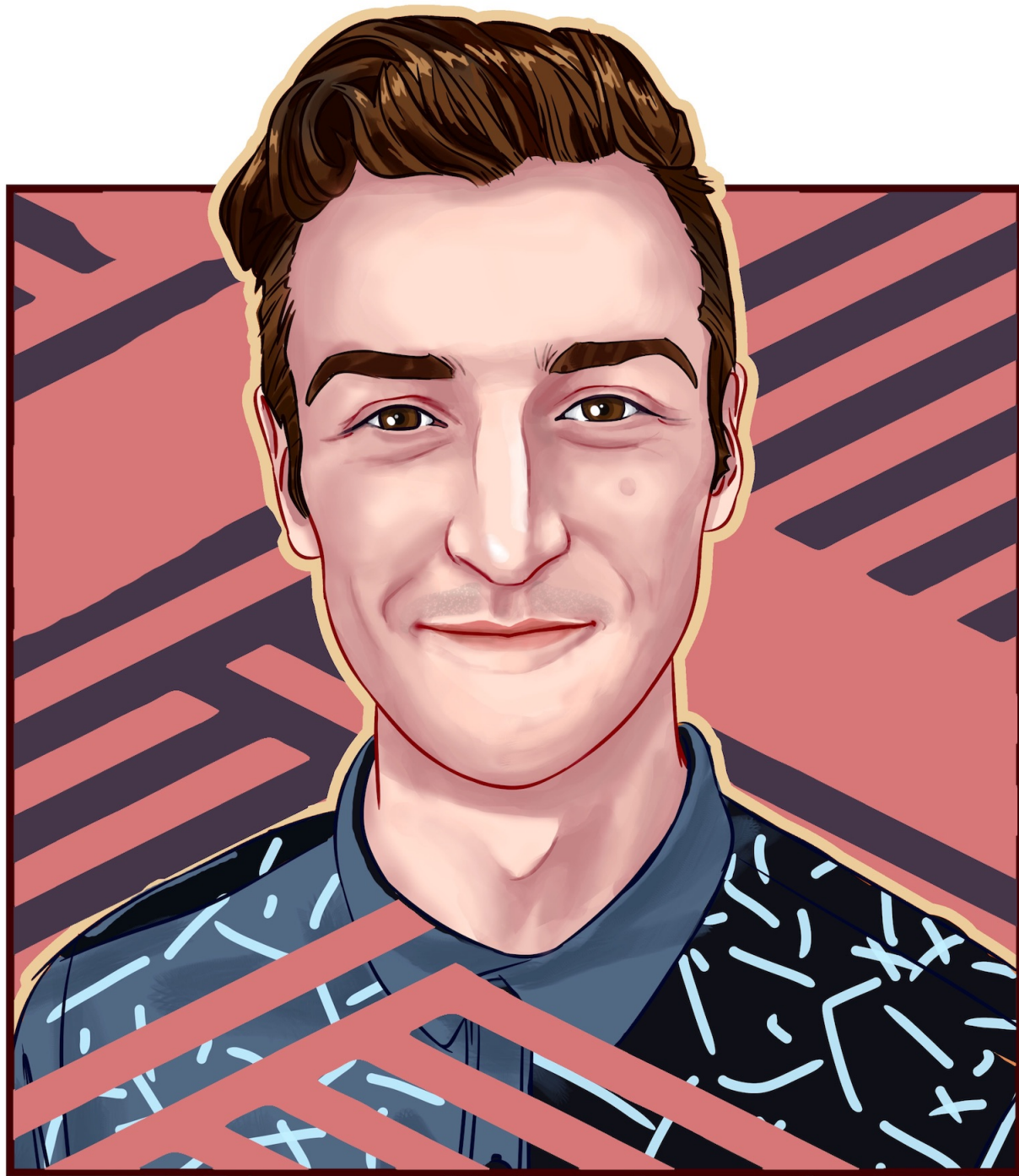


Jeremy's English Tips

Episode #17: Get your foot in the door



Culips English Podcast

Transcript

Hello everyone. This is Jeremy and you're listening to Jeremy's English Tips, a series by the Culips English Podcast where I teach you interesting expressions or share language learning tips.

What is up everyone? Thanks for listening to Culips today and thank you for making Culips a part of your English study. This is a solo episode, so Andrew won't be joining me today. But don't worry, you'll get your full dose of idiomatic expressions here in this episode.

Now, before I mentioned our expression, I'd like to remind you, we have a study guide, available on our website at Culips.com. You can go to Culips.com to check it out and give it a download. That way you can study along as you listen.

Now today's expression comes from the days of door to door salesman. These days, there are still some people who do door to door sales but it used to be much more common, perhaps 30, 40, 50, even 60 years ago, this was a very common way of selling certain products. For example, vacuum cleaners, or things of this sort. Now, for those who don't know, a door to door salesman is a person who walks through a neighborhood knocks on doors, and once the person living there opens the door, they try to sell them some kind of product.

So let's imagine that you are a door to door salesman. You have been going from house to house all day. It's hot outside. There's sweat on your brow. And you have just a few more houses left before you head home. You haven't made very many sales today so you really want this next one to be a success. You go up to this house, knock on the door, and someone opens the door. There is a nice woman there smiling. And she says, "Oh, hello, can I help you?" At that moment you proceeded to tell her about your vacuum cleaner and all the wonderful features it has. She seems interested and you asked her, "May I come in and show you how to use it?" At this point, if she says no then it will be very difficult to show her how this vacuum cleaner works. Of course, you need to vacuum something up,

probably off of a carpet, which is in the house. But if you get your foot in the door, if you get your foot in the door, then the sale is more likely.

This is our expression for today **to get your foot in the door**. To get your foot in the door, it can be get her foot in the door, get his foot in the door, get my foot in the door. The key is to get a foot in the door. **What this means is that you have succeeded with the first step and are on your way to being successful.**

As a vacuum cleaner salesman, if you get your foot in the door, meaning you stick your foot between the door and the door jamb, then you're more likely to be let in the house, which means you can show the person your vacuum cleaner and all its wonderful features. And you're much more likely to succeed in selling the vacuum. Now, this expression to get your foot in the door is usually used in a business setting, and specifically when you are looking for a job, like I said, these days, door to door sales are much less common, because more and more people are buying things on the internet. So instead, nowadays, this expression is used when talking about getting a job.

So let's get into our first example for this expression. In the first situation, Max really wants to start his career as an architect by getting a job at a well known architecture firm in his city. His friend, Jeremy, is giving him advice.

You know, Max, if you don't end up getting the job you're gunning for, you could always try applying for a lower level position and start there. That would be a good way to get your foot in the door. Don't you think?

In this situation, Jeremy is giving advice to Max. He is telling him that if he doesn't get the higher level position that he is gunning for, then he can apply for a lower level position. This may be easier for him to get and would get his foot in the door. Meaning it would be a small success that would lead to a greater success later, it would lead to Max's desired outcome, his dream job.

Now, gunning for is another idiomatic expression, meaning that you are aiming for that thing you are trying to get that. Usually this is also used when talking about getting a job. Okay, let's look at one more situation here to really bring this one home for you. In this next situation, we have Max and Jeremy but this time, Max is talking to Jeremy about a girl he

wants to ask out on a date. The girl works at the architecture firm that Max recently got a job at. And Max isn't sure how to start talking to her. Again, Jeremy is giving him advice.

Yeah, I don't know, man. Do you think she likes coffee? You could start by buying a coffee and bringing it to her. That might get your foot in the door.

In this example, Jeremy's advice to Max is to simply do something nice for her. If she likes coffee, then buying her a coffee and giving it to her at her desk would be an easy way to get her attention. And if it is something that she appreciates, it would be a way to get his foot in the door. Meaning it would be a small success that would help him get closer to this woman and potentially be able to ask her out on a date. Now, as I mentioned previously, this expression is most commonly used with getting jobs and companies and things like that. But it is also used in a dating context as well.

Now everyone, I wonder, Is there something in your life recently that you have needed to get your foot in the door for? Maybe you can think about it a bit. And if there is something you can let us know. You can find us on social media, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, or you can email us at contact@Culips.com.

We'd love to hear from you. And as always, we hope that Culips is helping you to expand your English and sound more and more natural with each episode. Thank you all for listening today, I appreciate it. Take care!

Extra example sentences

- I haven't been offered the job yet but at least I got my foot in the door!
- You should go down and apply for a job at the bank. Even if you don't get it, at least you'll be able to get your foot in the door.
- First, he got his foot in the door with an internship. Then, a few years later, he was hired by the company as a full-time employee.
- Have you ever tried using a dating app? It's a great way to get your foot in the door and meet new people.

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Can you think of a time in your life where you got your foot in the door? Describe what happened.
2. What is something in your life that you are gunning for? How do you plan to achieve that goal?
3. Are door to door salespeople common where you live? What do you think it would be like to have a job like this?

Study Challenges

1. Record an audio diary and talk about a time you got a foot in the door.
2. Find an example of a native English speaker using a foot in the door in a movie, TV show, or podcast. Email us at contact@culips.com to let us know where you found it.

Credits

Music: Miei by Broke for Free, Feel Good (Instrumental) by Broke for free

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