



All Ears English Episode 156:

3 Conversational Phrases for a Sports Event

Gabby: This is an All Ears English Podcast, Episode 156: “3 Conversational Phrases for a Sports Event.”

[Instrumental]

Gabby: Welcome to the All Ears English Podcast, where you’ll finally get real, native English conversation with your hosts, Lindsay McMahon, the ‘English Adventurer’ and Gabby Wallace, the ‘Language Angel’, from Boston, USA.

[Instrumental]

Lindsay: Hey, Gabby. Are you busy these days?

Gabby: (Ugh), I’m always busy. And I think our listeners are always busy too. That’s the kind of world we live in.

Lindsay: Yeah, that’s right. So if our listeners are busy, it would make sense for them to actually focus just on the key phrases that they need to know to speak with natives, right?

Gabby: Yeah, absolutely. That’s why we made an e-book with the 100 most common phrases in English, so that you can get the most out of your time



studying English. You can find that at AllEarsEnglish.com/100. That's the number 1-0-0.

[Instrumental]

Gabby: Do you like to watch sports with your English-speaking friends? Have you ever stopped and panicked because you don't know what to say? Well, in this episode, we're going to give you three phrases that you can use easily at any sports event.

[Instrumental]

Gabby: Hey, Lindsay. How are you?

Lindsay: Good. How are you, Gabby?

Gabby: Doing very well, thank you.

Lindsay: So, do you like sports?

Gabby: I do like sports. Yeah. (You know), I like to play sports and sometimes I like to watch sports.

Lindsay: Me too. I like sports. I like tennis personally.

Gabby: Okay. Cool. Yeah, I like soccer.

Lindsay: Okay.

Gabby: (Uh), that's probably my favorite sport. I also like some basketball.

Lindsay: Excellent.

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: Excellent.

Gabby: So have you ever been watching a sports event or (like) gone to a sports event and you don't really know what to talk about?

Lindsay: Definitely. I've been in that situation a couple of times.



Gabby: I think everyone has. You know you're, you're there with people and you want to make conversation...

Lindsay: (Uh-huh).

Gabby: ...but maybe you're not sure what to say, so...

Lindsay: Totally.

Gabby: ...we actually made a guide.

Lindsay: Yes, we did.

Gabby: And we're gonna (going to) share three of our top phrases for, (you know), what you can say when you're at a sports event or when you're watching one on TV.

Lindsay: Exactly. Okay, so we're just gonna (going to) give you guys these phrases.

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: So that – so this is great if you're, yeah, if you're here in the US...

Gabby: (Uh-huh).

Lindsay: ...and you're watching a sports event maybe with a, with an American colleague...

Gabby: (Uh-huh).

Lindsay: ...and you need to build that relationship, right?

Gabby: Right.

Lindsay: What are you gonna (going to) say?

Gabby: Okay, well the first phrase we want to share is, "Have you been to a Red Sox game before?" Or, you could remove Red Sox. You could just say any team. "Have you been to a Celtics game before?"

Lindsay: Right.



Gabby: “Have you been to a Patriot’s game before?”

Lindsay: Bruins, Boston Bruins.

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: [crosstalk]

Gabby: Yeah, revolution. [crosstalk] There’s a lot of different teams.

Lindsay: Exactly and one thing I would emphasize here is intonation, right.

Gabby: (Uh).

Lindsay: So if you’re at the game your intonation would be a little bit different.

Gabby: Right.

Lindsay: So, I might say, “Have you been to a Red Sox game....”

Both: “...before?”

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: Right, so that’s if we’re sitting at the game, right.

Gabby: Right.

Lindsay: Yeah.

Gabby: Or if you’re maybe in a group of friends and you’re talking about if people have been to a game before, you might single someone out and say, “Have *you* been to a Red Sox game before?”

Lindsay: Right, right. And then, yeah, we can really emphasize different words and play around with that.

Gabby: Or, (right), if, if you are differentiating between a Celtics game and a Red Sox game, you might say, “Have you been to a Red Sox game before?”

Lindsay: Right, as opposed to a Celtics game.



Gabby: [Crosstalk].

Lindsay: Exactly.

Gabby: That's an interesting point. I'm glad you brought that up because intonation is so important in English and it can change the meaning...

Lindsay: Absolutely.

Gabby: ...or the, the inferences, the understanding that we get from the, from the sentence and the way that people talk.

Lindsay: So we talked a lot about open-ended questions when we were going through this in our course, our "Keys to Connecting with Americans" course.

Gabby: Right, and this is actually not an open-ended question, but...

Lindsay: (Uh-huh).

Gabby: ...it's an easy question to follow up...

Lindsay: Absolutely.

Gabby: ...with some more conversation.

Lindsay: Absolutely. Should we move on to the next one?

Gabby: Yeah. So, the second phrase – Lindsay I'll let you say this one.

Lindsay: Right. So we want to ask, "What sports and teams do you follow?"

Gabby: Great. Yeah, so you're just asking basically what, (like) if the person is interested...

Lindsay: (Uh-huh).

Gabby: ...in sports and teams and, "Do you follow...", is like, "Are you interested in...?"

Lindsay: Exactly.



Gabby: Or, “Are you into...?”

Lindsay: Into.

Gabby: “What sports and teams are you into?” Yeah, (I mean), there’s a lot of different ways you can say this. And, (um), (you know), there’s a lot of different responses. You could say your favorite sports team or you could say, “Oh, I don’t really...”

Lindsay: “I don’t follow sports.”

Gabby: “...follow sports.” Yeah.

Lindsay: Like knitting or something.

Gabby: Yeah, yeah, yeah. That’s right. So, well, Lindsay, what sports and teams do you follow?

Lindsay: I don’t follow that many sports. I like [crosstalk]...

Gabby: There you go. Nice. Okay. That was your actual response. Let’s go on to another phrase. All right, “Did you play any sports growing up?”

Lindsay: Right. So (Ga-)...?

Gabby: “How ‘bout (about) now?” Yeah.

Lindsay: So Gabby did you play any sports growing up?

Gabby: I did. I played a little bit of every sport. I played volleyball, basketball, baseball or softball, actually, soccer. I think that’s it.

Lindsay: A lot of team sports.

Gabby: A lot of team sports. I wanted to play hockey...

Lindsay: (Uh).

Gabby: ...but it’s a little bit too violent...

Lindsay: Yeah.



Gabby: ...or dangerous, so.

Lindsay: And you have to get a lot of equipment to play hockey.

Gabby: You do.

Lindsay: It's expensive.

Gabby: That's right.

Lindsay: Yeah.

Gabby: And I didn't play American football because that's also a bit more aggressive and it can be easy to get injured. So...

Lindsay: Yeah.

Gabby: ...(you know), my mom didn't want me to get injured.

Lindsay: Aww.

Gabby: And it also involves a lot of equipment. That's absolutely right.

Lindsay: Absolutely.

Gabby: How 'bout (about) you Lindsay...

Lindsay: Yeah, so...

Gabby: ...did you play any sports growing up?

Lindsay: I did. I used to play a lot of tennis. I used to go around to tennis tournaments, oh my god, all over New England.

Gabby: That's exciting.

Lindsay: Not England, New England.

Both: Right.

Lindsay: So, that's the northeastern part of the US.

Gabby: Yeah, it's good to differentiate.



Lindsay: Yeah, I did a lot of tennis. I rode horses. I did a lot of swimming, like swimming lessons. (Um), (uh), roller blading on the street, (right).

Gabby: Oh, yeah.

Lindsay: Yeah.

Gabby: That's great.

Lindsay: Things like that. Yeah.

Gabby: And, and how 'bout (about) now?

Lindsay: How 'bout (about) now? Well, I have been learning capoeira a little bit.

Gabby: Ooh!

Lindsay: Dropping off [crosstalk].

Gabby: That's new and exciting.

Lindsay: Yeah, I gotta (got to) pick it up again here.

Gabby: Well now I'm into roller blading. You mentioned that...

Lindsay: Cool.

Gabby: ...which is kind of funny because it was a big trend in the 90s.

Lindsay: You're such a 90s girl. Oh my god.

Gabby: I am. But I feel like it's coming back.

Lindsay: Okay, maybe you're starting the trend.

Gabby: I am.

Lindsay: Okay.

Gabby: It's great exercise. It's really great.

Lindsay: Yeah, it's good exercise.



Gabby: So those are three phrases that you can use easily in a sport situation. And let's just recap those. The first one was, "Have you been to a Red Sox game before?" And the second one.

Lindsay: The next one is "What sports and teams do you follow?"

Gabby: "Did you play any sports growing up? How 'bout (about) *now*?"

Lindsay: Ooh, nice intonation.

Gabby: Oh, why thank you. So these are three phrases, but we actually made a presentation with five key phrases and a cultural point, (um), and this is part of an even bigger presentation...

Lindsay: (Uh-hm).

Gabby: ...which is called the "Keys to Connecting with American Culture." It has four parts in it. (Um), we actually presented this in (um) a total of four hours. And there's (there is/are) a lot of great materials, and examples, and personal stories that we share with you guys as part of a course which you can download instantly from our website. So...

Lindsay: Right.

Gabby: ...we've made a lot of really practical material that will allow you to be able to connect with Americans in specific situations like a sports event.

Lindsay: Yeah, so you'll get to see us on video. You'll get new ways to say these phrases, so not just these phrases plus a few more but other ways 'cause (because) we know that one of the things that you guys struggle with, what you want to learn is other ways to say things. You don't wanna (want to) just have one way to say it.

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: Right. So we're gonna (going to) give you that. We're gonna (going to) tell you in this particular piece one thing about American culture and sports that you need to know if you don't want to get into trouble.



Gabby: Oh yeah.

Lindsay: Yeah.

Gabby: Absolutely. (Um), yeah because we know, personally, how frustrating it can be when you want to say something, you want to interact with your friends or your colleagues, but you're really not sure what to say, how to say it, how to behave, so that's why we made this and we really hope that you find it useful. So if you want to find out more, it's at, on our web site at AllEarsEnglish.com/keys. That's k-e-y-s. (Um), so just go check it out and let us know if you have any questions. (You know), we want to share as much, (um), as many helpful praises, phrases as we can, just as much information as possible, but this is a longer course. So, (you know), it's up on our website. We can't do a four-hour podcast. That would be ridiculous.

Lindsay: Right. So we've just given you guys a small piece of...

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: ...what **you'll get [09:23]**, so check it out.

Gabby: All right. Thanks guys.

[Instrumental]

Lindsay: If you wanna (want to) put your ears into English more often, be sure to subscribe to our podcast in iTunes on your computer or on your smartphone. Thanks so much for listening and see you next time.

