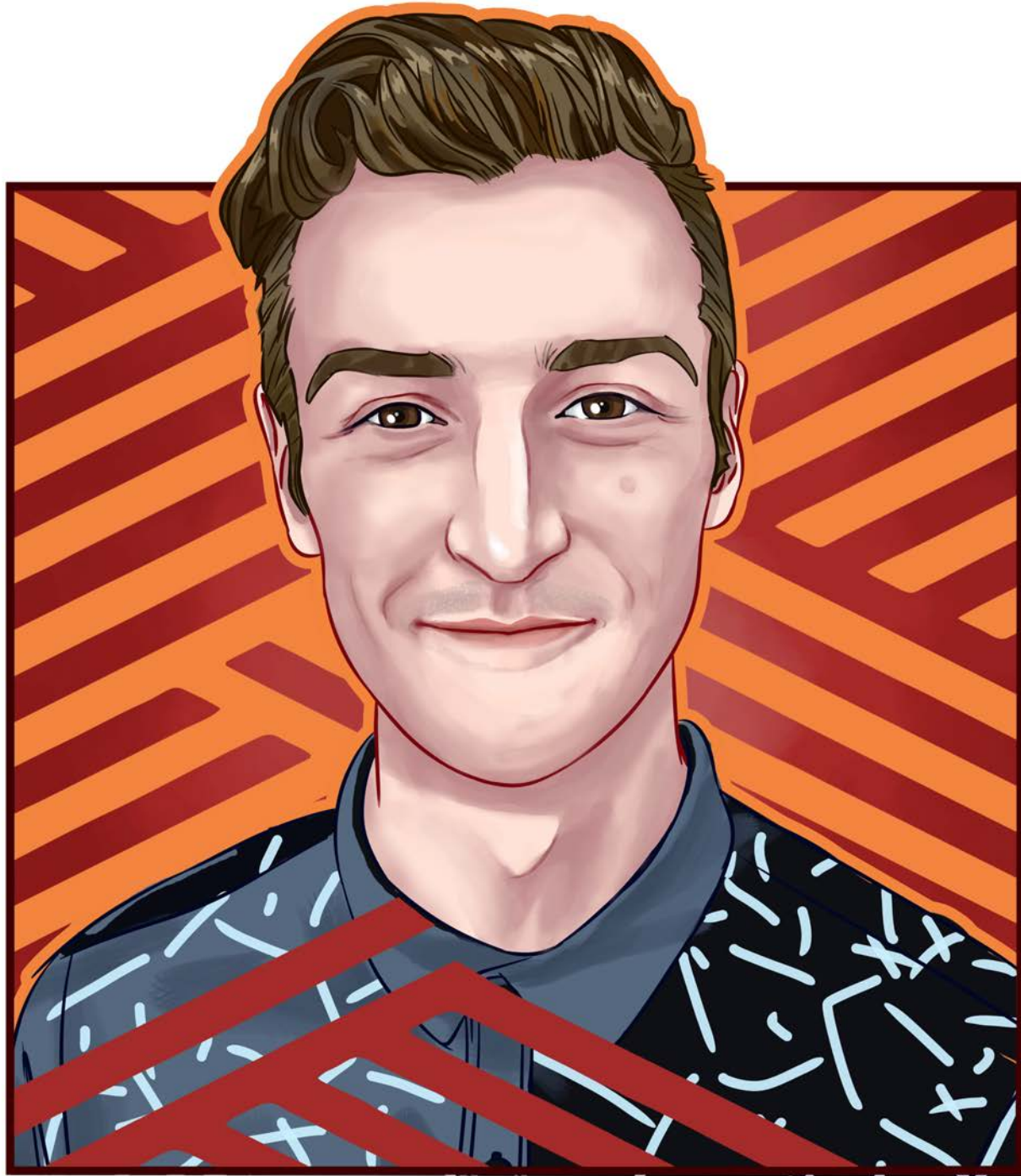# Jeremy's English Tips

Episode #5: Becoming an actor

🌎 **Culips English Podcast**

Transcript

Hello everyone. This is Jeremy and you're listening to Jeremy's English Tips. The series where I teach you interesting expressions or share language learning tips.

Hello there Culips listeners! How is your English study going? Are you enjoying it? Are you having trouble? Either way, I hope that this episode today will help you to become a better English learner and to improve your English even faster. You're already listening to an English learning podcast, so you have already made a great decision.

Now, my tip for you today is, **become an actor**. Have you seen a movie lately? Did you watch a movie in your native language or was it in a language you were studying? If you've seen a movie recently then I'm sure you have also seen an actor. So I want you to imagine your favorite actor. Actors are good at acting because they study people, and as language learners we also are in a way, studying people. We study language, but indirectly we are studying the native speakers of that language. What I mean by this is we are learning about their culture, their way of thinking, their way of life and in doing so we are learning to talk and act like they do.

So, if you have been learning English for a long time and you still feel like you're struggling, you may need to focus on being an actor. Let me explain. We all know that actors are different in real life than they are on the big screen. We know that when they go home and when they brush their teeth, they are much different than they appear on screen. Their voice may be different, they may act differently. So when I say become an actor, what I mean is **you have to learn to become comfortable sounding differently than you do in your native language. You are learning a new language and culture and so you are also learning a different way of being a person.**

In English, sometimes certain kinds of jokes are very common and acceptable, but maybe these jokes are not acceptable in your native language and culture. Maybe when you speak English, your voice sounds different and this can be very off putting for some people, meaning it makes them uncomfortable. So rather than trying to speak English in the same way that you speak your native language, you can imagine that you are an actor playing a part in a movie or a play and this will give you a little more freedom to express yourself differently, to sound differently, and hopefully to learn English more deeply and enjoy the process.

If you found this episode helpful today or if you have questions, you can email us at contact@culips.com or contact us through social media. If you'd like to get the study guide and transcript for this episode, you can head over to Culips.com to do so. We appreciate you utilizing Culips in your English study and we hope to be of help to you even more in the future. Thank you for listening and take care everyone. Bye for now.

Take home messages

- Learning English is more than just memorizing grammar and vocabulary. It is also about learning the culture, habits, and thinking patterns of English native speakers.

- Norms, mores, taboos, and laws differ across cultures. It is important to learn what are acceptable and what are unacceptable topics of conversation when speaking English.

- It is normal to feel awkward and strange when speaking English. It's a foreign language, after all! Copying native speakers will make your English sound natural.

- Imagining you are an actor is a useful exercise than can help you develop an identity as an English speaker.

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the differences between your native language and English?

2. What are some of the cultural differences between your country and English speaking countries?

3. Do you think pretending that you are an actor could help you become better and more confident English speaker?

4. Have you noticed any non-linguistic (for example: gestures, breathing patterns, hand movements, etc.) differences between the way English speakers and speakers of your language communicate? Describe them.

Study Challenges

1. Make a list of five native English speakers who talk in a style you enjoy. These could be actors, Youtubers, podcast hosts, etc. What makes their speaking style interesting to you?

2. Adopt an English speaking role model. Find someone whose speaking style you like (actor, podcaster, Youtuber, etc.) and practice pronunciation by shadowing with their content. Pay close attention to copy not just the way they speak but also the gestures and facial expressions they use too.

3. The next time you speak English, act like you are a native English speaker. Imitate the speaking patterns and gestures you have seen native English speakers use during your shadowing study.

Credits

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