

PDF Report: A Common Myth About Speaking Like a Native

Why do you want to learn English?

If your answer is to connect and make friends with native speakers, then is what you're spending your time learning English on helping you achieve that goal?

Many people spend their their time learning something DIFFICULT that does not give quick results and ignore something EASY that gives fast results.

In this PDF report, you'll find out exactly what this common misconception is and what to do about. But first let's recap...

Recap (summary from last time)

If you haven't seen the PDF Report, [How to Speak Real Life English](#), check it out now.

Thanks for all the great feedback on the report, I'm glad you guys enjoyed it!

In the report I talk about:

- The story of the creation of *101 English Words You'll Never Learn in School*
- Why even some advanced speakers don't know many of these basic, everyday words and phrases.
- One basic greeting that non-natives often misunderstand
- How one of the most difficult parts about learning a language is listening.

So now that you're caught up, let's go on to the a common myth about speaking like a native...

Improving Your Accent is Not as Important as You Think

A lot of times I hear people who want to improve their English talk about how important it is to reduce their accent, and that's great.

Learning to reduce your accent is important. But, it's HARD. It takes a lot of effort and a lot of time to get rid of your accent.

Of course it's important for people to understand what you're saying. I'm not recommending you forget about reducing your accent.

But, your accent has MUCH less emphasis on speaking like a native than you think. You can speak with a flawless accent, but if you greet me with, "Hello, Trevor. How are you?" it's going to sound stranger to me than if you said with a strong accent, "Yo Trev-dawg, what's going on man?"

Now, I'm not saying that there's anything wrong with the first greeting. What I'm saying it doesn't matter how good your accent is if you talk to natives like you're in a business meeting.

So if you greet natives very formally, you're greeting them with coldness. It's not very friendly.

If you want to make friends with people, it's much more important (even if you don't know the person) to talk to them like they're already your friend.

So if you really want to connect with native speakers, it's much more important to learn how to use and understand the same words and phrases that they use. Your accent isn't as important as you think.

When I'm talking to people, I'm not judging them on their accent. I don't say, "Oh this dude has a strong accent, he's not cool." No, not at all.

What's most important is WHAT you say and especially the emotions behind it.

The thing is, it's really hard to convey that you really like someone with informal greetings.

It's MUCH easier to connect with people when you say something like, "Hey Trevor! What's happenin' my brotha'!?" than if you greeted me with, "Hi Trevor. How are you?" You can't really sound excited to see someone with that greeting.

Again, it's not that there's anything wrong with formal greetings, they're great in business type situations, it's just that they do a poor job of expressing emotion.

If I ask you how the concert was, it's much easier to express yourself if you use one of the 16 different ways to say cool than if you just say, "it was great," or "it was cool."

Many of these words/phrases like *bad ass*, *off the hook*, and *the shit* are MUCH stronger words than just *cool*. In comparison, *cool* is actually a much milder word. It's rarely said with as much emotion as the previous three words (as well as most of the words in the section, *16 Different Ways to Say Cool*).

Connecting with native speakers is mostly about being able to understand them and talking the same way as them.

Luckily, it's MUCH easier to learn how to speak informally than it is to improve your accent.

The guide *101 English Words You'll Never Learn in School* was created to help you speak more like a native, to help you learn the informal words and phrases that natives use all the time.

With the help of examples of the 18 Real Life Conversations, you can get a deep understanding of how these words and phrases are used in everyday life so you can feel confident when you use them yourself.

Below you'll see an example of one of the conversations. This conversation was chosen because it's one of the longest and it was based on a real conversation that took place between Trevor and Josh in December of 2011. Bad ass.

Enjoy!

TRANSCRIPT FOR REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #6

Josh?! Is that you?!

-Trevor!!!! Long time no see, my man!

What are the chances I'd run into you?!

-I know, right? Crazy...

So how you been, bro?

-I've been good, I've been good. I'm actually in California just visiting my family, did you know that I moved to Brazil?

What?! Seriously? That's rad, man.

-Yeah I love it there. But yeah, what's new with you?

I quit my job. I'm planning on going to Mexico and then backpacking all the way down to make it to Brazil in time for the World Cup.

-Sick dude, that sounds like an awesome time.

Yeah, I'm really stoked [excited]. So, what's goin' on in Brazil?

-Lots of stuff man. I'm a part of this great community called Real Life English. We're changing the way people think about how they learn languages.

Sounds interesting, so what is Real Life English exactly?

-Real Life English is a blog, a community, but most importantly, it's a way of life. It's about making sure that everything you learn—not just English—you can apply to real life. Learning's great and all, but we spend a lot of time learning pointless shit. You know what I'm saying?

Totally. I remember talking about that with my ex-girlfriend. She was reading stuff about the Illuminati. And I'm like, "Yeah that stuff's cool and all, but how can I apply that to my life?" So yeah, I definitely vibe [agree] with that.

-Yeah and Brazil's off the hook man, it's totally your style.

Yeah I know what you mean, I've always wanted to go to Brazil...

-Why don't you just skip going through Mexico and come straight to Brazil?

I dunno man... wait, you know what? Fuck it. I'm down.

-Fuck yeah! You can stay at my place until you find your own room.

Really? Thanks dude, you're the best!

-Don't mention it.

Whoops! Look at the time! I gotta get outta here. I should've left 10 minutes ago.

-Alright man, it was nice to see you. Take it easy.

You too, bro. I'm glad I ran into you!

-Hell yeah!

I wanna talk to you more about Brazil. I'll call you later.

-Alright man, sounds good.

Peace out.

-Later.

[This conversation was based on a true story.]