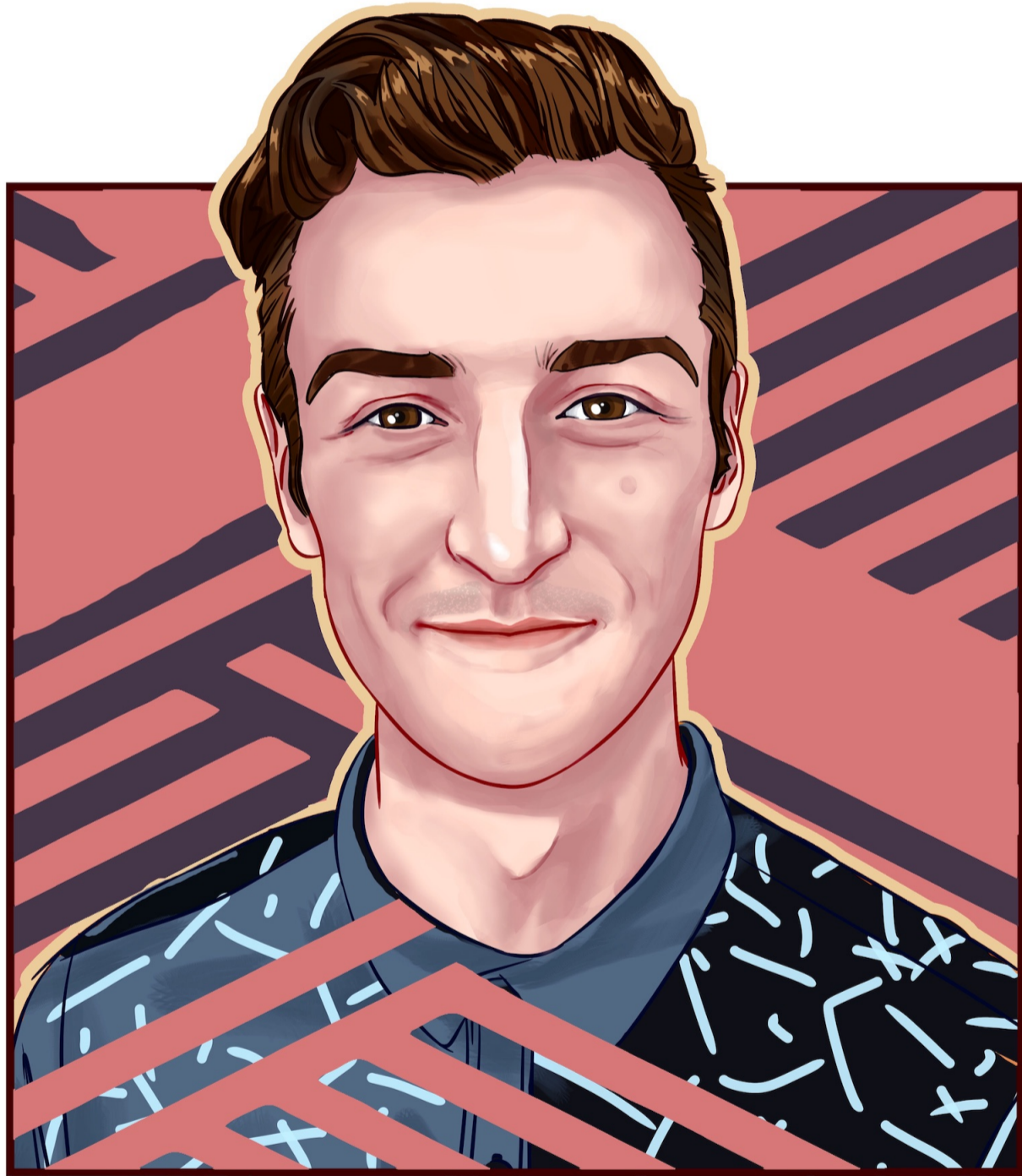


# Jeremy's English Tips

Episode #23:

You are raising an English baby in your head



**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.

Hello there, English learning friends. I hope that you found the title for this episode to be interesting. Perhaps that's why you clicked on this episode today. In this episode of Jeremy's English Tips, I would like to talk to you about how to help yourself improve your English by raising a baby English speaker in your head.

In general, everyone seems to know that babies learn language very quickly and effortlessly when compared to adults. But have you ever thought about why adults seem to struggle so much? Children are very open minded and open hearted. That means that they are not afraid to make mistakes. In fact, they don't even know what a mistake is. They simply listen, repeat, and practice using their voice every day. We all know those familiar baby sounds the *goo goo ga ga blah blah*. These are not just meaningless sounds, they are practice. The baby is, quite instinctually, practicing speaking, and practicing using their vocal instrument and therefore preparing to speak.

Now what about adults? Adults are usually very aware of mistakes, and often are quite afraid of making mistakes. In school, if we make a mistake on a test, or a homework assignment, it usually has negative consequences. In other words, it will hurt our grade. And so we learn from a young age in school that making mistakes is bad. However, as language learners, making mistakes, is a necessary part of the process. And so, **we must learn to be more like children, we must make mistakes and let go of the attachment to being perfect.** No one is perfect, right?

Another reason children are much better language learners than us is they know the power of repetition. Now, for those who don't know, I have a son who is two years old at the time of this recording. He is speaking more and more every day. And his linguistic development is quite interesting to me. I'm sure you've noticed by now, but I am a bit of a language nerd.

When my son finds a movie that he likes, he will watch that movie as much as he possibly can. As soon as the movie has finished, he yells out loud, "Again, again, beginning beginning!" And so we put the movie back to the beginning. And he watches it again. In the same way when he finds a song that he really likes, he wants us to sing it for him or play it for him over and over and over and over again. He very rarely gets tired of things that are truly interesting to him. And interestingly, my father told me that when I was little I did the exact same thing. Perhaps you know some children who do this as well. This is because all children have an intuitive understanding of learning. They know that **repetition is the mother of learning**. This means that in some way or another, all learning is a result of repetition. Learning to ride a bike, or cook a delicious meal, or draw a pretty picture is a result of doing that thing over and over again. It is very rare that we do something perfectly correctly the very first time.

So as adults, **we must also harness the power of repetition in our learning**. So when you start learning a new language, you are like a baby in that language. After learning some phrases, words, and grammar points, you are like a little child. You can say a few things, but you can't speak at length intelligently about economics or current events. Just like children, right? However, you are a fully developed native speaker in your native language. Meaning that you are an adult in your native language. So I believe that this adult must be like a parent to the English learning child inside you. What I mean by that is, in the same way that a parent will help a child get up when they fall down or will help the child learn something that they need to learn, **the native speaker in you must be like a parent, and encourage the young English speaker inside you**. Just like a parent, guidance, encouragement, support, and practice are all ways that the parent can help the child learn better. So if you make a mistake, and you find yourself feeling bad about it, then it's time for the native speaker in you to step up, and help the frustrated learner. Thinking of the language learning process in this way, can help you to avoid a lot of the frustration that usually comes with the difficult early stages of learning. Even if you are further along in your English learning journey, you can still use the help of a parent every once in a while. And perhaps you can think of me like an uncle or a teacher, helping that young child to find their way and to grow.

It is my wish that the Culips podcast be like a friend to you along this learning journey. And I hope you find the inner parent and child relationship inside you because this relationship will

help you to keep going on the long journey ahead. That's all for this one. Thanks for listening. Bye, everyone.

## Key points

1. Everyone knows that babies learn language quite quickly and effortlessly. Why do adults seem to struggle so much?
2. Children are open minded and open hearted. They aren't afraid to make mistakes and they know the power of repetition.
3. When you start learning a language, you are like a child in that language.
4. The fully developed native speaker in you must be like the parent to the English learner child.
5. Guidance, encouragement, support, and practice are all ways that the "parent" can help the "child" learn better.

# Writing and Speaking Questions

1. Why are children better language learners than adults?
2. Why do you think adults struggle so much when it comes to language learning?
3. In what ways can you be more like a child in your language learning?
4. How can you be like a parent to your inner English learner?
5. Who are some people who have helped you along your English journey? Explain how they helped you.

## Study Challenges

1. Keep a language learning journal in which you write in English and your native language.
2. Share your struggles with a language exchange partner or English speaking friend and see if they can help you like a parent would.

# Credits

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

Episode preparation/research: Jeremy Brinkerhoff

Audio editor: Andrew Bates

Study guide writer: Jeremy Brinkerhoff

Business manager: Tsuyoshi Kaneshima