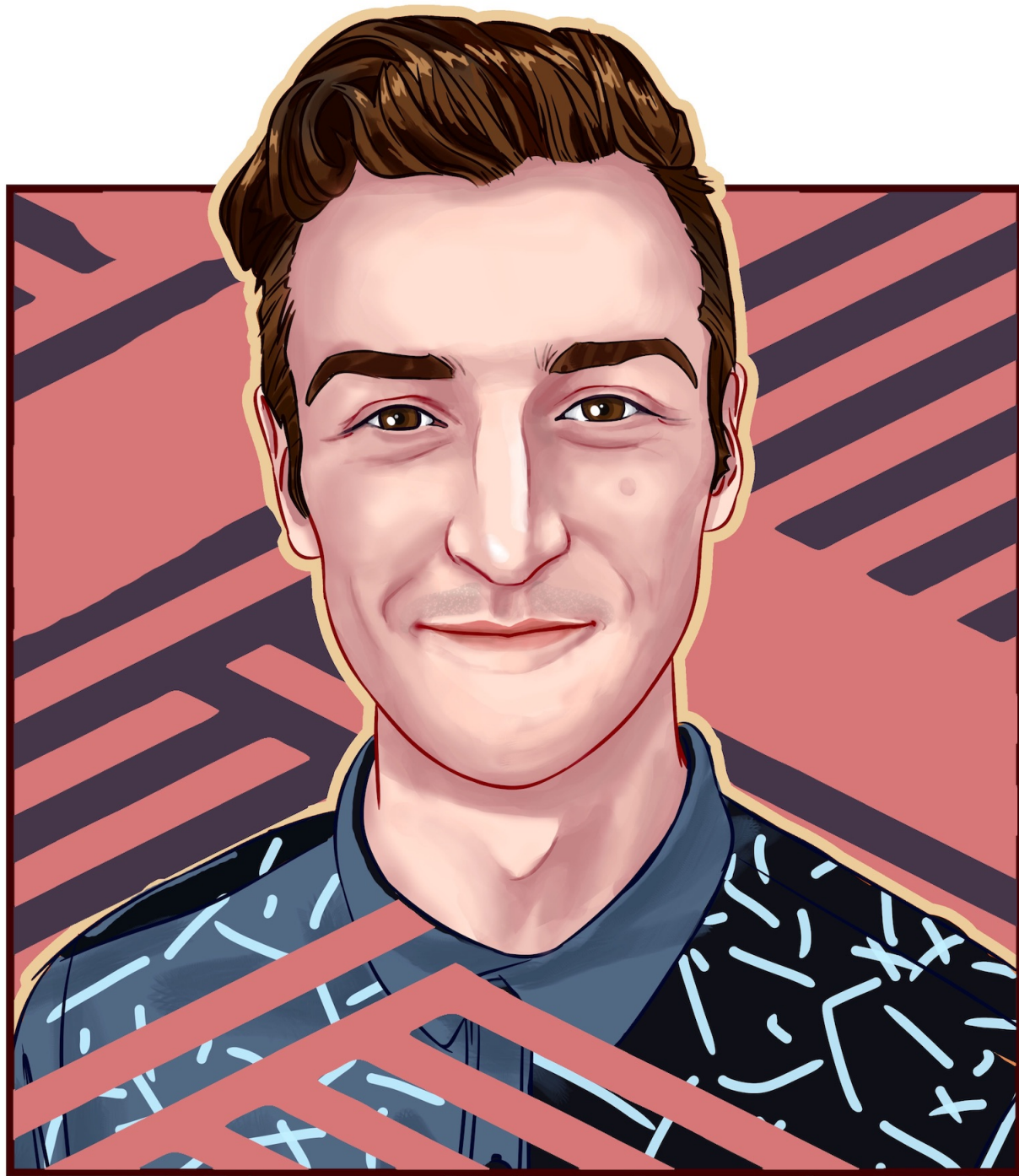


# Jeremy's English Tips

Episode #18:

Using Stories to Make Memorizing Words Easier



**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.

Hi there, Culips listener! Thank you for checking out another episode of Jeremy's English Tips. In this episode, I'd like to talk about how using stories can make memorizing words easier. So when you were a child, did someone read children's books to you? Maybe you watched cartoons on TV or movies. When I was a child, my family members would read children's books to me quite often. Usually before I went to bed. I remember we would read the same book over and over again for quite some time until I changed my mind and decided that I wanted to read another book. Now I wasn't actually reading the book. When I was very young, my parents would read the book to me. As they read the words on the page, I would look at the pictures. And over time, I learned that the pictures were connected to the words on the page.

I believe that this is the real beginning of language learning. So we can say, children learn a lot from repetitive reading of stories. And when they are very young, they don't really read the story, they listen to someone else reading the story. Hence, repetitive listening.

Now, my son is two years old right now, and we read storybooks to him quite often in both Korean and English. When we asked him what book he wants to read, he usually doesn't know the title. Instead, he will repeat a certain word or phrase that he remembers from that book. For example, in Korean, there are a number of words that we call onomatopoeia, which are words that relate to certain motions or sounds. In English, we have words like boing, and bonk, and boom. All of these words relate to a certain sound or motion. In Korean, many of these words are repeated syllables, meaning that the same sound is said twice. For example, *kkangchungkkangchung* (hop hop) or *banjjakppanjjak* (twinkle twinkle). So I'm sure you noticed that the syllables were repeated. These words in particular, really stick out to my son. And he will often use those words to indicate the book that he wants to

read. To me, this shows that words that repeat stick out and therefore, are easy to learn as a result. This illustrates again, the importance of repetition.

Also, the pictures in the book, give the child context and make learning possible. So if a child sees a picture of a bear crying on the page of the book, then when they hear someone read the words "he is sad." Then, they make a connection between the word sad and that facial expression. This illustrates the importance of context when learning anything. I think that when adults try to learn a new language, they usually just try to learn words without context. Have you ever tried to memorize a long list of words? If so, then you are likely guilty of this as well. I know I am certainly guilty of this as well. So instead of studying a new word and learning its meaning in your native language, I suggest using context.

So, what does that mean? There are four words here that I will introduce you to two of them may be quite difficult, so I will explain them. The first is audio and audio relates to things that you can hear. Visual relates to things that you can see. Tactile, tactile relates to things that you can touch and kinesthetic which relates to movements and so on. So, audio information, visual information, tactile information, and kinesthetic information all help make the memory of a word or phrase much stronger. And therefore, they make it much easier to recall that word when you need to.

So for example, when my son is listening to me read a book to him, he hears my voice, audio information. He sees the picture on the page, visual information. He feels the book in his hands, tactile information. And he notices the way that he is sitting in my lap and this is kinesthetic information. All of this information comes together to make one memory in his mind.

In my Korean learning journey, I have had many situations like this as well. I still remember when I learned the word for squishy in Korean, *malrangmalrang*. I remember where I was sitting, I remember who taught me the word, I remember that it was cold in the room, and I remember that my language exchange partner used his hands and pretended to squeeze a marshmallow to teach me what the word meant. And this is just one word. There are many words and phrases that I can remember based on the context or situation in which I first learned that word.

So my advice to you is to have experiences with words or phrases. You can do this by asking a language exchange partner to tell you about the word even if you already know what it means or you can try doing a Google image search for the word. To see what comes up. You can try searching the internet for articles about the word, or even search for the word on YouTube to see what you can find. All of these things will help to give you context in the form of audio, visual, tactile, and kinesthetic information. So if you have questions about this or comments, you can contact us at [contact@culips.com](mailto:contact@culips.com) and we will do our best to help you out.

Thank you very much for listening to this episode of Jeremy's English Tips. And in the next episode, I'll do my best to bring you some more helpful information on your language learning journey. Happy learning my friends! Until next time, bye

## Key points

- Children learn a lot from repetitive reading of stories.
- Words that repeat stick out to them and are easy to learn as a result.
- The pictures in the book give the child context and make learning possible.
- When adults learn a new language, they usually try to learn words without context.
- Audio, visual, tactile, and kinesthetic information help make the memory of a word or phrase much stronger and therefore, easier to recall when the word is needed.

# Writing and discussion Questions

1. Why are children's books such effective learning tools?
2. What role do pictures play in helping the child understand the story?
3. Do you remember any children's books that were read to you when you were young?
4. Share some words that you remember learning in context, without studying.
5. What are some children's stories that are commonly read to children in your home country?

## Study Challenges

1. Find a short children's book in English and read it ten times in a show to see if your comprehension improves.
2. Search Youtube for "Children's books read out loud" and watch one of the videos 10 times to see if your comprehension improves.

## Credits

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