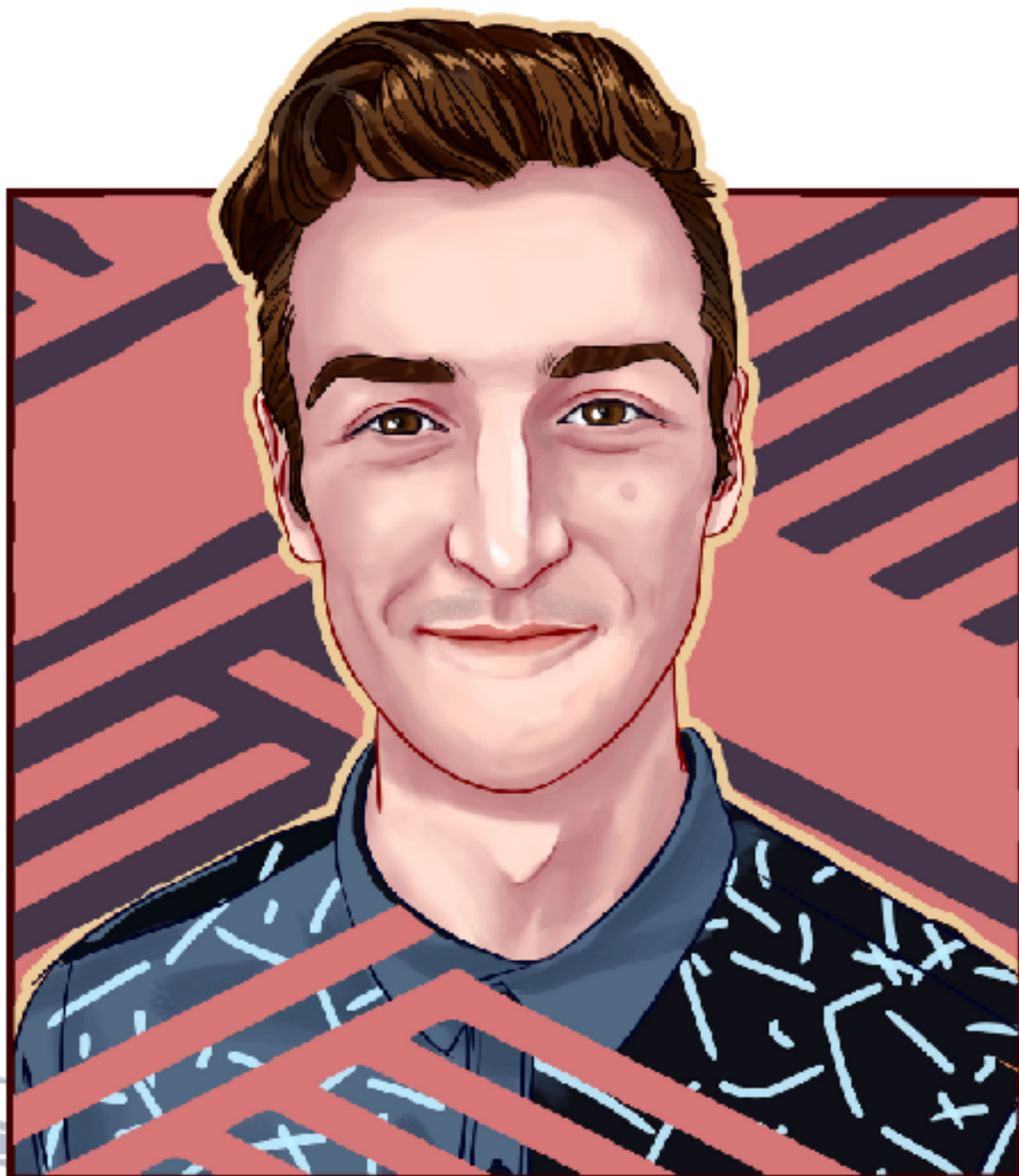


# Jeremy's English Tips

Episode #28: Using technology to learn English



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 language learning friend. Welcome back to Culips. In this episode, I am going to talk about technology. Specifically, I'll talk about what kinds of technology I have used to learn Korean and Spanish in the past. Now I should start off by saying when I started learning Korean about 10 years ago, there were very few language learning apps available at the time. I remember the only applications I could find were akin to phrase books. This meant that they had a certain phrase and the translation next to it.

Now also keep in mind that at that time, Google Translate or other online translators like this, were not nearly good enough to rely on or use as a study tool, and at the time, YouTube was not nearly as full of great language learning content as it is today. Language learning podcasts were also hard to come by.

If you are learning English or some other language today, in this day and age, you have it good. There are lots of apps, YouTube channels, and podcasts that you can get your hands on to help you in your language learning. Also, there are online courses that you can follow, as well as websites and applications to find language exchange partners. So, now I'll explain a few recommendations I have for how you can utilize technology to improve your language learning.

First of all, if you have a smartphone, **I highly recommend utilizing your smartphone for repetitive listening.** If you are unfamiliar with repetitive listening, please refer to the episode in the Culips series Jeremy's English Tips to find out more about it. You can use your smartphone, mp3 player or even your computer to listen to audio in your target language repetitively. However, I always recommend using your smartphone because this is of course how you can access podcasts, and you usually will carry it with you wherever you go.

**I also recommend using some high quality headphones.** You do not necessarily have to spend a lot of money on a pair of headphones but if you can afford it, it might help. If you listen to Culips.com regularly, you will notice that we use very high quality microphones to record our voice. This will help you a lot in your language learning because it will give your ear more sound information. In addition, if you have good headphones, then this will help you in that way as well. I also like to recommend a few apps that you can put on your smartphone to help you in your language learning.

There are two different kinds of language exchange applications that I know of at this time. And I should say that we at Culips are in no way connected to these applications. These are just apps that I have used and found to be helpful. The first one is called Hello Talk. Hello Talk is an app where you can find language exchange partners, have conversations, chat, and even do audio calls or video calls with language exchange partners.

The other app that I also like is called Tandem, I personally like Tandem a bit more because of the features and the way they pair you up with a partner but Hello Talk also has some nice features as well. Of course, both of these companies are constantly trying to improve their service. So the features may have changed by the time you are listening to this podcast.

I also should offer you some advice about using translation apps like Google Translate. When you use an online translator, I recommend writing out what you want to say in English first, then translate it back into your native language. If you write in your native language first, and just use the translation that comes out of the translator, then you are losing an opportunity to learn. So **you can use the translator to check if your sentences make sense or not.**

And also, I have another tip for you regarding using search engines like Google. Let's say that you are writing something in English, you can use search engines to check if something that you wrote is natural or commonly used by native speakers. All you have to do is type the word, phrase or sentence in quotation marks. **Put the word phrase or sentence into the search bar, and put quotation marks around it.** When you do this, it will tell Google to search for that exact combination of text. If what you wrote is natural or commonly used by native speakers, then you will get lots of results with that word or phrase in it. However, if you wrote something that is wrong, or very uncommon, then you will get very few or zero results from your search. You can also check the context in which a certain word or phrase is used by doing this as well. So if you search for the idiomatic expression, get out of town, you will see lots of websites and blogs and articles that have this phrase in it. You can look through the results on the search page, and get a good feeling for how this phrase is used in real life by native speakers.

So that's all I have for you in this episode regarding how to use technology to improve your language learning. But I'm wondering, do you have some tips of your own? Maybe you can share them with us and who knows in the future, we can share them on an episode of Culips. You can send these to us via email at [contact@culips.com](mailto:contact@culips.com). Or let us know on social media. Don't forget that there is a study guide and transcript available for this episode at [Culips.com](https://culips.com). If you like Culips and you enjoy listening to our podcast, then please leave us a review on Apple Podcasts. This helps other people to find our podcast and can help people in their language learning all over the world. Until the next episode, everyone. Take care, bye!

# Key Points

1. You can use a smartphone, MP3 or computer to practice listening.
2. Good headphones and listening to high quality audio gives your brain more audio information.
3. Language exchange apps like HelloTalk and Tandem can help you find language exchange partners and conduct language exchanges.
4. You can use online translators to check if your English sentences make sense or not.
5. You can check to see if a word or phrase is commonly used by native speakers by putting it in quotations and searching for it on Google.

# Questions for Speaking and Writing

1. How do you use technology to help you learn English?
2. Which of Jeremy's tips is your favorite and why?
3. Which of Jeremy's tips have you tried before? What was your experience?
4. Have you used language exchange apps before? What was your experience?
5. Have you used online translators before? What was your experience?

# Study Challenges

1. Next time you study, write out five to ten difficult sentences in English and try using an online translator to check if your sentences make sense.
2. Take some of the idioms you've learned from Culips and search for them on google to gather contextual information.

# Credits

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

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