

Voices from Scotland | Peter - Poland

The Scottish English Podcast – Episode 36



LANGUAGE LEARNING

*Transcript & Upper-intermediate and Advanced
Vocabulary Guide*

Below is the transcript with all selected B2, C1, and above vocabulary and phrases in **bold**. After the transcript, you'll find a table with definitions, British English pronunciation, and useful collocations/idioms for each highlighted word or phrase.

Transcript: Voices from Scotland | Peter - Poland

Hi, and welcome to the Scottish English Podcast. Today we have another episode from our Voices from Scotland series where we meet people from Scotland, or people who now call Scotland their home.

If you haven't done so already, hit that subscribe button. Or if you're a big fan, consider supporting the show's creation by leaving a tip or becoming a member. I've added more about that in the description. But let me introduce you to my guest today.

Peter is from Poland, but has lived in Scotland for over a decade now.

In our chat, he discusses how his **identity** has always been connected to Scotland, and how he loves the **melody** of English in Scottish accents. We also talk about the cultural differences that come along with both English and Polish, and a few stories about **mishaps** with language, and a tiny bit of swearing too.

We use a Scots word in this episode, which is 'breeks', which in English means trousers. It is quite a funny story. You don't want to miss it.

Also, if you're watching this video, there was a tiny issue with the focus on the camera while we were recording, so the focus moves in and out a little bit, but it shouldn't stop you from enjoying the episode.

So that's it. Let's get into my discussion with Peter.

Claire | Kilted English: I wanted to, uh, and so thank you for coming along and, and talking to me, uh, on the podcast today. And, uh, I wanna just start off with, um, maybe you can tell us how you ended up in Scotland. Mm-hmm. Uh, where you're from, what language you speak, uh, as your native language.

Peter: Okay. Yeah.

So, um, I'm Peter.

Claire | Kilted English: Thank you. Yeah. Sorry.

Peter: I was, I was born in Scotland. Mm-hmm. Um, 43 years.

Claire | Kilted English: You were born in Scotland. Oh, shall we start again?

Peter: This is very interesting. Right? Okay. So within my head. Mm-hmm. Right. It, it, it just sort of comes very naturally. Right, Uhhuh and. I don't know if it was a, a, I don't know, maybe it wasn't accurate, but it, it, it kind of demonstrates who I am mm-hmm.

And how I think. Mm-hmm. Uh, because I've been, uh, in Scotland for quite some time. Mm-hmm. Uh, 15 years now. Mm-hmm. And I find it very naturally, even making those mistakes and my brain almost doesn't pick them up anymore. Mm-hmm. Right? Mm-hmm. So, but the truth is, to be accurate, I was born in Poland. Mm-hmm. Um.

And um, since I was a, I don't know, I remember the earliest I remember was kind of primary, end of primary. Mm-hmm. I've always wanted to know how people live in other countries. Mm-hmm. And I remember that that was one of the ways of putting myself to sleep. Oh, I would close my eyes and I would think Uhhuh kind of using my imagination how streets look, like, how houses look like.

Oh, how, you know, the ordinary things look like, how, in what way they're different.

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah. And do you know where that came from, that kind of practice?

Peter: Uh, no idea. Just, it just came again very naturally. I didn't even think about it too much at that time and just thought that I've always wanted to. Mm-hmm. See mm-hmm. I feel even I was, I was even thinking about smells, you know, how air smells like and things

of that. And uh, somewhere around this is gonna be quite, um, cliché. I think that's the word or cheesy. Um, I came across a movie called, uh, Braveheart.

Claire | Kilted English: Okay. I thought, thought he was gonna be Braveheart or Trainspotting.

Peter: No. Transporting, no. That would've probably put me off at that time. Uh, but. Yes, I saw that movie the first time and it made such a big impression on me that I thought, oh wow. I thought two things. That country mm-hmm. Is something else. And the second bit was, I didn't know you can speak English like that.

Yeah. Right? Mm-hmm. Because up, up until then, uh, the only English I was able to pick up from right was, you know, we would watch a lot of movies and things like that, and I was able to kind of. You know how we've got the guide that reads in front of mm-hmm. You know, the whole voice and everything. Like a lecturer.

Yeah?

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah. Lector. Yeah. I don't know, it's a voiceover.

Peter: I've always, I've always been trying to kind of put my ears behind. Yeah. And try to fish out little English words and things like that. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. But then I heard Scottish accent. Mm-hmm. And I know that Mel Gibson is not Scottish. Right. But I think, you know, I've talked to many people and quite a lot of people said, yeah, he's done not too bad.

Mm-hmm. Uh, he was, as in people say in Scotland. Oh, it was all right. Mm-hmm. Which means it was quite good. Yeah. So that's another thing. So, um, yes. Um, so basically we went to London mm-hmm. For a year.

Claire | Kilted English: Who's we? You and your partner, wife? Sorry?

Peter: My, myself and my fiancée at that time, Magda. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. So we stayed there.

Uh, we worked, we had three or four jobs at the same time. Mm-hmm. And we came back to Poland for two weeks, three weeks. We got married. Mm-hmm. And, um, again, don't

know how, I got married in a **kilt** Uhhuh. Okay. And I just didn't know, like, again, quite a lot of things came out **subconsciously**. My brain was trying to tell me, you know, why, why didn't you try this?

Why don't you try that? Mm-hmm. You should have seen the face of my mother. Yeah. When I say that to her. Uh, she was like, are you gonna wear a skirt, uhhuh? I was like, no. It's just, you know, it's offensive to say something like that. Yeah. But then see when she saw me during the wedding, she goes, "you actually look beautiful."

Yeah. So, yeah. Because it, people tend to think it's just a skirt. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. But it's the whole mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Kind of Bonnie Prince Charlie. Yes. Um, outfit. Right.

Claire | Kilted English: Exactly. Exactly.

Peter: And then after that, we had, uh, a friend who, um, had been in Scotland at that time for like two or three years. Mm-hmm. And he said, you know, um.

That would be great place. You go to go to Edinburgh first. Mm-hmm. So we came to Edinburgh 2010. Okay. Okay. Uh, yeah. Huge winter Uhhuh. Oh yeah. Everything's paralyzed, everything's frozen. People from the agency calling you like five times a day. Mm-hmm. Are you coming to do the shift? It's like, what do you mean?

Yeah. Um, yeah,

Claire | Kilted English: because for you, from being from Poland, the, the amount of snow that you have in Poland doesn't matter. You have to work.

Peter: Yeah. So see, at that time I thought, Ooh, that's not too much different. You know? Yeah. It's, you know, so the first thing we, we, we actually, I, I still have got the boots. We bought the boots, the hiking boots, because it was like, ah, I think the weather's gonna be pretty challenging here.

So. And I still have the boots. Mm-hmm. So, well, there you go. I'm not gonna say the brand, but they're doing quite well. Good, good. Um, and I fell in love from the moment Uhhuh, I got to the city and I had, that

Claire | Kilted English: was the city or the country or in general?

Peter: I didn't know what it was. I just felt like, like I, this is where I'm supposed to be.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm. Uh, you have a feeling of belonging

Peter: Yeah. Yeah. Mm-hmm. Right from the beginning and I was just enjoying, you know, I could stand on the bus stop thinking, listening to people's accents. Mm-hmm. And, you know, at that time it was Dalry, I think Dalry so, um, that, that part of Edinburgh, um, and it was, it was, it was fantastic.

I had the challenges, but mm-hmm. Um. But yeah, that was, that was the beginning of that great journey. Mm-hmm. We're just on still, so.

Claire | Kilted English: Okay. And so you've been here, been there for 15 years now.

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. And you're talking a bit about your **identity** then. So how do you see your **identity** now after 15 years?

Because if you had that idea before that you, you knew you wanted to go somewhere else. Absolutely. You had the **kilt** for your wedding. What about when you got there now? How did you

Peter: I don't know. It's, it's, you know, I, I, I work as a teacher and quite a lot of kids, especially when they come for first year, so they ask me that question, uh, 'cause you know, for some kids it's very important.

Mm-hmm. And they hear the accent. Right. So, I, I, you know, you can hear immediately that I wasn't born in Scotland. Uh, but I think my accent is. Not too obvious. Mm-hmm. Um, and people can get a bit, you know, where, where are you from? Mm-hmm. I can't place it. You're definitely not from, you know, you were, you weren't born here.

Mm-hmm. So I think, I think I feel like I was born in Poland. Mm-hmm. But with, I know it's gonna sound strange, but with some sort of Scottish soul mm-hmm. That has always kind of been there. It's been there. Yeah. And I've been drawn for ages to that island up north. Mm-hmm. And I just can't explain it. Mm-hmm.

So I, and I haven't really felt, I've never felt Polish in a sense that I miss my country.

Mm-hmm. I don't, I miss people. Mm-hmm. I miss places. Uh, you know, I'm, I'm kind of

emotionally attached to my house that I was, I was raised in. Yeah. The, you know, the place I, I I, I was, I was born in and, and obviously the most important moments that happened, right.

But I haven't really kind of had this patriotic soul or mm-hmm. You know, no, I haven't. Mm-hmm. I haven't. Mm-hmm. So I would say, um, I have a Polish. That's what I, I'll tell you exactly what I say. Mm-hmm. I have a Polish passport. Mm-hmm. But I feel Scottish. Okay. Good, good. Okay.

Claire | Kilted English: And what about the place or the people or the culture makes you feel that way?

Or is there anything, or is it just, uh, too big to describe Almost, um.

Peter: Do you know? Again, it's just, it, it just came so naturally that I just don't really think about it too much. Mm. Mm-hmm. Like I say, like, you know, I just, I just, I just, I am there. Yeah. I just kind of become one with the place. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Um, and you know, like, almost like, you know, I am, I've, I've, I immediately felt fully integrated Yeah.

Fully part of mm-hmm. Um, of that, um. Uh, society or community, you know, if you look at it in a kind of smaller terms. Mm-hmm. Um, and I think I have, so see if you think about those 15 years mm-hmm. I have never had an incident that during which someone made me feel like I'm not from here. Okay. Um,

Claire | Kilted English: or not welcome even.

Peter: Yeah. Or, or, you know, we don't want you here. Yeah. Um. And it's interesting because I, I had, or I met people on the way who were from Poland mm-hmm. And they had, you know, incidents like that. Mm-hmm. Um, but somehow, I don't know why it never happened to me. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Um. Well, yeah. No, it, it just didn't. Um, and I've always, and you know, some people tried, yeah.

But I, I, I love dealing with episodes like that. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Because, you know, as a teacher, I just like to confront people. No. That it comes quite naturally. Again,

Claire | Kilted English: you just sit with a teenager just

Peter: like, yeah, yeah, yeah. Tell, tell me, tell me more about what you just said. Yeah. And tell me why, why are you like that to me?

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Um, so, um, yeah, I remember I had a, a situation, the guy was, uh. Uh, kind of approached me and said, oh, I'm looking for this in this place. And I started kind of explaining it to him and he says, are you foreign? Hmm? I said, um, what does that mean? Yeah. Oh, were you not born in this country?

No, I wasn't. Yeah, so. And he just didn't know where to go from there. Mm-hmm. Um,

Claire | Kilted English: if you've lived in a place for that long as well, like, you know where you're going. Right.

Peter: And people will be people, you know? So, um, if, if there is something that, that they don't like about you mm-hmm. That's, that's, that's their problem.

Mm-hmm. Not mine. Yeah. I think also to ask, to kind of try, it's a, it's a difficult question. Um, and like you said at the beginning, you know, it, it can be seen as a kind of a huge thing, right? Yeah. I think it's just, it all goes down to people. Mm-hmm. You know, people in Scotland, um, from my experience anyway are absolutely, absolutely amazing.

Mm-hmm. I've had nothing but, you know, being welcomed. Mm-hmm. Being supported. Um, all my best friends, uh, from day one, you know, they, they felt like, you know. I have, do you know there, there's, there's, there's one situation that I will never forget. Mm-hmm. Um, I got a job as a learning assistant, right? Mm-hmm.

They used to call them like that. Now they PSAs or something like that. Mm-hmm. And we, I was down in PE and I was supporting kids, right? And one of the PE teachers, um, was behind me. And, and I said, what did I say? Uh, something like, oh, oh, I, I didn't know you, you, you, you were doing this, uh, like that in your country.

And he goes, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. Why? Why are you saying our country? Mm-hmm. Uhhuh. And he stopped me there and he says, it's our country. Mm. Mm-hmm. You are here. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. And you are with us. Mm. And do you know what that was like? I don't know, 10 years ago? Mm-hmm. But it made me feel like I belong there.

Yeah. And it's such an important thing. Mm-hmm. So that one phrase Yeah. He was able to stop and it was literally 30 seconds conversation. Mm-hmm. And he goes, mm-hmm. You're one, you are one of us. You know? Yeah. It's, it's your country and if you are here, you know, there is obviously **privileges** and **responsibilities** that that come with that.

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. But we are on the same boat. Yeah.

Claire | Kilted English: It's interesting how that one phrase almost changed your viewpoint as well.

Peter: Yeah. You basically kind of, yeah. 'cause it's, it's extremely important to hear mm-hmm. That you are welcome. Yeah. You know? Yeah. And that's why, you know, since I heard that, that's the way I'm trying to be to other people.

Claire | Kilted English: That's really nice. So, really nice. Yeah. Um, yeah. Nice. Positive impact on your life, right? Literally on your life. Right.

Peter: Chris Law. Okay. First of all, I need to say that. Fantastic teacher.

Claire | Kilted English: You can tag him in the video. Absolutely.

Peter: Yeah. Good. Um, yeah, so 30 minutes, 30 seconds conversation can change your whole life.

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. That's great. Beautiful. That's good. Yeah.

Claire | Kilted English: Okay. And then we're talking about culture and different things, and we know you talked about Scottish, the Scottish accent being quite different. What kind of words and phrases have you learned in the 15 years that you, you've been in Scotland?

Peter: Yeah, see, um, it's, it's difficult to kind of think about it.

Mm-hmm. You know, from the top of your head. Um. So, um,

Claire | Kilted English: or something that you love that you Yeah, yeah, yeah. Have never heard before,

Peter: so, so something that I, I don't stop using, right? Mm-hmm. Is the, the little phrase or like, little phrase "wee" uhuh, you know? Yeah. I just love that. And I, I I use it all the time. A wee bit.

Yeah. As in a little, you know. Yeah. Um, and a, wee, you know, wee, wee, boy or, or a, wee, I don't know, a, wee joke, you know that word wee, I just love it. Just, I don't know what's in it. Yeah. But I just find it quite, quite useful and quite fascinating. Yeah. Um, so I hardly use little mm-hmm. Now, um, um, which is, I don't know, just, I just, it just became, uh, one of my favourite words.

I've got some notes here. Uhuh. Um, I, I like to use word **cracking**, uhuh as in Great. Yeah. Fantastic. As in, fantastic. So a **cracking** day or a **cracking** tune or something like that. Mm-hmm. Um, also, um,

Claire | Kilted English: and these are kind of words that you would never learn until you Oh, no. You went to Scotland or even in the UK Right.

Peter: Unless you watch, I don't know. Trainspotting, right? Yeah. Yeah. Um, uh, "**blether**" is quite a nice word. Yeah. In that's for a chat. Mm-hmm. You know? Mm-hmm. Um, um, also in school, uh, like we, we use, uh oh. Um, I don't know from time to time like "**wing it**."

Claire | Kilted English: Okay. To wing something like to not prepare for it.

Peter: Yeah. Like kind of we're gonna improvise and see how it goes.

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah. That's just beautiful.

Claire | Kilted English: I think that's okay. It's not a, Scots word is not, it's definitely, uh, from, a word from the UK, but Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. So to wing something like

Peter: I, I hear it. I hear it a lot. Mm-hmm. Um, there is another two, if I may.

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah, of course.

Peter: I've only heard that last year.

Mm-hmm. And I didn't know that word, **sprog**.

Claire | Kilted English: Oh, okay. For a child?

Peter: Yeah. As, yeah, as in a child. So one of the, one of the women I work with. So how, how is, how is your **sprog** now? Yeah, yeah, yeah. What's that? What's that like? Uh, what are you asking me? Your child. Oh, okay. Fine. Yeah, so it's interesting how you can, you can.

You can be in a country for a long time. Mm-hmm. And people can still surprise you, right? Yeah. And you think, oh, I've never heard about that. And Scots, I think just like English, but, and it's interesting that it's, it's Scots. Mm-hmm. entangled into English. And people just, just use it.

Claire | Kilted English: And I think they don't know that they're using Scots, you know?

Peter: Which is even better. I don't mind that. Absolutely. Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Claire | Kilted English: But you know, there'll be words that people will use. And people from England won't know what that, that word means. Mm-hmm. And then you have to explain yourself, and you have to think, okay, I know that I'm speaking a different language.

Right. Although I don't know it, I'm speaking a different language. It's, I think it's, yeah.

Peter: But again, that's, that's, that's probably the part of your **identity**. Like, like, like I said at the beginning, you know, I made a. And I, I wasn't even conscious about it. So you just basically use it because that's the way you were born or raised and Um-huh.

That's what you've heard. Yeah. Uh, and through your life.

Claire | Kilted English: And you think it's your normal, right? Yeah. It's your normal.

Peter: Yeah, it is normal,

Claire | Kilted English: but even for you to get to the level of English that you have and be in a country and live in that community and feel that **identity**. And still you're learning. It's amazing.

Peter: Oh, yeah, yeah. That, that is going to be until I die. Mm-hmm. I think you'll never exhaust that. Mm-hmm. You know, it's always be, and this is what probably fascinates me, because it's a never ending journey. Mm-hmm. And you being surprised. Mm-hmm. If you like I have a certain love for language. I've always been fascinated by languages.

Mm-hmm. Not only English, but I think English is, again, I'm gonna say maybe something **controversial**, but I think English, especially on the Scottish side. Sorry, another **controversial** thing, in my opinion, anyway, I think it's one of the most beautiful languages in the world. Mm-hmm. And I don't find it easy.

If someone says that English is easy, I would mm-hmm. I would, I would challenge that. Mm-hmm. But again, it's my personal opinion. Mm-hmm. Um,

Claire | Kilted English: in what way do you find it beautiful though? Like, 'cause uh,

Peter: oh, I mean, it's. The,

Claire | Kilted English: the range of vocabulary or,

Peter: uh, no. It's about, it's, it's languages are always about one thing for me.

Mm-hmm. It's the, it is the music. Mm. Uh, I'm a musician as well, so I, I don't know. It must be something within my hearing. Yeah. I just, I just love the way it sounds. Mm-hmm. I just, and you see when I was, when I was picking up the language mm-hmm. Or English from movies. Yeah. I would learn, first of all, I would learn the way it sounds.

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. The music. Yeah. And then, uh, as I was kind of growing up, uh, my, my understanding of English mm-hmm became better and better and better, especially when I moved over to Scotland and I started maybe to be a bit disappointed with certain lyrics from certain, you know, songs because you begin to understand, it's like, oh God, that's terrible.

Claire | Kilted English: But the, the **melody** sounds good, right?

Peter: Yeah. The **melody**. You know, and you know, you, you would know yourself like when we moved from Edinburgh, right? Mm-hmm. Uh, towards Glasgow. Mm-hmm. And

my daughter went to the nursery, right? Mm-hmm. And then she came back and started. Having that **melody** and, and her, it was like, oh, that's great.

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. That's absolutely great.

Claire | Kilted English: It's really different.

Peter: It's, uh, and I, you know, it's, it's, I could just listen to it for hours and hours and hours. Mm-hmm. I love the **melody** of certain languages and I think English on the Scottish side is absolutely one of the most beautiful.

Claire | Kilted English: I think as well with that kind of musical background as well, you can hear, uh, different pronunciations of different words that we might have.

'cause I think you're able to produce them as well. Like you've got, I would say your accent is quite, uh, similar to a Scottish accent. Like I think that, as you said before mm-hmm. You don't sound like a Polish English speaker. Do you know what I mean? I think, I think that you're. You've gone beyond the kind of, uh, what's the word I'm looking for: proficiency. You know, like you're, you know, the language, but you're actually diving into act, how to pronounce each of those words in the local dialect, local accent as well. I think it's, it's great. It's really good. Thank you. It's really good. Yeah. Yeah. You should proud of yourself.

Peter: Well, I am, thank you. Yeah. Um, that's great. That's great. Um, yeah, so it is definitely, definitely the music of the language mm-hmm. That, that, um, I just fell in love with. Mm-hmm. And you would know, um, you know, the more north you go mm-hmm. The more interesting it gets. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Um,

Claire | Kilted English: and all the, all the different accents all over.

Peter: Yeah. Yeah. And again, just, um, it is, it is fascinating thing. And I'll tell you one more thing. Mm-hmm. 'cause I, I've heard that, um, many times, um, and. From Polish people, Uhhuh and from, uh, from, from kind of locals there that I seems to be a nicer person when I speak English. Oh, okay. Okay. Um,

Claire | Kilted English: do you feel that?

Peter: Uh, yes. Okay. Yeah. And there is a, there's a difference sometimes the way I speak to my daughter in Polish, Uhhuh and the way I speak to my daughter in English, Uhhuh, okay. I think English is in its nature, it's, it's just, I don't know, it's a bit more polite.

Mm-hmm. But this is, again, like you've just talked about, diving in a bit deeper.

Uhhuh Uhhuh. This is where it just, when you begin to analyze that language, you can still be polite and be mm-hmm. You know, there is a language behind the language. Mm-hmm. There's a meaning behind certain words. Right? Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. I've just, you know, when we talked about that post, uh, podcast, I, I just thought about how, how people, I don't know if they do it in England, but in Scotland.

Exactly. Oh, he was alright. Mm-hmm. And you think when you don't know, you think somewhere average in the middle, but in Scots, you know, the more it's like, oh, it was alright. Yeah. And the kind of broader, the language uhhuh, the the, the accent. Yeah. The more they like it. Exactly. Um, the another thing is very interesting.

I had to learn that, uh, it took me a while and it's like, 'cause I also sell pictures and people just look at it and say, so what you think about that? Mm-hmm. That's interesting.

Mm-hmm. So, which means they're not interested in that. They're trying to tell you. I'm not a big fan of it. So again, you know, if you just have to pick up those kind of social clues, it's,

Claire | Kilted English: but they're not, it's not a clue.

Peter: No, no. But no, it's not. But again, if you, I think it's a very interesting way of saying, do you know what? I'm gonna say it. Sorry. It's shite, but without saying it, it's shite. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Claire | Kilted English: I think, um, well, I, I live in Poland now and like I think I've seen the change in my husband. He can watch this podcast later and that's okay.

Tell me what I think. But I've seen the change in my husband in terms of the, how direct he can be. Mm-hmm. Like, he's always been quite direct. I think it's in his nature and his culture and his, uh, culture from being from Poland. You're, you're a bit more direct than. Than, uh, people in the UK are, but I think, uh, yeah, he's become more direct and I find it, coming from my culture. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. It's really hard. It's really hard sometimes.

Peter: Yeah. It's, it is, it is, it is hard for me to go back to Poland. Mm-hmm. Yeah. It is. I must admit mm-hmm. That, that kind of directness and mm. Um, let's just leave it there. Directness of, of the language.

Claire | Kilted English: I, I think there's, he's not trying to be horrible.

He's just saying his opinion. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Whereas we would just, in the UK, um, I don't want to say we, and they, but you know, the kind of different cultures. In Scotland, we are just a bit more gentle and we'll think about maybe what the person wants to hear. Yeah. First,

Peter: most of you are Yes. I would say, I mean, yeah, everybody. So like, like, like everybody, right. But yeah. But there is this kind of consideration in the language that is, you know, **imprinted** into you as a person and into language that you use. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. And you kind of. Yes. Yes. So would you, could you, should you maybe Yeah. Uh, you know, things like that. Yeah. I think it is in Polish language, but I think, um, we just,

Claire | Kilted English: it's not used as much, right. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Interesting. Yeah. Yeah. So, let's think about people who want to go to Scotland who might not be, um, uh, native English speakers. They've never been to Scotland before. What advice would you give them in terms of the language? Um.

Peter: Watch Braveheart, Uhhuh, uh, and then, um, watch Braveheart again. Yeah.

Claire | Kilted English: And then trainspotting,

Peter: uh, yeah, leave transpotting for later on. Yeah. Yeah. Because you may change your tickets after using it. Uh, after watching it. And, uh, see, it's not an easy question, I think.

I think, I'm just gonna say it from my own perspective. Mm-hmm. The, the way I, I kind of, I don't, I don't wanna say dealt with it because it wasn't a challenge. Mm-hmm. It was, is it's always been a pleasure. Mm-hmm. And when I go back to Scotland I'm coming home mm-hmm. Um, without even thinking about it. Mm-hmm. I think it's about having this. Be open-minded. Mm-hmm. Have your mind open and have your heart open. Mm-hmm. And this is extremely, extremely important to me anyway. Mm-hmm. And you mentioned that,

uh, three minutes ago. Then when you have this open and that open, you stop categorizing people. They, and that and, and, and we, we, we, yeah.

So, and I, I, I, I don't tend to see things as. Uh, better and worse. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. I, I, I just tend to think of things as different. Yeah. And I'm thinking, why are they different? Mm-hmm. And why people are doing things the way they do. Why people speak the way they do. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Claire | Kilted English: Um, that's the interesting thing for me.

Peter: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Um, so is is definitely different to what you, uh, have heard mm-hmm. You know, language wise. And I think, uh, it is just for me as someone who's passionate about languages mm-hmm. Um, that would be one of the first destinations I would, I would go to. Mm-hmm. Even if you're not a big fan of Scottish accent. Mm-hmm. But, oh boy, you just have to experience that. Mm-hmm. Because, you know, there are some most beautiful accents you can, even on the street, right? Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. And, and sometimes, even if you don't, sometimes again, I like, I must admit. There are moments when, you know, I've been there for the 15 years. Mm-hmm. I, you know, I'm, I'm walking down I don't know, Leith Walk, right? Mm-hmm. And someone says something to me and I thought. Wait, what?

Claire | Kilted English: Happens to me too, you know? So,

Peter: and, and again, I'm not taking this experience as something negative. I'm taking this experience as, oh wow. Mm-hmm. You know, I would love to stop and say, you know, can you say it slowly? And sometimes someone says that slowly and then I think

Claire | Kilted English: you're fine.

Peter: No, repeat it again. Okay. Right. And, and, and, you know, sometimes I'm fine. Mm-hmm. And sometimes, um, sometimes I am, I am not fine. Yeah. And well, maybe that's, that's, that's. Uh, that's something that I could advise, you know? Mm-hmm. It is okay not to know.

Yeah. Mm-hmm. You know, it is. Okay. And, and I think Scots are, are fantastic people, and if you tell them mm-hmm. You know, sorry, I'm not from here. Mm-hmm. Could you kind of

slow down a little bit? Mm-hmm. Um, I don't see why they shouldn't. Yeah. And they would. Yeah. And they would. 'cause I've had, you know, so many occasions on which I said.

Yeah. Yeah. Mate, you need to slow down there a little bit because I've got no idea what you're talking about. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Claire | Kilted English: And I think in general, people are quite helpful if people Oh, yeah. Say they're, I don't, I don't know what you're saying. Or they look like they don't know what you're saying. People try to go a bit slower.

Peter: Yeah, yeah. True.

Claire | Kilted English: Say something in a different way. Way. Absolutely. Yes. Not always, but yeah. Trying

Peter: sometimes even too, you know. Too helpful. I know, I know you've lived in Glasgow for 30 years. Just, yeah. Yeah. Um, yeah, yeah. Oh, absolutely. And just as I say, it's, um, just kind of throw yourself in, I think. Mm-hmm. Um, and even if you don't understand it, like the way I look at it again, I just love to **absorb** that. Mm-hmm. Just kind of take it in. Mm-hmm. Take it in, take it in. Um, and, and again, just it, it's a, it's a fantastic journey. Um,

Claire | Kilted English: and you're still on it.

Peter: Uh oh, absolutely. Yeah. Absolutely. Um. Cool. Good. Yeah. Come to Scotland.

Claire | Kilted English: Good. Yeah. Yeah.

Peter: can I just say, because we, I've got two situations. Sure. Oh yeah. So maybe we never touched some stories about communicating in Scotland. So, I'm a teacher, uh, like yeah. The first one is, um, something to do with school. Uhhuh. I was, uh, part of curriculum in Scotland is teaching older kids mm-hmm. About, uh, sexually transmitted infections. Mm-hmm. STIs. Mm-hmm. STDs, they call 'em sometimes as well. Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Claire | Kilted English: So sexually transmitted diseases. Diseases or infections. Yeah.
Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Peter: I think they, they've changed it into infections. Mm-hmm. Sounds better. Yeah. Okay.
Mm-hmm. Or maybe they just use it both. Use, use both of them. Um, so yeah, so it, and it,
from that, I just, it happened to me. Mm-hmm. And since then, I've been really paying
attention in my head. Okay. What I say and how I say. And it's just more like a grammar
thing, right? Than the Scots Uhuh. And I had the class in front of me and I said, okay, so.
What we're gonna do is, um, I'm gonna, uh, guys, uh, divide you into groups and, um, uh,
each group is gonna get an STI from me, and I just couldn't get why everyone's laughing.
They just could not start, stop laughing. Just they were like absolutely in stitches, right?

Claire | Kilted English: Well, you would be right. Like, yeah.

Peter: And I just, needless to say like, I couldn't finish that lesson right, because he said Mr.
C. You, you are a classic, right? We've never heard anything like that, so, so obviously, yes.
I was absolutely paranoid when I got home because I thought, Ooh, you know, what are
they going to say if their parents are gonna ask them? What is it that you were doing in
R.E.? Where do I start? So now I just need to think about, you know, like, okay, you're gonna
get. A description of STI or what each STI is

Claire | Kilted English: on piece paper.

Peter: On a piece of paper, and then each group is going to, you know, work with it and
then, you know, and so on and so on, right. Uh, but yeah, it's like a little lesson. And again,
like from what I, you know, going back to what I said, I could have taken it as. You know, I'm
a teacher and I'm never, I'm never wrong, you know? Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. But even from,
you know, 16, 17, 18-year-old kids, uh, you can learn a lot. Yeah. And I've learned tons
mm-hmm. Of language, right? Mm-hmm. Little words that kind of get you, uh, let you
survive in high school.

Claire | Kilted English: And I think as well with younger people, the language. Uh, is
developing faster with them mm-hmm. Than with other age groups. Yeah. So you working
with them so directly, yeah. It's gonna have a massive, yeah. Know what, you probably
learn more that language than me.

Peter: I dunno. I dunno. You, I don't know. You could come. I don't, I don't mind. Um, but do you know what's really, really beautiful as well? Uh, in working with young people, they don't tend to be that **judgemental**. Mm. Even if you make a mistake. Mm-hmm. Some of them, obviously, you know, it's not a paradise where every kid is absolutely fantastic. It's not. Mm-hmm. But some of them just don't pay attention. Mm-hmm. You know, because they have friends from all over the world. Yeah. And most of them are developing their English, you know? Yeah. Yeah. And they want to communicate, they want to connect. Mm-hmm. And it doesn't matter mm-hmm. Whether you make a mistake or not. Yeah. Um, and some of them just, they just don't care. Mm-hmm. And you can use it as your own advantage. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Um, so yeah, that's, that the, the second bit. Mm-hmm. I used to work in a care home and I was helping, uh. An elderly person to get dressed and at some point, uh, she goes, eh, um, uh, you need to pull my breeks up, son. Mm-hmm. And immediately I started looking at the walls.

Claire | Kilted English: Bricks. Brick. Okay.

Peter: And I'm thinking, Uhhuh what brick? I mean, there's no bricks here. And she goes, no, no, son. My breeks. My breeks. Yeah. And she obviously meant pants, right? Trousers as in trousers, right? Yeah. And again, you know, just all different things, just that could have got me in trouble. Like I was given someone personal care and I said I had wellies on, and I said to her, do you like my willies? Yeah. Oh, well I wouldn't say that I was you, but again, you know, she just knew that my English was not good enough at that time. And she was like, yeah, Peter, you know, I'm just gonna say. To you, uh, justwell. The willies know. Yeah, yeah, yeah. And again, like we, we talked about it earlier on, um, I had two kids in the classroom and one of, one of them was Taylor and the other one was Tyler. Mm-hmm. And to, to, to hear the difference between Taylor and Tyler. Yeah. Especially when, where there is that kinda strong accent on the top of it, people go better, Taylor and Tyler. Yeah. Yeah. Um, it's just difficult, but again. Because of my love for that language. Mm-hmm. I just thought that's quite fascinating. Yeah. I want to learn that. That's amazing and I wanna be good at it. Yeah. So, yeah, just fantastic a wee story.

Claire | Kilted English: That's great. And uh, no, I was just gonna say that you're. Yeah, you're inspirational in the way you've, uh,

Peter: thank you

Claire | Kilted English: tackled the language. 'cause it's tricky. And then, well, the language of English is tricky. And then we added the extra Scottishness on the top as well on you.

Peter: I like to play with language. Mm-hmm. And, you know, I think I get, um, I, I, you know, my English is not perfect and will never be, but I'm not looking for perfection. Mm-hmm. I'm looking to have fun with it. Yeah. You know, I want to use it naturally. Like I use it with my, with my daughter at the moment. Like, we switch quite a lot. Yeah. Um, and I just want to have fun. Yeah. Using it. Um, so

Claire | Kilted English: I think as well, like for me, teaching English, it's not about being perfect. Mm-hmm. It's about getting your message across. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. And, uh, some students I have are very **hesitant** in, in, in putting the words out because they think they're gonna make a mistake. But it doesn't matter. You're gonna make a mistake. I make mistakes all the time as well. Mm-hmm. So it doesn't actually matter if you make the mistake, you're just trying to, if you make a mistake, you, but you still, you get the message across that you want to. Mm-hmm. That's your goal. Yeah. Yeah. Ticked off. Right.

Peter: Also another advice. Mm-hmm. Try not to focus too much on grammar. Mm-hmm. You know, just get on with it. Yeah. Just. Just take it and try to repeat what other people say. Mm-hmm. Good luck when you're going down Leith, right? Leith Walk or other places too. Yeah. Yeah. Or other places too. Mm-hmm. Niddrie or, you know, if you go to Glasgow mm-hmm. Um, yeah. But just don't think about, oh, is just, is this uh, an adjective or is this the right form? Is this the right tense? Um, yes. The more naturally you come, uh, towards language, the more it kind of becomes your, your, your reality. Mm-hmm. If, if, if you know what I'm trying to say.

Claire | Kilted English: And I think, um, yeah, just people. Probably people in Scotland don't know if it's an adjective anyway. Right?

Peter: Well, I didn't wanna say that, but since you said that. Yeah, that's true. And again, going back to what you said, it's about communicating, it's not about being correct. Yeah, exactly. Yeah. Because, you know, I, I know people who says, you know, I says, mm-hmm. Uh, I says, you know? Mm-hmm. And so on and so on. That the, yeah. Like the bell. The

bell "has the bell went?" Yeah. Has the bell went, sir. Yeah. Yeah, I know. There you go. I think it's, yeah, there you go.

Claire | Kilted English: I think it could be in the future that that is grammatically correct. It

Peter: absolutely. Yeah.

Claire | Kilted English: So many people use it. Yeah. So, yeah,

Peter: and I'm not there to correct anybody. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. I'm there to accept it. Mm-hmm. My mind is open. Yeah. That's the way we speak there. Fine. I don't care. I'm not an English teacher. Mm-hmm.

Claire | Kilted English: Well, great. Thank you so much for this.

Peter: Absolute pleasure.

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah. Thank you for coming along, and so glad that you feel like you're now Scottish.

Peter: I am. Yeah.

Claire | Kilted English: Or always have been. Who knows?

Peter: Yeah. We will never, well, I don't know. Yeah, I'm here.

Claire | Kilted English: Find out after another 10 years. We'll see. Okay. Thank you very much.

Peter: You're welcome. Okay.

Thanks, Peter. It's great to hear that you call yourself a Scot now, and so you should. Scotland is to be enjoyed by the people who live there.

I want to say a huge thank you to Peter for joining me on the podcast today, and I hope you enjoyed the show as well. What did you find most interesting about Peter's story? Tell me in the comments below.

Don't forget to subscribe for more podcasts about Scotland, its history, culture, and accents. See you next time.

Vocabulary Table

Word or Phrase	Definition	Pronunciation (British English)	Idioms or Idiomatic Phrases
Identity	The qualities, beliefs, or characteristics that make a person or group distinct	/aɪ'dentɪti/	"Crisis of identity," "Cultural identity"
Melody	A sequence of notes that is musically satisfying	/'mɛlədi/	"Sing a different melody," "Melody of life"
Mishap	An unlucky accident or mistake	/'mɪʃæp/	"Series of mishaps," "Avoid mishaps"
Subconscious	Existing or operating in the mind beneath or beyond conscious awareness	/sʌb'kɒŋjəs/	"Subconscious mind," "Subconscious motives"
Privileges	Special rights or advantages available only to a particular person or group	/'prɪvɪlɪdʒɪz/	"Enjoy privileges," "Grant privileges"
Responsibility	The state or fact of having a duty to deal with something or of having control over someone	/rɪˌspɒnsɪ'bɪləti/	"Take responsibility," "Sense of responsibility"

Cracking (adj.)	Very good, excellent	/ˈkrækɪŋ/	"Cracking good time," "Cracking party"
Blether	A long or idle chat	/ˈbleðər/	"Have a blether," "Up for a blether"
Wing it	To do something without preparation	/wɪŋ ɪt/	"Just wing it," "Wing it on the spot"
Sprog	Informal term for a child	/sprɒɡ/	"Cute little sprog," "Sprog in tow"
Judgemental	Having or displaying an excessively critical point of view	/ˈdʒʌdʒməntəl/	"Be judgemental," "Avoid judgemental attitudes"
Imprinted	Made a mark or impression on	/ɪmˈprɪntɪd/	"Imprinted on memory," "Deeply imprinted"
Controversial	Giving rise or likely to give rise to public disagreement	/ˌkɒntreɪˈvɜːʃəl/	"Controversial topic," "Controversial decision"
Absorb	Take in or soak up	/əbˈzɔːb/	"Absorb information," "Absorb the atmosphere"
Hesitant	Tentative, unsure, or slow in acting or speaking	/ˈhezɪtənt/	"Hesitant to speak," "Hesitant approach"

Kilt	A traditional Scottish skirt-like garment worn by men	/kɪlt/	"Wear a kilt," "Kilted outfit"
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