

English as a Second Language Podcast

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ESL Podcast 100 – An Interview with Dr. Jeff McQuillan

Welcome to English as a Second Language Podcast No.100 - An Interview with Dr. Jeff McQuillan

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This is English as a Second Language Podcast No.100.

Today, I'm your host, Dr. Lucy Tse, from the Center for Educational Development in Beautiful Los Angeles, California.

In the special podcast, I'll be turning the tables, or changing things around, and will interview Dr. McQuillan.

Let's get started!

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Lucy : Welcome, Jeff. My first question is one that I think a lot of listeners will want to know. Why did you decide to start ESL Podcast?

Jeff : Well, that's a good question. There are a couple of reasons. I think why I wanted to do this. eh...the show. One is that I used to teach ELS or English as a second language. eh... for many years, I did. And.... Because I'm so busy with my current job, it's difficult for me to go out and teach a class, in terms of my time. And, this was a way for me to... still feel like I'm teaching and helping people without....um... having to actually go to a classroom. So, That's one reason.

Ah, The other reason is... I think that podcasting is a wonderful new technology. That is going to change the way we learn languages, because it gives people an opportunity to listen to different things, and... people like myself an opportunity to distribute and produce those things that...uh...different from traditional textbooks. I think both of those reasons.

Lucy : That's very interesting. How do you decide which topics to include in the podcast?

Jeff : Well, initially at the beginning, I had a list of topics that I came up with or wrote down. Pretty much off of the top of my head. That is without really thinking about it very much... um... and those were based on my experience in teaching and what I think or thought people need it.

Now...of course...both you, Lucy, and I write some of the scripts. and... we also course get lots of ideas from people who are listening. So, people e-mail us ideas, and those are very useful, and we have a whole list of ideas. We also try to do a little bit different topic, something about travel, maybe something about business... um... So, we try to have a variety of topics throughout the week.

Lucy : I often see you working on ESL podcast, but I know that our listeners would like to know how long it takes you to do each podcast.

Jeff : Hmm, that's a good question. um.. Well, it takes longer than you might think. The actual recording of the podcast takes probably 30 to 45 minutes, but to put it altogether to produce the mp3 file, and to get everything ready to be put up on the server, the computer, and prepare everything. Probably, costs close to 2 hours per a podcast, and.... So, it takes a long time, and that doesn't include the time of writing the script, which could be another 20 or 30 minutes.

Lucy : I'm sure that listeners all over the world appreciate all of the work that you do, and I know that you do have listeners in many many countries. What countries do you have listeners in?

Jeff : I think the last time I checked, eh... we had listeners in more than 80 different countries, and we look at our computer server to see where people are listening from, and we have people... a lots of people in Europe, in France, in Germany, in Italy, in Spain... many different countries, almost every country in Europe. We have lots of listeners, of course, in Asia as well. In Japan, in China... and many other countries. We have many in Latin America, South America, as well as in Africa, and we also have listeners in Canada, in the United States. So, really we have listeners from probably close to every country where there is an internet connection.

Lucy : Ah.. I think one question that are listeners might have. Is you yourself speak any languages other than English, and if you do, how did you learn them?

Jeff : Well, *hablo un poco español*. Hahaha.. I speak a little spanish, and I studied spanish in the university, at the university. Actually, I first started studying spanish in high school. I didn't learn a lot in high school, which is I think common. I think that two things that really helped me learn spanish.

One was that I was able to go to a spanish-speaking country, to Mexico, and I learned a lot by staying in the country for a few months. The other thing that really helped me as I do a lot or did a lot of reading and listening. So I would listen to as much spanish, understandable spanish, and I would do a lot of reading, and I think those two things, reading and listening are the most important. A lot of people want to a think the most important thing is maybe grammar or speaking, but I think from my experience, listening and reading are very powerful.

Lucy : I know that Jeff is being modest, because his spanish is very, very good. In fact, he used to teach spanish. Isn't that right, Jeff?

Jeff : Huh... Well, that's correct. I did teach spanish, but not very well.

Lucu : I don't believe that, but ..uh... you host 3 different podcasts, ESL podcast, TOEFL podcast and English through stories. Do you have plans to start any other podcast?

Jeff : Well, that's good question. I don't have a lot more time to do additional podcasts right now. I spend maybe 15 hours a week producing and recording the podcasts that we have. um...If I have time, I might like to do some more podcast, but uh... perhaps something for children,...um... I will love to do a podcast about answering questions. We'll have to see my schedule goes to see if I have times to do those.

Lucy : It sounds like you're very very busy, and spend a lot of time working on ESL podcast, and the others as well. What do you like to do in your free time? What are your hobbies?

Jeff : Well, this podcasting has become a hobby for me. I don't do this for the money, so I enjoy it though, I really do, but I like to do probably many people like to do. I like to...uh... read, and I've been reading a lot recently, I like to read magazines and newspapers, and I subscribe to lots of magazines. I like to read them... um... I like listening to music. I also listen to other podcasts when I'm exercising in the morning. I always listen to 2 or 3 podcasts, so I guess those are the main hobbies that I have right now.

Lucy : The last questions I have for Jeff.... uh.. Are from a famous show in the United States, called "Insider the Acter's Studio", where famous actors and performers are interviewed, and I think there....very interesting, because we get to know the actor or.. In this case, Jeff, a little bit better.

So, Jeff, which sound or noise do you love?

Jeff : Well...First, let me say I wish i were a famous actor, um... Let's see...The sound that I love... I think it would have to be the sound of the garage door closing, and when my wife comes home. I think that's my favorite sound.

Lucy : Now, Let's hear what you have to say to what sound or noise do you hate?

Jeff : I hate the sound of a cellphone ringing when I'm eat in restaurant, or a movie, and someone answering the cellphone and bothering everyone around them. That sound I really hate.

Lucy : What profession or job, other than the one you have now, would you like to attempt or try?

Jeff : Well I'm ... hmm... I think would... eh...I'm not sure if there is any job I like better then the one I have right now. Living in Los Angeles, I think that there are many people that want to be involved in the movies, and I think I would like to a.... not be an actor, but maybe a director of a movie, to make my own movie. I think that would be a lot of fun, but I don't have any talent in making movies so, but It would be something fun to try.

Lucy : I think you're being modest again, but what profession would you not like to do?

Jeff : Oh, Well...There are many things I would not want to do. I have to be careful to here, since we have many people listening who do many different kinds of jobs. um....I think one job I'm not very good at, be selling. um.. I would be a very bad salesperson, salesman. So... I think selling or sales would probably my least favorite job.

Lucy : That's all the time we have today. Thank you Jeff for being here today. Congratulations on your 100 show. I'm Lucy Tse from Los Angeles, California. Join us again on ESL Podcast!

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