

Dr. Cooper: Hi, you guys. This is Dr. Cooper. I know you recognize my voice. This is my first podcast with George. Say hello to George.

George: Hey, guys.

Dr. Cooper: George, as you know, is my partner, [mi associa 00:00:17], my partner, in English by Dr. Cooper. Without George, we would not have a company. Can you say hello to them?

George: Same old things, yeah. I'm the kind of the English voice of reason for Dr. Cooper. Kind of keep him on an even keel, keep him grounded, don't let his ego get too big.

Dr. Cooper: Do you understand what he just said? He's the voice of reason, like, [logica 00:00:44], the voice of reason. He keeps me on an even keel. Like, think of a boat. The boat doesn't want to turn over, so if I'm a boat on the water ... how do you say that? Somebody who goes up and down?

George: Up and down. [crosstalk 00:00:58].

Dr. Cooper: Like, sometimes I'm very up, and sometimes I'm very down. How do you say that? Is there another word for that?

George: Up and down, erratic?

Dr. Cooper: Erratic. Erratic. That's a word you guys know. Like, be polar, right?

George: Yes.

Dr. Cooper: Bipolar. Right? He tries to keep me on an even keel, meaning, that's a very advanced expression. Another one that is less advanced would be "grounded." Keep me grounded, in other words, keep my feet on the floor, keep me grounded, because, you know me, right? I'm up and down, and he's the voice of reason to try to keep me calm. Don't go too crazy, et cetera.

George: We've known each other quite a long time, haven't we?

Dr. Cooper: Yeah.

George: Since 2012?

Dr. Cooper: Yeah. So, we've been friends for six years, although at first I don't know if I was your friend or if you said that's the crazy guy at Oxford.

George: A bit of both.

Dr. Cooper: Did they think I was crazy [crosstalk 00:02:03]?

George: I didn't. Some people did.

Dr. Cooper: Some people thought I was crazy?

George: Some people did.

Dr. Cooper: Can you tell them about Oxford and colleges?

George: Yeah, so, Cooper and I were both grad students at the University of Oxford, which is ...

Dr. Cooper: Can I say what a grad student is?

George: Yeah, sure.

Dr. Cooper: When you talk about grad students, undergrad is a [bakudaj 00:02:20], it's your first diploma. Okay? [foreign language 00:02:24] and then, you're an undergraduate. That's your first diploma, your first degree.

Dr. Cooper: Then, after that, your second degree, like a [mestrado 00:02:35], I know in Brazil's there's a lot of [pos 00:02:38], [inaudible 00:02:39], but a mestrodado is what they would say here. A master's. And then there's [dottorado 00:02:46] or [pergade 00:02:46], it's a PHD, these are graduate students. Graduate students are people who study post-graduate degrees like masters or PHD.

George: So yeah, I was studying a master's in literature and art and Cooper was doing his doctorate in the stuff that we're doing now, so that's why he's Dr. Cooper, not Mr. Cooper.

Dr. Cooper: Yeah, remember that. I'm Dr., because I got a PHD.

George: Mrs. Cooper.

Dr. Cooper: From the University of Oxford, which is a very prestigious-

George: Best university in the world, Cooper.

Dr. Cooper: Best university in the world, George says. [Prestigioso 00:03:20].

George: Very old as well.

Dr. Cooper: Very prestigious university. As you know, Oxford is a very old place. Anyway.

George: The University of Oxford is older than the Aztec Empire.

Dr. Cooper: Did you guys hear that? The University of Oxford is older than the Aztec Empire! Imagine! And that's where I got my ... you guys know I like old things, right? And that's where I got my PhD in applied linguistics. Anyway.

George: We were there and we became friends. We were at a college called Kellogg College, the same as the cereal. Do you guys have Kellogg's Cereal in Brazil?

Dr. Cooper: Yeah, [crillios 00:03:58]. [Sucrillios 00:04:00] are Frosties. In America, they're Frosted Flakes. [Sucrillios 00:04:08], I know that you like sugary things. And then in England it's Frosties and in America, it's Frosted Flakes. But they're all the same thing! They're owned by Kellogg and our college was called Kellogg.

Dr. Cooper: The university, when you go to Oxford University, there are how many colleges?

George: I think there's 38 colleges. So most universities you go to, so if you go to the University of Manchester, there's one big, central building at a central location that everyone's a part of. They might live in different areas or different houses, but they're all part of that. Whereas as Oxford is ... I guess to be easy, it's a bit more like Harry Potter. There's the different houses. So our college would be like saying you're in Slytherin or Gryffindor, but there's 38 different ones.

George: We would all live ... Cooper and I lived in, we lived really close to each other, didn't we? Couple of doors down. So you live at your college and all of your professors are often based at your college. You have a big dining hall, where you eat your dinner. Some of the older colleges at Oxford-

Dr. Cooper: A dining hall is like a [jefetorio 00:05:16]. A dining hall. And so every college ... college is the social area. And when you go to Oxford, you go to one of them. And every college has a dining hall.

George: They all have their own identities. And some of the really old ones literally inspired Harry Potter. So, Christchurch College, very famous college, the dining hall at Christchurch in Oxford is the one they use in the Harry Potter films to look like the Hogwarts dining hall.

Dr. Cooper: A dining hall, okay? Do you get it? A dining hall. Don't worry about the word. Just think about a dining hall. [Jefetorios 00:05:51] that you have in institutions. Just to explain to them.

George: But in Oxford, I guess, they would be very wooden. Lots of oil paintings. Leather chairs. Open fireplaces.

Dr. Cooper: In Oxford, they're very fancy. You know? Leather chairs. [Coro 00:06:10]. [Caderas de coro 00:06:11]. Wooden, you know? [foreign language 00:06:15]

Dr. Cooper: The mazes. Very fancy things you know?

George: When we were students, Dr. Cooper would always be in a suit. We'd go to fancy dinners; he'd be drinking wine, he'd be wearing a bow tie. Very fancy place and he's a very fancy guy.

Dr. Cooper: I was always wearing [tirenlos 00:06:30]. You don't believe me, but I was always wearing suits.

George: A gown!

Dr. Cooper: [Um burbaletta 00:06:35], you know? [foreign language 00:06:39].

George: Bow tie?

Dr. Cooper: Bow tie. A bow tie. A bow tie, a [foreign language 00:06:47].

George: You did your doctorate in linguistics. I wrote my thesis or dissertation, is that what you would say? What would you say?

Dr. Cooper: [Tesi 00:06:58]. Thesis. Thesis.

George: I wrote my thesis on the history of the dinner jacket.

Dr. Cooper: Oh. Yeah. Listen to this, so George, you know, he's my fashion consultant. [inaudible 00:07:11], right? He wrote his tesi, his thesis, on the history of the dinner jacket. A dinner jacket is like a blazer.

George: Tuxedo.

Dr. Cooper: A tuxedo. [Un smoking 00:07:27]. The history of a smoking, smoking is a tuxedo. Tuxedo. Do you own a tuxedo? Do you own a tuxedo? Anyway. He wrote his thesis on the history of the tuxedo!

George: Useless.

Dr. Cooper: Useless. [automatic inutile 00:07:42] Useless.

George: But fun.

Dr. Cooper: They'll like it. They'll like it. Some of these people love fashion. They love fashion. They love moda.

George: That's good.

Dr. Cooper: I thought today we would ... this is our first podcast, and later podcasts are gonna be more focused, they're gonna be more focused on subjects like movies and music-

George: That's why we're friends, isn't it? We like the same films, generally. We like the same music, the same books.

Dr. Cooper: I think that ... yeah, the thing that we first started becoming friends is we both really like movies. We've seen a lot of different films from the history of films, not just today's films. You like today's films more than I do, right?

George: Some. Not all of them.

Dr. Cooper: But compared to me, right?

George: Probably compared to you.

Dr. Cooper: They get mad at me because they think all I like is old films.

George: I like old films, too.

Dr. Cooper: Films and music, like, George, we're going to do a lot of podcasts about rock and roll. Okay? I know a lot of you guys love rock and roll and we're gonna talk about some stories about Eric Clapton, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones. Jimi Hendrix-

George: Where I live in London, I live maybe 100 doors away from Jimmy Page from Led Zeppelin.

Dr. Cooper: Oh! Did you hear that? George lives 100 doors away from Jimmy Page, the guitarist, [guitarrista 00:09:15], from Led Zeppelin. They love Led Zeppelin.

George: So do I.

Dr. Cooper: I do, too.

George: One of my favorites.

Dr. Cooper: We're gonna tell you stories about those things. And another thing about George and I, George is amazing with books. I know you guys don't all of you don't love reading books, but listen to how ... George, how many books did you read last year?

George: 100.

Dr. Cooper: George read 100 books last year, can you believe it?

George: 101, and actually.

Dr. Cooper: [inaudible 00:09:43], how many of you read 100 pages? How many of you read ... [Portuguese foreign language 00:09:48]? Just kidding. I know you like to read. But he read 100 books. This is my associo, this is my partner. Do you think I'm stupid? You think I'm stupid, I'm gonna choose somebody who knows a lot.

Dr. Cooper: Anyway, let's talk a little bit for the last five minutes or so, about-

George: Well, first, we should also say if there's any topics that people want us to talk about in the podcast, maybe go into the forum on the Dr. Cooper page. Go into the forum, and maybe under the questions, write down any topics you'd like to discuss.

Dr. Cooper: If there's any things that you want us to talk about, and we're-

George: I'll make a section in there, actually, for the podcast, so there's an easy space to go to and people can write their questions there.

Dr. Cooper: Okay, great. On the ... where are you going to do that? [crosstalk 00:10:39]

George: On the forum.

Dr. Cooper: On the forum. So on the forum there's gonna be a space, where you can ask ... would you talk about this? Because what we want this podcast to be is we want it to be a chance for you to listen to English and practice your listening and also ... your vocabulary. We want you to be interested in what we're talking about. If you have any subject history, I know some of you really like history.

Dr. Cooper: If you want to talk about history, if you want to talk about British history or European history, if you want to talk about anything. Fashion. Anything! Ask us.

Dr. Cooper: Today, we decided to talk about American versus British English, a little.

George: I guess it's obvious that my accent is British.

Dr. Cooper: Can you tell that George's accent is British?

George: English.

Dr. Cooper: English. Yeah, he's actually very English. And as you know, I'm universal. [Universal 00:11:33]. [foreign language 00:11:35]. I'm international. I'm a citizen of the world, okay?

George: Citizen of the world.

Dr. Cooper: I don't want to talk about that. He's going to say I have an American accent. It's happened many times.

George: You sound like an American teenage girl.

Dr. Cooper: Did you hear what he just said? He said I sound like an American teenage girl.

George: Californian cheerleader.

Dr. Cooper: I think he's kidding. [Esa brincando 00:11:57]. But they're gonna love it. They're gonna make fun of me.

George: Good. They should.

Dr. Cooper: Make fun of me. [Foreign language 00:12:03]. Zoa is make fun of. You're gonna make fun of me. Anyway. The one thing I want ... in Brazil, they often ask, they say, "I want to learn British English" or "I want to learn American English."

Dr. Cooper: My personal opinion is it's kind of hard, because the thing is that there's not that much difference. It's not like the difference between Portuguese and Brazilian Portuguese. The grammar is almost exactly the same. It's funny, I'm reading Jane Eyre, this book written 200 years ago, and even with that, they said, 200 years ago, they were saying, "We got along swimmingly."

Dr. Cooper: And I thought, "Wow! For 200 years, the expression 'get along swimmingly' has," [te dar morto bain 00:12:55]. Right? For 200 years people are saying that, and that expression is in America and in England.

Dr. Cooper: I think the difference isn't as much as you guys think, especially in terms of grammar. But also, these days, in terms of vocabulary, because these days, because of American film and American pop culture, British English ... George, I mean, British English is becoming Americanized. I think George is an exception. George speaks more ... I think that some people from England, they speak more Americanized than you. Am I right?

George: I think so. I think there's definitely nothing to worry about confusing the vocabulary between the two. The stuff we're doing, right? Your whole approach is about people being able to communicate practically using things that actually matter.

George: In the UK we would say trousers for, what's the word?

Dr. Cooper: [Calças 00:13:55].

George: In America, they would say pants.

Dr. Cooper: Yeah.

George: But if you're in America, and you say, "I've lost my trousers," they will know what you mean. There's no danger of them not understanding what you mean. You know the words. They wouldn't be common, but they'll still be there.

Dr. Cooper: And when there is a danger, I tell them. Sometimes, personally I don't teach mad as crazy. I teach 'crazy,' because mad is more common as angry. And it used to be ... I don't know if I'm right there, it used to be that in England that mad only meant crazy, and people almost never said mad to mean angry.

George: Yeah, I'd agree with that.

Dr. Cooper: But now, everybody here says mad to be angry.

George: Which would be from American films and American television.

Dr. Cooper: The idea that teaching American and British English; it's less important now than it used to be because they're becoming more equivalent, I think unfortunately, personally.

George: Mm-hmm (affirmative). In terms of how it's written, the spelling, the big difference between American and British English is usually that we would have an extra letter 'u' in the word. So the word color, we would spell it C-O-L-O-U-R. In America, it would be C-O-L-O-R.

George: Obviously, we both know what each other means. There's no real problem there. And if you're writing a job application to an American company and you're British and you put a 'u' in there, frankly, I think they'd think it's quite a quaint thing-

Dr. Cooper: They don't care. Yeah. They would like it.

George: It would be a nice thing, yeah.

Dr. Cooper: They would like it.

George: So, I do some editing work and lots of the people I work with are worried that if they spell the word color in the American way, they won't get a job in London. It's just not the case is it? Who cares?

Dr. Cooper: Then you have ... there's another British English one that comes up all the time. It's 'look after' versus 'take care of.' And this is one that I think still is very different. I think most English people say 'look after,' and all Americans say take care of.

Dr. Cooper: But it still doesn't matter, because every ... people know it in each side.

George: 100%.

Dr. Cooper: So you guys shouldn't worry so much. It's also I think, a big excuse. Because people come to America, and they say, "I couldn't understand anything! I think it's because I learned British English." But they come to England and they say, "I couldn't understand anything, it's because I learned American English!"

George: The pronunciation-

Dr. Cooper: Bullshit! Bullshit. That's a bullshit excuse. That's a [discupa esfahapada 00:16:26]. Right? It's a lame excuse.

George: The pronunciation or the speed of talking between America and the UK could be difficult, but the actual vocabulary shouldn't make a difference at all, I think. I'm trying to think of an example. An English person would say, "Hi, are you okay?" An American would say, "Hey, how are you? How are you doing?"



Dr. Cooper: See, he has a better American accent than I do. I couldn't have done that. I couldn't have done that!

George: But often, I don't notice that-

Dr. Cooper: Can I do that? Hey, hey. What'd you say? Hey. Hey! Hey. How are you doing?

George: Great job.

Dr. Cooper: Hey, great job. But they don't ... oh, this is a big difference.

George: Americans are very positive in the way that they express themselves and communicate, whereas in the UK, everyone is very reserved, apologetic and quiet and polite.

Dr. Cooper: Yeah, people here don't talk much. They're [reservado 00:17:19], they're reserved.

George: We always say 'sorry.'

Dr. Cooper: And people here always say sorry. You don't know anything wrong to them and they say sorry. Sorry about what? Sorry about what, you know?

Dr. Cooper: This is an interesting one, and then maybe we'll finish. In England, everybody says well done, [bem feito 00:17:40]. In Portuguese, it's bem feito. Well done. But then, in America, they say 'good job.' It means the same thing.

George: Yeah.

Dr. Cooper: In America, if you say [foreign language 00:17:54]. They say to you, "Good job."

George: Way to go.

Dr. Cooper: Way to go. You see, he knows more of the expressions than I do. Way to go, that's right. Ah, be femto. Way to go! Way to go. Way to go, right?

George: Yeah.

Dr. Cooper: Way to go. [Mas hapido 00:18:10], way to go. Or they say good job. Man, that was a good job.

George: One quick difference that really annoys me when I hear my friends doing it, is in a shop, or in a restaurant someone will say, "Can I get?"

Dr. Cooper: I hate that.

George: Can I get a burger? Rather than-

Dr. Cooper: Wait. But is it okay to say can I have?

George: Yeah, may I have, or can I have.

Dr. Cooper: Okay, so, can is bad in any case?

George: No, I think it's the get ... the get is the upsetting thing.

Dr. Cooper: Is it the get? Yeah. That's American. So, that's American. Yeah, because I hate that. Because you hear it here all the ... British people say it now, too, right?

George: Yeah, if you guys want to sound kind of classy, sound like Prince William or James Bond or someone, say-

Dr. Cooper: Or Cooper.

George: Or Cooper. Use 'have,' rather than get.

Dr. Cooper: Yeah. When you're saying, like ... in Brazil it's hard, because people, like in Brazil, a normal person would say, 'me da,' give me. Give me a ... [me da una 00:19:05] coscina.

George: That would be really rude, yeah. In a restaurant, I think, if you said, "Give me a burger."

Dr. Cooper: And my students. Yeah. Give me a burger. Give me a burger. Okay? Sometimes, give me a beer is okay, I think.

George: That's quite American as well. Yeah.

Dr. Cooper: And then they'll say, "I want." In Brazil, they'll say "I want." Like, in Brazil, people say, [kero 00:19:24]. They don't even say please. Sometimes, they do, but people might right, but it's not totally necessary. "I want a," I don't know, what do you want? I want a Coke.

Dr. Cooper: As you guys know, in English, the most common way, at least maybe this ... is can I have. If you want to be more polite, you'd say "Could I have," or "I would like."

George: I would like. Yeah, that's good.

Dr. Cooper: Or may I have. I personally, I think 'may I have' is too polite. I think that's too polite. [foreign language 00:20:06]

George: Sounds like you're insulting me there.

Dr. Cooper: Sorry.

George: Were you? I don't know.

Dr. Cooper: No, I wasn't insulting you. I was just saying to me, I don't teach my students 'may I have,' because they're begging. [Emplorado 00:20:22]. I think 'could I have' is better.

George: I think the point is, as long as you're making the effort to communicate and just use-

Dr. Cooper: We want to tell them, don't say, "Can I get?"

George: Of course.

Dr. Cooper: Because that's this very new and it sounds ... I don't know; I don't like it. I don't know why, I don't like it, either.

George: It's very modern. But just learn what you can and just use it in context, right? That's the way to do it.

Dr. Cooper: If you want to say, "Can I get?" We're not going to tell you not to.

George: But, "May I have," yeah.

Dr. Cooper: Can I have? May I have? Okay. Okay, you guys. So, hope you liked it. I think it was pretty good for our first one.

George: Hope so.

Dr. Cooper: Yeah.

George: If you have any topics you'd like to add, put them in the forum, if not we'll come back to you with some films and music a bit later.

Dr. Cooper: Ciao, pasoa.

George: Sounds good. Thanks guys.

Dr. Cooper: See you guys.