



Coffee and Conversation for ESL Listening



with Donielle and Khrystyna

Episode 51: Coffee Break 6 Fun & Games

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.

This is another installment of our Coffee Break series featuring a short discussion about a topic, a quick Q&A or a fun game. Show notes are also brief – just focusing on a few key words and phrases used in our discussion that we think may be helpful to explain.

Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

vibrant	full of energy, activity, or excitement
soulmates	people who have a very strong connection because they understand each other or have a lot in common
count me in	used to say that you definitely want to participate in something
break into groups	to divide a larger group of people into smaller groups
short and sweet	brief but pleasant, effective, or enjoyable
mish mosh	an informal way to describe a mixture of different, often unrelated things (also: mish mash)
VHS	an older system for recording and watching video using videotapes
soap operas	TV dramas about the complicated lives and relationships of a group of characters
time capsule	something that preserves objects or information from a particular time so people can experience or understand that period later
24/7	informal way to say all the time; 24 hours a day, seven days a week
the Big Three	3 major networks that historically dominated U.S. television: ABC, NBC, and CBS
switch around	to change from one thing to another, especially among several choices
back in the day	an informal expression meaning at an earlier time in the past
you couldn't pay me to...	an informal, humorous way to emphasize that you have absolutely no interest in doing something
fast-forward	to move quickly through part of a recording or video to reach a later point
faucet	the device that controls the flow of water from a pipe into a sink, bathtub, etc.
propeller	a device with blades that spin to move an airplane, boat, or other vehicle
bet each other	to challenge each other by predicting different outcomes, often with something at stake
on the fly	while something is happening, without planning or preparing it in advance
go off	or an alarm, timer, or similar device to make a sound because it has reached the set time
briefcase	a flat case with a handle used for carrying papers, documents, etc., especially for work
stink at something	an informal way to say that someone is very bad at doing something
versatile	able to be used in many different ways or for many different purposes

You can also read the [transcript](#) for this episode. (Click: Listen Now)

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



Marion Stokes: Recording History

In the first part of this episode, Donielle shares the fascinating story of Marion Stokes, a Philadelphia activist and librarian who began recording television around the clock in 1979. She continued for more than 30 years, eventually creating an archive of roughly 70,000 videotapes. Her recordings captured news broadcasts, talk shows, commercials, major world events, and ordinary television that otherwise might have been lost.

Stokes believed television had enormous power to influence how people understood the world, and she saw preserving broadcasts as a way of preserving a historical record. Her unusual project began during coverage of the Iranian hostage crisis in 1979 and continued until her death in 2012.

Her life and extraordinary archive became the subject of the 2019 documentary *Recorder: The Marion Stokes Project*, directed by Matt Wolf. You may be able to watch it [YouTube](#), or if this link is not available to you, search for other streaming options.

Potato cooking methods mentioned in the episode



mashed



baked



roasted



smashed fingerling



scalloped



au gratin
(similar to scalloped, but with cheese)



Hasselback

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