

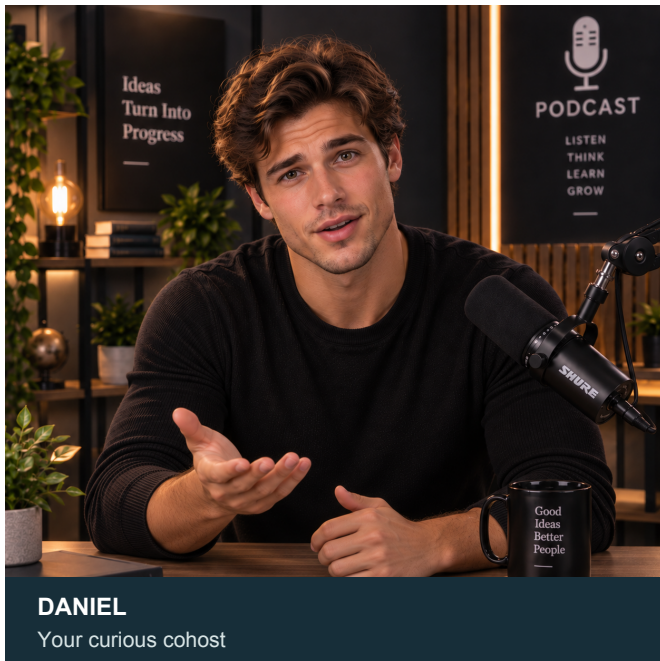


Job Interview Podcast

English listening & speaking with Daniel and Maya

Read along with Daniel and Maya. Practise useful English from this episode.

B1-B2 / 13:26 AUDIO / FULL TRANSCRIPT



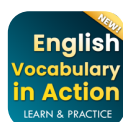
DANIEL
Your curious cohost



MAYA
Your English teacher

LISTEN. READ. SAY IT.

- 1 Listen once for the story.
- 2 Read along and notice useful expressions.
- 3 Choose one useful phrase and try saying it out loud.



Transcript edition 01

01 / 07



FULL TRANSCRIPT / 01 OF 06

The conversation

Read along with Daniel and Maya. Times mark the start of each chapter.

00:00

First impression

Walking into the interview

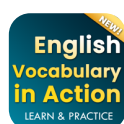
- Daniel** Welcome back! I'm Daniel. Today I have a job interview, and my brain has already put on a tiny business suit and started sweating. Maya, please help.
- Maya** I'm Maya, your English teacher, and yes, I can help. An interview is a conversation, not a spelling test with chairs. We'll practice useful answers, natural phrases, and a few phrasal verbs.
- Daniel** Good. My first situation: I walk into the room. Do I say, "Hello, I am a very hardworking human," or is that too much?
- Maya** A little too much. Smile and say, "It's nice to meet you. Thank you for inviting me." If it's online, add, "Can you hear me clearly?" Simple, friendly, professional.
- Daniel** And if my camera shows seventeen empty coffee cups behind me?
- Maya** Then move the cups before the call. Your English can be excellent, but your background might tell a different story.
- Daniel** Fair. People say you need to "come across well." Is that the same as physically crossing the room?
- Maya** No. "Come across" means give an impression. "I want to come across as calm and prepared." You can also say, "She came across as friendly." Your words, voice, and examples all help.

01:20

Your story

Tell me about yourself

- Daniel** Here comes the famous question: "Tell me about yourself." Where do I start? At birth? My first school? My mysterious talent for finding snacks?
- Maya** Start with your work, not your life story. Use three steps: what you do now, relevant experience from the past, and why this role interests you next. Aim for about a minute.
- Daniel** Can you give me a real example for an office job? I need something I could actually say, not "I am passionate about spreadsheets" unless I really am.
- Maya** Try this: "I'm a customer support specialist with three years of experience. In my current role, I help customers solve problems and work closely with the product team. I'm now looking for a position where I can take on more responsibility."
- Daniel** "Take on" means accept a new task or responsibility, right? It doesn't mean pick up the manager and carry her around.
- Maya** Please don't do that. Yes: "I took on a new project last year." It sounds active. You can finish your introduction with a reason: "That's why this role caught my attention."



Transcript edition 01

02 / 07



FULL TRANSCRIPT / 02 OF 06

The conversation

Read along with Daniel and Maya. Times mark the start of each chapter.

01:20 Your story (continued)

Tell me about yourself

- Daniel** What if I'm changing careers? I worked in a café, and now I'm applying for a reception job. Should I apologize for the café?
- Maya** Not at all. Connect the skills. "Working in a busy café taught me to stay calm, welcome customers, and handle several requests at once. I'd like to bring those skills to a reception role." That's clear and honest.

02:52 Real examples

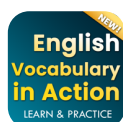
Show your experience

- Daniel** Now the interviewer says, "Can you walk me through a project you worked on?" Am I supposed to stand up and start walking?
- Maya** Stay seated. "Walk me through" means explain something step by step. It's a very useful interview phrase. You can answer with a short story: the situation, your task, what you did, and the result.
- Daniel** Ah, the STAR method: Situation, Task, Action, Result. I always forget the result and end with, "And then we had lunch."
- Maya** Lunch is a result, but not the one they want. Try: "Our team received too many repeated customer questions. I was asked to improve our help page. I collected common questions and rewrote the answers. After that, our team had fewer basic requests."
- Daniel** That's specific. But what if I don't have a number like "requests fell by thirty percent"?
- Maya** Don't invent one. Describe a real outcome: "The team saved time," or "New colleagues found the answers faster." If you know a reliable number, use it. If you don't, be accurate without it.
- Daniel** And if it was a team project, should I say "I" or "we"?
- Maya** Use both carefully. "We planned the project together. I wrote the first draft and tested it with users." That gives your team credit and makes your own contribution clear.

04:20 Strengths

Strengths & weaknesses

- Daniel** The interviewer asks, "What are your strengths?" I want to say, "I am amazing at everything." Is that confident or alarming?
- Maya** Alarming. Pick one or two strengths that matter for the job, and add an example. "I'm good at organizing complex tasks. Last month, I created a simple tracker so our team could see what needed attention."



Transcript edition 01

03 / 07



The conversation

Read along with Daniel and Maya. Times mark the start of each chapter.

04:20

Strengths (continued)

Strengths & weaknesses

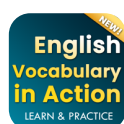
- Daniel** Now the dangerous question: "What's your biggest weakness?" My answer is, "Chocolate biscuits during meetings."
- Maya** Funny, but choose a work skill you're improving. Don't name a weakness that makes you unable to do the job. Say what you noticed and what you're doing about it.
- Daniel** Give me a version that doesn't sound like the old trick, "I'm a perfectionist, so I'm too wonderful."
- Maya** Try: "I used to speak too quickly when presenting. I noticed people needed more time to follow my ideas, so I've been practicing shorter points and pausing for questions." Honest, specific, improving.
- Daniel** Nice. What about "brush up on"? Could I say, "I'm brushing up on Excel"?
- Maya** Yes. "Brush up on" means improve a skill you learned before. "I'm brushing up on Excel before the role starts." If it's brand new, say "I'm learning Excel," not "brushing up."

05:43

Challenges

Mistakes & disagreements

- Daniel** Next question: "Tell me about a disagreement at work." My mind says, "No disagreements. Everyone loved me. The printer was my only enemy."
- Maya** Employers often want to see how you handle a problem, not whether problems exist. Choose a small, real example. Focus on listening, action, and a useful result. Don't turn it into a complaint about someone.
- Daniel** Suppose my colleague and I disagreed about a deadline. What could I say?
- Maya** "We had different ideas about what to finish first. I brought up my concern in a short meeting, listened to her reasons, and we worked out a plan. We finished the urgent part on time."
- Daniel** What if the interviewer asks about a mistake? I once sent a meeting invitation for six in the morning. It was not popular.
- Maya** Then say what you learned. "I once entered the wrong time in a calendar invitation. I noticed it, corrected it quickly, and sent a clear update. Now I check time zones before I send invitations." Own it and show the new habit.
- Daniel** Could I say, "I looked into the problem"?
- Maya** Yes. "Look into" means investigate. "I looked into the issue and found the cause." It sounds useful when you actually did investigate. If you already knew the answer, "I fixed it" is clearer.





FULL TRANSCRIPT / 04 OF 06

The conversation

Read along with Daniel and Maya. Times mark the start of each chapter.

07:12

Changing course

Gaps & unknown answers

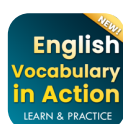
- Daniel** Some listeners might have a gap on their résumé. How do they explain it without telling a stranger every detail of their lives?
- Maya** Briefly and honestly. "I took time away from full-time work for family reasons. During that period, I kept my skills current through a short course. I'm ready to return, and this role matches my experience." You can keep private details private.
- Daniel** And if I left a job because I was unhappy, should I say, "My boss and I were in a dramatic television series"?
- Maya** Save the drama for television. Talk about what you're looking for: "I learned a lot in my last role, and now I'm looking for a position with more opportunities to work with customers." Keep it truthful and forward-looking.
- Daniel** What if they ask about software I've never used? My first idea is to smile and say, "Oh yes, I know all the buttons."
- Maya** Please don't. Try: "I haven't used that particular system yet, but I've learned similar tools quickly. Could you tell me which features your team uses most?" That shows honesty and curiosity.
- Daniel** So "I don't know" isn't the end of the conversation?
- Maya** Exactly. You can say, "I don't know the answer yet, but here's how I would find out." Explain a sensible first step. Interviewers can often teach a tool; they need to trust your judgment.

08:35

Why this role

Show real interest

- Daniel** Here comes "Why do you want to work here?" I cannot say, "Because rent exists," even though rent is extremely persuasive.
- Maya** Rent is real, but show that you've looked into the role. Mention one specific thing about the work, the team, or the service, and connect it to something you can contribute.
- Daniel** Could I say, "I'm drawn to this role because your team helps small businesses, and I enjoy explaining complicated steps in a simple way"?
- Maya** That's strong. "I'm drawn to" means "I'm interested in" or "I'm attracted to." It sounds natural if you mean it. Then add evidence: "In my current role, I often guide new customers through their first week."
- Daniel** What if I haven't researched the company very well? I only know the logo is blue and, honestly, quite round.



Transcript edition 01

05 / 07



FULL TRANSCRIPT / 05 OF 06

The conversation

Read along with Daniel and Maya. Times mark the start of each chapter.

08:35

Why this role (continued)

Show real interest

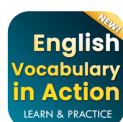
- Maya** Then prepare before the interview. Read the role description, the company's own website, and recent work they share. Write down one honest reason the role interests you. A specific sentence beats a speech made of empty compliments.
- Daniel** And don't call them "the leading company in the universe" unless they actually manage the universe.
- Maya** Correct. And if they do, ask about their travel policy.

09:54

Your questions

Salary, availability & follow-up

- Daniel** Salary questions make me nervous. What's a polite way to ask about the range without sounding like I'm ordering from a menu?
- Maya** You can say, "Could you share the salary range for this role?" If they ask your expectation, give a range you've researched and explain that it depends on the full responsibilities and package. Stay calm and direct.
- Daniel** And availability? If I need a month's notice, should I say "I can start tomorrow" and then invent a time machine?
- Maya** No time machine. Say, "I would need to give four weeks' notice, so I could start in early June," using a real date for your situation. Clear availability is more useful than impossible enthusiasm.
- Daniel** What if I want to ask about remote work or training? Are those rude questions?
- Maya** Not at all. Ask neutrally: "What does a typical week look like for this team?" or "How do new employees settle in?" "Settle in" means become comfortable in a new place or role.
- Daniel** At the end they always say, "Do you have any questions for us?" My brain becomes an empty whiteboard. Give me two good ones.
- Maya** Ask, "What would success look like in the first three months?" and "What's the biggest challenge the team is working on now?" Listen to the answers. An interview should help you decide too.
- Daniel** Can I ask, "How soon will you tell me if I'm brilliant?"
- Maya** Try, "What are the next steps in the process?" Then thank them for their time. If appropriate, send a short follow-up message afterward: "Thank you for speaking with me. I enjoyed learning more about the role."



Transcript edition 01

06 / 07



FULL TRANSCRIPT / 06 OF 06

The conversation

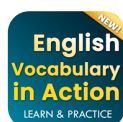
Read along with Daniel and Maya. Times mark the start of each chapter.

11:35

Practice round

Put it all together

- Daniel** All right, let's do a tiny practice interview. You be the interviewer. I'll be a calm professional with absolutely no coffee cups in the background.
- Maya** Welcome, Daniel. Tell me about yourself and why this role interests you.
- Daniel** I'm a support specialist with three years of experience helping customers and working with product teams. I'd like to take on more responsibility and improve the customer experience.
- Maya** Good. Clear present, past, and future. Now tell me about a problem you worked out with a colleague.
- Daniel** We disagreed about which customer issue came first. I brought up my concern, listened, and we worked out a plan. The urgent customer got an answer that day.
- Maya** Nice. You used "brought up" and "worked out" in context, and you didn't blame anyone. What would you ask me at the end?
- Daniel** What would success look like in the first three months? And, purely for research, where do the office biscuits live?
- Maya** The first question is excellent. Save the biscuits for later. Let's recap: "come across" is give an impression; "take on" is accept responsibility; "bring up" is mention; "work out" is solve; and "follow up" is contact someone again.
- Daniel** And "brush up on" is refresh a skill; "look into" is investigate; "settle in" is get comfortable. My coffee cups aren't ready.
- Maya** Don't memorize every word. Practice your main points out loud, use true examples, and sound like yourself. Good luck with your interview!
- Daniel** Thanks, Maya. And to everyone listening: take a breath, give a clear example, and please check your camera background. See you next time!



Transcript edition 01

07 / 07