fake name at a coffee shop or restaurant?

Yes: Why did you do it?
No: Why do you think people do it?

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Have you ever...?

Have you ever done an extreme sport, (skydiving, bungee jumping, surfing, etc.)?

Yes: Talk about your experience.
No: Would you like to?

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Have you ever...?

Have you ever created a piece of art (painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, etc.)?

Yes: What did you create?
No: Is there a type of art you would like to try?

Talking About Idioms

Face the music: confront the unpleasant consequences of one's bad behavior

How might the following people face the music?

- a student who cheats on an exam
- a politician involved in a scandal
- a thief on camera

Vacations and Travel!

How do you prefer to travel?

- by car
- by plane
- by train
- by ship

What are the pros and cons of each?

- Students practice the present perfect with “have you ever” questions
- Each card includes follow up questions based on the given answer
- Engaging topics and follow up questions keep the conversation going!

Use sets separately or combine for an assortment of topics