

What pisses you off? Part 1: conversation

Introduction

Hello and welcome to Uncensored English! Uncensored English is an English learning podcast that teaches you the edgier side of the English language. My name is Lori, and I am the naughty person in charge of the show. At Uncensored English, we believe that mastery of a foreign language includes understanding its off-color, grittier side. And that's what we aim to help you with.

Each episode of Uncensored English gives you two audio files to listen to. The first is an unscripted, natural conversation between native speakers, which provides natural examples of some of the vocabulary. This part is transcribed, and the transcription is available on the website.

In the second part, we present and discuss some related vocabulary, and give example sentences illustrating how it can be used. The vocabulary section is not transcribed, but we do give you show notes with all the important vocabulary and notes about usage.

Finally, before you listen, a warning: if you are offended by vulgar language or conversation topics, you should NOT listen to Uncensored English. And even if you are NOT offended by vulgar language, make sure to listen on headphones if you are in a public place or at work so that you don't disturb people around you.

Are you ready? Here we go with part 1: What pisses you off?

Conversation Transcript

Lori: Are there any things that just really **piss you off**?

Michael: Would you like a list? There are many!

[laughter]

M: Err, no seriously, let me think...Yes the...something that I thought of today, when I was out walking the dog...umm...is when people let their dogs crap on the pavement.

L: Ahh.

M: This is something, you know I mean it...it's disgusting, I always take a little bag with my doggie to clean up his mess, umm...and I think you can be fined if you let your dog take a dump on the pavement and there are special bins there for putting the mess into it but for whatever reason, some people, they just can't be bothered or whatever, and it...it's disgusting.

L: Yeah, I agree we have that same problem here in Sweden.

M: OK.

L: Except people are generally pretty good about, but even so, every now and then, you'll see someone just not picking up after their dog...

M: Right, right and that's...

L: ...and it's the same thing, they have special receptacles for putting the dog poo in.

M: Right yeah, I've seen them, yeah that's...

L: Yeah, but you know, speaking of people not doing the right thing,

M: Mmm?

L: Ano— one thing that really, really makes me angry...it's totally irrational but still it makes me...

M: OK

L: ...really pisses me off, is when smokers stand right next to the ashtrays that are put outside of buildings...

M: Yeah?

L: ...and instead of putting their cigarettes in the ashtrays when they're finished, they just throw them on the ground and step on them.

M: Even though there is an ashtray provided...

L: Even though there's an ashtray right there — and they're big ashtrays because here in Sweden, you're not allowed to smoke inside public buildings, so the smokers all congregate outside the entrance...

M: Ah.

L: ...and smoke before going in, and there's almost always these big ashtrays there for them to put their cigarette butts in...

M: Yeah

L: ...but around the edges of these ashtrays, you always see tons and tons and tons of cigarette butts.

M: Oh yeah, that's weird, I've...I've seen that...

L: Yeah

M: ...with the little cigarette butts all in a...a pile on the floor around it, right, OK

L: Yeah and I just...I don't get that at all, why they do that.

M: No

L: And it's so ugly and offensive looking, and smelly, that I...I just really don't understand.

M: OK, OK

L: So that really pisses me off when I see that.

M: Right

L: OK

M: I thought of another one, umm...this is something...umm that I've realised over...I've known so many people who do this...umm. Do you know when you're telling somebody a little...perhaps a little story or an anecdote that you think someone might find interesting, such as...errr...umm...let's see..."When I went on holiday to Greece last year, the weather was 35 degrees," and you're telling them how hot it was, and rather than them responding with something like, "oh really? That's interesting," they have to respond by telling you that either

they went somewhere where it was hotter than what you experienced, or if they didn't do it themselves, they knew someone else, who did.

L: Right

M: You know, like, "my uncle Joe's friend went to Zanzibar, where it was 40 degrees in the shade!"

L: Yeah

M: You know, whatever it is, it has to be bigger, better, faster, stronger or whatever than what it is that you said, when you know, you're not starting this as a competition, but it's almost like people see it as a competition, do you know?

L: Yeah, I call that "one-upmanship by proxy".
[laughter]

L: I agree, it's really annoying that no matter what...and you're just making conversation...

M: OK

L: Just about simple things, umm...

M: Yes, exactly!

L: It can be anything, you could say, "Oh, I have a friend who went on a bicycle tour and rode from the northernmost point in Sweden to the southernmost point in Europe." "Hah! That's nothing! I know this guy who had a cousin, whose girlfriend who rode her bike around the world!" it's like...

[laughter]

M: Yes! That's...yeah! Yeah!

L: No matter what

M: If you ever meet that person, slap them! I hate that!

[laughter]

L: I know, it's so...so annoying, 'cause there's some people who habitually just act that way, it doesn't ma- I mean everyone might have an occasion to do that, just to make conversation, but there's some people who habitually...

M: Sure

L: Always have to say something to make them feel better, stronger, faster, even if it's by proxy!

[laughter]

M: Yes, it's someone else, they can feel proud of that, yeah!

L: Yeah! Oh...

M: It's weird. So how about you, can you think of another one?

L: Uhhh...knee-jerk contrarians, what I like to call them.

M: Oh yeah. Yeah, yeah.

L: And knee-jerk contrarians are those annoying, annoying people who no matter what you say to them, they always have to put some kind of negative slant on it, or disagree, or point out a flaw, or...yeah no matter what.

M: Mmm hmm.

L: And it's always the same people, and it doesn't matter what you say, they will always, almost like it's a knee-jerk reaction.

M: They have to disagree by default

L: Yeah, yeah, the default is "no."

M: OK

[laughter]

L: The default is "you're wrong."

[laughter]

M: Right, whate– the opposite of whatever it is you're saying.

L: Exactly!

M: Oh wow.

L: And those people, it's the kind of people who will just suck the life out of any type of team project or...any type of...

M: Ah yeah.

L: ...collaboration you're doing on the job.

M: It's very negative isn't it? Umm...

L: Yeah, healthy skepticism and...and criticism is...is good, but that's not what I'm talking about. Some people are just negative to the bone!

M: Yeah I think you see a lot of that sort of stuff on the Internet, you know, with forums and that sort of thing, um.

L: Oh forums, they're the spawn of evil.

M: [laughs]

L: Lowest common denominator.

M: Right!

L: Don't even get me started, in fact I think this is a good place to stop, because it will only go downhill from here!

[laughter]

Final words

Thanks for listening to part one of "What pisses you off?" In part two, Michael and I walk you through some of the vocabulary used in the conversation, and present lots more idiomatic vocabulary that you can use to talk about annoyances, irritations, and frustrations. The full transcript is available on the website, www.uncensoredenglish.com, and you can email us at [uncensored \[AT\] betteratenglish \[DOT\] com](mailto:uncensored [AT] betteratenglish [DOT] com). Bye for now!