

EPISODE 3: PET-HATES AND MANIAS

C: Pet hates.

A: Pet ates?

C: Pet-hates.

A: What language are you speaking?

C: I'm speaking English.

A: Pet. Hates?

C: What do you understand by pet-hates?

A: It sounds like the wrong word order for 'hating pets'. I mean, things that you love to hate?

C: Things...exactly. It's nothing to do with pets whatsoever. 'Pet hates', probably, like, little things that get on your nerves, really annoy you. That maybe...

A: I don't have any of those!

C: Get ready! No, they're maybe not always rational. That's the thing with pet hates, they can be very personal, they're manias that people have.

A: So glad my partner is not here, cause she would just say 'well, he doesn't have anything that are not pet hates'.

C: Ok, so there are things which annoy you, can you think of any other ways to say '**to get annoyed**'? Or any expressions you would use?

A: For 'to get annoyed'?

C: Yeah, something that annoys you.

A: Well, for of all what I think about is that I love the verb 'annoy' and I love the fact that in Spanish is 'enojar'. In latin America they use 'enojar'. Here it's more 'enfadar' which is 'to get angry'. But linguistically, in French is 'annoyer' which is 'annoy' and think about 'enojar'. The 'jota', the J and the Y, are similar. So 'enojar' literally comes from the word



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'to annoy'. Although we would say 'irritar', 'irritate' a lot more often. So, oh my god, I don't know. **Annoy, irritate, bother... 'piss off'**! This is a good one for Americans.

C: Now we're getting there.

A: Right? Cause to **piss someone off** means to make them angry or annoy them. And then, in the UK, 'to be pissed', I don't know in Ireland, but to be pissed is to be drunk, and in the US to be pissed is to be annoyed.

C: Exactly, yeah.

A: 'Oh, my God! Yesterday I was so pissed!' 'Really, were you at the bar?' 'No, no! My student did this or that!' 'Ah, ok.'

C: Because I feel like the expressions '**drives me crazy**', '**drives me nuts**'...

A: ...'drives me up a wall'

C: ...'**drives me up the wall**'

A: 'The wall' or 'a wall'?

C: 'Up the wall', I would say.

A: The wall. I'd never use that but I understand it.

C: 'Around the bend'. '**Drives me around the bend**'.

A: 'Drives me around the bend!'

C: Love that

A: Feels like...'yesterday he drove me around the bend and he dropped me off and made me walk home.

C: 'And I was pissed'.

A: 'And I was pissed'. There are so many interesting interpretations of this.

C: So, what we're going to talk about today is pet hates, little manias. I'm gonna kick off and then see if you agree or disagree.



A: Sure

C: First one. For me, metro timers that lie. You're in the metro, waiting for a train or a metro to come and it says 3:42, 3:41, and suddenly it's 4:52.

A: Ok, I guess you have no sympathy for people who jump in front of the metro.

C: Jumping queues! Jumping queues would be another...

A: But I mean jumping down onto the tracks.

C: Jumping down into the tracks wouldn't be a pet hate for me, no.

A: And it wouldn't be a minute or two minutes of delay, there. Ok, that...so many things about the metro **bother** me. That's not one of them, because, well, you've probably never worked much in the production of shows and things like that. As a musician, we do it all the time. When there's so many variables in play. In fact, I would say this might be one of the occasions where I'm actually always impressed when the time is actually correct, so I kinda take the glass half full approach to this one. When we think about the metro, though, I can say that I hate tourists on the metro who do not wear their masks. Not because I feel like everybody needs to be wearing their masks anymore, but I'm like, man. When you're somewhere else that you're not from, especially when you're from a certain socio-economic class. I'm not talking about, like, people who are clearly coming here to search for work or something. I'm talking about like, tourists, who come here and spend money. A bunch yesterday, they had so many shopping bags at their feet...I hadn't seen this in years. And they, they were young people, they weren't even necessarily...you know, if you're that rich, you're not even taking the metro.

C: Right, yeah, yeah.

A: But they had, like, a bunch of shopping bags and the four of them were sitting there without their masks on. And I'm like, man, you gotta understand one of the languages in which they are announcing on the metro that you need to have a mask over your nose and mouth as we say.

C: 'Nose and mouth'.

A: Exactly.

C: Sandals and socks, for the tourists?



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A: It doesn't bother me, makes me laugh. Definitely goes into the category of white people things. That's for sure, because no African American is wearing socks with sandals.

C: Well, that Tyler the Creator...he's coming into fashion...

A: He's from San Francisco, though, right? That doesn't count. That's beyond ethnic differences.

C: Another pet hate for me: slow internet connection.

A: Ah, yes, yes. But I have to say, one of the most impressive things about this country is the speed of the internet is amazing compared to the US.

C: Oh, really?

A: Which also goes into, I think I mentioned in one of our episodes, how...or maybe I didn't. My partner and I are going to start an Instagram account about things that are 'developing world' about the US, and the list is unending.

C: It starts getting longer and longer...

A: Unending. One of them is, the speed of the internet is embarrassing and the price is twice as much as here. Even here it's already not that cheap compared to other countries, I think. But I will defend Catalunya's internet speed. I'll even go as far as to defend the internet speed in all of the country of Spain, and perhaps the entire Iberian Peninsula.

C: Ok, how about **filling in forms**?

A: Filling them in or **filling them out**?

C: I would fill them in.

A: Yeah?

C: No?

A: You fill out the blank, you fill out the form. In north suburban Chicago English.

C: General paperwork.



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A: But do you mean...oh, ok, so you're referring to having to do it or having to do it by hand?

C: Having to do it by hand.

A: Oh, yeah, writing anything by hand...no. we're too old for that. Ok, can I give you one of my **pet peeves**? Pet peeves! That's what I say! Not pet hates, pet peeves! Thank you, that's why pet hates sounded so weird. Pet peeves.

C: Pet peeves.

A: In American English that's probably the standard expression, I believe.

C: Right, I've heard that, yeah.

A: Pet peeves. People who look at their cellphone as they're walking down the street. And I'm absolutely guilty of that, so in these many times it makes me hate myself but my god, I could kill those people. Oh, my God, they're walking like...cause they're never walking at the speed they should be and they're never in the position they should be. If you really need to check your phone, it's kinda like, you don't drive while looking at your phone, you pull over. Or you should pull over.

C: You should.

A: People should move over to the side of the sidewalk and check whatever important Tik Tok video they need to be watching at that moment. Drives me insane. Another metro-related one. This is also related to tourists, but people who get on an escalator...do you call them 'an escalator'?

C: **Staircase, escalator.**

A: No, not 'staircase'. Escalator is the mechanical one.

C: Mechanical staircase.

A: Do you say that?

C: We could.

A: No, but, what's your default Irish English reference for those stairs that are moved by electricity?



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C: I'll give you electricity later. I'll give you escalator. Yeah.

A: Do you have another word for it or no.

C: We don't have them in Ireland, no.

A: Oh, really? Ohh. That's why you're not at all...You don't look like Americans.

C: There's a lot of vocabulary we don't have because it doesn't exist.

A: OK, wow, the mechanical staircase.

C: There we go.

A: People, oftentimes tourists who get on it, they get to the top and they take one step off and they stop with no consideration for the fact that people behind them can't stop because they're on a moving mechanical entity. Drives me insane because I don't live that far from Sagrada Familia, so there's an inordinate amount of tourists who are really excited to get out of the escalator and out of the metro and stop and look up.

C: And this one's very personal for me, maybe you agree. Finding the end of sellotape.

A: You use a lot more tape than I do. So, you're saying it pisses you off when you get to the end of it.

C: I is when you're buying presents, especially around holidays, times like that, and wrapping the presents and you're using the sellotape and if you don't have the proper machine...

A: OK, so you don't have a mechanical staircase, but you have a machine to put tape on presents for you?

C: **Sellotape** machine.

A: OK well, first of all, the fact is you call it sellotape. That's interesting. That's quite Spanish related.

C: Right, what would you say?

A: OK, the default in the US, I believe, is **Scotch tape**, which is absolutely a brand name.

C: OK



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A: Sello, sello is a brand name for you, or no?

C: I've never thought about it, but Scotch to me sounds like something else. Sounds like you would drink it.

A: Well, of course you would drink it, but then you cover it with tape.

No, Scotch tape I believe is the original brand in the US from 3M, the manufacturer 3M. So for a Scotch tape, I think officially it should be called...Transparent **adhesive** tape perhaps?

Yeah. But no, we definitely say, do you have any Scotch tape?

C: OK

A: Yeah. But again you use a lot more than I do for sure because you're more in an office environment. Yeah.

C: Also for me it's just the excessive amount of packaging nowadays on things.

A: Sure.

C: Now that just goes against the environment.

A: True, yes, true. Although I recently listened to a podcast that was talking about cardboard. How not all, but virtually all cardboard these days is recycled.

C: OK?

A: So when you get, especially the more that like the kind of puffier type of, I mean corrugated like puffy cardboard is almost always completely recycled now. And the Amazon packages that come in that super flimsy cardboard, that's recycled usually. So that's nice.

C: And in itself, Amazon is that a pet-hate, or hate-hate...

A: Love, hate. It's one of those self-fulfilling prophecy kinds of things that, I don't want to go to Amazon all the time, yet I go to look for something in a store and they don't have it. And why don't they have it? Because everybody orders it from Amazon, and so there's no reason for them to carry it. So that, you know, I'm absolutely in favor of small businesses. On the other hand, I think most of the things that I order or have to order or decide or choose to order from Amazon are not available in a small business. You know, I'm not ordering a guitar from Amazon. Guitar strings? No, neither, because the price is competitive at local stores, in fact. Now, a little box of electrical connectors of which I



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need three to fix an amplifier, yet I have to buy a box of 500. Amazon because I'll have gone to hardware stores for things like that and oftentimes they don't have it.

C: Yeah.

A: But it's definitely one of those things that... I don't know, how do you feel about Amazon?

C: Again, I think it's the love-hate relationship. It's like I think I use it as a last-minute resort when I need to buy presents and I've thought...

A: **Last resort**, great expression, also. Love last resort.

C: And you kind of click in there to see, is it gonna arrive on time? I love the fact that you can get the delivery date and you can pretty much rely on it. That is good.

A: I do know one of the things that I, that is horrible at Amazon, the way that they treat the people that work in their processing facilities or fulfillment centers. Which, there's an expression, is terrible. On the other hand, the singer in one of my bands was working for the last couple of years as a delivery guy for Amazon, and for him it was perfect because it was flexible hours that allowed him to be able to rehearse in the mornings or in the evenings too, with a week or two of warning, ask for an evening or a morning off, make a minimum salary, and they let him use a van so he wasn't putting miles on his own car.

C: OK.

A: And so. From that point of view, that's one of those gig economy, another great vocabulary word, and get one of those gig economy, gigs or jobs, that that's pretty good depending on what you're looking for out of it.

C: And the last one for me now, pet hates. **Cold calls**.

A: Would you like to define what a, I know what a cold call is, but I'm not sure everybody knows that 'una llamada fria' when your phone, when you left your phone in the freezer and you pick it up and it's really cold and it gets stuck to your ear like the tongue in the proverbial pole in a Christmas story.

C: Well, I get these a lot because the phone call comes in and it's from a company, you know, like we're not going to name any companies, you know, product placement here.

A: Not yet, but if it comes, yeah, but if anybody offers us money we're taking it.



Vocabulary bank

To annoy (verb): to make someone angry. Synonyms: to irritate, to bother, to piss someone off, to drive someone up the wall, to drive someone crazy, to drive someone nuts.

To drive someone around the bend (idiom): to make someone very bored or very angry.

Pet peeve (noun): something that especially annoys you.

To fill something in (phrasal verb): to write or type information on a document in spaces that are provided for it. Synonym: to fill something out.

Staircase (noun): a set of stairs inside a building, usually with a bar fixed on the wall or onto vertical poles at the side for you to hold on to.

Escalator (noun): a set of stairs moved up or down by electric power on which people can stand and be taken from one level of a building to another, especially in shops, railway stations, and airports.

Sellotape (noun): a brand name for a long, thin strip of sticky and usually transparent material that is sold in a roll and is used for joining together things such as paper or card. Synonym: Scotch tape.

Adhesive (noun): a sticky substance that is used for joining things together, usually permanently.

Last resort (idiom): the only choice that remains after all others have been tried.

Cold-call (noun): a phone call or visit from someone trying to sell a product or service who has not been asked by the customer to do this.



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