

Voices from Scotland | Karin – Romania

The Scottish English Podcast – Episode 16



LANGUAGE LEARNING

*Transcript & Upper-intermediate and Advanced
Vocabulary Guide*

Transcript (the highlighted words are in a table below with their definitions, pronunciations and some collocations and idiomatic uses)

Claire | Kilted English: Hello and welcome to the Scottish English Podcast, the show where you can improve your English while learning about Scottish culture, history, and of course, our famous accents.

I'm Claire, and today we've got another episode from our Voices from Scotland series. This is where we meet people from Scotland or people who now call Scotland their home.

Today's guest is Karin. She's a **researcher** living in Edinburgh, and I'm gonna let her tell you where she's from and how she **ended up** in Scotland.

This chat is so nice. We talk about how important **cultural identity** is in Scotland, how many different words we have for rain. And also there's a little **feline interruption** in the shape of Karin's cat.... But before we get started with our conversation, remember you can download the free transcript of this episode, and that includes definitions as well as **collocations** and **idiomatic phrases** for some of the more **challenging** words that we use.

And also do subscribe and hit that notification bell so that you know when the next episode of the Scottish English Podcast comes out.

Here's our chat.

Claire | Kilted English: How are you?

Karin: I'm good, thanks. How are you?

Claire | Kilted English: I am good. Thanks for coming along today and talking to me. Um, what are you up to today?

Karin: Well, it's my day off, so it's going to be a really nice day. I'm going to speak to you first, and then I'm

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: cafe and do a little bit of work

Claire | Kilted English: Lovely.

Karin: personal projects....

Claire | Kilted English: Oh, lovely. Great. Okay, so, uh, on this, on this, uh, kind of podcast, you know, we, we, we speak to people from Scotland, but also people who have come to Scotland and have made Scotland their home. So Karin, you're not from Scotland originally. Can you tell us where you're from and what your native language is?

Karin: Yeah, of course. And thank you so much for having me. Um, so I'm actually Romanian originally, or rather I am from a region of Romania. That's Transylvania um, and most of you'll probably know that because everybody knows that Dracula is from Transylvania.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Karin: So my native language, it's actually quite difficult to answer that because I grew up speaking both Romanian and German at the same time.

So I'm **bilingual**. Um, and that was quite fun actually learning two things at the same time....

Claire | Kilted English: Hmm. Interesting. And, uh, is it common in that region of Romania for, uh, to have that **bilingualism** at home?

Karin: Yeah. Most children in Romania, well, or in Transylvania at least, would, uh, would be kind of expected to learn Romanian to speak, you know, in public or at schools or, with, you know, people in public administration, for example. So like if you go to town hall, um, but at home usually people would speak either German or even Hungarian.

So we have a lot of **minorities** in the region. Some people speak both German and Hungarian, so it's quite a mix. Um, but yeah.

Claire | Kilted English: Great. Interesting. It's so nice to see that kind of mix of languages, uh, in that, in that one region. Yeah. Great. Okay. And, uh, you live in Edinburgh, right? Um, and can you tell us how you **ended up**, uh, in Scotland?...

Karin: Yeah, I do live in Edinburgh and it's, yeah, it's lovely to be here and it's really surprising to be in Edinburgh and speak to your sunny day, I have to say. So, um, I came to Scotland because my partner was already living in Scotland and he had found a job here. Um, and I was living in Birmingham at the time, and then I decided, oh, you know what? Edinburgh is much prettier compared to Birmingham,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: so I decided to move. yeah, so it was quite new to me, but I do love the city.

Claire | Kilted English: Okay. And, um, so you came here because of your partner. Uh, so did you know anything about Scotland and Edinburgh before you moved there?...

Karin: Hmm, that's a tough one. Um, other than everybody really loves coming to the Edinburgh Fringe, uh, not really. So I knew that there was a big kind of **arts and culture scene** both in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Um, but I didn't really know what it would be like to live at Scotland. And I think it took a while to really **appreciate** how Scotland sees itself and how Scottish people see themselves.

Um, which has obviously something to do also with language and culture. Um, but yeah, it was, it was quite different what I had expected, but a good different.

Claire | Kilted English: Okay. So you mentioned there about how people see themselves. How do you think Scottish people see themselves?...

Karin: I think generally if you, well, when I came to the UK, I kind of expected that everybody would be really happy to be called British, for example. And I think most Scottish people would not be happy with that, and they would really much rather be called Scottish. And it took a while because living in England you don't see that.

You kind of just see a very English and very British identity, but the minute you move to Scotland, you kind of realize, oh, this is very different. It's actually its own country. It has its own history, it has its own even language. Right.

Mm-hmm.

and I guess it would be similar in Wales.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: But yeah, that, that was surprising.

And I think it's not that Scottish people see themselves as superior or anything like that, it's just, it's still kind of **valuing** that culture that they

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: have compared to being just part of the bigger Yeah, country....

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah, part of, part of, um, Britain almost, you know, we have our own identity, which is, I think what what you're getting at is, uh, the identity that comes with living in, in. In Scotland and I think, uh, as you mentioned, we are kind of **mishmash** in, in the UK of like different cultures, all kind of, uh, next to each other.

And, uh, **cultural identity** in the UK is pretty strong I think, depending on where you're from as well. Um, so as you say, yeah, lots of people in Scotland, don't like to call themselves British a lot of the time. Um, and that's, that's personal opinion there. There's lots of people will, will call themselves British.

Um, lots of people will call themselves Scottish. It just depends on the individual. But I think, I think we're quite open to people deciding how they want to, uh, call themselves. Yeah, yeah.

And their identity. Hmm....

Karin: Yeah. I mean, I guess it's, you're open to that and I think what's really nice is you're open to discussing it honestly. Right? So if somebody does want to do that, then there is a sort of opportunity for them to speak about it, to talk about it. And it might be that others disagree, and I think Scottish people have definitely, to me, seem honest about if they disagree with something, they'll let you know. But actually I like that because it's, it's much more honest and it feels much more **straightforward** compared to other places that I've lived in. And yeah, I really like that.

Claire | Kilted English: Okay, nice. So I wouldn't have said that we are very direct, but I'll, I'll take that. I'll take that. Okay. So talking about culture then there, um, is there any similarities between the culture in Romania or even in Transylvania and, and Scotland? Is there any similarities or **stark differences** that you may have seen living in Scotland?...

Karin: I think one of the things that both countries have in common is a strong **reliance** on farming and family, for example. So even just going hiking in Scotland, I've managed to see a lot of farmers and speak to them and, and what's really interesting is Transylvania is very similar and so is Romania as a whole.

There is a reliance on kind of **agriculture**, working the land, and so that is really similar and in that sense, also community life and smaller villages is really similar because Mm-hmm.

you have people who have massive farms but live really far apart but come back together to go to church, to go to the pub, to, you know

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: um, so that is really nice.

And that is quite similar, I would say.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: I think what's quite different in some ways. Hmm, let me think. I should have said what's also quite similar is therefore how people here treat animals, for example, or how we.

Claire | Kilted English: Hmm....

Karin: You know, in Romania there's this kind of, oh, these are farm animals, but also that you, you do care about the **welfare** of animals and because you know where they're, where they're raised, what happens to them, and so on.

So I think that that is really similar between the two. And it's maybe not the same as when you think about city culture, but I think that's just kind of what I immediately noticed,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: Mm-hmm. What sometimes tends to be quite different, I think is just a little bit, so the **directness** we were talking about, I think I. In, it's a little bit more difficult here for people to be direct about their feelings.

Mm-hmm.

So whereas you might be direct about political opinions, it might be that you're

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: less direct about, oh, let's talk about you being upset, or, Mm-hmm.

so I think that is quite a big cultural difference....

Claire | Kilted English: Interesting. So do you think that people in Romania are more in touch with their feelings and they're able to express 'em more easily?

Karin: I think in Romania what you do is you, you mention your feelings or you name them, and then you kind of make fun of them in a way, so it's.

Claire | Kilted English: Okay.

Karin: It's, it's that kind of, oh, well I'm sad and I'm gonna just laugh about it. So you're able to say it and immediately, even though there's something there about detracting

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Karin: from it, by make, you know, by laughing at it or being **self-deprecating**.

Whereas I think in Scotland, it takes a while for people to feel comfortable even just doing that....

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah, yeah, yeah. You have to know someone pretty well to, to, to **open up** to them about their, your feelings about anything, to be honest. So yeah, I think it can be, apart from in your family, your friends can be close with you, but even with your close friends, it can be difficult to, to, to open up and be to, to be honest with them, sometimes I think, uh, I think we have a, a culture of, uh, not pretending, but like trying to, uh.

What I wanna say, we're trying to keep, make everything look good. Almost like we don't want other people to worry about our feelings or we don't want to **be a burden** perhaps. I think that's pretty strong in in our culture. Yeah.

Karin: Yeah, and I think, I mean, what it seems like to me is it comes from a good place. It comes from a sort of

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: I don't want to burden others, like you said, or I don't

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm....

Karin: want to add to somebody else's worry. But actually it's also then preventing you from sharing worries. And that's quite

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: sad because I think again, like not that the Romanian example is that much better, but even by sharing it and making fun of it, you least

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: know we share the worry

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Karin: and we're all in it together

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm. Yeah. Yeah. Very interesting. And, uh, yeah, it's nice to hear about I, some of those examples you gave before, I wouldn't have expected to be similar, uh, in terms of like the, um. Yeah. Farming and care for animals. Yeah. I wouldn't have expected those, uh, similarities to pop up, so that's nice to hear.

That's interesting. Great. Yeah.

Karin: what did you expect? Sorry....

Claire | Kilted English: Hmm. Uh, I expected to hear things like, uh, strong sense of community or sense of family ties perhaps. Um. I think they can be quite strong in Scotland, but I don't know, I don't know many Romanians, so I don't have, I can't have many, uh, um, experiences or I can't, can't say for people from, from there, but that's what I would've guessed might have have come up. Yeah. Okay.

Karin: I think it's, oh, I mean, I think it's quite similar to what I was saying about communities just tied to land, I guess.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: to me it seems that that is the **common thread** in both countries, not least

Claire | Kilted English: because you have
Mm-hmm.

Karin: a strong sense of what is the Scottish land and what, you know,

Claire | Kilted English: as in the
Mm-hmm.

Karin: territory of it and, and so

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm....

Karin: It also strikes me a lot when you talk about, it's similar to Romania when you **acknowledge** the islands have their own culture, whereas, you

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: we don't have islands. So we would say Transylvania has its own

Claire | Kilted English: culture.

Yeah.

Karin: Um, so I think that to me sounds it's similar to community, but it's community by, I guess, territory.

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah, a region or, uh, a larger area rather than just a village, for example. Yeah. Yeah. Interesting. Good, good. And, um, as, as you know, your English is absolutely **impeccable**. It's a wonderful, and um, so I want to know how you learned your English. Did you learn it mostly in Romania?

Karin: So I was very lucky and my mother really wanted me to learn English. She thought it was the language of the future, sort of, you know, that everybody should know. Um, and I mean, I grew up in **post-communist** Romania, I should say. So it was kind of the time Mm-hmm.... when finally people were coming into the country a little bit more.

So we had a lot more English speakers also come in. And I managed to be **tutored** by somebody. She was English actually, so I had her for, I was three years old when I started.

Oh, wow. Mm-hmm.

a lot of, you know, learning by playing

Mm-hmm.

imitating and, you know, listening to cartoons together. Um, and that was really fun.

So I think that's why I really

Mm-hmm.

liked it. Um, and then. You can do English in school. So

we did have

Mm-hmm.

English teachers after that, so you could do that. Um, and obviously we have tutoring as well, so tutoring is really, really common.

Mm-hmm.

the people who are even just teachers, then they will tutor privately as well. Um, so I had most of that really throughout. Um, yeah. And I guess that's, that's how I learned. But it took, it took a while and then it kind of took coming here to.

Mm-hmm.

even go beyond that, because I think it's

Yeah. very

Yeah.... different to learn, oh, this is the **academic language**, but then you're kind of **immersed** it.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm. Exactly. And it's, uh, it is a whole different experience being,

uh, learning in, from learning a language from a different country and then actually going there and living, the experience of being in that culture and, and learning the cultural significance of language in, in those countries.

And so you, you were in England before you came to Scotland, and um, do you notice or did you notice a difference in the, the English that we use in Scotland compared to the English that, um, they have in England, or you said Birmingham before, so, yeah. Can you give us, tell us your impressions.

Karin: That's an interesting one. So, I mean, I, I did my **undergraduate** in York, um, and then I went to Birmingham for my postgrad. And that already is hugely different because York is, I. it's, Yorkshire is very, very rural in many ways and has a very...

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: strong accent. But actually York itself is very **multicultural** because of the university

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: and because the university makes up so much of the, the population, like whether staff, students, or even just, you know, uh, people visiting. So I found York very easy because it was. People were very used to different accents, different nationalities

Claire | Kilted English: Yep.

Karin: um, and the English was quite, you know, um, easy to understand for everybody. Um,

Claire | Kilted English: which is interesting cause people in Yorkshire, okay, maybe not in York itself, but Yorkshire has quite a strong accent itself, right? Yeah.

Karin: but

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: I did have a **landlord** was from Yorkshire and his accent was so **thick** and I

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm....

Karin: having to interact with him. And just not understanding what he's saying half the time. But then in three years we did manage, you know, like at

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: I did finally understand what he meant, uh, most of the time. Um, but I think that was really interesting even just to realize, okay, there is such a big difference even within such a small region of a country.

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Karin: Um, and then moving to Birmingham I think was the next level because Birmingham while much more, again, much more multicultural, um. suddenly had a very strong **Brummy accent** in most

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: of the people who had grown up there. And that was really like, difficult to, to get yet again, **get used to**, oh, this is another accent that we

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm....

Karin: um, you know, you have to get used to. so that, that was already another difference. It, it was lovely, but it was just very difficult to kind of keep **adapting**. But I think

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: what I learned was most people still speak the same way I.

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Karin: And you just have to kind of work, you know, kind of get used to, well, what are the words that they might use in a specific

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: place that it, you know, that are relevant. Um, and then when I moved to Scotland, it was different yet again. because here again, Edinburgh is very different to Glasgow and.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Karin: And yeah, the first few days when I arrived I do remember thinking, oh God, this is a strong accent.

And then I went to Glasgow and then I thought, oh no, this is a strong accent. It's completely

Claire | Kilted English: Uh,

Karin: Um, yeah, so sorry, my cat...

Claire | Kilted English: hello. You're, hello, cat?

Karin: Um, but I think some similarities, it's kind of what you were saying earlier, that some. locations have words that they use only in that

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: place. Mm-hmm.

So there is no way you would learn those words if you wouldn't visit and if you wouldn't be living

Claire | Kilted English: Yep.

Karin: there and, and that's just part of what you have to get used to.

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah. So for example, what are some words that you've learned since you moved to Edinburgh?

Karin: um, **bairns**, right?

Claire | Kilted English: bairns, mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Karin: Um, for children, and **wee ones**, you know, like, I mean, you, everybody here uses **wee**

for everything

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. To mean little or small, right? Yeah.

Karin: Yeah. So it takes a while to **get used to** that. Um,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm....

Karin: there's so many words for rain, which I, you can pronounce, but I, I probably cannot. But there's several words for different types of rain, from **drizzle**

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Karin: to

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: to **downpours**,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: and

Claire | Kilted English: I think that's not specific to, to Edinburgh. I think that's just British, uh, English, uh, in general.

Karin: but I mean, do, do English people Really, what? I'm trying to

Claire | Kilted English: Well they would,

Karin: were

Claire | Kilted English: drizzle is an English standard English word, and downpour is also a uhuh.

Karin: but you don't say drizzle or downpour. You say you would know. It's like

Claire | Kilted English: Uh, are you thinking of **haar**? That's, that's different. The haar, when, when the fog comes in.

Karin: What's, is it drug or dra... I'm mispronouncing...

Claire | Kilted English: it's **dreich**, it's dreich. Okay. So. Hmm. I wouldn't say that. Okay. I don't know if that's a Gaelic word or if it's a Scots word. I will check that after the, our conversation. But dreich means when, it is not just rain, it's when it's gray and it's raining and it looks miserable, and it's just the feeling of, ach, it's dreich.

It's really not a nice, uh, feeling. So, yeah. Yeah,

Karin: Which is great, but, do you have three things in one word? And I mean,

Claire | Kilted English: exactly.

Karin: it's a great word. But then

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: time I heard, I was like, what does this mean?

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: They've made up yet another word.

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Karin: but actually it's quite fun, so

Claire | Kilted English: I. Do you have any stories, um, that you'd like to share about or any times when you've been communicating while you've been here? It could be good or bad.... Uh, funny. Um, anything you wanna share about com? Uh, stories about communication.

Karin: Yeah, I mean, um, so in my, in my neighborhood, I think they're just funny stories. Um, we do have somebody who has a very strong **Glaswegian accent** and, um, he's a lollipop man

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: and so that's lovely. Um, but he always, he really loves my dog and he wants to come and say hello.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: But for two years I could not understand a word he was saying. Um, because he is his, yeah, his accent is very strong.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: and so I think he must have realized that I just kept nodding and saying hello. Um, but, then finally he slowed down so I could tell that he's slowing

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: down to so that I could understand.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: him. Um, and he spoke a little bit more slowly just to tell me how **dreich** it is, which

Claire | Kilted English: Ah....

Karin: because then I was even more confused I was like, is it? but we have now built some level of, you know, **comradery**

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: we do say hello at least, um. But yes, sometimes I learn my new words from him because you know, why

Claire | Kilted English: That's good.

Karin: not?

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: So that's been quite nice. Um, no, I don't think, to be fair, I don't think it happens very often that there's bad instances of communication.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: It's, it's more just people realizing, oh, somebody else doesn't quite get what we mean,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Karin: having to repeat it....

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah. But, um, I, I think that goes for, not for native English speakers as well, like people who are. Uh, I dunno, from England, from Australia, wherever, those kinds of things will happen as well. And even I have struggled some places when I go to different parts of, uh, Scotland and I find it difficult to, to understand people and I.

So, for example, I've been to some of the islands or you know, even Aberdeen has a different accent as well, and as, uh, we mentioned different words, but each town has its own words or phrases. So yeah, I think it can be, it's not exclusively for people whose first language is not English. So yeah, it's good.

Okay. And then so for people who want to come to Scotland to live or to visit, what kind of advice would you give to those people?

Karin: I think my number one **piece of advice** would be to give it time

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm....

Karin: I think there's a lot of lovely and **genuine** people you can meet and very beautiful places you can see. And it might be that you think at the beginning, oh. You know, language would be a problem, but actually if you give

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: it time, I think you'll **get used to** it in no time.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: and it'll be just so easy for you suddenly to, to, like you said, get used to the words that are specific to a place and use them yourself. And um, and I think, yeah, you just need that time to be able to do that.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: So I would say, you know, don't give it just two days. Maybe give it a week at least to see

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Karin: what it's really like, um, before you make up your

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Karin: mind. But if you come to live here

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Karin: yeah, just, just remember that you kind of have to stick with it....

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah. Yeah. And I think once you **get over that little hurdle**, it's, uh, yeah, it's a nice place to be. Right? It's, um, it's, uh,

Karin: love it.

Claire | Kilted English: yeah. Uh huh. Yeah. Good, good. And

Karin: Yeah.

Claire | Kilted English: you've been there for 10 years now, more or less, right? So, amazing. Amazing.

Karin: clearly I could move, but No, I do love it.

Claire | Kilted English: Good, good. Thank you very much. I'm gonna, we're gonna finish up there for today. And, uh, thank you again for the conversation. It was really lovely and I've learned a lot from you as well. So thank you so much.

Karin: Thank you so much Yeah.

Claire | Kilted English: Thanks, Karin. That was such a nice conversation. I really learned a lot from you, even though I've known you for quite a long time. I especially loved hearing about the similarities between our countries and how you've **adapted** to different accents in English while you've been traveling.... That's it for today's episode of the Scottish English Podcast. Thank you for listening.

If you enjoyed the episode, do subscribe and leave us a comment or a question down below and we'll be sure to answer it.

and if you want to continue improving your English, check out the transcript in the show notes. Another huge thanks to Karin. See you later.

Highlighted Vocabulary Table

Word/Phrase	Definition (British English)	Pronunciation	Useful Collocations & Idiomatic Usage
researcher	A person who carries out academic or scientific investigation	/rɪ'sɜː.tʃə/	academic researcher, lead researcher
ended up	To finally be in a particular place or situation	/ˈɛndɪd ʌp/	end up doing, end up somewhere
cultural identity	The feeling of belonging to a group, influenced by culture, language, and traditions	/ˈkʌl.tʃər.əl aɪ'dentɪti/	strong cultural identity, preserve cultural identity

feline interruption	An interruption caused by a cat (feline refers to cats)	/ˈfiː.laɪn ˌɪn.təˈrʌp.ʃən/	feline behaviour, feline companion
collocations	Words that are often used together in a language	/ˌkɒl.əˈkeɪ.ʃənz/	strong collocation, verb-noun collocation
idiomatic phrases	Expressions whose meanings are different from the literal meanings of the words	/ˌɪd.i.əˈm.ɪk ˈfreɪzɪz/	common idiomatic phrases, use idiomatic language
challenging	Difficult in a way that tests your ability or determination	/ˈtʃæl.ɪn.dʒɪŋ/	challenging task, challenging situation
bilingual	Able to speak two languages fluently	/ˌbaɪˈlɪŋ.gwəl/	bilingual child, bilingual education
minorities	Groups in society who do not form the majority of the population	/maɪˈnɒr.ɪ.tɪz/	ethnic minorities, minority rights
arts and culture scene	The community and activities related to the arts and culture in a place	/ɑːts ənd ˈkʌl.tʃə siːn/	vibrant arts scene, local culture scene
appreciate	To recognise the full worth of something	/əˈpriː.ʃi.ət/	appreciate the effort, fully appreciate
valuing	Considering something to be important or beneficial	/ˈvæl.juː.ɪŋ/	valuing diversity, valuing tradition
mishmash	A confused mixture of different things	/ˈmɪʃ.mæʃ/	mishmash of styles, cultural mishmash
straightforward	Easy to understand or simple; honest and direct	/ˌstreɪtˈfɔː.wəd/	straightforward answer, straightforward approach
stark differences	Clear and obvious differences	/stɑːk ˈdɪf.ər.ənsɪz/	stark contrast, stark reality
reliance	Dependence on or trust in something or someone	/rɪˈlaɪ.əns/	reliance on technology, heavy reliance

agriculture	The practice of farming	/ˈæɡ.rɪ.kəl.tʃər/	modern agriculture, agriculture sector
welfare	The health, happiness, and fortunes of a person or group	/ˈwel.feər/	animal welfare, welfare system
directness	The quality of being straightforward and honest	/dəˈrekt.nəs/	admired for directness, value directness
self-deprecating	Modest about or critical of oneself, especially humorously	/ˌselfˈdep.rɪ.keɪ.tɪŋ/	self-deprecating humour, self-deprecating remark
open up	To talk more about your personal thoughts and feelings	/ˈəʊ.pən ʌp/	open up to someone, open up about feelings
be a burden	To cause difficulty or worry to someone	/biː ə ˈbɜː.dən/	feel like a burden, become a burden
common thread	A similar idea or pattern that is found in different places or situations	/ˈkɒm.ən θred/	common thread running through
acknowledge	To accept or admit the existence or truth of something	/əkˈnɒl.ɪdʒ/	acknowledge the problem, acknowledge the contribution
impeccable	Perfect, with no mistakes or faults	/ɪmˈpek.ə.bəl/	impeccable English, impeccable manners
post-communist	After the period when a country was governed by a communist system	/ˌpəʊstˈkɒm.ju.nɪst/	post-communist society, post-communist era
tutored	Taught one-on-one or in small groups by a tutor	/ˈtjuː.təd/	be tutored in, private tutoring
academic language	Language used in schools and universities, often more formal and technical	/ˌæk.əˈdem.ɪk ˈlæŋ.gwɪdʒ/	academic vocabulary, academic writing

immersed	Deeply involved in or surrounded by something	/ɪ'mɜːst/	immersed in culture, become immersed
undergraduate	A university student who has not yet received a degree	/ˌʌn.də'græd.ju.ət/	undergraduate degree, undergraduate studies
multicultural	Including people from many different cultures	/ˌmʌl.ti'kʌl.tʃər.əl/	multicultural society, multicultural background
landlord	A person who rents out land, a building, or accommodation	/ˈlænd.lɔːd/	private landlord, landlord and tenant
thick accent	A very strong and noticeable way of pronouncing words	/θɪk 'æk.sənt/	speak with a thick accent, thick regional accent
Brummy accent	The accent associated with Birmingham	/ˈbrʌm.i 'æk.sənt/	strong Brummy accent, Brummy dialect
get used to	To become familiar with something	/get 'juːst tuː/	get used to the climate, get used to the accent
adapting	Changing your behaviour to suit new conditions	/ə'dæptɪŋ/	adapt to change, adapt quickly
bairns	(Scots) Children	/beəns/	bairns at play, school bairns
wee ones	(Scots) Small children	/wiː wʌnz/	wee ones running, look after the wee ones
drizzle	Light rain falling in very fine drops	/ˈdrɪz.əl/	light drizzle, drizzle all day
downpour	A heavy fall of rain	/ˈdaʊn.pɔː/	sudden downpour, torrential downpour
haar	(Scots) A cold sea fog	/hɑː/	thick haar, morning haar
dreich	(Scots) Dreary, bleak, and often rainy weather	/driːx/	a dreich day, it's dreich outside
Glaswegian accent	The accent associated with Glasgow	/glaz'wiː.dʒən 'æk.sənt/	strong Glaswegian accent, understand the Glaswegian accent

comradery	Mutual trust and friendship among people who spend a lot of time together	/kə'mæd.ər.i/	sense of comradery, build comradery
piece of advice	A suggestion or recommendation about what someone should do	/pi:s əv əd'vaɪs/	useful piece of advice, offer a piece of advice
genuine	Sincere and honest	/'dʒen.ju.ɪn/	genuine person, genuine interest
get over a hurdle	To overcome a difficulty or obstacle	/ɡet 'əʊ.vər ə 'hɜːdl/	face a hurdle, overcome a hurdle
adapted	Changed to suit new conditions	/ə'dæptɪd/	adapted to life, adapted quickly

Note: All advanced words and phrases are bolded the first time they appear in the transcript for easy reference.