

TRANSCRIPT · EPISODE 84

Survival Kit The Neighbour

Full episode script · English

137 lines

Your English Toolbox

There is a person who lives a few steps from your door.

You see them in the hallway... by the bins... on the stairs.

You both say "hi." You both look away.

And every time, a little voice says — maybe I should have said something more.

This is the neighbour.

And today... we are going to turn a stranger into someone you know.

Welcome to Your English Toolbox, where we train your ears step by step.

Want to take your learning even further?

Find "Your English Toolbox" on YouTube to watch every episode with subtitles.

It is the best way to support this project, and we truly appreciate it.

I am Robert.

And this... is the Basic Survival Kit.

Most episodes in this series help you handle a task.

Buying food.

Calling the bank.

Speaking to a doctor.

But today is a little different.

Today is not about a task.

It is about a person.

Because here is something we do not say often enough.

Your neighbours... can become your real social network.

Not the one on your phone.

Not likes, not followers.

A real one — made of people who live close, who notice when your light is on, who would knock if something seemed wrong.

Today: five sentences to start a friendship with the people who live around you.

One rescue sentence.

And a story about a man who thought he was completely alone — until a knock on the door changed everything.

Let's begin.

SENTENCE ONE.

The first one is about breaking the ice — warmly, not just a quick "hello."

When you actually introduce yourself, you stop being "the person from the other flat."

You become a name.

A face.

Someone real.

"Hi, I do not think we have properly met — I am your neighbour from number four."

Notice "properly met."

It gently admits you have seen each other before... without making it awkward.

And it opens the door — softly — to a real conversation.

SENTENCE TWO.

The second one shows genuine interest in their family.

People remember how you made them feel about the ones they love.

When you ask about their family — and you mean it — something shifts.

"How is everyone at home?"

I always see the little ones playing outside."

This is not small talk.

It is noticing.

You are telling them — I see your life, and it matters to me.

SENTENCE THREE.

The third one is the heart of being a good neighbour.

Offering help.

Not waiting to be asked.

Offering — before there is a problem.

This single habit is what turns neighbours into a community.

"If you ever need anything — a hand with the shopping, a parcel taken in — just knock."

"Just knock."

Two small words that say — my door is open to you.

SENTENCE FOUR.

The fourth one is a sincere question — one that invites a real answer, not a yes or no.

The kind of question that says you are curious about them as a person.

"How have you been settling in?"

I know how strange a new place can feel."

That second part is the gift.

"I know how strange a new place can feel."

You are not above them.

You have been there too.

Shared difficulty... is where real friendship begins.

SENTENCE FIVE.

And the fifth one takes the small step that changes everything.

A real invitation.

Because warmth in a hallway is lovely — but friendship needs a next step.

"We should have a coffee sometime — I would love to get to know you properly."

"Sometime" keeps it easy.

No pressure.

But the message is clear — I would like you in my life.

Now — the rescue sentence.

The single phrase that works when everything else disappears from your mind.

"Sorry — my English is still growing.

But I really wanted to come and say hello."

Say it with a smile.

Say it like it is simply true — because it is.

No neighbour worth knowing will judge you for the words you are still learning.

They will judge you — kindly — for the warmth you showed up with.

Now — a story.

Daniel moved to Manchester in the middle of winter.

He did not know a single person.

Not one.

He worked from home, and some weeks the only voice he heard out loud... was his own.

He told himself he was fine.

That he did not need anyone.

But the silence in that flat was very loud.

There was a woman next door.

Older.

She always said good morning.

He always said it back — and nothing more.

One evening, there was a knock.

She was holding a plate, covered with a tea towel.

"I made far too much," she said.

"I thought you might like some."

Daniel stood there for a second.

He had rehearsed shopping phrases.

Bank phrases.

Doctor phrases.

But nobody had taught him what to say... when a stranger showed up with kindness.

So he just said the truth.

"Sorry — my English is still growing.

But... thank you.

Would you like to come in?"

She came in.

They had tea.

And that plate of food... was the beginning of the closest friendship Daniel made in that city.

He had spent three months believing he was alone.

And it turned out... a friend had been living three feet away the whole time.

Let's bring it all together.

One: "Hi, I do not think we have properly met — I am your neighbour from number four."

Two: "How is everyone at home?"

I always see the little ones playing outside."

Three: "If you ever need anything — a hand with the shopping, a parcel taken in — just knock."

Four: "How have you been settling in?"

I know how strange a new place can feel."

Five: "We should have a coffee sometime — I would love to get to know you properly."

And the rescue sentence:

"Sorry — my English is still growing.

But I really wanted to come and say hello."

Starting again in a new country is one of the hardest things a person can do.

The loneliness is real.

Nobody talks about it enough.

But sometimes... people surprise you.

A neighbour becomes a friend.

A hallway becomes a home.

And the network that holds you... is not on your phone.

It is right outside your door.

If you made it this far, you are truly committed to your English.

Please head over to YouTube, search for "Your English Toolbox", and subscribe.

Your support there means the world to us and keeps this podcast growing.

This has been the Basic Survival Kit.

I am Robert.

And I will see you in the next one.