

## EPISODE 5: TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

A: So we were just kind of talking, right? About earlier, you know, in another episode we had talked about confusing words, we had talked about pet peeves, right? And I was saying how, you know, that a lot of our experiences as '*guiris*' and whatever are unique to people from here, and that all kind of wrapped up together in the word trip and travel.

C: right.

A: do you have a pet peeve? Sorry, a pet hate related to trip and travel at all?

C: in my last travel. My last travel is not English.

A: OK so tell me teacher, why is that not correct? What's wrong with saying my last travel? Travel is a noun.

C: Travel. Travel is an uncountable noun. OK, I'll give you that.

A: At best.

C: At best. I know, this is like if you try to explain music.

A: borderline noun.

C: I love music. I love travel. I'll give you that. You can use it as a noun as well

A: I would say. I love to travel. I love travelling.

C: I love travelling. Exactly.

A: Yeah.

C: For me, I keep it simple. Travel is a verb.

A: OK.

C: So, to travel. Traveling, etcetera.

A: Yeah, great.



# UB talkin' to me?

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C: now. A trip. I think it's a **trip** and a **holiday**, is where people are getting confused.

A: and **journey**! Cause journey, journey for me is a Hobbit word. It's not a word that I use in my...like, a journey?

C: I give the example that I had a great holiday.

A: OK

C: in Argentina.

A: OK.

C: true story.

A: Was it a good trip?

C: It was... the journey there was one of the most frightening experiences in my life. On the airplane...

A: OK so "journey" refers to the actual moving from one location to another.

C: the transport that you're taking. Yeah, the journey that, I mean, that you could say the flight.

A: It's a **commute**.

C: Yeah. It's like the journey, the flight... commute, not so much.

A: Why not?

C: Because.

A: What's the commute?

C: A commute is just, yeah...

A: it's for work.

C: it's for work. And also like you live a little bit outside,



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# UB talkin' to me?

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A: exactly like the commute. Some work is 30 minutes, which is it's funny because a commute is a journey, but all journeys are not commutes. No?

C: exactly, we agree.

A: ok, so the journey to Argentina...

C: the journey, the flight there was a little bit frightening because, you know, we took off and quite quickly they switched off all the lights. I was reading a book and...

A: they wanted you to get handsy.

C: I don't know what they wanted but I didn't, you know get somebody from the cabin crew and say could you switch the lights on and they said...

A: but you couldn't put on...

C: no, no, nothing.

A: So they cut the electricity, you mean

C: basically. And then they said 'because we need to save energy for the trip'.

A: Ohh OK, not for the commute, for the journey.

C: for the journey.

A: to save energy.

C: That was the frightening part.

A: And that's because of what? is it the first law of Thermo Dynamics of energy is. Oh no, it's matter is neither created nor destroyed.

C: Just that we are hurtling through the air...

A: you're probably over the ocean by now.

C: in the direction of Argentina. I just hope we get there. So yeah, I remember like the journey there was really frightening, but when I was there I had a great time.

A: you never got any explanation about that?



C: No explanation. We got there, we got there. We survived.

A: Kind of sounds like what we should do these days with the cost of electricity in Catalunya.

C: let me just switch everything off.

A: Our next recording session we're actually to do without the lights, let's save some money for the studio.

C: So, for me? Yeah. Travel, trip and a holiday the difference there is probably... holiday, definitely you're gonna enjoy yourself. Relax, **unwind**.

A: OK, OK.

C: Maybe a bit longer.

A: So a holiday is necessarily recreational. A trip could be a work trip.

C: Exactly. Business trip.

A: I think in the US, we don't use the word, for us holiday is from 'dia festivo', it's a day that there's no work. Like, I don't go on holiday.

C: bank holiday.

A: No, but, no. Because we have state holidays also. Bank holiday would be a national holiday.

C: right.

A: Right. Like in the US, there are certain states that don't celebrate Martin Luther King Junior day.

C: They should.

A: They are not the good ones.

C: They're not the good ones. Yeah.

A: Yes. So...



C: OK.

A: yeah, for, like I say, **vacation**. Like, I'm going on vacation. I don't go on holiday. I go on vacation.

C: But I would go on holiday.

A: I know you would. But for you, you would never say go on vacation.

C: No, I couldn't say go on vacation. I can't say awesome. I mean that's just... I can't say awesome.

A: Well I I'm I'm not 12 so I don't really say it either.

C: I literally can't say awesome.

A: OK

C: I literally can't say literally either. No. There's just some things that would be American expressions, like vacation.

A: for me. It works out well the fact that my natural languages say go on vacation. Es 'estar de vacaciones' here. So like it works out nicely because...

C: but I like the different swell between holiday and holidays.

A: Ah, OK.

C: because they're different as well.

A: Sure. But do you go on holiday or you go on **holidays**?

C: No, I go on holiday.

A: right. And recreation is a is a day that you don't work.

C: Bank holiday for me,

A: but is the only type of non work day for you? A bank holiday? Aren't there other holidays that are not bank holidays?



# UB talkin' to me?

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C: I can't think of any. I mean, you could have a day off, but then you choose to have that day off.

A: That's a personal day.

C: That's a personal day exactly, yeah.

A: But like for example a day in Ireland, like a day in where Cork is celebrating...

C: Saint Patrick's Day for example.

A: But no, but I'm saying a day that in Cork people don't work. So like in Barcelona we have a couple of holidays like this, right? We have Segunda Pasqua, second Easter, which nobody seems to know what it is, but outside of Barcelona, definitely outside of Catalunya it's not celebrated. And there are a couple outside like there's there's a holiday in Badalona, the day where they burn the devil on the on the beach. That's not celebrated in Barcelona. So for you is that a bank holiday?

C: That's a bank holiday, yeah.

A: in Badalona.

C: yeah, it's bank holiday.

A: OK. So bank holiday is not exactly national holiday then.

C: no, I think that's a difference probably in the size of the countries. Ireland, we're going to do the whole same thing.

A: but there must be some some days that are not work days in in some parts of the country and are in others?

C: No, no, no. Everybody would have the same.

A: What about Northern Ireland?

C: Well, now we're not getting into that. Now that's another episode. Yeah.

A: So we were talking a little bit before, right? That we, that both of us, I think, have traveled a lot. How do you...? Do you change the way you speak English if you travel?

C: I love traveling to the states because...



# UB talkin' to me?

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A: OK, I wasn't asking that, but alright.

C: no, I'll tell you why. Because I feel at home.

A: right? The American accent and the Irish accent it's got a lot in common, right?

C: When I say the states to me here, I'm thinking of the good ones.

A: Exactly.

C: New York.

A: New York is not a good state, nor is it...

C: But you feel, if you're Irish and you're in New York, you feel like you're at home.

A: yeah.

C: Now the same happens to me if I go to England...

A: Boston would be the place...

C: Boston as well. Philadelphia, Chicago, I'm sure.

A: Yeah, Boston is the big Irish one.

C: If I go to England, for example, Liverpool I am 110% in Ireland.

A: Yeah.

C: Some people say Liverpool is the capital of Ireland.

A: Yeah, can we, Speaking of Liverpool, can we just address for a second, I think **demonym** is the the term in English? Adjective of origin for people from Liverpool is the greatest word ever. What is, a person from Liverpool is a...?

C: Scouser.

A: No, but what's the adjective?

C: A Liverpudlian?



# UB talkin' to me?

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A: Liverpudlian, right. Love that.

C: Yeah. No, you've got the two. Yeah, you've got.

A: But 'scouser' I think it includes extra information that's not... like I was looking for Liverpudlian.

C: Liverpudlian. Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

A: So, you know, a person from Catalunya is a Catalan. A person from Liverpool is a Liverpudlian.

C: Yeah.

A: sounds like an alien.

C: Sounds great. Yeah, they are very great people.

A: No, but I mean, listen, I think that's a generalization. There are great people everywhere.

C: true, true...

A: So you go to the US and linguistically you feel comfortable, but when you when you travel to Argentina for example.

C: right.

A: You spoke Spanish.

C: I tried to, yeah,

A: have you traveled to a non-native English speaking country where English has had to be the language of communication.

C: obviously, yeah. But immediately start to think of somewhere as well like Japan where the level of English I was expecting to be much higher and really it wasn't.

A: yeah I heard that from a lot of...which is funny because the level of education in Japan in general is off the charts. The socioeconomic level is off the charts.

C: Amazing.



# UB talkin' to me?

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A: yet very little immigration. I have a cousin who actually lives there and is married to a Japanese lady. He's lived there for 25 years and his children are are wonderful. I don't know what their experience was in high school, being half white and half Japanese.

C: right.

A: He's got wonderful neighbors and friends and everything else but and he doesn't. He doesn't speak very much Japanese. I don't think

C: right.

A: But people don't speak English.

C: No, no, no, no. And there's like...

A: but they're receptive and communicative.

C: They're very communicative. And they want to help you. I mean, I remember you know, you're trying to find somewhere. You ask stop somebody in the street, ask for directions...

A: and how, you know, how do you... let's role play that.

C: OK.

A: So imagine I'm a white Japanese businessman walking down the streets and you stopped me.

C: Excuse me. They look at you and they kind of just go 'hi, foreigner'. They just start nodding.

A: OK.

C: But you can see the panic in their eyes at this point going like 'you want me to help you, but I cannot help you'.

A: 'but I want to help you'.

C: But I cannot. But I cannot say no.

A: Yeah.



C: Now one guy, I remember asking him. We were looking for somewhere and he, he started sweating, took out his laptop, started writing in the address that we asked for, then took his mobile. I was suspecting at this point he was calling somebody. Calling somebody to say 'could you help me explain how to get to this place?'

A: Yeah.

C: And at this point, you're going like 'you don't need to go this far. Just point me in the direction'.

A: but that, that definitely shows a desire, notably, which definitely is not found in all countries. I doubt that someone in New York is going to that kind of...

C: I disagree completely, because in New York my experience was...I, I remember being down by CBGBS, which is, you know, where the Ramones a lot punk groups play,

A: not to be confused with the **Heebie jeebies**. Another expression. OK.

C: And I was kind of standing the street, taking it in, you know, wanting to take a photo or something, and somebody comes over and says, you know, can I help you?

A: let me take that camera for ya.

C: well that's what I was expecting, I was like immediately grabbing the camera, going like, hey, hey, I know what you're up to. I know what you're up to. I'm Irish, I can handle myself. Yeah, exactly. And they were genuinely asking 'can I help you, are you lost?'

A: that person was not from New York.

C: Probably not.

A: That was someone from another part of the US who was living in New York who doesn't understand what New York's all about.

C: I remember the subways. Well, that one of the first days I was there and somebody was standing on the subway looking. And he was kind of staring at this girl and I thought, right, he's going, he's going to try and snatch the bag, steal something.

A: Yeah.

C: And then he just said 'I love your tattoo'.



A: OK.

C: And I thought, where is my wallet? I keep it. Yeah, yeah, like 'what is going on here?' And then he said, have a nice day. Got off to somewhere and I was like 'whoa, this is too weird'. I think he genuinely just wanted to say, I like your tattoo.

## Vocabulary bank

**Trip (noun):** a journey where you go somewhere, usually for a short time, and come back again.

**Journey (noun):** the act of travelling from one place to another, especially in a vehicle.

**Commute (noun):** a regular journey between work and home.

**Unwind (verb):** to relax after a period of work or anxiety.

**Vacation (noun):** a time when someone does not go to work or school but is free to do what they want, such as travel or relax. *Synonym: holiday, holidays (UK).*

**Demonym (noun):** a word that is a name for someone who comes from a particular place.

**The heebie-jeebies (noun):** strong feelings of fear or worry.



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