

Wandering ESL Podcast: **The Lost Item**

Useful Vocabulary:

- **Inaugural : first**
- **Senior home / Retirement home : an apartment building for elderly people**
- **Primarily: Mainly, mostly**
- **Spontaneous: not planned, decision is made in the moment.**

Transcript:

Hi there and welcome to the Wandering ESL podcast. My name is Josh, and this is our inaugural episode, meaning our first episode. So welcome and thanks for listening. A little bit about this podcast, this is aimed at intermediate to advanced learners of English. So if you're a beginner, you're more than welcome to listen, but just letting you know, I'm going to be speaking at a more natural pace.

The aim of this is to give some of these advanced or intermediate learners, a chance to listen to naturally spoken English. And of course I will be providing transcripts as well, so you're welcome to read along as you listen. In fact, I recommend it. That's a very good idea. And my purpose for creating this is because I have many students who are looking for good

resources for listening to naturally spoken English, and a lot of what I've been seeing out there,

it's still very much clear and slowed down English to the point where it's not so natural. And so what I want to do is offer a resource in order to help these people. And in these podcasts I'll talk about a variety of different topics. It could be something that I did in the last week. It could be something that was in the news.

It could be about something random that I just want to talk about anything at all. Which I think is good as far as listening practice goes. So when, I also wanna make this a more spontaneous format. So what I mean by that is it's not really planned out so much, and I don't have a script in front of me.

I have a general idea of what I want to talk about, but I feel like if there's a script in front of me, I'm gonna be spending most of the time reading it. And if I'm reading it, it's gonna have a different rhythm than if I'm just speaking off the top of my head. That's what whatever comes to my mind, and I think that's going to act as a better resource for people wanting to listen to naturally spoken English.

So what I wanna talk about today is an experience I had. At one of the places I teach at, so , I teach at a few different places. Primarily I teach online to students all around the world, but I also teach at senior homes, or in other word is retirement homes. Retirement homes. These are places where after people retire, they stop working.

They might live in this sort of community of, with other residents. That are about their age. Usually 65 is the retirement age in the United States. So these elderly people live in a certain place, and even though they're in the United States maybe they came from a different country like China or Mexico or other areas of the world where English isn't the first language or not the dominant language.

So these people, they came to the United States maybe 20, 30 years ago or like however long ago, and they never really had a need to learn English to an advanced level. Maybe they just needed basic English to get by or because they stayed in their communities, they stayed with friends, family, and they also were sort of spoke their their first language, their mother tongue.

They, never really got a high level in English, but now that they're retired and that, and they're in this retirement home or senior home, they have a lot of time and they want to do something. Maybe they want to improve their English as a hobby or they want to just interact with someone they want some sort of activity.

They take English lessons, and that's where I come in. So I go to these retirement homes, I teach lessons to them based on their level. And yeah it's a really good time. It's a rewarding job. So anyway as I was leaving one of these senior homes, after finishing my lessons for the day I was getting into my car and I look on the ground and I notice that there's a cell phone.

So just on the ground of the parking lot. And I look around and there's nobody there. So I think, okay that's kind of odd. So I pick up the phone and the first thing I do is I go back into the retirement home that I had just finished teaching classes in, because I want to go to, the front office.

That's the first thing I do, see if they have a loss and found, so I, can tell them, Hey I found this phone outside and I. Just wanted to let you know, maybe someone will come back for it. So that was my first thought. So I go in and there's no one there. The office is closed. It's around five o'clock at this time yeah , no luck.

So I said, okay. So the next thing I do is I try to look around and I see, or I try to see if there's somebody there that can, help me. No one, absolutely no one. So I think, great. I'm here. I have this phone that's not mine and I am

trying to find the owner. So finally I decide, okay, let me see if I can unlock this phone.

Maybe there's somebody here on this list of contacts that I can call, maybe like a friend or family member so I can let them know and we can try to find this person. But I don't know if I can maybe the phone's locked, maybe there's a password. But I give it a try and luckily no password. So I'm able to open the phone and I look in the settings first, and I see that there's a profile there.

So the person made a profile, so I find out their first and last name, which I'm not gonna share here, but I did find their first and last name, and I was able to find out that. This phone belonged to a resident who was staying at the senior home, at the retirement home. So I said, okay, great. So I used the directory to find the room that they're staying in.

I go up, knock on the door. Then of course, with everything that's been happening in the United States recently, politically people aren't the most comfortable with opening a door to just anyone. So, of course they respond to me and they respond in Spanish though not English but in Spanish, they asked me like, who is it?

Who's, who's there? And of course I respond with, oh, it's just somebody who found your phone out in the parking lot. And they were being a bit hesitant, like asking, oh, are you a family member of someone here? Or. Like, why, why are you here? Still being insistent. Eventually I was able to convince them that I meant them no harm, and I showed them the phone, they realized it was theirs and they were very grateful for that.

They thanked me very much, and it was a very good feeling. But the incident, and it kind of stuck with me because I thought, how many people are going to be that honest? If they find a phone in the parking lot or on the street? How many people would take the time to actually do that?

And I could have very easily just left the phone where I found it, out the parking lot, wait for someone else to do it. But, but no I took the time. I I was late to. Late coming home because the, that it took about you know, 15 minutes, 15, 20 minutes in all. But at the end of the day, I think, it was worth it.

And I think that's something that more people should be doing. More people should be helping other people, even if there's not real, a real reward for it. I mean, in my opinion, helping others, like just that feeling that is the reward. But some other people think otherwise. Agree to disagree, I guess.

But anyway, that, that's my experience. Do any of you have a similar experience? If, if so I would be very interested to know. So yeah, let me know. Yeah, I think that's gonna do it for today's podcast. I hope you enjoyed if you do, please feel free to subscribe or visit my website at wanderingesl.com.

I teach English lessons over there if you're interested or just continue to listen to this podcast, whichever works for you. Alright, thank you very much. And, yeah. Till next time.