



# The Effortless English Club

*Automatic English For The People*

**DVD 2 - Vol 1**

**LEARN REAL ENGLISH**

**with AJ Hoge**

[www.EffortlessEnglishClub.com](http://www.EffortlessEnglishClub.com)

# DVD 2 : Learn Real English Lessons – VOL 1

---

<b>00. Introduction</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>01. Earthquakes</b>	
• <i>Earthquakes conversation</i>	<i>05</i>
• <i>Earthquakes vocabulary</i>	<i>07</i>
• <i>Earthquakes mini story</i>	<i>13</i>
• <i>Earthquakes point of view</i>	<i>22</i>
<b>02. Trip to washington</b>	
• <i>Trip to washington conversation</i>	<i>25</i>
• <i>Trip to washington vocabulary</i>	<i>28</i>
• <i>Trip to washington mini story</i>	<i>36</i>
• <i>Trip to washington point of view</i>	<i>43</i>
<b>03. The wedding</b>	
• <i>The wedding conversation</i>	<i>45</i>
• <i>The wedding vocabulary</i>	<i>48</i>
• <i>The wedding mini story</i>	<i>55</i>
• <i>The wedding point of view</i>	<i>62</i>
<b>04. Grateful dead</b>	
• <i>Grateful dead conversation</i>	<i>65</i>
• <i>Grateful dead vocabulary</i>	<i>68</i>
• <i>Grateful dead mini story</i>	<i>74</i>
• <i>Grateful dead point of view</i>	<i>81</i>
<b>05. Grandmother</b>	
• <i>Grandmother conversation</i>	<i>83</i>
• <i>Grandmother vocabulary</i>	<i>86</i>
• <i>Grandmother mini story</i>	<i>92</i>
• <i>Grandmother point of view</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>06. Hitchhiking in europe</b>	
• <i>Hitchhiking in europe conversation</i>	<i>102</i>
• <i>Hitchhiking in europe vocabulary</i>	<i>106</i>
• <i>Hitchhiking in europe mini story</i>	<i>113</i>
• <i>Hitchhiking in europe point of view</i>	<i>121</i>

<b>07. Moving as a child part 1</b>	
• <i>Moving as a child part 1 conversation</i>	123
• <i>Moving as a child part 1 vocabulary</i>	125
• <i>Moving as a child part 1 mini story</i>	130
• <i>Moving as a child part 1 point of view</i>	137
<b>08. Moving as a child part 2</b>	
• <i>Moving as a child part 2 conversation</i>	139
• <i>Moving as a child part 2 vocabulary</i>	142
• <i>Moving as a child part 2 mini story</i>	149
• <i>Moving as a child part 2 point of view</i>	158
<b>09. Parents</b>	
• <i>Parents conversation</i>	160
• <i>Parents vocabulary</i>	162
• <i>Parents mini story</i>	168
• <i>Parents point of view</i>	176
<b>10. Buring man</b>	
• <i>Buring man conversation</i>	178
• <i>Buring man vocabulary</i>	181
• <i>Buring man mini story</i>	189
• <i>Buring man point of view</i>	197
<b>11. Ticket on the train</b>	
• <i>Ticket on the train conversation</i>	199
• <i>Ticket on the train vocabulary</i>	201
• <i>Ticket on the train mini story</i>	209
• <i>Ticket on the train point of view</i>	216
<b>12. New school year</b>	
• <i>New school year conversation</i>	218
• <i>New school year vocabulary</i>	220
• <i>New school year mini story</i>	225
• <i>New school year point of view</i>	233
<b>13. Music festival part 1</b>	
• <i>Music festival part 1 conversation</i>	235
• <i>Music festival part 1 vocabulary</i>	238
• <i>Music festival part 1 mini story</i>	245
• <i>Music festival part 1 point of view</i>	252

## **14. Music festival part 2**

- *Music festival part 2 conversation* 254
- *Music festival part 2 vocabulary* 257
- *Music festival part 2 mini story* 264
- *Music festival part 2 point of view* 272

## **00. INTRODUCTION**

---

Hello. This is Kristin and this is Joe ... we wanted to take a moment to welcome you to the Learn Real English Family and to tell you a little about the lessons.

Now these lessons are based on real, authentic English conversations that Joe and I have had with each other and our friends... and also with my mom. These are actual conversations that we've had so you will become familiar, more familiar, with real spoken English.

So you'll hear Kristin and I in the conversations and also doing the lessons. You'll also hear our friend AJ Hoge from Effortless English. He's done some of the lessons as well.

Okay, so now a little bit about the lessons . . . Each lesson set has a conversation, a vocabulary lesson and a mini-story lesson for you to listen to. And we've also included the text for each of these, in case you want to read along as you listen.

The key to Learn Real English is deep learning. The best way to use these lessons is to listen to one lesson set at a time. You should spend at least one week on each lesson set. Now remember... one lesson set has a conversation, a vocabulary lesson and a mini-story lesson in it. So listen to the lesson set every day for at least one week before moving on to the next set. Even if the lesson set is easy, you should still continue for one week. And if after a week the lesson set is difficult, continue listening until you have a basic understanding. Also, you want to be sure that you do the lesson sets in order because the ones at the end are more difficult .

We've included a welcome guide that has more instructions. So please read it before you start listening to the lessons. And if you have any questions or comments about the lessons you can go to our discussion board. It's at [www.EffortlessEnglishForums.com](http://www.EffortlessEnglishForums.com).

Okay, so now you're ready to start. Thanks for joining the Learn Real English family. And good luck with the lessons. But most importantly, make sure you have fun. Bye.

# 01. EARTHQUAKES

---

- Earthquakes Conversation

**aftershock:** an earthquake that happens right after another earthquake

**it dawned on me:** I remembered; I realized

**totally:** definitely

**a while:** a long time

**it's a given:** there is no doubt

**perspective:** what someone thinks about something

**taking place:** happening

**World Series:** the championship games in American baseball

**cut out:** no longer was able to be seen

**rundown:** information

**weed through:** to look or dig through

**I'll tell you what:** that is for sure

**a dime a dozen:** very common

**surreal:** unreal

**Joe:** Hey, **check this out**. Y'know what Eric asked me when I got into work this morning?

**Kristin:** **I have no idea**, what'd he ask you?

**Joe:** He asked me if I felt the earthquake last night.

**Kristin:** Earthquake? **You've gotta be kidding**, I didn't feel an earthquake.

**Joe:** I know, that's what I said. He told me it actually woke him up last night. Y'know...

**Kristin:** What?

**Joe:** ...yeah, it was like, it went, it happened at like, uh, 4:42 in the morning. So we must've been sleeping. But I mean, it's possible that, y'know, even if we had been awake we might not have felt it because, y'know, maybe it, uh, wasn't felt, y'know, this far north. But, uh, I, I mean I thought he was **pullin' my leg** when he first talked about it.

**Kristin:** Well, I guess it's not so **far-fetched** considering we live on a major fault line here.

**Joe:** Yeah, but actually I think this earthquake was, uh, on a different fault line, um, because, y'know, Eric lives, uh, just, uh, south of San Jose...

**Kristin:** Yeah.

**Joe:** ...and, uh, the earthquake he said was **due east** of San Jose, so he was obviously a lot closer to the **epicenter** than we were. So, I d-, I'm not even sure it was felt here.

**Kristin:** Yeah, that makes sense. Well, y'know, I've experienced quite a few earthquakes in the past several years but I've been living here a little over two years, I've, I think I've only experienced one here. It was really strange, too, I was, um, each, I should say each earthquake has been a completely different experience. But the one I, the one I felt here, I was standing outside a restaurant talking to AJ and another friend and **all of a sudden** it just felt like, this shift. It's really hard to explain, but it made me think of, like, a cartoon, like how, in the cartoon, like buildings might just shift to the right and then shift right back.

**Joe:** Yeah, without falling.

**Kristin:** Yeah, without falling. And I, I had no idea what was going on for a few minutes afterwards. And then I realized, oh that must have been an earthquake.

**Joe:** Yeah, you know what I usually notice, the times that I've been at home, here...

**Kristin:** Yeah.

**Joe:** ...and, uh, there's been an earthquake? It's almost as if there's this really big train, or like a gigantic Mack truck going by. And, uh, suddenly I start to hear the heater shaking. And, um, it's like, the noise is like, uh, is loud for like a second and then it's gone, so...

**Kristin:** That's so...

**Joe:** ...it's really weird, y'know, it's almost like the first couple'a times I felt it, I wasn't even aware it was an earthquake while it was happening.

**Kristin:** Well, that's so funny you say that because one that I experienced in Bangkok, it actually was after the tsunami and so later I found out that it was, it was, um, **aftershock** from the tsunami. But anyway, I was in a building up on the ninth floor and suddenly, uh, there was all this rattling. And I'm thinking to myself, it, it just, it, it was so irrational. I'm thinking to myself, god, there's like a train going by and I can't believe that this building is shaking so much from the train [laugh]. It... And of course a train wouldn't have made a building, or at least me up on the ninth floor, feel something to that effect. And I think it happened about two times. And it... That one wasn't until several days later when I was talking to people and they were like, "Oh didja feel the earthquake?". Then **it dawned on me**, oh, that was an earthquake. It was...

**Joe:** Yeah, I know. It's, uh, it's crazy how when you're not used to feeling them you can think it's something else.

**Kristin:** Yeah, yeah **totally**.

**Joe:** I mean, I've been livin' here for **a while** now and I've definitely felt my share of earthquakes. I mean, y'know, when you live here **it's a given** that you're gonna experience earthquakes. You just hope that you're not gonna be here for the big one, y'know...

**Kristin:** [laugh] Yeah, right.

**Joe:** When I first moved here, it was, uh, about five years after the Loma Prieta earthquake, which was a very big earthquake here. And, um, there are a lot of people who lived here who I met who had actually been living in the area when the earthquake hit. So it was interesting to get their ***perspective***...

**Kristin:** Oh.

**Joe:** ...and, uh, it also like made me remember where I was when I heard about the Loma Prieta earthquake. I was watching the ***World Series*** on TV. And, uh, y'know, it was, uh, ***taking place*** in San Francisco. So, uh, as I'm watching it suddenly the announcer starts, uh, uh, saying, "Wow, I think we're feeling an earthquake here.". And the cameras started shaking. And, uh, all of a sudden the TV coverage ***cut out***. So, uh, y'know, I wanted to get a ***rundown*** on what happened. So I turned to the news station and, uh, within a few minutes they were discussing this gigantic earthquake that had hit San Francisco. And they started showing pictures, uh, maybe thirty minutes later, of these people who were, uh, trying to ***weed through*** the rubble of these buildings that had been, like, coming down. So, I mean, it was...

**Kristin:** Oh, wow.

**Joe:** ...it was pretty scary, ***I'll tell you what***...

**Kristin:** Yeah.

**Joe:** ...y'know.

**Kristin:** Yeah, well, um, you know the three months I was living in Japan I experienced two. Both of those were very different, uh, very different from the one I'd experienced here and also very different from the one in Bangkok. But one of 'em, I was actually up in my apartment, which was on the fifth floor of a building. And I was woken up at about 5 o'clock in the morning to the building swaying. And because, uh, earthquakes are like ***a dime a dozen*** in Japan, they, they've built a lot of their buildings to absorb the shock. So that's why it was swaying, it was really, it was a very ***surreal*** feel.

- **Earthquakes Vocabulary**

Hi. Welcome to the vocabulary lesson for the conversation "Earthquakes." In this conversation Joe and I are talking about different earthquakes that we've both experienced. So let's start with the conversation.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Joe starts off by saying, "Hey..."**

*Now, hey.... This is just a filler word. It really has no meaning here except for Joe trying to get my attention.*

**Joe goes on to say, "check this out."**



*Check this out. Check this out means listen to this. Check this out. An example of check this out would be: Scott said, "Check this out. I got two free tickets to the Rolling Stones concert." Check this out.*

**And Joe goes on to say, "Y'know what Eric asked me when I got into work this morning?"**

*Y'know. This is short for you know. You won't see this in written English but you will hear it in conversational English. Y'know.*

**And then I say, "I have no idea, what'd he ask?"**

*I have no idea, or have no idea. It means do not know. I do not know. For example: I have no idea how I'm going to make time each day to exercise. Have no idea.*

**And then Joe says, "He asked me if I felt the earthquake last night."**

*Earthquake. This is when the ground shakes from natural causes.*

**And then I say, "Earthquake? You've gotta be kidding, I didn't feel an earthquake."**

*You've gotta be kidding. Now gotta is short for got to. You've got to be kidding. This is something else you'll hear in conversational English but you won't see it in written English. You've gotta be kidding. What this means is you cannot be serious. You've gotta be kidding. For example: When I told my mother that I had won \$2 million, she said, "You've gotta be kidding."*

**And then Joe says, "I know, that's what I said. He told me it actually woke him up last night."**

*Actually here is just really filler. It has no meaning. It's not even needed in this sentence.*

**And then Joe goes on to say, "Y'know..." And then I say, "What?" And Joe says, "yeah..."**

*Yeah is casual or informal for yes.*

**And Joe goes on to say, "it was like..."**

*Like is just filler here. It also has no meaning. It's not even needed in this sentence.*

**And Joe says, "it went, it happened at like, uh..."**

*Uh. This is filler as well. It has no meaning.*

**And he goes on to say, "4:42 in the morning. So we must've been sleeping. But I mean..."**

*I mean. This is filler so it also has no meaning. It's not needed in this sentence.*

**And Joe goes on to say, "it's possible that, y'know, even if we had been awake we might not have felt it because, y'know, maybe it, uh, wasn't felt, y'know, this far north. But, uh, I, I mean I thought he was pullin' my leg when he first talked about it."**

*Pullin' my leg. First of all, pullin' is short for pulling. So you won't see pullin' in written English but you would hear it more in conversational English. Pullin' my leg. Now this means making a joke by lying to someone and pretending the lie is true. Pullin' my leg. For example: When Chris said that he won \$200,000 in Las Vegas, I thought he was pullin' my leg. Pullin' my leg.*

**And then I go on to say, "Well..."**

*Well is just filler. It's a filler word. It doesn't have any meaning.*

**And then I say, "I guess it's not so far-fetched..."**

*Far-fetched. This means unbelievable. Far-fetched. For example: When Chris said that he won \$200,000 in Las Vegas, I thought it sounded far-fetched. Far-fetched.*

**And I go on to say, “considering...”**

*Considering meaning since.*

**“We live on a major fault line here.”**

*Major fault line. A fault line is an area where a lot of earthquakes happen.*

**Then Joe says, “Yeah, but actually I think this earthquake was, uh, on a different fault line, um, because, y’know, Eric lives, uh, just, uh, south of San Jose...”**

*Now when I say um, you’ll hear um in a lot of conversations. But it’s not something that you would ever see in written English. But you’ll hear um, uh, a lot in conversations. San Jose. This is a city south of San Francisco.*

**And then I go on to say, “Yeah.” And then Joe says, “and, uh, the earthquake he said was due east of San Jose...”**

*Due east. This is exactly east of someplace. Due east. For example: Sacramento is a city that is due east of San Francisco. Due east.*

**And Joe goes on to say, “so he was obviously...”**

*Or he was definitely.*

**“A lot closer to the epicenter than we were.”**

*Epicenter. This is the middle of an earthquake. Epicenter. An example of epicenter would be: The epicenter of the earthquake was Los Angeles. So there was a lot of damage in that city. Epicenter.*

**And Joe goes on to say, “So, I d-, I’m not even sure it was felt here.” And I say, “Yeah, that makes sense. Well, y’know, I’ve experienced quite a few earthquakes in the past several years but I’ve been living here a little over two years...”**

*Or a little more than two years.*

**And I say, “I’ve, I think I’ve only experienced one here. It was really strange, too, I was, um, each, I should say each earthquake has been a completely different experience. But the one I, the one I felt here, I was standing outside a restaurant talking to AJ and another friend and all of a sudden it just felt like...”**

*All of a sudden. This is right away with no warning. All of a sudden. For example: I was driving my car when all of a sudden someone hit me. It happened so fast. All of a sudden.*

**So I say, “all of a sudden it just felt like this shift.”**

*Or change.*

**“It’s really hard to explain, but it made me think of, like, a cartoon...”**

*A cartoon is just animation.*

**And I go on to say, “like how, in the cartoon, like buildings might just shift to the right and then shift right back.” And Joe says, “Yeah, without falling.” And I say, “Yeah, without falling. And I, I had no idea what was going on for a few minutes afterwards. And then I realized...”**

*Or I understood.*

**“Oh that must have been an earthquake.” And Joe says, “Yeah, you know what I usually notice...”**

*Or he’s saying what I normally see.*

**“The times that I’ve been at home, here...” And I say, “Yeah.” And Joe says, “and, uh, there’s been an earthquake. It’s almost as if there’s this really big train, or like a gigantic Mack truck going by.”**

*Gigantic means very big or large. And Mack truck... This is just a kind of truck.*

**And Joe goes on to say, “And, uh, suddenly...”**

*Or right away.*

**“I start to hear the heater shaking. And, um, it’s like, the noise is like, uh, is loud for like a second...”**

*A second is a short time. 60 seconds makes one minute so it’s a very short time.*

**And Joe says, “and then it’s gone, so...” And then I say, “That’s so...” And Joe says, “it’s really weird...”**

*Weird, or strange.*

**He goes on to say, “y’know, it’s almost like the first couple’a times I felt it...”**

*Couple’a. This is short for couple of. So you won’t see this in written English but you’ll hear it in conversational English. Couple’a. Couple meaning two.*

**So Joe’s saying, “the first couple’a times I felt it, I wasn’t even aware it was an earthquake while it was happening.”**

*So he’s saying, I wasn’t even aware. I didn’t even know it was an earthquake while it was happening.*

**And then I say, “Well, that’s so funny...”**

*Now when I say that’s so funny, I’m not saying it’s really funny. I’m saying this because something Joe said was the same experience that I had. And that experience being not knowing there was an earthquake while it was happening. He experienced that and I experienced it. So I’m saying wow, that’s so funny. Like that’s so funny we both experienced this.*

**And I go on to say, “that’s so funny you say that because one that I experienced in Bangkok, it actually was after the tsunami...”**

*And I’m talking about the tsunami that hit Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, southeast India in December 2004.*

**And I go on to say, “and so later I found out that it was...”**

*So. Here this is a filler word. It has no meaning.*

**And I say, “it was, um, aftershock from the tsunami.”**

*Aftershock. This is an earthquake that happens right after another earthquake. Aftershock. An example of aftershock would be: When I felt the aftershock of the earthquake, I ran outside. Aftershock.*

**And I go on to say, “But anyway, I was in a building up on the ninth floor and suddenly, uh, there was all this rattling.”**

*Rattling is a kind of noise.*

**And I go on to say, “And I’m thinking to myself, it, it just, it, it was so irrational.”**

*Irrational. I’m saying, it wasn’t clear.*

**And I go on to say, “I’m thinking to myself, god...”**

*God is just showing emotion like I don’t believe. I don’t believe I’m hearing this.*

**And I say, “there’s like a train going by and I can’t believe that this building is shaking so much from the train.” And I laugh, “It... And of course a train wouldn’t**

have made a building, or at least me up on the ninth floor, feel something to that effect.”

*Or feel something that much.*

And I go on to say, “And I think it happened about two times. And it... That one wasn’t until several...”

*Several or many.*

“Several days later when I was talking to people and they were like, oh didja feel the earthquake?”

*Didja. This is something you will hear in conversational English. It’s short for did you. You won’t see that in written English though.*

And I go on to say, “Then it dawned on me, oh, that was an earthquake. It was...”

*It dawned on me. This means I remembered or I realized. It dawned on me.*

And then Joe says, “Yeah, I know. It’s, uh, it’s crazy...”

*Or he’s saying it’s unbelievable.*

“how when you’re not used to feeling them you can think it’s something else.” And I say, “Yeah, yeah totally.”

*Totally here means definitely. For example: Sonia said that she totally felt the earthquake last night. Totally.*

And then Joe says, “I mean, I’ve been livin’ here for a while now...”

*Livin’. This is short for living. Again, you won’t see livin’ in written English but you’ll hear it in conversational English. So he says, I’ve been livin’ here for a while now. A while means a long time. A while. An example of a while is: I have been an English teacher for a while. A while.*

And Joe goes on to say, “and I’ve definitely felt my share of earthquakes.”

*So he is saying I definitely felt a lot of earthquakes.*

And Joe says, “I mean, y’know, when you live here it’s a given...”

*It’s a given. This means there is no doubt. It’s a given. For example, when you walk or live in downtown New York, it’s a given that you will hear a lot of noise. It’s a given.*

So he goes on to say, “it’s a given that you’re gonna experience earthquakes.”

*Gonna. This is short for going to. You’ll hear gonna in conversations but you won’t see it in written English.*

And then Joe goes on to say, “You just hope that you’re not gonna be here for the big one, y’know...”

*The big one. What he’s talking about is, you hope that you’re not gonna be here, or around, for a really big earthquake that might hurt or kill a lot of people.*

And then I laugh and say, “Yeah, right.”

*So I’m saying, yeah, I know. Or I’m just agreeing with Joe.*

And Joe says, “When I first moved here, it was, uh, about five years after the Loma Prieta earthquake...”

*Loma Prieta. This is the name of a mountain, where this earthquake he’s talking about that happened five years before he moved to San Francisco... The Loma Prieta mountain was at the epicenter or the middle of the earthquake.*

So he says, “about five years after the Loma Prieta earthquake, which was a very big earthquake here. And, um, there are a lot of people who lived here who I met who had actually been living in the area when the earthquake hit.”

*Or when the earthquake happened.*

**“So it was interesting to get their perspective...”**

*Perspective. What Joe is saying here is what someone thinks about something. Perspective. An example of perspective is: I like to speak with my mother when I have a problem. She always has a different perspective than me. Perspective.*

**And then I say, “Oh.”**

*Oh, here is really just filler. It has no meaning. I didn’t even have to say that but I just say it. Oh.*

**And then Joe says, “and, uh, it also like made me remember where I was when I heard about the Loma Prieta earthquake. I was watching the World Series on TV.”**

*World Series. This is the championship games in American baseball. World Series. For example: Joe really likes baseball. One year he went to the World Series even though the tickets were expensive. World Series.*

**And Joe goes on to say, “And, uh, y’know, it was, uh, taking place in San Francisco.”**

*Taking place. This means happening. Happening in San Francisco. Taking place. For example: I remember the Winter Olympics taking place in Japan when I was younger. Taking place.*

**And then Joe says, “So, uh, as I’m watching it suddenly the announcer starts, uh, uh, saying, ‘Wow...’”**

*Announcer. This is a person who talks throughout a sports game about what’s happening. Wow. This is just showing emotion such as, I don’t believe it.*

**And Joe goes on to say, “I think we’re feeling an earthquake here.’ And the cameras started shaking.”**

*The TV cameras.*

**And Joe goes on to say, “And, uh, all of a sudden the TV coverage...”**

*The TV coverage of the game.*

**“cut out.”**

*Now. cut out... Here cut out means no longer was able to be seen. The TV coverage of the game cut out. It was no longer able to be seen. For example: The television station cut out during the big rain storm. Cut out.*

**And then Joe says, “So, uh, y’know, I wanted to get a rundown on what happened.”**

*Rundown. This is information. He wanted to get information on what happened. Rundown. An example of rundown would be: I called my mother to get a rundown on how my father was doing. Rundown.*

**And Joe goes on to say, “So I turned to the news station...”**

*Or I changed to the news station.*

**“and, uh, within a few minutes...”**

*Few meaning three or more.*

**“they were discussing...”**

*Discussing or talking.*

**“they were discussing this gigantic earthquake that had hit San Francisco. And they started showing pictures, uh, maybe thirty minutes later, of these people who were, uh, trying to weed through the rubble of these buildings that had been, like, coming down.”**

*Weed through. This means to look or dig through. Weed through. An example of weed through is: I had to weed through a lot of papers when I did my yearly income taxes for the government. Weed through. So he’s saying there were people trying to weed through the rubble of these buildings. Rubble means parts. The*

*parts of these buildings that had been like coming down or falling down.*

**And Joe says, “so, I mean, it was...” And I say, “Oh, wow.” And Joe says, “it was pretty scary...”**

*Pretty means very here.*

**And Joe says, “I’ll tell you what...”**

*I’ll tell you what. That means that is for sure. I’ll tell you what. An example of I’ll tell you what in this situation would be: I’ll tell you what, I really enjoyed the Thai food we had today. I’ll tell you what.*

**And I say, “Yeah.” And Joe says, “y’know.” And then I say, “Yeah, well, um, you know the three months I was living in Japan I experienced two. Both of those were very different, uh, very different from the one I’d experienced here and also very different from the one in Bangkok. But one of ‘em...”**

*‘Em is just short for them. This is something that you’ll hear in conversational English but not see it in written English.*

**So I say, “But one of ‘em, I was actually up in my apartment which was on the fifth floor of a building. And I was woken up at about 5 o’clock in the morning to the building swaying.”**

*Swaying means moving from one side to the other side.*

**And I go on to say, “And because, uh, earthquakes are like a dime a dozen in Japan...”**

*A dime a dozen. This means very common. A dime a dozen. An example of a dime a dozen would be: I remember when no one had a cell phone. But today they are a dime a dozen. A dime a dozen.*

**And then I say, “they, they’ve built a lot of their buildings to absorb the shock.”**

*So what I’m saying here... To absorb the shock means the buildings take the shaking from an earthquake much easier. They make their buildings to take the shaking from the earthquake easier. Absorb the shock.*

**And then I say, “So that’s why it was swaying, it was really, it was a very surreal feel.”**

*Surreal. This means unreal. Surreal. For example: I looked at the sky and it was purple. It looked surreal.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Okay, so that is the end of the conversation and this is the end of the vocabulary lesson for the conversation “Earthquakes.” So if you need to, go back and listen to this until you have a basic understanding of the vocabulary. And when you feel ready, go to the mini-story. Alright, bye bye. See you next time.

- Earthquakes MS

Hello, welcome to the mini-story lesson for the conversation titled “Earthquakes.” Let’s get started with the story.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Luke lives in San Francisco.**

**Luke can eat fifty eggs in one hour. Luke told his friend George. George thought this seemed far-fetched. He thought that Luke was pulling his leg.**

**“You’ve gotta be kidding,” he said to Luke.**

**So Luke bet George \$100 that he can eat fifty eggs in one hour.**

**Luke ate fifteen eggs in the first ten minutes then all of a sudden the ground started to shake. There was an earthquake due east of San Francisco. Luke was not surprised because earthquakes are a dime a dozen in San Francisco.**

**“When you live in San Francisco, it’s a given that you will feel an earthquake,” said Luke.**

**“Totally,” said George.**

**Then Luke ate the rest of the eggs in twenty-two minutes so George had to give him \$100.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Okay, so that’s our story. Now I will start at the beginning of the story and as I read the story I will ask questions and as always, please answer the questions out loud. If you need a little more time then you can pause your iPod or your mp3 player and take as much time as you need to answer the questions. Of course, if you just feel like listening to the questions and not answering them, that’s fine as well.

Okay, so here we go.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Luke lives in San Francisco.**

Does Luke live in San Francisco?

*Yes, he does. Luke lives in San Francisco.*

Who lives in San Francisco?

*Luke. Luke lives in San Francisco.*

Does Larry or Luke live in San Francisco?

*Luke does. Luke lives in San Francisco.*

Does Larry live in San Francisco?

*No, Larry doesn’t live in San Francisco.*

Where does Luke live?

*San Francisco. Luke lives in San Francisco.*

Does Luke live in New York or San Francisco?

*San Francisco. He lives in San Francisco.*

Does Luke live in New York?

*No, Luke doesn’t live in New York.*

Does Luke live in San Francisco?

*Yes, yes, that’s correct. Luke lives in San Francisco.*

**Luke can eat fifty eggs in one hour.**

Can Luke eat fifty eggs in one hour?

*Yes, he can. I mean that sounds like a lot of eggs but he can do it. He can eat fifty eggs in one hour.*

What can Luke do?

*Well, he can eat fifty eggs in one hour.*

Can Luke eat fifty eggs in one hour or read a book in one week?

*He can eat fifty eggs in one hour.*

Can Luke read a book in one week?

*No, no, Luke's not reading a book in one week.*

Who can eat fifty eggs in one hour?

*Luke. Luke can eat fifty eggs in one hour.*

Can Luke's brother Stanley eat fifty eggs in one hour?

*No, no, Stanley.*

Can Luke eat fifty eggs in one hour?

*Yes, he can. Luke can eat fifty eggs in one hour.*

What can Luke eat in one hour? Can he eat fifty eggs or two pieces of bread?

*Fifty eggs, he can eat fifty eggs in one hour.*

How many eggs can Luke eat in one hour?

*Well, he can eat fifty. He can eat fifty eggs in one hour.*

Can he eat fifty or sixty eggs in one hour?

*Fifty, he can eat fifty eggs in one hour.*

How much time does it take Luke to eat fifty eggs?

*Well, it takes him one hour. He can eat fifty eggs in one hour.*

Can Luke eat fifty eggs in one hour or ten minutes?

*One hour. He can eat fifty eggs in one hour.*

Can Luke eat fifty eggs in one hour?

*Yes, he can. Luke can eat fifty eggs in one hour.*

### **Luke told his friend George.**

Did Luke tell his friend George?

*He certainly did. Luke told his friend George.*

What did Luke do?

*That's right, he told his friend George.*

Did Luke eat some eggs or tell his friend George?

*He told his friend George.*

Who told his friend George? Did Luke's brother Stanley tell George?

*No, it wasn't Stanley.*

Did Luke tell George?

*Yes, he did. Luke told George.*

Who did Luke tell? Did he tell his mother?

*No, he didn't tell his mother.*

Did he tell George?

*Yes, yes, that's correct. He told George.*

What did Luke tell George? Did he tell him the score of the football game?

*No, that's not what he told him.*

Did he tell him that he can eat fifty eggs in one hour?

*He certainly did, that's what he told him.*

Did Luke tell George that he can eat fifty eggs in one hour?

*Yes, he did. That's what he told his friend George.*



**George thought this seemed far-fetched.**

Did George think this seemed far-fetched?

*Yes, he did. George thought this seemed far-fetched.*

What did George think? Did he think that it was going to rain?

*No, George didn't think that it was going to rain.*

Did he think that it seemed far-fetched?

*Yes, yes, he did. He thought it seemed far-fetched.*

Did he think that it seemed believable?

*No, he didn't think that it seemed believable. Far-fetched does not mean believable.*

Did he think that it seemed unbelievable?

*Yes, yes, he did. George thought that this seemed far-fetched, which is the same thing as saying that he thought that it seemed unbelievable.*

What did George think was far-fetched? Did he think that Luke being able to eat fifty eggs in one hour was far-fetched?

*Yes, yes, that's correct. That's what he thought was far-fetched or unbelievable.*

Did George think that Luke could eat fifty eggs in one hour?

*No, he didn't. He thought that it seemed far-fetched or unbelievable.*

Who thought that it seemed far-fetched? Did Luke think that it seemed far-fetched?

*No, Luke didn't think that it seemed far-fetched.*

Did George think that it seemed far-fetched?

*Yes, yes, he did. George thought this seemed far-fetched.*

Did George think that it seemed unbelievable?

*Yes, he did. He thought it seemed far-fetched or he thought it seemed unbelievable. Far-fetched means unbelievable.*

**He thought that Luke was pulling his leg,**

Did he think that Luke was pulling his leg?

*Yes, he did. He thought that Luke was pulling his leg.*

What did he think Luke was doing?

*Pulling his leg, he thought that Luke was pulling his leg.*

Did he think that Luke was pulling his leg or biting his hand?

*Pulling his leg, he thought that Luke was pulling his leg.*

Did he think that Luke was pulling his leg?

*Yes, he did. He thought that Luke was pulling his leg.*

Did he think that Luke was making a joke by lying to him and pretending that the lie was true?

*Yes, yes, he did. When someone is said to be pulling your leg, that person is making a joke by lying to you and pretending that the lie was true. So that's what he thought Luke was doing.*

Who thought that Luke was pulling his leg? Did George or Leo think that Luke was pulling his leg?

*George. George thought that Luke was pulling his leg.*

Did George think that Luke was pulling his leg?

*Yes, he did, he thought that Luke was pulling his leg.*

Who did he think was pulling his leg? Did he think that Luke's mother was pulling his leg?

*No, he didn't think Luke's mother was doing it.*

Did he think that Luke was pulling his leg?

*Yes, Luke, he thought Luke was pulling his leg.*

Did George think that Luke was making a joke by lying to him and pretending that the lie was true?

*Yes, he did. He thought that Luke was making a joke by lying to him and pretending that the lie was true, which is the same as saying he thought that Luke was pulling his leg.*

**“You’ve gotta be kidding,” he said to Luke.**

Did he tell Luke that he’s gotta be kidding?

*Yes, yes, that’s exactly what he said. He said to Luke “You’ve gotta be kidding.”*

Did he tell Luke that he cannot be serious?

*Yes, yes, he did. He said, “You’ve gotta be kidding,” which is the same thing as saying you cannot be serious.*

Who told Luke he’s gotta be kidding? Did Stanley tell him?

*No, it wasn’t Stanley.*

Did George tell Luke he’s gotta be kidding?

*Yes, that’s correct. George told Luke he’s gotta be kidding.*

Did George tell Luke that he cannot be serious?

*Yes, he did. Remember you’ve got to be kidding is the same thing as saying you can’t be serious.*

Why does George think that Luke has gotta be kidding?

*Well, he does not think that George can eat fifty eggs in one hour.*

Does George think that Luke can eat fifty eggs in one hour?

*No, no, he doesn’t. He said to him “You’ve gotta be kidding,” which means he did not think that what Luke said was true. And Luke had told him that he can eat fifty eggs in one hour. And then that’s when George said, “You’ve gotta be kidding.”*

**So Luke bet George \$100 that he can eat fifty eggs in one hour.**

Did Luke bet George \$100 that he can eat fifty eggs in one hour?

*Yes, he did. Luke bet George \$100 that he can eat fifty eggs in one hour.*

Okay, so what did Luke do?

*Well, he bet George \$100 that he can eat fifty eggs in one hour.*

Who bet George \$100? Did Luke or Stanley bet George?

*Luke did. Luke bet George.*

Did Stanley bet George?

*No, Stanley didn’t bet George.*

Did Luke bet George?

*Yes, he did. Luke bet George, he bet him \$100.*

How much money did Luke bet George?

*One hundred dollars, he bet him \$100.*

Did Luke bet George \$500?

*No, he didn’t bet him that much money.*

Did Luke bet George \$100?

*Yes, that’s correct. He bet him \$100.*

Who did Luke bet? Did Luke bet George or Stanley?

*Well, he bet George. He made a \$100 bet with George.*

What did Luke bet George? Did he bet him that he can bake a cake?

*No, he didn’t bet him that he can bake a cake.*

Did Luke bet him that he can eat fifty eggs in one hour?

*Yes, he did. That's what he bet him. He bet him that he can eat fifty eggs in one hour.*

How many eggs does Luke have to eat to win the bet? Does he have to eat fifty eggs or one hundred eggs?

*Fifty eggs, he has to eat fifty eggs in order to win the bet.*

How much time does Luke have to eat the fifty eggs? Does he have one hour or one day to eat the eggs?

*Well, he has one hour to eat the eggs.*

If Luke eats twenty eggs in one hour, does he win the bet?

*No, he doesn't. He has to eat fifty eggs in one hour in order to win the bet.*

If Luke eats twenty eggs in one hour, does George win the bet?

*Yes, he does. If Luke eats twenty eggs in one hour, that means that Luke loses the bet and George wins the bet.*

### **Luke ate fifteen eggs in the first ten minutes**

Did Luke eat fifteen eggs in the first ten minutes?

*Yes, he did. He ate fifteen eggs in the first ten minutes.*

What did Luke do in the first ten minutes?

*Well, he ate fifteen eggs.*

Did Luke eat ten pieces of bread or fifteen eggs?

*Fifteen eggs, he ate fifteen eggs.*

Did Luke eat ten pieces of bread?

*No, he didn't eat any bread.*

Did Luke eat fifteen eggs?

*Yes, he did. He ate fifteen eggs.*

Who ate fifteen eggs in the first ten minutes?

*Luke did. Luke ate fifteen eggs in the first ten minutes.*

Did George or Luke eat fifteen eggs in the first ten minutes?

*Luke did. Luke ate fifteen eggs in the first ten minutes.*

Did Will Smith eat fifteen eggs in the first ten minutes?

*No, it wasn't Will Smith.*

Did Luke eat fifteen eggs in the first ten minutes?

*Yes, that's correct. Luke ate fifteen eggs in the first ten minutes.*

How much time did it take Luke to eat fifteen eggs? Did it take him thirty minutes?

*No, it didn't take him that long.*

Did it take Luke ten minutes to eat fifteen eggs?

*Yes, that's correct. It took him ten minutes. Luke ate fifteen eggs in the first ten minutes.*

### **Then all of a sudden the ground started to shake.**

Did the ground start to shake all of a sudden?

*Yes, yes, it did. All of a sudden the ground started to shake.*

What happened?

*Well, the ground started to shake all of a sudden.*

Did the ground start to shake or a tree start to fall?

*The ground started to shake.*

Did a tree start to fall?

*No, a tree didn't start to fall.*

Did the ground start to shake all of a sudden?

*Yes, that's correct. The ground started to shake all of a sudden.*

Did the ground start to shake right away?

*Well, yes, it did, because it started to shake all of a sudden.*

Did the ground start to shake without any warning?

*Yes, yes, it did. It started to shake all of a sudden, which is the same as saying it started to shake right away and without any warning.*

Did the ground start to shake all of a sudden?

*Yes, yes, it did. All of a sudden the ground started to shake.*

### **There was an earthquake due east of San Francisco.**

Was there an earthquake due east of San Francisco?

*Yes, there was. There was an earthquake due east of San Francisco.*

What was there? Was there an earthquake or a rainstorm?

*An earthquake, there was an earthquake.*

Where was the earthquake?

*Due east of San Francisco, the earthquake was due east of San Francisco.*

Was the earthquake east of San Francisco?

*Well, yes, yes, it was. It was due east of San Francisco which is the same thing as saying it was east of San Francisco.*

Was there an earthquake due east of San Francisco?

*Yes, there was. There was an earthquake due east of San Francisco.*

### **Luke was not surprised**

So was Luke surprised?

*No, he wasn't. He was not surprised.*

Who was not surprised? Was Will Smith not surprised?

*No, we're not talking about Will Smith here.*

Was Luke not surprised?

*Yes, that's correct. Luke was not surprised.*

What was Luke not surprised about? Was he not surprised that gas prices increased?

*No, that's not it.*

Was he not surprised that there was an earthquake?

*Yes, that's correct. He was not surprised. He was not surprised that there was an earthquake.*

### **Because earthquakes are a dime a dozen in San Francisco.**

Are earthquakes a dime a dozen in San Francisco?

*Yes, they are. Earthquakes are a dime a dozen in San Francisco.*

Okay, so what are a dime a dozen in San Francisco? Are red cars or earthquakes a dime a dozen in San Francisco?

*Earthquakes are. Earthquakes are a dime a dozen in San Francisco.*

Are red cars a dime a dozen in San Francisco?

*No, not red cars.*

Are earthquakes a dime a dozen in San Francisco?

*Yes, they are. Earthquakes are a dime a dozen in San Francisco.*

Are earthquakes very common in San Francisco?

*Yes, that's correct. Earthquakes are a dime a dozen in San Francisco, which is the same thing as saying earthquakes are very common in San Francisco. A dime a dozen means very common.*

Why was Luke not surprised? Was he not surprised because earthquakes are a dime a dozen in San Francisco?

*Yes, yes, that's true. He was not surprised because earthquakes are a dime a dozen in San Francisco.*

Was Luke not surprised because earthquakes are very common in San Francisco?

*Yes, that's true, that's why. Luke knew that earthquakes are a dime a dozen in San Francisco so he wasn't surprised when he felt an earthquake, because he knows earthquakes are a dime a dozen or that earthquakes are very common in San Francisco.*

**“When you live in San Francisco, it's a given that you will feel an earthquake,” said Luke.**

Is it a given that you will feel an earthquake when you live in San Francisco?

*Yes, it is, that's what Luke has said.*

Is it doubtful that you will feel an earthquake when you live in San Francisco?

*No, it's not doubtful, it's a given and when something is a given that means that there is no doubt about it.*

Is there any doubt that you will feel an earthquake when you live in San Francisco?

*No, there isn't. There is no doubt, it's a given. It's a given means that there is no doubt.*

Is it a given that you will feel an earthquake if you live in New York?

*No, not New York, we're talking about San Francisco.*

Is it a given that you will feel an earthquake if you live in San Francisco?

*Yes, that's correct. It's a given that you will feel an earthquake when you live in San Francisco.*

What is a given when you live in San Francisco? Is seeing a red car or feeling an earthquake a given when you live in San Francisco?

*Well, feeling an earthquake is. It's a given that you will feel an earthquake when you live in San Francisco.*

Does Luke believe that you will feel an earthquake if you live in San Francisco?

*Yes, he does. He said it's a given that you will feel an earthquake.*

Does Luke have any doubt that you will feel an earthquake when you live in San Francisco?

*No, he has no doubt. He says it's a given that you will feel an earthquake.*

**“Totally,” said George.**

Does George think that what Luke said is true?

*Yes, yes, he does. George said, “Totally,” which means definitely, so he was agreeing with what Luke said.*

Does George agree with what Luke said?

*Yes, he did. He said, “Totally,” which means definitely, I definitely think what you said is true is what he meant.*

Does George think that it is a given that you will feel an earthquake when you live in San Francisco?

*Yes, yes, he did. He definitely agrees with Luke and Luke said that it's a given that you will feel an earthquake when you live in San Francisco so that means George also thinks that.*

**Then Luke ate the rest of the eggs in twenty-two minutes**

Did Luke eat the rest of the eggs in twenty-two minutes?

*Yes, he did, that's what he did. Luke ate the rest of the eggs in twenty-two minutes.*

So what did Luke do?

*He ate the rest of the eggs in twenty-two minutes.*

Did Luke eat the rest of the eggs or watch the football game?

*He ate the rest of the eggs.*

Did Luke watch the football game?

*No, he didn't watch the football game.*

Did Luke eat the rest of the eggs?

*He certainly did. He ate the rest of the eggs.*

Who ate the rest of the eggs?

*Luke did. Luke ate the rest of the eggs.*

Did George eat the rest of the eggs?

*No, George didn't eat the rest of the eggs?*

How much time did it take Luke to eat the rest of the eggs?

*Twenty-two minutes. Luke ate the rest of the eggs in twenty-two minutes.*

Did it take him fifteen minutes or twenty-two minutes?

*Twenty-two minutes. It took him twenty-two minutes to eat the rest of the eggs.*

**So George had to give him \$100.**

Did George have to give him \$100?

*He certainly did. George had to give him \$100.*

What did George have to do?

*Well, he had to give him \$100.*

Did George have to eat fifty eggs or give him \$100?

*Give him \$100. He had to give him \$100.*

Who did George have to give \$100 to?

*Luke, he had to give \$100 to Luke.*

Did George have to give \$100 to Bill Clinton or Luke?

*Luke, he had to give \$100 to Luke.*

Did Luke have to give \$100 to George?

*No, he didn't have to give him \$100. George had to give Luke \$100.*

How much money did George have to give to him?

*One hundred dollars, he had to give him \$100.*

Did he have to give him \$100 or \$700?

*One hundred dollars.*

Why did George have to give him \$100?

*Well, he had to give him \$100 because Luke ate all fifty of the eggs in less than one hour.*

Did George lose the bet?

*Yes, yes, he did. George lost the bet because Luke ate all fifty of the eggs in less than one hour.*

Did Luke win the bet?

*Yes, he did. Luke won the bet because he ate all fifty eggs in less than one hour.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Okay, that brings us to the end of our story which means we have come to the end of the mini-story lesson for the conversation "Earthquakes." Now it's your turn to tell the story by

yourself. Remember you do not have to memorize every word in the story but you should use the idioms that we went over. The idioms that we used were “far-fetched,” “pulling his leg,” “you’ve got to be kidding,” “all of a sudden,” “due east,” “a dime a dozen,” “it’s a given,” and “totally.” Okay, so now tell the story on your own and remember, if you need to listen to this lesson more times, you can do that. Okay, thanks a lot and we’ll see you next time.

- **Earthquakes POV**

Hello and welcome to the point of view stories for “Earthquakes”. I’m going to tell the same story from the “Earthquakes” mini-story lesson in a number of different ways. Each time I tell the story I’ll change the time in which the story is being told or I will change the person who is telling the story. So we’ll hear it from a different point of view. Let’s start by telling the story as if it is happening right now, or as we say, in the present. Okay.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Luke lives in San Francisco.**

**Luke can eat fifty eggs in one hour. Luke tells his friend George. George thinks this seems far-fetched. He thinks that Luke is pulling his leg.**

**“You’ve gotta be kidding,” he says to Luke.**

**So Luke bets George \$100 that he can eat fifty eggs in one hour.**

**Luke eats fifteen eggs in the first ten minutes then all of a sudden the ground starts to shake. There is an earthquake due east of San Francisco. Luke is not surprised because earthquakes are a dime a dozen in San Francisco.**

**“When you live in San Francisco, it’s a given that you will feel an earthquake,” Luke says.**

**“Totally,” George says.**

**Then Luke eats the rest of the eggs in twenty-two minutes so George has to give him \$100.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Okay, so that ends the story being told as if it is happening right now. Next let’s hear the story as if it happened seven months ago.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Seven months ago Luke lived in San Francisco.**

**Luke could eat fifty eggs in one hour. Luke told his friend George. George thought this seemed far-fetched. He thought that Luke was pulling his leg.**

**“You’ve gotta be kidding,” he said to Luke.**

**So Luke bet George \$100 that he could eat fifty eggs in one hour.**

**Luke ate fifteen eggs in the first fifteen minutes then all of a sudden the ground started to shake.**

**There was an earthquake due east of San Francisco. Luke was not surprised because earthquakes are a dime a dozen in San Francisco.**

**“When you live in San Francisco, it’s a given that you will feel an earthquake,” said Luke.**

**“Totally,” said George.**

**Then Luke ate the rest of the eggs in twenty-two minutes so George had to give him \$100.**

**\* \* \* \* \***

Okay, so that is the story as if it’s happening in the past or it’s already happened. Now let’s tell the story as if it is happening in the future. So we think of the story happening, say, four years from now. Okay, here we go.

**\* \* \* \* \***

**In four years Luke’s going to be living in San Francisco.**

**Luke will be able to eat fifty eggs in one hour. Luke’s gonna tell his friend**

**George. George’ll think this seems far-fetched. He’ll think that Luke is pulling his leg.**

**“You’ve gotta be kidding,” he’ll say to Luke.**

**So Luke’s gonna bet George \$100 that he’ll be able to eat fifty eggs in one hour.**

**Luke’s gonna eat fifteen eggs in the first ten minutes then all of a sudden the ground will start to shake. There is going to be an earthquake due east of San Francisco. Luke’ll not be surprised because earthquakes are a dime a dozen in San Francisco.**

**“When you live in San Francisco, it’s a given that you will feel an earthquake,” Luke will say.**

**“Totally,” George’ll say.**

**Then Luke will eat the rest of the eggs in twenty-two minutes so George’ll have to give him \$100.**

**\* \* \* \* \***

Okay so that’s the end of this version of the story, the version in which the story is in the future, where we talk about events that are going to happen or events that will happen. Now, I’d like you to notice that instead of saying something like, “George will think.” we shorten it in normal conversation by saying, “George’ll think”.

Basically we combine the words “George” and “will” into “George’ll.” This is more like how we would say it using spoken English. But, say, in a text book you would be more likely to say / to see “George will” instead of seeing “George’ll”. You also probably noticed that when we convert the word “can” into the future we usually say “is able to”. For example, “Luke can eat fifty eggs. “ is changed to, “Luke will be able to eat fifty eggs.”

Alright now let’s hear the story from Luke’s point of view. So this is the story that’s gonna be told by Luke.

Okay, here we go.

**\* \* \* \* \***

**I used to live in San Francisco.**

**I could eat fifty eggs in one hour. I told my friend George. George thought that this seemed far-fetched. He thought that I was pulling his leg.**



**“You’ve gotta be kidding,” he said to me.**

**So I bet George \$100 that I could eat fifty eggs in one hour.**

**I ate fifteen eggs in the first ten minutes then all of a sudden the ground started to shake. There was an earthquake due east of San Francisco. I wasn’t surprised because earthquakes are a dime a dozen in San Francisco.**

**“When you live in San Francisco, it’s a given that you will feel an earthquake,” I said.**

**“Totally,” said George.**

**Then I ate the rest of the eggs in twenty-two minutes so George had to give me \$100.**

**\* \* \* \* \***

Okay, so that’s our last story. Now, please listen to each version again and then after you listen to a version, try to tell the story to yourself. If you can’t do it, it’s okay. Just relax, go back, listen to it again and then make another attempt to tell yourself the story. Remember, you can listen to this every day until you feel comfortable. Okay, that’s all for our point of view stories for “Earthquakes”. We’ll see ya next time.

## 02. TRIP TO WASHINGTON

---

- Trip To Washington Conversation

**over the top:** very good

**on my list of things to do:** something that I want to do

**fed up:** upset

**what's new?:** means that you are not surprised

**if it's not one thing, it's another:** more than one bad thing has happened

**out of hand:** out of control

**rain on your parade:** to make someone have a bad time

**had (just) a blast:** to really enjoy

**jumpy:** uneasy

**getting the first**

**butterflies out of his**

**stomach:** getting used to something for the first time

**time of his life:** a really good time

**psyched:** excited

**to get the hang of:** to become better at

**innate:** something you do not need to learn

*because you are born with it*

**chill out :** to relax

**low key:** relaxing

**to let go:** to relax

**if for no other reason:** if nothing else made you do something

**tickled pink:** very happy

**hang out:** to casually pass time

**time (just really) flies:** to be surprised about how much time has gone by

**take advantage of:** to be fortunate to be able to do something

**all of a sudden:** right away

**jet up:** to go somewhere (specifically north)

**make my best effort:** to try very hard

**time's (kind of)**

**escaped me:** I did not realize how late it had become

**take care:** good bye, it was nice talking with you

**Joe:** [laugh]

**Joe:** Hello?

**Eric:** Hey, Joe, this is Eric.

**Joe:** Oh hey Eric, how's it goin'?

**Eric:** It's goin' well. How 'bout yourself?

**Joe:** Yeah, I'm doin' really well.

**Eric:** Great.

**Joe:** How was your trip up to Washington this weekend?

**Eric:** Oh, it was just **over the top**.

**Joe:** Nice, nice. I...

**Eric:** Yeah, it was...

**Joe:** ...really wish I could have joined you guys.

**Eric:** Yeah, well, you should really try next year.

**Joe:** Yeah, no, it's, it's definitely **on my list of things to do**, for sure.

**Eric:** Good.

**Joe:** Yeah, how was, did you, did you make it up there, uh, as you expected? I mean how was your, how was your trip up there?

**Eric:** Oh man, I am just **fed up** with the airlines.

**Joe:** [laugh]

**Eric:** [laugh]

**Joe:** *What's new?*

**Eric:** *If it's not one thing, it's another.* I mean we, we got up there and, uh, and the flight was delayed. And it was really crowded. And then gettin' out we just, you wait. And we waited and we waited and we waited for the luggage. And just, the wait just got **out of hand**.

**Joe:** Ugh...je-, y'know, we, I, y'know, I have not had a good experience with the airlines here domestically in probably about a year I would say.

**Eric:** Oh, I mean, it's just...

**Joe:** At least.

**Eric:** It's getting worse and worse and worse.

**Joe:** Yeah. Well I hope that, that, that didn't **rain on your parade** and...

**Eric:** No.

**Joe:** ...that you actually were able to have a good time after you got up there.

**Eric:** Oh, I mean it, they, it's just so wonderful to be up there with those guys. It's, they're like family.

**Joe:** You gotta tell me a little bit about it 'cause you know I've never been there.

**Eric:** Yeah, it, it's such a beautiful place. They've got a bunch of cabins on the water, um.... It's, y'know, bein' with friends and family all the time. And, uh, my kid **had just a blast** just bein' out on the water and, um, just enjoyin' himself. It was really his first time being able to, uh, be in a boat and realize that he's on the water and not on the land. And, and it's, at, at that age it's, it's just such a new exp-, everything's such a new experience. He just...

**Joe:** Yeah.

**Eric:** ...it was wonderful.

**Joe:** So, how did he, uh, how did he handle the water? Was he like, uh, was he **jumpy** or was he, was he pretty calm while he was out there? 'Cause I know...

**Eric:** He's, he's pretty calm. I mean, he's a, he's a water, a water baby of sorts...

**Eric:** ...he just loves the water. He just loves to be in it. Up there the water's really cold so, it's not, we didn't really get him in the water. And he had a little bit of problems with the life jacket. The life jacket was a little, little tight on him. And that just made him a little uncomfortable. But, he's, after **getting the first butterflies out of his stomach** he just loved it. You could tell, he just was having **the time of his life**.

**Joe:** Oh, that's great. He must have been **psyched** to see, uh, Derek's kids also, and Mark's new baby.

**Eric:** Oh absolutely, at this age, he, they do a lot of, of parallel play. And, because he's not old enough yet to, to play with, he kind of plays alongside. But he's just starting **to get the hang of** playing with and interacting with. And he just, he loves to be in packs of kids. It's just he really has a great time.

**Joe:** Yeah, it's like **innate** [laugh], y'know.

**Eric:** Yeah, it really is. It's fun to watch him learn. He's at this age of language explosion and certainly being around other kids really helps.

**Joe:** Oh, definitely. So you guys, uh, you went out on Mark's boat so that must have been fun.

**Eric:** It was.

**Joe:** So, uh, what else did you guys do while you were there?

**Eric:** Well, y'know, on the whole boat thing.... We, uh, did some crabbing where we caught some crabs. And, uh, used the boat as sort of a shuttle to get from island to island. So we did a little bit of island hopping, with picnicking on some islands, uh.... We cooked some great meals, sort of, um, with the whole group of us together...

**Joe:** Oh, that's great.

**Eric:** ...yeah, and some people got some massages, just tried to **chill out** and relax, uh.... And it was just really **low key**. A really restful trip, which is what I think about when I think about Mark and their place up there.

**Joe:** Yeah, it sounds like you were really able **to let go**, huh?

**Eric:** It was, it was a longer trip for me than I've taken in the last couple of years, goin' up there, we went for five, five or six days, and...

**Joe:** Oh, I didn't realize you were goin' that long.

**Eric:** Yeah, normally I'm just up there for a long weekend...

**Joe:** Sure.

**Eric:** ...but this time I thought, y'know, I haven't taken a vacation in a while. And I just wanna get up there and chill out.

**Joe:** Oh, that's great.

**Eric:** Yeah.

**Joe:** Y'know, I understand that John's living up there now as well and, uh, **if for no other reason** I should go up and visit everybody, y'know, while he's there.

**Eric:** Absolutely. He, uh, he's, he's not living on their property anymore, uh.... He's moved just to, y'know, really close by on the mainland off of Bellingham. So he's in the area still. And he would just be **tickled pink** to see you and to **hang out** with you. I know he would, so...

**Joe:** Yeah, I mean, uh, it's amazing how, y'know, uh, you can let so much time pass. And, uh, you don't even realize it's happened when it comes to visiting with friends who live far out of town.

**Eric:** That's right...

**Joe:** Especially ones that are really close to you.

**Eric:** Yeah, and the oldest of friends, it's, uh, it.... **Time just really flies** and before you know it, it's just been a long time since you've seen somebody. So when you get that time it's just wonderful to **take advantage of** it. And certainly John being **all of a sudden** on the West Coast, it's great to be able to, to just **jet up** to Washington and, and see him, fairly easily.

**Joe:** Yeah. Yeah, I told him next year I'd, I'm going to **make my best effort** to get up there.

**Eric:** I hope, I really really hope you do.

**Joe:** Hey, uh, y'know Eric, **time's kind of escaped me** tonight. I'm supposed to meet Kristin for dinner in a little bit. So, uh, y'know, I'd love for us to continue this conversation, uh, y'know, maybe tomorrow or somethin', if you're, if you're available.

**Eric:** Hey, that'd be great.

**Joe:** Okay. Alright, listen, I'll call you then.

**Eric:** Alright, **take care** my friend.

**Joe:** Alright, bye.

**Eric:** Bye.

- **Trip To Washington Vocabulary**

Hello and welcome to the vocabulary lesson for the conversation "Trip To Washington." In this conversation Joe and one of his friends named Eric are talking about a trip that Eric took with his wife and son. Eric and his family visited a friend of his and Joe's who lives in Washington.

Okay, let's begin with the conversation.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Joe says, "Hello?" And Eric says, "Hey, Joe, this is Eric."**

*Hey, meaning in this situation... It's another way to say hi or hello.*

**And Joe says, "Oh hey Eric. How's it goin'?"**

*Oh, here is just filler. Filler meaning that it's not even needed. There is no meaning for it. And goin' is short for going.*

**And Eric says, "It's goin' well."**

*Or he's saying it's going okay. Or it's going good.*

**"How 'bout yourself?"**

*'Bout is short for about.*

**And Joe says, "Yeah, I'm doin' really well."**

*Yeah is casual or informal for yes. And doin' is short for doing.*

**And Eric goes on to say, "Great." And Joe says, "How was your trip up to Washington this weekend?"**

*Now Washington is a northwestern state of America. It's on the border with Canada. And weekend just means Saturday and Sunday.*

**And Eric says, "Oh, it was just over the top."**

*Over the top. This means very good. Over the top. For example: Lewis' birthday party was so much fun. It was just over the top.*

**And Joe says, "Nice, nice."**

*Nice meaning, that's good to know that your trip went well. Nice. Nice to hear that.*

**And then Joe goes on to say, "I..." and Eric says, "Yeah, it was..." And then Joe finishes by saying, "really wish I could have joined you guys."**

*Joined, meaning gone with. I wish I could have gone with you guys.*

**And then Eric says, "Yeah, well, you should really try next year." And then Joe says, "Yeah, no, it's, it's definitely on my list of things to do, for sure."**

*On my list of things to do. This means... or what Joe is saying here is, it's something that I definitely want to do. On my list of things to do. For example: I've always wanted to learn to speak Spanish. It has always been on my list of things to do.*

**And then Eric says, "Good." And Joe says, "Yeah, how was, did you, did you make it up there, uh, as you expected?"**

*Did you make it up there. What Joe is saying is, did you make it up there? Because Washington is north of California, the state that Eric left from. Uh is just a filler. It has no meaning. So it's not even needed there. As you expected. This means did everything go as you thought it would?*

**And then Joe goes on to say, "I mean how was your, how was your trip up there?"**

*I mean. This is just filler. It really has no meaning. It's not even needed in this sentence.*

**And then Eric says, "Oh man..."**

*So, oh man... This is just showing emotion such as you're not going to believe this.*

**And Eric goes on to say, "I am just fed up with the airlines."**

*Just, here is just filler. It really has no meaning. Fed up. Fed up means upset or angry. Fed up. An example of fed up is: I am fed up with flying. The airlines charge way too much money. Fed up.*

**And then Joe laughs. And Eric laughs. And Joe says, "What's new?"**

*And what Joe is saying here is, I'm not surprised. For example of what's new: My father's football team has not won a game all season. When I told him that I thought they were going to lose their next game he said, "What's new?"*

**Then Eric goes on to say, "If it's not one thing, it's another..."**

*If it's not one thing, it's another. This means more than one bad thing has happened. For example: Sherry has had a bad day. First she was late for work. Then after work her car would not start. She called her husband to tell him about her day and said, "If it's not one thing, it's another."*

**Eric goes on to say, "I mean we, we got up there..."**

*He's talking about getting to the airport.*

**"and, uh, and the flight was delayed."**

*Or the flight was late.*

**"And it was really crowded."**

*So he's saying there were a lot of people.*

**"And then gettin' out we just..."**

*Gettin'. This is short for getting.*

**And he goes on to say, "you wait. And we waited and we waited and we waited for the luggage..."**

*Luggage is... They waited for their bags. The bags that they'd checked.*

**And Eric goes on to say, "And just, the wait just got out of hand."**

*Out of hand. This means out of control. Out of hand. For example: The price of plane tickets has gotten out of hand. Out of hand.*

**And Joe says, "Ugh..."**

*Now this is just emotion such as, I don't believe all the problems you had.*

**And then Joe goes on, he starts to say, "je-, y'know, we, I, y'know, I have not had a good experience with the airlines here domestically in probably about a year I would say."**

*Now. going back... Y'know. This is short for you know. And then when Joe's talking about the airlines here domestically... he's talking about the airlines here that fly just in America. Not internationally, not to other countries, but just here in America. And he says in probably about a year, probably meaning maybe about a year.*

**And then Eric says, "Oh, I mean, it's just..." And Joe says, "At least."**

*Meaning one year or more, I have not had a good experience with the airlines. So at least.*

**And Eric says, "It's getting worse and worse and worse."**

*So he's saying, it's just getting really bad.*

**And then Joe says, "Yeah. Well I hope that, that, that didn't rain on your parade and..."**

*Rain on your parade. This means to make someone have a bad time. Rain on your parade. For example: Jessica's mother said, "I don't mean to rain on your parade but you did not get the job." Rain on your parade.*

**And then Eric says, "No." And Joe says, "that you actually were able to have a good time after you got up there."**

*Actually, here... This is just filler. It has no meaning. It's not even needed in the sentence.*

**And then Eric goes on to say, "Oh, I mean it, they, it's just so wonderful..."**

*Or he's saying it's so great.*

**"to be up there with those guys. It's, they're like family."**

*Guys. Now what he's talking about here, this can mean men and/or women. He's talking about, in this situation, his friends. And when he says they're like family, like here is comparing his friends to being like family.*

**And then Joe says, "You gotta tell me a little bit about it..."**

*You gotta. Gotta or you gotta. What Joe is saying is you have got to tell me a little bit about it.*

**"cause..."**

*Which is short for because.*

**"you know I've never been there." And Eric says, "Yeah, it, it's such a beautiful place."**

*Beautiful meaning very pretty place.*

**Eric goes on to say, "They've got a bunch of cabins on the water..."**

*A bunch. This means a lot. And cabins, these are small wooden houses that people usually pay money to stay in when they go to a lake, the woods or the mountains.*

**And Eric goes on to say, "um... It's, y'know, bein' with friends and family all the time."**

*And when he says um... This is just filler. It has no meaning at all. And bein'... This is short for being.*

**Eric goes on to say, "And, uh, my kid had just a blast just bein' out on the water..."**

*So my kid, or he's saying my child, had just a blast. Now, just here is filler. That has no meaning. But had a blast... That means to really enjoy. Had a blast. For example: I had a blast at the concert. I really enjoyed the music. Had a blast.*

**And then Eric goes on to say, "and, um, just enjoyin' himself."**

*Enjoyin'. This is short for enjoying.*

**Then Eric says, "It was really his first time being able to, uh, be in a boat and realize..."**

*Or understand.*

**"that he's on the water and not on the land. And, and it's, at, at that age it's, it's just such a new exp-, everything's such a new experience. He just..." And Joe says, "Yeah." And Eric says, "it was wonderful." And then Joe says, "So, how did he, uh, how did he handle the water?"**

*Handle. What Joe is asking here is how did he do on the water. Or how did he do with the water.*

**And then Joe says, "Was he like, uh, was he jumpy..."**

*Like here is just filler. It has no meaning. Jumpy. Jumpy means uneasy. Jumpy. For example: Some people are afraid to fly. When the plane takes off, they get jumpy." Jumpy.*

**And then Joe goes on to say, "or was he, was he pretty calm while he was out there? 'Cause I know..."**

*Pretty here means really. Really calm.*



**And then Eric says, “He’s, he’s pretty calm. I mean, he’s a, he’s a water, a water baby of sorts...” And Joe laughs.**

*What Eric is saying is, he’s a water baby of sorts. He likes water.*

**And then Eric goes on to say, “he just loves the water. He just loves to be in it.”**

*So what he’s saying is, he really likes the water a lot.*

**And Eric goes on to say, “Up there the water’s really cold so, it’s not, we didn’t really get him in the water. And he had a little bit of problems with the life jacket.”**

*A life jacket is something that floats so it keeps people from drowning if they can’t swim.*

**Then Eric says, “The life jacket was a little, little tight on him. And that just made him a little uncomfortable. But, he’s, after getting the first butterflies out of his stomach he just loved it.”**

*Getting the first butterflies out of his stomach. This means getting used to something for the first time. Having butterflies in your stomach means to be nervous. Getting the first butterflies out of his stomach.*

**And then Eric says, “You could tell...”**

*Or you could see.*

**“he just was having the time of his life.”**

*Time of his life. This means a really good time. Time of his life. An example of time of his life would be: Kimberly had the time of her life at the party. She was smiling all night. Time of his life. Or, for this example, time of her life.*

**And then Joe says, “Oh, that’s great. He must have been psyched to see, uh, Derek’s kids also, and Mark’s new baby.”**

*Psyched. Psyched means excited. Psyched. For example: I was psyched to see the new Batman movie. Psyched.*

**And then Eric says, “Oh absolutely...”**

*So he’s saying oh definitely or oh for sure.*

**“at this age, he, they do a lot of, of parallel play. And, because he’s not old enough yet to, to play with, he kind of plays alongside.”**

*What Eric is saying here is that his son is too young to play with other children so he plays next to them by himself.*

**And then Eric goes on to say, “But he’s just starting to get the hang of playing with and interacting with.”**

*To get the hang of. This means to become better at. To get the hang of. An example of to get the hang of would be: It takes a child a while to get the hang of riding a bicycle. To get the hang of. And when Eric says interacting with, what he’s talking about is speaking with.*

**Then Eric goes on to say, “And he just, he loves to be in packs of kids.”**

*Packs just means groups.*

**And Eric says, “It’s just he really has a great time.” And Joe says, “Yeah, it’s like innate.” And he laughs and says, “Y’know.”**

*Innate. This means something you do not need to learn because you were born with it. Innate.*

**And Eric says, “Yeah, it really is. It’s fun to watch him learn. He’s at this age of language explosion...”**

*What Eric is saying here is he’s at this age of learning a lot of new words.*

**And then Eric says, “and certainly...”**

*Or definitely.*

**“being around other kids really helps.” And then Joe says, “Oh, definitely. So you guys, uh, you went out on Mark’s boat. So that must have been fun.” And Eric says, “Oh, it was.” And Joe says, “So, uh, what else did you guys do while you were there?”**

*When he says what else, he’s saying, what other things did you guys do while you were there?*

**And then Eric says, “Well, y’know, on the whole boat thing...”**

*So what he’s saying is speaking of going out on a boat.*

**And Eric continues to say, “We, uh, did some crabbing...”**

*Crabbing, meaning trying to catch crabs.*

**And then Eric says, “where we caught some crabs.”**

*Crabs live in the ocean. Many people like to eat crabs because they have soft white meat.*

**And Eric says, “And, uh, used the boat as sort of a shuttle...”**

*Sort of means a type of. And shuttle is just something that takes people somewhere and brings them back.*

**So Eric continues to say, “to get from island to island. So we did a little bit...”**

*Or a small amount.*

**“of island hopping...”**

*Island hopping just means that they went around to different islands.*

**Then Eric says, “with picnicking on some islands...”**

*Picnicking is just cooking and eating outside.*

**And Eric says, “uh... We cooked some great meals, sort of, um, with the whole group of us together...”**

*So what he’s saying is the whole group. All of them. Everyone together.*

**And Joe says, “Oh, that’s great.” And Eric says, “yeah, and some people got some massages...”**

*A massage helps people relax. It’s something... they pay money for someone to rub their back, legs and arms.*

**And Eric goes on to say, “just tried to chill out and relax...”**

*Chill out. This means to relax. Chill out. For example: I like to go to the beach to chill out. It is very relaxing. Chill out.*

**And then Eric says, “uh... And it was just really low key.”**

*Low key. This means relaxing also. Low key. For example: I like Sunday night to be low key because I work early Monday morning. Low key.*

**And then Eric says, “A really restful trip, which is what I think about when I think about Mark and their place up there.” And then Joe says, “Yeah, it sounds like you were really able to let go, huh?”**

*To let go. This means to relax. To let go. For example: When I go to Hawaii it is easy to let go. To let go. Now when Joe says huh... He’s saying, do you agree?*

**And then Eric says, “It was, it was a longer trip for me than I’ve taken in the last couple of years...”**

*So he’s saying in about the last two years.*

**“goin’ up there...”**

*Goin’. This is short for going.*

**And then Eric says, “we went for five, five or six days, and...” And Joe says, “Oh, I didn’t realize you were goin’ that long.” And Eric says, “Yeah, normally...”**

*Or usually.*

**“I’m just up there for a long weekend...” And Joe says, “Sure.” And Eric says, “but this time I thought, y’know, I haven’t taken a vacation in a while.”**

*Vacation is time off from work or from school to go and do something. And a while... This means a long time.*

**And Eric says, “And I just wanna get up there and chill out.”**

*Wanna. This is short for want to.*

**And Joe says, “Oh, that’s great.” And Eric says, “Yeah.” And Joe says, “Y’know, I understand that John’s living up there now as well and, uh, if for no other reason I should go up and visit everybody...”**

*Or I should go up and see everybody.*

**“y’know, while he’s there.”**

*If for no other reason. This means if nothing else made you do something. If for no other reason.*

**And then Eric says, “Absolutely. He, uh, he’s, he’s not living on their property anymore...”**

*Property just means land. Land that their friends own.*

**And Eric says, “uh... He’s moved just to, y’know, really close by on the mainland off of Bellingham.”**

*Mainland. This is the main part of land. So it’s the opposite of island. And Bellingham... This is a town in the state of Washington.*

**And Eric says, “So he’s in the area still. And he would just be tickled pink to see you...”**

*Tickled pink. This means very happy. Tickled pink. For example: My mom was tickled pink with the birthday present we gave her. She really liked it. Tickled pink.*

**And Eric says, “and to hang out with you. I know he would, so...”**

*Hang out. This means to casually pass time. Hang out. For example: I like to hang out with my friends. Hang out.*

**Then Joe says, “Yeah, I mean, uh, it’s amazing...”**

*Or it’s unbelievable.*

**“how, y’know, uh, you can let so much time pass.”**

*Or you can let so much time go by.*

**“And, uh, you don’t even realize it’s happened when it comes to visiting with friends who live far out of town.”**

*And what Joe is saying here... Far out of town means far away from him here in San Francisco.*

**And Eric says, “That’s right...”**

*He’s saying that’s correct.*

**And Joe says, “Especially...”**

*Or most importantly.*

**“ones that are really close to you.” And Eric says, “Yeah, and the oldest of friends, it’s, uh, it... Time just really flies...”**

*Now what this means... Time just really flies or time flies, means to be surprised about how much time has gone by. Time flies. For example: Time flies when you are having fun. Time flies. Now in this sentence... Time just really flies... Just is filler. It doesn’t really have a meaning. And really means... That’s filler, too. It doesn’t really have a meaning.*

**And then Eric goes on to say, “and before you know it, it’s just been a long time since you’ve seen somebody. So when you get that time it’s just wonderful to take advantage of it.”**

*Take advantage of. This means to be fortunate to be able to do something. Take advantage of. For example: I like to take advantage of the days that I do not work by going to the beach. Take advantage of.*

**And Eric says, “And certainly John being all of a sudden on the West Coast...”**

*All of a sudden means right away. All of a sudden. For example: The price of gasoline went up all of a sudden. And West Coast. When Eric says West Coast, he’s talking about the states on the most western side of America, next to the Pacific Ocean. So those states would be California, Oregon and Washington.*

**And Eric goes on to say, “it’s great to be able to, to just jet up to Washington and, and see him, fairly easily.”**

*Fairly here is just filler. It really has no meaning. Jet up. To just jet up to Washington. Jet up means to go somewhere, specifically north. Jet up.*

**And Joe says, “Yeah. Yeah, I told him next year I’d, I’m going to make my best effort to get up there.”**

*Make my best effort. This means to try very hard. Make my best effort. For example: I make my best effort to visit my parents at least one time each year. Make my best effort.*

**And then Eric says, “I hope, I really really hope you do.” And Joe says, “Hey, uh, y’know Eric, time’s kind of escaped me tonight.”**

*Time’s kind of escaped me. Kind of here means sort of. Time’s sort of escaped me. What this means in general is, I did not realize how late it had become. Time’s escaped me. For example: I wanted to go see the movie at 7:00 p.m. but time escaped me. Now the movie is over. Time’s escaped me.*

**And Joe goes on to say, “I’m supposed to meet Kristin for dinner in a little bit. So, uh, y’know, I’d love for us to continue this conversation...”**

*Or what he’s saying is I’d love to have this conversation again.*

**And then Joe says, “uh, y’know, maybe tomorrow or somethin’...”**

*Somethin’ is short for something.*

**And then Joe says, “if you’re, if you’re available.”**

*Or, if you have time.*

**And Eric says, “Hey, that’d be great.” And Joe says, “Okay. Alright, listen, I’ll call you then.”**

*Alright, this also means okay.*

**And Eric says, “Alright, take care my friend.”**

*Take care. This means... In this situation, it means goodbye. It was nice talking with you. Take care.*

**And Joe says, “Alright, bye.” And then Eric ends the conversation by saying, “Bye.”**

\* \* \* \* \*

Alright, this is the end of the vocabulary lesson for “Trip To Washington.” Now if you need to, go back and listen to this one, two, maybe three more times. Make sure that you stay relaxed, you don’t get stressed or worried. You want to have an understanding of the vocabulary before going to the mini-story. So when you feel ready, then go to the mini-story. And I will see you next time. Goodbye.

- **Trip To Washington MS**

Hello. Welcome to the mini-story lesson for the conversation “Trip To Washington.” Let’s get started with the story.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Tom Cruise’s house has roaches. There are so many that it is out of hand.**

**He is now fed up. So he decides to go to Hawaii for one month. His Aunt Susanna lives in Hawaii and Hawaii is really low key.**

**After he gets to Hawaii, he drives to his aunt’s house. He is psyched to see her and she is tickled pink to see him.**

**On the first day he goes to the beach. He decides to learn how to surf. At first he cannot stand up on the surfboard but soon he gets the hang of it.**

**Tom Cruise goes to the beach every day. He does not think about the roaches at his house. He is able to completely let go.**

**After four weeks pass by, he realized that time flies when he is relaxing.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Okay, so that is our story. Now, as always, I will go back to the beginning of the story and I will read the story and I will ask questions while I read the story. Please answer the questions out loud if you wish. If you need a little more time then you can pause your player and then answer the question when you feel like you’ve had enough time. Or if you just want to sit back and listen to the questions without answering, that’s fine, too.

Okay, so here we go.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Tom Cruise’s house has roaches.**

**Does Tom Cruise’s house have roaches?**

*Yes, yes, it does. Tom Cruise’s house has roaches.*

**Does Will Smith’s house or Tom Cruise’s house have roaches?**

*Tom Cruise. Tom Cruise’s house has roaches.*

**Does Will Smith’s house have roaches?**

*No, Will Smith’s house doesn’t have roaches.*

Does Tom Cruise's house have roaches?

*Yes, yes, that's correct. Tom Cruise's house has roaches.*

Whose house has roaches?

*Tom Cruise's. Tom Cruise's house has roaches.*

What does Tom Cruise's house have? Does it have cats or roaches?

*It has roaches.*

Does Tom Cruise's house have cats?

*No, not cats.*

Does Tom Cruise's house have roaches?

*Yes, yes, it does. Tom Cruise's house has roaches.*

**There are so many that it is out of hand.**

Is it out of hand because there are so many roaches?

*Yes, yes, that's why it's out of hand. There are so many roaches that it is out of hand.*

Is it out of control because there are so many roaches?

*Yes, yes, that's true also. If something is out of hand, that means it is out of control, so it is out of control.*

Are there a lot of roaches at Tom Cruise's house?

*Yes, yes, there are. It says there are so many that it is out of control so there must be a lot of roaches at Tom Cruise's house.*

Why is it out of hand? Is it because there are too many cats or too many roaches at his house?

*Well, it's not because there are too many cats. It is certainly because there are too many roaches. There are so many that it is out of hand.*

**He is now fed up.**

Is he now fed up?

*Yes, yes, he is. He is fed up.*

Okay, so what is he? Is he hungry?

*No, he's not hungry.*

Is he fed up?

*Yes, yes, he is. He is fed up.*

Is he happy?

*No, no, he's not happy. He has roaches in his house, he's fed up.*

Is he upset?

*Yes, yes, he is. He's upset or he's fed up. To be fed up means to be upset.*

Who is fed up now?

*Well, Tom Cruise. Tom Cruise is fed up now.*

Was he fed up yesterday?

*No, he is fed up now.*

Is he fed up now?

*Yes, he is fed up now.*

**So he decides to go to Hawaii for one month.**

Does he decide to go to Hawaii for one month?

*Yes, he does. He decides to go to Hawaii for one month.*

Okay, so what does he decide to do?

*Go to Hawaii, he decides to go to Hawaii for one month.*

Does he decide to eat the roaches or go to Hawaii for one month?

*To go to Hawaii for one month, that's what he decided to do.*

Does he decide to eat the roaches?

*Eat the roaches, no, I don't think Tom Cruise will be eating the roaches. He did not decide to eat the roaches.*

Does he decide to go to Hawaii for one month?

*Yes, that's exactly what he did. He decides to go to Hawaii for one month.*  
Okay, so who decides to go to Hawaii for one month?  
*Tom Cruise, that's who decided. Tom Cruise decided to go to Hawaii for one month.*  
Does Will Smith or Tom Cruise decide to go to Hawaii?  
*Tom Cruise. Tom Cruise decides to go to Hawaii.*  
How long will he go to Hawaii?  
*Well, he will go for one month.*  
Will he go to Hawaii for seven days or one month?  
*One month. He will go to Hawaii for one month.*  
Does he decide to go to Hawaii for one month?  
*Yes, yes, he does. He decides to go to Hawaii for one month.*

### **His Aunt Susanna lives in Hawaii**

Does his aunt live in Hawaii?  
*Yes, she does. His aunt lives in Hawaii.*  
Who lives in Hawaii?  
*Well, Tom Cruise's Aunt Susanna lives in Hawaii.*  
Does his Aunt Peggy live in Hawaii?  
*No, no, it's not his Aunt Peggy.*  
Does his Aunt Susanna live in Hawaii?  
*Yes, yes, she does. His Aunt Susanna lives in Hawaii.*  
Is his aunt's name Susanna or Sandra?  
*Well, it's Susanna. His Aunt Susanna.*  
Where does his Aunt Susanna live? Does she live in California or Hawaii?  
*Hawaii, she lives in Hawaii.*  
Does his aunt live in California?  
*No, no, she doesn't live in California.*  
Does his aunt live in Hawaii?  
*Yes, yes, that's correct. His aunt lives in Hawaii.*

### **And Hawaii is really low key.**

Is Hawaii really low key?  
*Yes, it is. Hawaii is really low key.*  
Is Hawaii only a little low key?  
*No, Hawaii is really low key.*  
Is Hawaii very low key?  
*Yes, yes, that's correct. It is really low key or it is very low key.*  
Is Hawaii very relaxing?  
*Yes, it is. It is really low key which is the same as saying it is very relaxing.*  
Okay, so what is really low key? Is California or Hawaii really low key?  
*Hawaii. Hawaii is really low key.*  
Is California really low key?  
*No, that's not what the story reads. In the story it says Hawaii is really low key, not California.*  
Is Hawaii really low key?  
*Yes, yes, it is. Hawaii is really low key.*

### **After he gets to Hawaii, he drives to his aunt's house.**

Does he drive to his aunt's house after he gets to Hawaii?  
*Yes, yes, he does. After he gets to Hawaii, he drives to his aunt's house.*  
What does he do after he gets to Hawaii?  
*He drives to his aunt's house.*  
Does Tom Cruise or Will Smith drive to his aunt's house?  
*Tom Cruise does. Tom Cruise drives to his aunt's house.*  
How does he get to his aunt's house?  
*Well, he drives there. He drives to his aunt's house.*  
Does he ride a motorcycle? Or does he drive?

*He drives. He drives to his aunt's house.*

Does he ride a motorcycle?

*No, he doesn't ride a motorcycle.*

Where does he go?

*Well, first he went to Hawaii but then after he arrives in Hawaii, he drives to his aunt's house.*

Where does he drive to?

*He drives to his aunt's house.*

Does he drive to his mother's house?

*No, he doesn't drive to his mother's house.*

Does he drive to his aunt's house before getting to Hawaii?

*No, he doesn't drive to his aunt's house before he gets to Hawaii.*

Does he drive to his aunt's house after getting to Hawaii?

*Yes, that's correct, that's when he drove to his aunt's house. He drove to his aunt's house after getting to Hawaii.*

### **He is psyched to see her**

Is he psyched to see her?

*Yes, yes, he is. He is psyched to see her.*

Who is psyched to see her?

*Well, Tom Cruise. Tom Cruise is psyched to see her.*

Who is he psyched to see?

*His aunt. His Aunt Susanna.*

Is he psyched to see his brother Peter?

*No, he's not psyched to see his brother Peter.*

Is he psyched to see his Aunt Penelope?

*No, not his Aunt Penelope.*

Is he psyched to see his Aunt Susanna?

*Yes, that's correct, it's his Aunt Susanna. He's psyched to see his Aunt Susanna.*

Is he excited to see his Aunt Susanna?

*Well, yes, he is. To be psyched means to be excited so if he is psyched to see her, that means he is excited to see her. So Tom Cruise is excited to see his Aunt Susanna.*

### **And she is tickled pink to see him.**

Is she tickled pink to see him?

*Yes, yes, she is. She is tickled pink to see him.*

Okay, so who is tickled pink to see him?

*Well, his Aunt Susanna. His Aunt Susanna is tickled pink to see him.*

Who is she tickled pink to see?

*Tom Cruise. She is tickled pink to see Tom Cruise.*

Is she tickled pink to see Tom Cruise's wife?

*No, not Tom Cruise's wife.*

Is she tickled pink to see Tom Cruise?

*Yes, that's correct. She is tickled pink to see Tom Cruise.*

Is she unhappy to see him?

*No, no, not unhappy. Tickled pink does not mean unhappy.*

Is she very happy to see him?

*Yes, yes, that's correct. She is tickled pink to see him which is the same thing as saying she is very happy to see him.*

Is she tickled pink to see him?

*Yes, yes, she is. His Aunt Susanna is tickled pink to see him.*

### **On the first day he goes to the beach.**

Does he go to the beach on the first day?

*Yes, he does. That's what he does on the first day, he goes to the beach.*

What does he do?



*Well, he goes to the beach.*  
 Does he bake a cake or go to the beach?  
*He goes to the beach.*  
 Does Tom Cruise go to the beach or does his Aunt Susanna go to the beach?  
*Tom Cruise does. Tom Cruise goes to the beach.*  
 Does Tom Cruise's Aunt Susanna go to the beach?  
*No, his Aunt Susanna does not go to the beach.*  
 Where does he go?  
*He goes to the beach.*  
 Does he go to the pool or to the beach?  
*The beach, he goes to the beach.*  
 Does he go to the lake?  
*No, not the lake.*  
 Does he go to the beach?  
*Yes, yes, he does. He goes to the beach.*  
 When does he go to the beach? Does he go to the beach on the fifth day he is in Hawaii?  
*No, not the fifth day. He doesn't wait that long.*  
 Does he go to the beach on the first day?  
*Yes, he does. On the first day he goes to the beach.*

### **He decides to learn how to surf.**

Does he decide to learn how to surf?  
*Yes, he does, that's what he does. He decides to learn how to surf.*  
 What does he decide to do?  
*He decides to learn how to surf.*  
 Does he decide to eat a hamburger?  
*No, that's not what he decided to do.*  
 Does he decide to learn how to surf?  
*Yes, that's correct. He decides to learn how to surf.*  
 Does he already know how to surf?  
*No, he doesn't already know how to surf, because he decides to learn how to surf.*  
*This means that he does not know how to surf already.*  
 Okay, so who decides to learn how to surf? Does Tom Cruise or his Aunt Susanna decide?  
*Tom Cruise. Tom Cruise decides to learn how to surf.*  
 What does he decide to learn how to do?  
*To surf, he decides to learn how to surf.*  
 Does he decide to learn how to drive a car?  
*No, that's not what he decides to learn how to do.*  
 Does he decide to learn how to surf?  
*Yes, that's exactly what he decided to do. He decides to learn how to surf.*

### **At first he cannot stand up on the surfboard**

Can he stand up on the surfboard at first?  
*No, he cannot stand up on the surfboard at first.*  
 When he first learns how to surf, is he able to stand up on the surfboard?  
*No, no, he is not able to stand up on the surfboard at first. He cannot stand up on the surfboard at first.*  
 What is he unable to do?  
*Well, at first he is unable to stand up on the surfboard.*  
 Who cannot stand up on the surfboard?  
*Tom Cruise, that's who. Tom Cruise cannot stand up on the surfboard at first.*  
 Can Tom Cruise's aunt stand up on a surfboard?  
*No, not his aunt.*  
 Can Tom Cruise stand up on the roof of his house?  
*No, not the roof of his house.*

Can Tom Cruise stand up on the surfboard?

*Not at first he can't, he cannot stand up on the surfboard at first.*

**But soon he gets the hang of it.**

Does he get the hang of it?

*Yes, yes, he does. He gets the hang of it.*

Does he become better at it?

*Yes, yes, that's true. To say he gets the hang of it is the same as saying he becomes better at it.*

What does he get the hang of?

*Standing up on the surfboard because at first he was unable to stand up on the surfboard but soon he gets the hang of it.*

Does he get the hang of driving his car?

*No, not driving his car.*

Does he get the hang of standing up on the surfboard?

*Yes, yes, he does. He gets the hang of it. He gets the hang of standing up on his surfboard.*

Does he get the hang of it two years later?

*No, not two years later.*

Does he get the hang of it soon?

*Yes, that's true. Soon he gets the hang of it.*

Can he stand up on the surfboard after he practices?

*Yes, yes, he gets the hang of it because he continues to try to surf or he practices surfing. He practices standing up on the surfboard and soon he gets the hang of it.*

**Tom Cruise goes to the beach every day.**

Does Tom Cruise go to the beach every day?

*Yes, yes, he does. He goes to the beach every day.*

What does Tom Cruise do every day?

*Well, he goes to the beach.*

Does he cook dinner or go to the beach every day?

*He goes to the beach. He goes to the beach every day.*

Does he cook dinner every day?

*No, no, he doesn't cook dinner every day.*

Does he go to the beach every day?

*Yes, that's true. He goes to the beach every day.*

Does Tom Cruise's Aunt Susanna go to the beach every day?

*No, it's not his Aunt Susanna who goes to the beach every day.*

Does Tom Cruise go to the beach every day?

*Yes, yes, he does. Tom Cruise goes to the beach every day.*

Okay, so where does he go every day?

*The beach, he goes to the beach every day.*

Does he go to the lake or the beach?

*The beach, he goes to the beach.*

Does Tom Cruise go to the beach only on Mondays?

*No, he doesn't just go on Mondays.*

Does Tom Cruise go to the beach every other day?

*No, he doesn't go every other day.*

Does Tom Cruise go to the beach every day?

*Yes, that's correct. Tom Cruise goes to the beach every day.*

**He does not think about the roaches at his house.**

So does he think about the roaches at his house?

*No, he doesn't. He does not think about the roaches at his house.*

Are the roaches at Susanna's house?

*No, they're not at his Aunt Susanna's house.*

Are the roaches at Tom Cruise's house?

*Yes, they are. The roaches are at his house.*

Who doesn't think about the roaches? Tom Cruise or Tom Cruise's Aunt Susanna?

*Well, Tom Cruise does not think about the roaches at his house.*

Does Tom Cruise think about surfing?

*Well, maybe he does, but what we know is he does not think about the roaches at his house. He might think about surfing.*

Does he think about the roaches at his house?

*No, he does not. He does not think about the roaches at his house.*

**He is able to completely let go.**

Is he able to completely let go?

*Yes, he is. He is able to completely let go.*

What is he able to do?

*To completely let go. He is able to completely let go.*

Is he able to buy a car or completely let go?

*Well, he is able to completely let go.*

Is he able to let go just a little bit?

*No, he is able to let go more than that.*

Is he able to let go a lot?

*Yes, yes, he is. He is able to let go a lot.*

Is he able to completely relax?

*Yes, he is. He is able to completely let go which is the same as saying he is able to completely relax.*

Is Tom Cruise or Tom Cruise's aunt able to completely let go?

*Tom Cruise is, Tom Cruise is able to completely let go.*

Is Tom Cruise able to completely let go?

*Yes, he is. He is able to completely let go.*

**After four weeks pass by, he realized that time flies when he is relaxing.**

Does he realize that time flies when he is relaxing?

*Yes, yes, he does. He realizes that time flies when he is relaxing.*

Is he surprised how quickly time goes by when he is relaxing?

*Yes, yes, he does. He realizes that time flies when he is relaxing so that is the same as saying he is surprised how quickly time goes by when he is relaxing.*

Is he surprised that he has already been in Hawaii for four weeks?

*Well, yes, you could say that. He realizes that time flies so that's the same as saying he's surprised that he has already been in Hawaii as long as he has which has been four weeks time.*

How much time passed by? Did one year or four weeks pass by?

*Four weeks passed by. After four weeks pass by, he realizes that time flies when he is relaxing.*

Did five weeks pass by?

*No, five weeks didn't pass by.*

Did four weeks pass by?

*Yes, yes, that is correct. Four weeks passed by.*

Who realizes that time flies? Does Susanna realize that time flies?

*No, no, it's not Susanna.*

Does Tom Cruise realize that time flies?

*Yes, that's who realizes it. Tom Cruise realizes that time flies.*

When does time fly? Does it fly when he is in an airplane or does it fly when he is relaxing?

*It flies when he is relaxing. Time flies when he is relaxing.*

Does Tom Cruise realize that time flies when he is relaxing?

*Yes, he realizes that time flies when he is relaxing.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Okay, so that brings us to the end of our story. So that means that we have finished the mini-story lesson for the conversation “Trip To Washington.” Now please tell this story all by yourself. Remember you do not have to memorize every word but you do need to use the idioms that we discussed in the lesson. Those idioms are “out of hand,” “fed up,” “low key,” “psyched,” “tickled pink,” “gets the hang of,” “to let go,” and “time flies.” So now tell the story on your own and remember that you can listen to this lesson as many times as you need to. Okay, thank you. See you next time.

- **Trip To Washington POV**

Hi. Welcome to the point of view stories for “Trip To Washington”. I’m gonna tell the same story from the “Trip To Washington” mini-story lesson but each time I tell the story I’m gonna change the time in which the story is being told or I’m gonna change the person who is actually telling the story. So let’s start by telling the story as if it’s happening right now, or in the present as we like to say. Here goes.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Tom Cruise’s house has roaches. There are so many that it is out of hand.**

**He is now fed up. So he decides to go to Hawaii for one month. His Aunt Susanna lives in Hawaii and Hawaii is really low key.**

**After he gets to Hawaii, he drives to his aunt’s house. He’s psyched to see her and she’s tickled pink to see him.**

**On the first day he goes to the beach. He decides to learn how to surf. At first he cannot stand up on the surfboard but soon he gets the hang of it.**

**Tom Cruise goes to the beach every day. He doesn’t think about the roaches at his house. He’s able to completely let go.**

**After four weeks pass by, he realizes that time flies when he is relaxing.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Okay, so that’s the end of the story being told as if it is happening right now. Next let’s hear the story as if it happened last year.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Last year Tom Cruise’s house had roaches. There were so many that it was out of hand.**

**He was now fed up. So he decided to go to Hawaii for one month. His Aunt Susanna lived in Hawaii and Hawaii was really low key.**

**After he got to Hawaii, he drove to his aunt’s house. He was psyched to see her and she was tickled pink to see him.**

**On the first day he went to the beach. He decided to learn how to surf. At first he could not stand up on the surfboard but soon he got the hang of it.**

**Tom Cruise went to the beach every day. He did not think about the roaches at his house. He was able to completely let go.**

**After four weeks passed by, he realized that time flies when he is relaxing.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Okay, so that is the story as if it happened in the past; as if it already happened. Now let's hear the story as if it's happening in the future. So we will think of the story happening next year.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Next year Tom Cruise's house will have roaches. There will be so many that it is going to get out of hand.**

**He's gonna be fed up. So he's going to decide to go to Hawaii for one month. His Aunt Susanna will be living in Hawaii and Hawaii will be really low key.**

**After getting to Hawaii, he'll drive to his aunt's house. He'll be psyched to see her and she'll be tickled pink to see him.**

**On the first day he'll go to the beach. He's gonna decide to learn how to surf.**

**At first he won't be able to stand up on the surfboard but soon he'll get the hang of it.**

**Tom Cruise is gonna go to the beach every day. He will not think about the roaches at his house.**

**He's gonna be able to completely let go.**

**After four weeks pass by, he'll realize that time flies when he's relaxing.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Okay so that's the end of this version of the story, the version in which the story is in the future, where we talk about events that are going to happen or events that will happen. Notice that instead of saying something like, "He's going to decide" we can shorten it to say, "He's gonna decide" and this is something that you would more commonly see in spoken English. In a text book you'd probably be more likely to see something like, "He's going to decide".

Okay so now let's hear the story from Tom Cruise's point of view. So in this version Tom Cruise is actually telling us the story. Here goes.

\* \* \* \* \*

**My house had roaches. There were so many that it was out of hand.**

**I was fed up. So I decided to go to Hawaii for one month. My Aunt Susanna lived in Hawaii and Hawaii was really low key.**

**After I got to Hawaii, I drove to my aunt's house. I was psyched to see her and she was tickled pink to see me.**

**On the first day I went to the beach. I decided to learn how to surf. At first I could not stand up on the surfboard but soon I got the hang of it.**

**I went to the beach every day. I didn't think about the roaches at my house. I was able to completely let go.**

**After four weeks passed by, I realized that time flies when I'm relaxing.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Alright so that is the end of the point of view stories for the lesson "Trip To Washington". Now why don't you go back and listen to each version again. And after you listen to one version then try to tell yourself the story.

If you're having any difficulty then just relax and try again. You can listen to these stories as many times as you need to. Just make sure that you feel comfortable telling yourself the story on your own. Okay, that's all for now. See ya next time.

## **03. THE WEDDING**

---

- **The Wedding Conversation**

**where you been hidin'?:** said when you have not seen someone in a long time

**long time no see:** it has been a long time since we have seen each other

**you didn't make it:** you were not able to be there

**super bummed:** to be very upset

**time flies:** to be surprised about how much time has gone by

**the golden rule:** the most important thing about something

**sleep with:** to have sex with

**it's all worked out:** it ended well

**it was worth it:** said when you are glad to have done something

**do-it-yourself:** doing something without paying others to help

**City Hall:** government building

**Stern Grove:** a place in San Francisco that has a lot of trees

**Did the weather cooperate?:** was the weather nice

**made it in:** arrived

**medieval:** time period from long ago

**pretty much:** almost

**made an honest woman**

**of her:** got married to her

**old-fashioned:** ideas or things that are from a long time ago

**into the church**

**wedding:** wanted to have a wedding in a church

**I gotta run:** I to have to go

**get together:** meet

**ciao:** Italian word for goodbye

**Joe:** Hey, Will, how's it goin'?

**Will:** Hey, what's goin' on? Not a lot.

**Joe:** Man, I don't, you know what, now that I see you right here, I don't think I've seen you in probably like six weeks.

**Will:** Yeah.

**Joe:** *Where you been hidin'?*

**Will:** I don't know, *long time no see* though.

**Joe:** [laugh] Yeah.

**Will:** How, how have you been?

**Joe:** Yeah, I'm doin' really well. I, I don't th-...you know what, I haven't seen you since your wedding.

**Will:** I know. I know, I want to, uh, I want to tell you all about it. I can't believe ***you didn't make it.***

**Joe:** Yeah, you know what, I told you the only reason I didn't make it is because my uncle was getting married back east. So, y'know, I was gone the entire week. But I was ***super bummed*** about it.

**Will:** Well you missed a good one.

**Joe:** Yeah, yeah, I know. I mean I was bummed that I couldn't be there with all our friends. And, y'know, I'd never had a chance to meet Isabelle's family. So, y'know, I'm really bummed that I missed that, too.

**Will:** Yeah, yeah, it was really nice having everybody out here from Spain.

**Joe:** Yeah.

**Will:** And, we had a good time.

**Joe:** How long had you, how long were you and Isabelle together before you guys got married?

**Will:** Two years.

**Joe:** Wow, oh my god, ***time flies.***

**Will:** Yeah.

**Joe:** I remember that, y'know, when she first, uh, answered the ad you had for a roommate, so...

**Will:** [laugh]

**Joe:** ...you guys broke ***the golden rule***, y'know, as far as roommates go, which is don't ***sleep with*** your roommates when they move in.

**Will:** That's right.

**Joe:** [laugh] But ***it's all worked out.***

**Will:** ***It was worth it.*** It was worth it this time.

**Joe:** Yeah, it's all worked out. So I'm glad to see that, y'know.

**Will:** Absolutely.

**Joe:** Yeah. So, uh, y'know, you'll have to give me some details on, y'know, I, I haven't seen any of the pictures or anything, I don't, maybe you didn't get them back yet from the photographer.

**Will:** Well I can't wait to, uh, show you the pictures, of course, but, uh, yeah, do you have a second? I'll tell you about the wedding.

**Joe:** Yeah, yeah, totally. I wanna hear about it.

**Will:** Alright, well, we had kind of a, uh, ***do-it-yourself*** wedding. We, um, got married at, uh, ***City Hall*** which was easy. And then we had our real ceremony at

**Stern Grove.** You know where that is?

**Joe:** Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, right on 19th.

**Will:** Here in San Francisco.

**Joe:** Yeah.

**Will:** Underneath the redwood trees.

**Joe:** Oh, it must have been beautiful.

**Will:** It was very nice.

**Joe:** ***Did the weather cooperate?***

**Will:** Actually we, uh, had a really beautiful day which is very unusual for summertime in, uh, San Francisco.

**Joe:** Yeah.

**Will:** As you well know.

**Joe:** Totally.

**Will:** We were planning on fog but we had really nice weather.

**Joe:** Oh that's great. So everyone ***made it in*** okay? Because I know that, uh, her family had a long way to come.

**Will:** Yeah. They, uh, they all made it. Her mom and dad, uh, their friend, uh, her brother and sister, of course, and, uh, her best friend from Spain came to represent all her, all her friends... We're gonna go there, uh, soon and we're gonna see her, uh, family and friends, y'know, th-, who couldn't make it. But it was nice to have a group of her family and friends here in San Francisco for the wedding.

**Joe:** Oh that's great. How, what, where is she from in Spain?

**Will:** Um, she's from Bilbao.

**Joe:** Oh yeah, y'know, she told me that before but I can't say that, y'know, I could recall the actual town 'cause I'd never heard of it before.

**Will:** Yeah, it's actually a very large city. Uh, it's an industrial city. And it's, uh, got uh, a new museum so it's become more famous. But, uh, it's been there a long time. And it's a big city. But it's not one of the most, um, uh, known cities in Spain perhaps...

**Joe:** Yeah.

**Will:** ...like Madrid and Barcelona.

**Joe:** Yeah.



**Will:** So, uh, yeah. But they were all there and, uh, her brother, uh, read a **medieval** Spanish love poem, uh. And, uh, that was really nice. And, uh, parts of our wedding were in Spanish, uh, for the people, um, you know our friends here who, uh, um, speak Spanish and also, uh, y'know, for her friends and family from Spain, yeah.

**Joe:** Sure, yeah that's great. I know that you've been trying to learn a lot of Spanish lately.

**Will:** Yes I have, yes I have...well, y'know, I learned a lot of Spanish when I was in Chili but I'm learning a lot more with her now.

**Joe:** Oh that's great. Yeah, because the only way you're gonna really, uh, y'know, get more fluent in it is to use it **pretty much** every day.

**Will:** Absolutely. Yeah.

**Joe:** So, uh, I bet her father was happy to see that you **made an honest woman of her**.

**Will:** [laugh] I guess, I guess so, yeah.

**Joe:** I would imagine that, uh, maybe her, was her family pretty traditional and **old-fashioned?** Or...

**Will:** Uh, no actually they're more, um, uh, progressive in a way than, uh, Americans are. Americans actually, it seems, uh, are more **into the church wedding** and everything. We had a, uh, um, we had a very, uh, European wedding. They're not as, uh, religious as people think. Americans are pretty religious.

**Joe:** That's true.

**Will:** Yes. So, uh, they, uh, they loved everything we did and, uh, it was a really good time. Yeah.

**Joe:** That's great.

**Will:** Yeah, so, uh, **I gotta run**.

**Joe:** Okay, well, uh, Will let's **get together** for drinks sometime soon, it's been too long.

**Will:** Sounds good.

**Joe:** Alright, I'll talk to you soon.

**Will:** Alright, **ciao**.

**Joe:** Bye.

- **The Wedding Vocabulary**

Hi and welcome to the vocabulary lesson for the conversation "The Wedding." In this conversation Joe is speaking with one of our friends named Will. They are speaking about Will's wedding. Okay, let's begin with the conversation.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Joe first says, "Hey, Will, how's it goin'?"**

*How's it going, or how's it goin'. This is short for how is it going. So you wouldn't see how's it goin' in written English, but you would definitely hear how's it goin' in conversational English. It also means how are you.*

**Will says, "Hey, what's goin' on?"**

*What's goin' on. This is short for what is going on. And that's what you would see in written English, but in conversational English you would hear what's goin' on. It also means what are you doing.*

**Then Will says, "Not a lot."**

*Now this is kind of funny. Because this would have been an answer that Joe would have given to Will when Will said, hey Joe what's goin' on. And then Will says not a lot. So really that would have been an answer Joe would have said. Not a lot. But, for some reason, I don't really know why, Will says not a lot. Okay moving along.*

**Then Joe says, "Man, I don't, you know what, now that I see you right here..."**

*Or now that I see you here.*

**"I don't think I've seen you in probably..."**

*Or in about.*

**"like six weeks." And Will says, "Yeah."**

*Just agreeing with Joe.*

**And Joe says, "Where you been hidin'?"**

*Now, where you been hidin'... The way that you would see this in written English would be where have you been hiding? But, Joe just speaking normal conversation, he's making it shorter. Where you been hidin'? And what this means is not... it's not really asking Will if he's been hiding from Joe. But it's saying... Or Joe is saying this like, I haven't seen you in a long time. So if someone says where have you been hiding, they're just saying it when they haven't seen that person in a long time. Where you been hidin'. For example: I had not seen my friend Susan in a long time. So when I saw her I said, "Hey, where you been hiding'?"*

**And then Will answers, "I don't know, long time no see though."**

*Long time no see. This means it has been a long time since we have seen each other. For example: I had not seen my friend Susan in a long time. So when I saw her I said, "Long time no see."*

**And Joe laughs and says, "Yeah." Then Will says, "How, how have you been?"**

*So he's saying how have you been doing? How is everything?*

**And Joe says, "Yeah, I'm doin' really well."**

*Doin', just being short for doing.*

**And Joe says, "I, I don't th---you know what, I haven't seen you since your wedding."**

*Now a wedding. This is a marriage ceremony. Or it's when two people get married.*

**And Will says, "I know. I know, I want to, uh, I want to tell you all about it. I can't believe you didn't make it."**