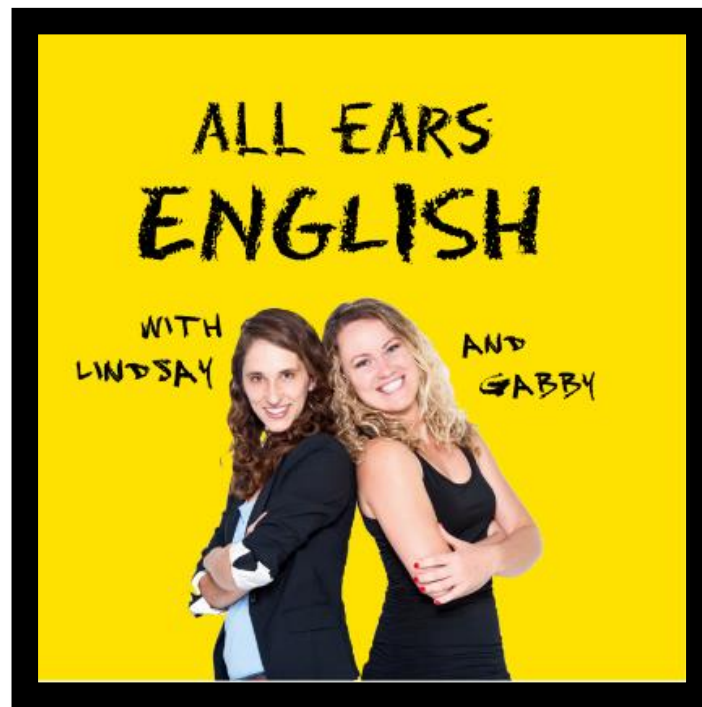
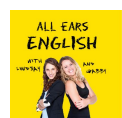


**All Ears English Presents....**

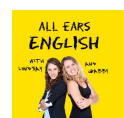
# **4 Ways to Make American Friends**



**4 hints about the language and the culture  
to build connections and friendships!**



**Before you check out this guide, don't forget  
to subscribe to All Ears English on your  
mobile device!**



# Participate in the Conversation!

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Jump into the conversation when you get the chance. Don't just hang back and listen. Get involved.

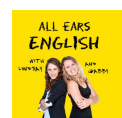
In the US we believe that if you aren't participating in the conversation then you aren't interested.



Here are some phrases that you can use to participate in a social setting like a party, a business meeting, or in a class:

- **To jump in:** To quickly enter a conversation, to interrupt and to quickly say something without a long introduction. You can say, "Could I jump in here?"
- **To chime in:** This also means to contribute something to a conversation spontaneously. "Let me chime in here."
- **To jot down:** To write something down. "I'll jot down notes for our group."
- **It goes back to:** Use this phrase to connect ideas. You can link your current idea to an idea that was mentioned before. "Today's episode goes back to the episode from yesterday when we talked about why you have to participate."

Want to learn more about how to participate and get involved? Check out episodes [112](#) and 113.



# Ask an American about their Pet

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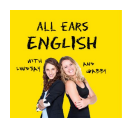
Americans are pet crazy!

The best way to start a conversation with an American is to ask them about their pet if you see them on the street while they are walking their dog.

**Here are some phrases to do that:**

- “Oh how cute!”
- “Oh how adorable!”
- “How old is he?”
- “When did you get him/her?”
- “How long have you had him?”
- “Is he friendly?” or “Can I pet him?” (it’s important to ask the owner for permission if you want to pet the dog)
- “What breed is he?” or “What kind of dog is she?”

To learn more about how to do this, check out [episode 117](#).



# Play It Cool If You Don't Understand

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Do you ever say “what??!!” when you don’t understand or when you don’t hear someone?

If this is you stop saying it!

When you say “what?!” it’s too direct and it’s rude.

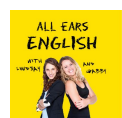
When an American person hears you say this they might feel offended or step back and they might prefer not to speak with you.

So stop saying it!

## How to ask for repetition:

- “Can you say that again?”
- “Pardon?”
- “Come again?”
- “What was that?”
- “One more time?”
- “Excuse me?” (listen to the episode to learn the correct intonation)
- “Sorry?”
- “Could you repeat that?”

Learn more by listening to [episode 89](#)



# Know the Schedule

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Daily schedules here in the US are quite different than the typical schedules in your home country.

Gabby got a shock when she visited Spain and tried to go out for dinner at 6pm ([listen to the episode to hear the story](#)).



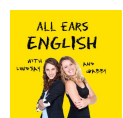
## What's a typical eating schedule in the US?

In the United States Lindsay eats breakfast at 6:30am, lunch at noon and dinner between 6pm and 7pm.

## What about a typical US work schedule?

Most people who work in a corporate or office job work from 9am to 5pm in the US. A common phrase is "I work a nine-to-five" that means that I work a full time job.

**Do Americans go out drinking with colleagues after work like they do in many countries?**



Not really.

It is common to sometimes go to **happy hour** with your colleagues for a few hours if you are young and maybe single, but most people really want to get back home to see their families.

Sometimes if there is a special event, like someone's retirement or birthday, you might all go out and celebrate together.

It is common to set up a business lunch if you want to build a relationship with a client or colleague.

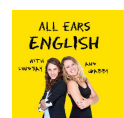
If you want to make American friends, just remember that their schedule might be a bit different.

Talk to people you know or colleagues to get to know the local schedule!

Learn more in [episode 88](#).

**Join our live event, "The Keys to Connecting with Americans"**

<http://www.allearsenglish.com/key>



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