



All Ears English Episode 212:

Are New Yorkers Friendly: Learn Three Effective Ways to Meet Friends in New York

Lindsay: This is an All Ears English Podcast, Episode 212: “Are New Yorkers Friendly: Learn Three Effective Ways to Meet Friends in New York.”

[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: Today, we have a very special temporary co-host. She is a three-time, self-made American entrepreneur based in New York City and she could run you all over the tennis court any day of the week with her nasty forehand. She’s my friend, mentor, and inspiration in life and business, Christie, the Fearless New Yorker. Now, let’s get to the show.

[Instrumental]

Lindsay: In today’s episode, you’ll meet Christie, the Fearless New Yorker. She’ll give you the inside perspective on how New Yorkers think. And she’ll give



you some awesome strategies for how you can meet New Yorkers to practice English and have friends when you're visiting the Big Apple.

[Instrumental]

Lindsay: Are you on our email list yet? Join more than 5,000 other All Ears English listeners and make sure you don't miss any of our amazing All Ears English episodes. Get on our list now and we'll send you a weekly summary of the most exciting and interesting All Ears English moments every week. These episodes are HOT, so go to AllEarsEnglish.com/HOT. That's AllEarsEnglish.com/H-O-T.

[Instrumental]

Lindsay: Hey, Christie. Welcome. How are you today?

Christie: Hey, Lindsay. I'm awesome. Thanks for having me on the show. I'm excited.

Lindsay: Yeah, we are super excited...

Christie: Yeah.

Lindsay: ...to hear that you're joining us on the All Ears English podcast. You are our Fearless New Yorker and we're so excited to introduce you to our audience.

Christie: Yeah. Well, I'm excited to meet them. (Um), and thanks for calling me a Fearless New Yorker. I'm very honored. (Um), I just wanna (want to) put it out there guys, girls that I'm actually not fearless. I actually have a lot of fear. (Uh), but somehow I...

Lindsay: Exactly.

Christie: ...I make a way of overcoming it each day. So that's, that's...

Lindsay: Yeah.

Christie: ...(crosstalk) about me.



Lindsay: Christie, that's super inspiring. (You know), I'm inspired by you and I love that you're able to admit that you have fears. (I mean), we all have fears. No one is fearless, right.

Christie: Yeah.

Lindsay: Of course not. Yeah.

Christie: Yeah.

Lindsay: So, (y-y-you know), but you, you're a hard worker, you're an entrepreneur, you live in New York City. Those are scary things for a lot of people.

Christie: Yeah. Yeah, I guess they are. They, they do scare me every day.

Lindsay: An-an-an-and, (you know), someone who is (like) achieving in life and living an awesome life is someone who's actually (like) turning towards those fears and facing those fears and walking into them every day. And that's why I'm calling you the 'Fearless New Yorker' because that's what you do.

Christie: Oh, okay. Thanks. All right, all right. Yeah, I'm working on...

Lindsay: All right, all right.

Christie: ...accepting compliments. So, I'm gonna (going to) be like "Thank you Lindsay. I do agree with you then."

Lindsay: Awesome. I love it. So Christie, today we have a question. The All Ears English Podcast has a really interesting question for you 'cause (because) we know that you are our New York City insider. You're a local in New York City, and, (you know), this is something that our listeners are probably wondering about. They like to visit New York, (you know). Some of them go every year for business, for pleasure. They wanna (want to) go to Time Square and see the parks, Central Park. But we wanna (want to) know this question: Are New Yorkers friendly? (I mean), this is debatable, right? (Like)...

Christie: (Uh-huh).



Lindsay: ...what do you think? (I mean), how long have you been living in New York Christie?

Christie: I've been living in New York for more than nine years now.

Lindsay: Wow! Yeah.

Christie: Yeah, (um), and I think that they are friendly, (uh), especially when you ask them for help and subway directions.

Lindsay: Oh.

Christie: And a lot of my friends who've come, they have all (su-), said to me surprisingly that, (you know), people are pretty friendly. (Um), just don't get in their way when they're tryna' (trying to), (you know), get somewhere, but if you have a question they're more than willing to help.

Lindsay: Yeah, that's the one thing. They're just so busy, (right).

Christie: (Uh-huh).

Lindsay: I think th-th-the misconception, (I mean) – actually I've heard a lot of people say that New Yorkers are not friendly. (I mean), I've even said that myself even though, (you know), I lived there for four years. You and I met there.

Christie: (Uh-hmm).

Lindsay: (You know), and I had – (you know) there were some days when I felt really like, "Oh, my gosh. People here are so abrupt..."

Christie: (Uhn).

Lindsay: "...and so, (um), so rude."

Christie: Right.

Lindsay: You nahmean' (you know what I mean). You, you don't get that on the subway. People kind of – I don't know. (You know), ru-rushing in front of you and not holding doors for you. Things like that?



Christie: (Um). That's true. I think that's true. I think that it depends how you define friendly, like...

Lindsay: Yeah, right, right.

Christie: (crosstalk). Every language, every word has different interpretations and it (re-), (uh), relates to our personal experience of the word 'friendly'. So I think that what I think of somebody who's friendly (uh) as somebody who's willing to help me and if I have a connection with them, they are going to be open to me. That would be friendly, but then, I – yeah, I think that regarding outside of that, like abruptness and how much they're trying to get something done...

Lindsay: Yeah.

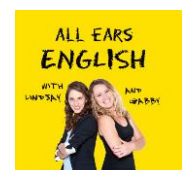
Christie: ...if it's not, not on a personal level, then they're probably not as patient. They're not patient.

Lindsay: Right. Okay. So maybe not patient, but maybe friendly. So again, it really depends on what you're trying to do. So, so a lot of our listeners are probably planning to go to New York sometime in the next couple of years and, (you know), we always encourage our listeners to go out and meet local people, but New York is one of the hardest places sometimes to meet people

Christie: (Uhn).

Lindsay: So, so it's different, (right), the way we approach meeting people in New York versus, (you know), some small town in Texas or Kansas. It's completely different. So what would you recommend as (kind of) three tips, three ways to meet a New Yorker?

Christie: Okay. Well, I think there's some interesting things about what (uh), y-you said is that that, (um), people – it's difficult to meet a New Yorker, and I actually think that it's almost easier because New York is – there's so many transplants. So...



Lindsay: (Umm). Wha-what's a transplant Christie? Just a quick question about that.

Christie: Yeah.

Lindsay: Because that's a common word you do hear in New York, but I don't know if our listeners know.

Christie: Yeah. Transplant is somebody who basically didn't – wasn't born and raised in that area.

Lindsay: (Umm).

Christie: So they came in...

Lindsay: Okay.

Christie: ...they were born and raised somewhere else and are probably living in New York City or somewhere new.

Lindsay: (Uh-hmm). Are you a transplant Christie? Were you born somewhere else and did – or did you – were you actually born in New York?

Christie: Yes, I was born somewhere else. I was born in Hawaii.

Lindsay: (Uhn).

Christie: So, I am a transplant. And it's actually more common for people to be transplants in New York...

Lindsay: Yeah.

Christie: ...New York City, than to actually have been born and raised here.

Lindsay: Yeah, absolutely. Okay. So keep going with that, with that tip you had regarding transplants. What was that?

Christie: Oh, well, since there's so many people who are transplants, people are a lot more open to meeting new people because there's so many people just moving here or leaving, they expect that you're – that – they expect that you haven't born, been born or raised there and therefore, maybe you



don't have this tight group of friends and family already there. So you're more open...

Lindsay: (Uhn)

Christie: ...to new people, new experiences. So...

Lindsay: I see.

Christie: ...there's a lot of events to go to where people be open to, to (kind of) talking to you and even doing a follow-up get-together...

Lindsay: (Um).

Christie: ...which, I think is actually a little more difficult in other places where people have been born and raised there and have a close knit of friends already like where...

Lindsay: I see.

Christie: ...I'm from, Hawaii.

Lindsay: So there's not like an insider's club. Like no one's really an insider in New York. Everyone's an outsider. Everyone (kind of) moves to New York to make it, right.

Christie: (Uh-hmm).

Lindsay: They have some dream often sometimes.

Christie: (Uh-huh).

Lindsay: Or maybe that's just a cliché. I don't know.

Christie: Oh, and I think that's absolutely true. (I mean), everyone takes that risk to come to New York because there's some bigger dream there looking to find and fulfill.

Lindsay: Yeah, I love that. I love the idea of just going after a dream if you have it. (You know), I moved there because the dream for me wasn't so much acting on Broadway or becoming, (you know), a star or a singer, it was



more (um), I guess my dream was to live in New York. Just to – just I had always traveled there as a, as a kid to the city, (you know), from my small town in New Hampshire and I thought “Wow, this city gives me so much energy.”

Christie: (Uh-huh).

Lindsay: And I feel so inspired when I go. (You know), when I was a kid, I said, ‘Okay, some day, I’m going to live in New York.’

Christie: (Umm).

Lindsay: And when the chance came after moving back from Tokyo...

Christie: (Mm-hmm).

Lindsay: ...I thought, ‘Well, this is the perfect transition. I can move from Tokyo right to New York.’

Christie: (Mm-hmm).

Both: Yeah.

Christie: I think (crosstalk) – yeah, it’s very – that was very similar for me. Just (like) growing up I just always thought I want to live in New York City...

Lindsay: Yeah.

Christie: ...and something cool happened.

Lindsay: Well, I’m glad you did it. (You know), not everyone is able to follow their dreams for whatever reason, but I’m glad that you found the courage ‘cause (because) you are our ‘Fearless New Yorker’.

Christie: Thank you.

Lindsay: You found the courage and you are able to make that move. So just to go back to what we were talking about. So, so you think it’s actually easier, a little bit easier to get involved with New York to meet them because there isn’t that (sort of) insider’s club, right.



Christie: Yes. Yes.

Lindsay: Okay.

Christie: So I think you can be optimistic. And, (um), to give your listeners, (uh), some concrete ways to meet New Yorkers, I would suggest – of course meetup.com, and...

Lindsay: (Uh-hmm).

Christie: ...going to a meetup. (Um), there's also a lot of (um) community sport groups. There's one called ZogSports...

Lindsay: (Uh-hmm).

Christie: ...where for a season – so you might have to be here for a whole season where you play like softball, basketball, and I think it's also – they donate profits to some non-profit organizations.

Lindsay: Okay cool.

Christie: So there's a real (like), (uh), fun, social cause versus it being a super serious, (you know), basketball league. So there's – that's a really social, fun way to create maybe even more longer lasting relationships with people than just events through meetup.

Lindsay: Oh, yeah. Yeah, that's a good point 'cause (because) when we go to one event we, we may never see – that was one challenge that I ran into. (I mean), I was able to make some really close friends through meetups...

Christie: (Uh-hmm).

Lindsay: ...but when you go to meetups, it's like there's new people every time. It's not the same group. So...

Christie: Yeah.

Lindsay: ...you might just meet someone one night, have a great conversation, then you never see them again.



Christie: (Uh-hmm). Yeah.

Lindsay: (You know).

Christie: Exactly.

Lindsay: Okay. But yeah, meetups are good. So community sports, things like that. I would also say – (you know), this is on a little bit less concrete level, but more kind of conceptual level, but don't be normal. (You know), I found that everyone in New York is a little weird and that's actually okay.

Christie: (Uh-hmm).

Lindsay: Do you know what I mean?

Christie: Yeah. Yeah.

Lindsay: Yeah.

Christie: There's...

Lindsay: So it's...

Christie: ...lot less (um) – people are a lot less normal than you think.

Lindsay: So be weird. (Like) if you, (you know) – people have different styles of dress, ways to dress. (You know), in different careers, people often identify with their work.

Christie: (Uhn).

Lindsay: Whether that's good or bad, I'm not gonna (going to) make a judgment, but that's, (you know), you're out there.

Christie: Right.

Lindsay: The first question that you get is often "What do you do?"

Christie: (Uh-huh).

Lindsay: Right? Yeah.



Christie: That's true.

Lindsay: Yeah.

Christie: That's true. (Um), and I think the fourth tip, the third tip, I would say is – besides the actual things like going to events through meetup or finding some type of ZogSports, (uh), longer-term social thing is when you feel like there's a connection, don't be afraid to invite the person to do something maybe relevant to the topic on which you met them on.

Lindsay: (Uhn).

Christie: So, if you met them at a language meetup saying, "Oh, I, (you know), I'm trying to improve my language still. Do you wanna (want to) do, do you wanna (want to) meet up for coffee or something?" And...

Lindsay: Yeah.

Christie: ...because people are so much more open to new e-e-event or new people, they, they'll be more likely to say "Yes" than finding the awkward weird. If I was in Hawaii and I just met somebody they, they might think that's a little odd.

Lindsay: Yeah. Absolutely. Absolutely. I like that idea Christie. Well, I think we've got some really good concrete and some less concrete tips on how to actually go ahead and meet New Yorkers. So I want to encourage you guys, (you know), if you're planning to visit New York, don't just hang out in Time Square and walk around like a tourist. Go to Union Square, go to Brooklyn and try to, (you know), get involved with a meetup and a group or sport. Try to meet a local and practice your English and just absorb the city with that local person.

Christie: That's right.

Lindsay: Awesome. Well, Christie, thank you so much for joining us today. This has been super fun.

Christie: You're welcome. Thanks for having me Lindsay.



Lindsay: Bye Christie. Take care.

Christie: Take care.

[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.

