

PDF Report—How to Speak Real Life English

I think I'm a lot like you...

When I first came to Brazil and started learning Portuguese, what I was most interested in was the culture, the movies, the music, but most importantly CONNECTING with native speakers.

I really wanted to speak like a native.

So I started studying Portuguese. I started reading textbooks and blog articles, and doing Portuguese learning programs like Pimsleur.

And, while I was learning valuable information from these sources, they were ignoring basic, informal, everyday stuff that my Brazilian friends would say ALL THE TIME.

I noticed that when I communicate with a native speaker, I pretty much sounded like a robot, like a textbook. I didn't use the same words and phrases that natives did.

When I listened to natives talk, just the basic stuff here like greetings, goodbyes, saying yes or no to invitations, they sounded so much cooler, so much more interesting, so much more fun. And I thought to myself, I want to talk like this.

I was tired of sounding like a complete gringo, I was tired of feeling like an outsider, of looking dumb and not understanding such common phrases.

I wanted to connect with people, I wanted to make friends, but most importantly, I just wanted to speak like natives speak—like normal people speak.

So this was my experience trying to learn Portuguese, but now let me tell you about my experience talking with non-native English speakers.

If you're a member of our Facebook group, you've probably seen the pictures of the English speaking parties that we have. Usually 80-120 people come to our parties.

We have a pretty big local community of English speakers here in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. So I

get the chance to talk to a LOT of non-native speakers.

And I've noticed that even some people who speak English really well, meaning they have a good vocabulary, little or no accent, and are confident while speaking, sometimes they still have a hard time understanding me when I use super common slangs.

Or sometimes they think they understand me but they really DON'T.

For example, every time I greet someone with, "Hey, what's up?" and they respond, "I'm fine and you?" I cringe a little. That's NOT what we want to know.

Even basic students should know that "what's up?" is asking you what you're doing, not how you're feeling. And the most common response is "not much," not "I'm fine or "I'm good."

So after seeing all different levels of English speakers not understanding these words and phrases that are so commonly used by myself and other native speakers, I put together 101 of the most common slangs and phrases that native speakers use ALL THE TIME.

Most of this stuff in here is for BASIC English speakers. But because this material is not taught in textbooks or at school, even ADVANCED students don't know many of these words and phrases.

Some students think they know the phrase, but maybe they don't know the correct way to respond, or the right context to use it.

And so, after seeing so many non-natives struggle to correctly use and understand this BASIC stuff, as well as with my own frustration with learning Portuguese, I decided to create a guide to speaking real life English, *101 English Words You'll Never Learn in School*, to help you understand, pronounce and use these basic colloquial words and phrases that natives use ALL THE TIME.

So if you really want to understand the culture, if you really want to connect with natives, you NEED to understand the way we talk.

And one of the best ways to understand the way natives talk, is to listen to an audiobook of natives talking about the way they talk!

We understand that listening can be one of the most difficult parts about learning English, so

we highly recommend you practice listening to native speakers as much as possible.

That's why, as a special bonus, we've decided to give you the first two chapters of the audiobook, *101 English Words You'll Never Learn in School* free of charge.

You'll receive it in your email tomorrow.

Thanks for being a part of the Real Life English Community.

I'll see you tomorrow,

Trevor