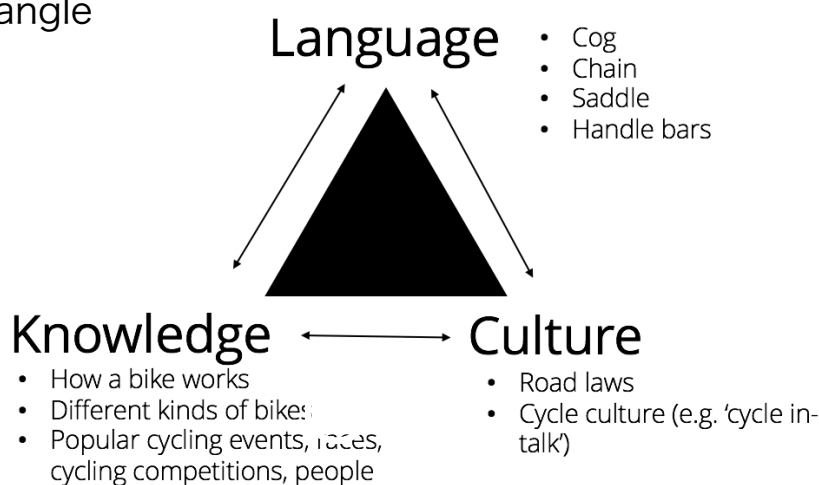


The Three Things you Need to Speak English Well

The LKC Triangle



Language

How much language do native speakers know?

- There are 1,000,000 words in English.
- Natives only know about 2.5%.
- Three types of language: “Core” language that’s used everywhere, “topic specific” language (e.g. a bike mechanic will be familiar with “cog”, “chain”, etc., “but not physiotherapy language) and “other” language.
- Few people have a “vocabulary problem” because you don’t need many words — what is important is how you combine the words you have.

“Chunking”

- Why do Native speakers sound so natural and fluent? Because they speak in Chunks.
- Chunks help with fluency because they are stored in the brain complete.
- Chunks sound more natural e.g. “would you aid me in this task” vs. “would you help me?”
- Colin Firth: “You shall know a word by the company it keeps” —> E.g. “cause a problem” but not “cause a smile”

Example Based Learning

- Traditional English teaching methods are backwards.



"I don't know what's in this... but it's not Paprikash"

- There's a great scene in the film "Captain America: Civil war" - "Vision" is cooking, but he's a robot and has never eaten food before.
- Always from from samples of real language and copy them (i.e. learn from example).

Knowledge

You can't talk about what you don't know about

- If you don't know anything about a topic, you won't be able to speak well about it (even if you know the language).
- Most people are fine talking about their job... but struggle with smalltalk.

Tell your stories

- We all have interesting stories to tell - tell them!
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- Do more, be more interesting.

English as a tool for self education

- The more you use English the better... so use it as a tool for learning.

Culture

Put on Your Culture Glasses

- Culture is like a pair of coloured glasses — put on a pink pair, and the world looks warm and romantic. Put on a blue pair, and the world looks cold and icy.
- Everything you say is understood through a cultural filter.
- Humour is a perfect example (it never translates!)

Common Knowledge Is Uncommon

- British people don't go to the doctors when they have a cold.
- In Germany time is fixed and exact — in India time is very flexible.

Conversation Style

- Japanese is a "high context" language and culture (you need context to understand what people mean). You need to "read between the lines" to understand well.
- American English is very LOW context - what people say is exactly what they mean.



Resources

Today's recording and some other resources can be can be found at:

<http://doingenglish.com/august62017>

Today's session based on: "Master English FAST - an uncommon guide to speaking extraordinary English"

<http://masterenglishfast.com>.