Full Transcript

Hello and welcome, this is the second of two example videos I am making as part of the introduction and example for the new premium lessons I am offering on http://www.learnbritishenglish.co.uk/. What I am going to talk about in this lesson are some basic and useful tips to do with learning English and, more specifically, British English.

In every video for these premium ones, I have written the captions (like subtitles), and they should be appearing near the bottom of the video. If not, it is because you need to enable them, and in the bottom right of the screen there are some buttons, you need to click the one that says "Enable Captions", or whatever the equivalent is in your language.

This is the second – I have made two example videos. The other is called the introduction, and I fully recommend that you watch that for a more in-depth look at what these premium lessons will be about, and about what I can hopefully offer you.

There are extra features that I am providing. One is the captions I have already mentioned. There will also be a full transcript of everything I am saying – there will be a PDF document below the video for you to download or whatever, as well as an exercise sheet and an answer sheet. The exercise sheet is to help you practise any vocabulary or grammar I am introducing, and the answer sheet separately – please download it to check your work.

One request I have for you, please, if you are watching these ones, please do not copy or share them because these should be more private. I have made all the free ones as you probably know on Youtube, everyone is welcome to watch those ones. These ones are copyrighted by me, so please don't copy or share them – at least without my permission.

And in this one I want to talk about a few things to give an overview of the various elements that I will include in the premium lessons. If you've seen my Youtube channel, you will have seen videos to do with accent training, but you will know that I can also offer vocabulary, slang, grammar and much more, and in these premium lessons I want to offer a similar mixture, and in each one I don't want to do a video for example just about accent training – I think that would be too boring – so I want to combine to make them as interesting and useful as possible.

Now if you don't already know, to give you some more idea about me, and why hopefully I can help you, I have two degrees from two different English universities, and I am currently working full-time in the UK. I've spent my whole life in England and a year and a half in Cardiff, in Wales, and I want to tell you this because I feel that I am a good source to do with learning British English and for useful and practical material. I know some slang and colloquial expressions, however, in the UK everything can differ greatly in different parts of the country and that's something to remember. People from the north, for example, might use expressions I don't know about. Personally I can't boast about having a perfect knowledge of English, but I guess no-one does. I have teaching experience in an informal sense – I've taken classes in an academy in Cardiff and I've been teaching English online for two years. Everything I've done has always been very successful and popular, I hope these premium lessons will be the same.

As I've mentioned, I want to offer some material about basic English and general English, but my focus is British English, as an English person, to give you something different. If you're watching films a lot of it will be in American English, and I can offer material specifically about British English, and what this means is the type of English that we speak in the UK.

In terms of general English, one very useful resource I recommend is a book called "English Grammar in Use" by Raymond Murphy. Here is the cover – I have a copy *shows book*. I will use it if you have any questions, I can answer them, but I will probably use this book. All

the teachers I have spoken to about this always recommend this particular book – "English Grammar in Use"by Raymond Murphy (4th edition with exercises).

One thing that is quite useful and also quite difficult to understand is how we use separate tenses. For example: how do we use the past simple as opposed to the present perfect or perfect tense? Here are some past simple examples:

"I did what you asked."

"I had a nice day."

"I went to school."

Perfect tense examples:

"I have done what you asked."

"I have had a nice day."

"I have been to school."

Where we might use one as opposed to another, for example, the perfect tense can imply that something has finished very recently, or has not finished yet. For example, we can say "I have had a nice day." "I had a nice day yesterday." The first one perfect, the second one past simple.

Something else that can differentiate is the use of a particular time, that would indicate the past simple. For example: "I went to school on Monday."

"I have been to school today." – the difference again with the past simple example going to school in Monday – in the past – "I have been to school today." – I've just been.

What are the top ten most common English words? I'll run through a list for you and do a bit of pronunciation practice.

The most common is "the" – two different ways we can pronounce it.

"The"

The second is "be".

"And"

"Of"

"A"

"In"

"To"

"Have"

"Too" but with two "o"s this time

"It"

Moving onto British English particularly, there are many differences for example to American English, in vocabulary, spelling, pronunciation, slang - all these things I want to help you with.

Let's look at some examples. Vocabulary: Americans say "soccer"; Britons say "football". Americans say "vacation"; we say "holiday".

Spelling: Americans spell nouns with an "s". "Practise" for example; we spell it with a "c" ("practice"). The same with "licence" – an "s" in American English ("license"), a "c" in British English ("licence"). "Honour" is spelt "honor" in American English, but "our" ("honour") in British English – the same with "colour".

Pronunciation and accent training. This is something I've done on Youtube which has been very popular with my British accent. These are some words where the pronunciation varies dramatically between American and British accents:

"Semi"

"Data"

"Garage"

Two British slang words: "rubbish". The literal meaning is the same as "trash" or "waste" in American English – what you throw away. But it can also mean "very bad" or "bad". It's a

useful word to use to describe something that you think is very bad, but it's not quite as condemning as saying something is just "very bad", you can say something is rubbish, for example: "My football team is rubbish this year."

"Loo": I'm sure this one will be useful for you, it means "toilet", so you can say, "Where is the loo, please?"; "I need the loo," and everyone in Britain will understand you.

And a couple of expressions as well:

"Not a happy bunny": if I'm not a happy bunny, it means I'm angry or disappointed about something. It's like a euphemism. So I might be not a happy bunny about a piece of bad news I've received recently.

"Not my cup of tea": this is a way to express that you don't like something or that something isn't to your tastes. For example: "ballet isn't my cup of tea".

I've done exercises and answers for you, if you check the documents below the video.

That is the conclusion of what I wanted to discuss today – some examples of the material that I offer.

If you are interested you can subscribe, you will need to pay a subscription fee of £2 a month. Go to http://www.learnbritishenglish.co.uk/, up at the top there's a menu: "Members' Area" and "Premium Lessons" for more in-depth lessons like this.

I hope you liked this video. I tried my best and I will do the same with the premium lessons, so I hope to see you there on http://www.learnbritishenglish.co.uk/, but if not, don't worry, you are always welcome to follow my free lessons which will be continuing on Youtube, on Facebook, and other websites, so please join me wherever you can, and I hope to see you next time.