

What 5 Things Do You Miss Most About England?

Trevor: Hello and welcome to another special edition Real Life English Podcast. Where we believe that listening to audio is a fast, fun, and easy way to learn English. So save some time and learn Real Life English while you're stuck in traffic, working out at the gym, running, cooking, cleaning, whatever.

So, this is a special podcast, only for our subscribers, so please don't share it with anyone else. Thank you.

Trevor: Hey what's goin' on Real Life English Community. It is Carnival here in Brazil, one of the biggest parties in the world. And I have one of my friends here who is staying with us for the night and he's from England. So I figured I'd get him in here and do a little podcast about the 5 things he misses most about England.

So, my friend here is the man who's biked caroused Africa.

Charlie: True.

Trevor: Charlie, how you doin' today?

Charlie: Yeah, I'm okay, thanks. Feeling a little bit worse for wear.

Trevor: "Worse for wear," what does that mean?

Charlie: "Worse for wear," it means like $\text{n}\text{ɒ}\text{t}$ - $\text{ɒ}\text{n}$ not at 100%. Maybe you're a little bit tired, a little bit ill.

Trevor: A little big hungover from last night?

Charlie: A little bit hungover, possibly. Yeah.

Trevor: The first day of Carnival?

Charlie: Yes, in BH as they call it. [Charlie uses the Brazilian pronunciation]

Trevor: Yeah.

Charlie: It's actually my second Carnival. I've done São Paulo, and then BH, and then off to Salvador.

Trevor: Alright.

Charlie: For the big one.

Trevor: Sounds like you gotta...

Charlie: For the grand finale.

Trevor: Yeah, you're gonna have fun.

Charlie: I hope so.

Trevor: Alright so let's get straight into this. What are the five things you miss most about England?

Charlie: So, starting from when I wake up, the first thing I miss about home is the typical English breakfast.

Trevor: Okay, and so what's that?

Charlie: The typical English breakfast is basically... ~~it's a far more~~ it's far less healthy than any other breakfast, I'd assume. But ~~the~~ it works on the basis that we wake up and we have a big meal at the beginning of the day, and then maybe a slightly lighter lunch, 'cause people are at work, and then a ~~big~~ bigger meal in the evening.

So, the big meal in the morning, our full English breakfast ~~consists of~~ the essentials to it are bacon and eggs and mushrooms...

Trevor: Mushrooms, huh?

Charlie: And tomatoes. But I mean, every full English breakfast is different, but what I do... we me and my friends very often ~~we go~~ we call it "going all out."

Trevor: Yes, we use that phrase as well. [in America]

Charlie: Where you leave nothing behind. Where we have hash browns, we have bacon, we have sausage, we have tinned tomatoes...

Trevor: Okay, so that's like in a can?

Charlie: Yeah, it's tomatoes in a can. We sometimes have black pudding, which is congealed pigs blood.

Trevor: What??

Charlie: Yeah. Then obviously, toast. And I usually wash it down with a glass of milk.

Trevor: Alright yeah, that sounds like quite a big breakfast.

Charlie: It is quite a big breakfast. Usually you pdon't need anything until about four o'clock in the afternoon, once you've had one of them.

Trevor: That's a little bit different than here in Brazil with some fruit and a piece of bread, maybe a little sandwich.

Charlie: Maybe a jam sandwich, yeah. But then, moving on to the next thing I miss about home... yeah I miss not having to wait.

Trevor: Right.

Charlie: For, just, very general things. I miss the level of customer service that you receive in England. In that, you know, when you go to the supermarket, you're aware that the person behind the till is doing their utmost to get you out of the door as quick as possible.

Trevor: In general, yeah.

Charlie: In general. And in all stores, right? I sometimes find myself getting very frustrated when I'm waiting in line and I know the person working could be making a bit more of an effort to make sure that I get my service quickly.

Trevor: Right. And I think that's common in Western culture in general.

Charlie: ~~It's common, it's very~~ I mean yeah, it's very European.

Trevor: American as well.

Charlie: And of course American. The level of customer service you get in America is very high. Yeah, one thing that stuck with me from when I was in Africa, is that we'd been waiting a couple of nearly two hours to receive our food. And obviously this was praying on my impatient side. So we went and asked, we went and said "Hey what's goin' on?" And they replied, "Not everyone has food here, so you can wait."

Trevor: Yeah, wow.

Charlie: And so, it's something I should get used to.

Trevor: Alright, so what else do you miss?

Charlie: I miss the general England's green and pleasant land.

Trevor: Quite beautiful place?

Charlie: Yeah. Which is the landscape of the place. Similar to Brazil in that it rains a lot, so everything is very, very green.

Trevor: I heard if you don't like the weather in England, or in London, just wait five minutes.

Charlie: Yeah, that is true. Well actually, I don't know if I'd agree with that. Because usually in Brazil, it seems like it can come on and rain for half an hour really heavily and then stop. Whereas in England we have you know rainy days, where it's raining for the whole day. Just a light drizzle for the whole day and everyone stays inside and has to play board games.

Trevor: Okay. 'Cause I remember I went there when I was like 12 and I'd go outside with like a big sweatshirt on and an umbrella and it'd be raining and then the sun would come out and I'd get really hot and I'd have to take my sweatshirt off.

Charlie: Yeah, in summer, yeah, it can be like that. That is true. But no, ~~I miss the~~ I lived in the countryside of England and yeah, just the general landscape, it's all very green. And in the winter especially, in the morning, it gets hit by a frost. It's like snow but it makes everything like ice-crunchy.

Trevor: It gives it a nice like white coating.

Charlie: Yeah, but ~~it's more~~ it's not really bright white like snow, it's kind of like a grayish...

Trevor: Kind of clear maybe, transparent almost.

Charlie: Very crisp.

Trevor: Yeah. Cool. Alright, what else?

Charlie: So yeah, obviously I really enjoy my football. But one thing I miss from back home is the variety of sports we have that are big, very well-talked about, and very well-followed across the country.

Trevor: So what are those sports?

Charlie: We have, obviously football, the same as here in Brazil. And then we have rugby and cricket. All of which have the national team which is very strongly followed in which people turn out in numbers to support. And yeah, I mean, obviously football is the biggest and is the most widely followed, but personally, I have an interest in all three. And so yeah, I guess I miss that fact that I haven't really been following the others.

Trevor: Right.

Charlie: The two other than football. And yeah, so towards the end of the day, I miss the way we drink beer in England.

Trevor: So how is it different than here in Brazil?

Charlie: Well, due to the climate, I mean, obviously in Brazil it's always very hot, so there's a massive emphasis on keeping your beer cold, and this is a means of cooling you down. Whereas in England, particularly when it's very cold, in the pubs they serve ales, and we call them bitters. Which is actually it's served at room temperature and it's a lot thicker than a lager, it's not fizzy.

Trevor: It's not?

Charlie: It's not fizzy, no.

Trevor: So, what is fizzy?

Charlie: Fizzy is the bubbles you get in sodas and so yeah it's a very strange concept to a lot of Brazilian people that we drink warm beer. But when it's that cold outside...

Trevor: You don't want something cold.

Charlie: It's something that really hits the spot. It's something I miss very much from home.

Trevor: Yeah, I don't think we have that in the States. People don't tend to drink warm beer.

Charlie: People don't drink ales?

Trevor: They just don't drink it warm.

Charlie: So yeah, in England they call it beer. The ale is called beer and others are called lagers, fizzy ones are called lagers. An ale is usually a winter beer and then a lager is usually a summer beer.

Trevor: So is there anything else about the drinking culture there that's different from here?

Charlie: Oh very much so. I mean in England it's very much more gung-ho approach. It's very much more...

Trevor: What does gung-ho mean?

Charlie: I don't know where the origins of gung-ho come from. I think it's very crammed into a lot shorter space of time.

Trevor: So they're more they drink quicker?

Charlie: Yes, they drink quicker.

Trevor: Like you said about the efficiency, they're more efficient.

Charlie: Exactly. So, they get in the store and get out as quickly as possible.

Trevor: Yeah and they wanna drink their beer...

Charlie: And it's the same with beer. So yeah typically if ~~we go~~ if we're drinking we'll start at maybe eight o'clock in the evening and then we'll be finished at sort of two o'clock.

Trevor: That's a good long night.

Charlie: Yeah, ~~which is a~~, I mean it's a good night. But where as here in Brazil, no one starts until maybe eleven o'clock, but then they go on all night.

Trevor: They can go until five in the morning.

Charlie: And they can go until five or six.

Trevor: Sometimes even longer.

Charlie: When the sun rises that doesn't mean it's time to go to bed here in Brazil whereas in England it certainly does.

Trevor: Yes, I would imagine in most places when you see the sunrise you say, "Okay, I should probably be going to bed."

Charlie: But here it's not, it doesn't make any difference.

Trevor: Alright, cool man. Five things you miss about England. So do you wanna just wrap those up real quick and summarize?

Charlie: So it's the breakfast, which is big and unhealthy and delicious. It's the efficiency, which is not having to wait very long for very long to get everything.

Trevor: And also good customer service.

Charlie: And strong customer service. The landscape of course, the very green... England's green and pleasant land. And then the sports—the fact that we have more than just football. I miss following all three, of cricket, rugby, and football. And then the beers, I miss a good ale.

Trevor: Alright well thank you very much. Thanks for doing this podcast.

Charlie: Ah, cheers for having me Trevor. Thanks.

Trevor: Maybe sometime we could do another podcast. It's nice having the English accent on there.

Charlie: Yeah. You should do a survey on which people prefer.

Trevor: Yeah, I hear a lot of people really like the English accent, depending on where you're from in England.

Charlie: A lot of people like it but then a lot of people just haven't learned it. So just like, they kind of ignore it.

Trevor: Yeah, some people think it's more difficult because of the way you guys say your "Rs"

and stuff like that where as the strong "R" in American is easier to understand, but a lot of people like just fall in love with the English accent and I've never seen that with the American accent.

Charlie: Yes they do. It's really because a lot of, especially in Brazil, they learn American English, they probably only really hear British English in films. It's not...

Trevor: It's a little bit more exotic

Charlie: It's probably a bit more harder to come by.

Trevor: Alright, cool man. So just wanna say thanks again. And, been doing this podcast for a little too long now, we're about to have a party here for Carnival.

Charlie: Sweet.

Trevor: So we're gonna turn off this podcast and enjoy our Saturday.

Charlie: Nice.

Trevor: So thanks for listening guys and we'll see you next time.

Charlie: Valeu [a Brazilian goodbye], Trevor.