



Essa é a terceira parte da entrevista com Tim Barrett.

[Ouça e leia a primeira parte da entrevista](#)

[Ouça e leia a segunda parte da entrevista](#)

Tim talks about the importance of phrasal verbs

(Ana) It probably worked very well for them... and for many other missionaries.

(Tim) Yeah, I was describing actually our products, you know... They, it's just a... Like I said, it was, papers and... They did other things, like read and, they had to write and all that, but that was the... The backbone of their course was, was this "grupos". So we adapted that to our method, uh... you know, with our stories. That's what we did. And of course it worked because you're forced to, you know... You had to really know those sentences and say them fast, and... you didn't have time to translate, you have to really know them to be able to do that.

You asked me about the importance of phrasal verbs, right?

(Ana) Yeah.

(Tim) I'm sorry... I got...

(Ana) Ok, no problem.

(Tim) I started talking about... Ahm, well... People don't, students you know, Brazilians... A lot of them don't really realize the importance of phrasal verbs because we don't have phrasal verbs in Portuguese. You know, a lot of people think that they're slang or expressions, and some of them are slang or expressions, but a lot of them are, maybe most of them are... It's just the only way or the most common way of saying something in English.

Even some things like, for example, you could say "I desist", but I, I... Americans would never say "I desist", they'll say "I give up", right? So even if there's another way of saying it, most people would use the phrasal verb. They won't say "I'm gonna postpone something", they say "I'm gonna put it off until tomorrow" or something like that.

(Ana) Yeah... Yeah, and how would you say, like, "I usually wake up at seven o' clock", I mean how would you say it without, without...

(Tim) Yeah, you just said... exactly.

(Ana) ... without using "wake up"?

(Tim) Get up, wake up, uh... turn on... These are some basic ones that people usually know, you know. Turn on, turn off, sit down, come in... I mean, how would you say these basic sentences even, without, without phrasal verbs?

So they're, they're not... they're not something that, oh, it would be good to know... They're essential, you have to know phrasal verbs. And that's why I believe a lot of Brazilians... They'll study English, study English and then... I like to do that... I shouldn't say this now, this is gonna be published...

(Ana) No, well....

(Tim) I get, I get... Student's coming in and they say, "I speak English real well and, you know, I..." You know, almost like they're not even sure if they wanna continue studying or not, and they say... and then, so... "You know, I'm already advanced and everything". So I start using phrasal verbs with them, in our conversation. I can tell they get totally lost.

So that's one thing I really felt like, people have to realize the importance of phrasal verbs and, and... it's not just... A lot of people think "Oh, it's just slang" or it's just an expression that... some of them are, but most of them aren't.

It's like I gave examples, like the verb "run" like "correr" and then, uh... I'll say, how would you say the paper... "Acabou o papel"? I'm not talking about toilet paper, I'm talking about paper in the office... A typical office



situation. It could be toilet paper too. How would you say that? They'll say, "Oh the paper finished". But you don't say, The paper finished. If you say that it will be like uh, as if the paper was doing...

(Ana) The paper finished what it was doing....

(Tim) Yeah, exactly. The paper was working here beside me and finished, so... but, you would say like.... A phrasal verb you could use, "our paper ran out" or "we ran out of paper"... "ran out of paper". You always could say "We're out of paper" but if you wanna say "Acabou o papel", uh... "We ran out of paper". Right? Not "The paper is over", some people say "the paper is over" but that would be... "The game is over", not "the paper is over". The paper ran out, we're out of paper or we ran out of paper.

So, you know, even typical office situations or... even business English doesn't... In our emails, when people sign up to receive tips about, you know, from our site... I send them initially about ten emails just telling them about the importance of phrasal verbs and I show, for example, I give... I show them the last presidential speech... I show them how many phrasal verbs he used at his speech..

So there are formal phrasal verbs, informal... I mean it's just part of the American language.

(Ana) Yeah, yeah. I saw, you did that with that Sponge Bob cartoon.

(Tim) Yeah, that was the first minute of Sponge Bob film, the Sponge Bob film. And I think there are about, what... I don't want to exaggerate here, but five, six, seven phrasal verbs in the first minute.

(Ana) It's just really part of the language, right? It's not just something for really advanced students or for native speakers, it's just really part of the language.

(Tim) And what I do here with my students, I even... I start teaching them phrasal verbs from the start. Like, you know, of course, not the first lesson when they're learning the verb to be... but soon I start introducing it, I'll say, see that's a phrasal verb. I'll make them aware of phrasal verbs and... From the start, they have to learn just like any other vocabulary words in English, but... So, of course it's a very important function of the English language...

And I think, in my view, that's one of the reasons why Brazilians have such a hard time. They can study English for years but... they go to the States and people are using all these phrasal verbs and they get totally... they're not prepared for that, I think, a lot of times.

Tim and Tammy phrasal verb materials

(Tim) That's why I was telling about our products, I was trying to teach my students, er... like a phrasal verb a week, but it's just so hard to know how to use it. That's why we made these stories so, so... they can just remember the story and... the phrasal verbs just show up at the right time, at the right moment when they're supposed to be used. So that's the idea of learning of course these phrasal verbs.

(Ana) Yeah, I mean, it's the best way 'cause, you know, before I started talking to you here about an hour ago I was thinking... Tim has so many products, they have so many products that are about phrasal verbs but then, you know... They have conversations, they have natural conversations in English and then, you know... they point out where the phrasal verbs are. I mean, it's not just that they're presenting a list of phrasal verbs...

(Tim) Exactly.

(Ana) It's just natural conversation and phrasal verbs... they just show up naturally.

(Tim) Just everyday conversation. 'Cause these characters are living these experiences and just... the phrasal verbs... I'm very careful, I had a book of phrasal verbs that someone actually gave me but, er, they had these stories but they were real corny stories but... And they forced these phrasal verbs into it, so unnaturally so... "I'm gonna go home and I'm gonna run over... I'm going to get run over by a car", you know? Just trying to force these phrasal verbs in there. I really strive to make these stories real natural and these phrasal verbs have to show up real naturally in the stories.

But a lot of people, they'll see our products, they think "Oh, list of phrasal verbs with A, list of phrasal verbs with B"... it's not that at all. They're stories where these phrasal verbs... Actually if they didn't know... I've played them for... My uncle was here in January and I played it for him. You know, these stories. They didn't even realize I was teaching phrasal verbs in the stories. They just thought they were cute stories, you know,



nice stories. And I said, but you noticed all the phrasal verbs with a certain letter?

So I try to make sure that it's not something that we're forcing these phrasal verbs, they just, they just come, show up naturally, come up during the conversations and... so that's very important.

But then of course, if they remember that story, like this last one, this latest one I sent you about the adventure at Loch Ness, they just, they just remember "Oh, remember they were there, he used this phrasal verb and that one" in different parts of the story. When they decided to go, one of the characters always "jumps at" any opportunity to be part of an adventure, so "jump at" would be a phrasal verb with J.

One of our characters is a little dragon, he's called, his name is Firepop the dragon. And that's another thing: although they're, these fanciful characters, they're really... it's not, it's for advanced students, at least intermediate to advanced students. If you see the stories, it's very advanced English.

We had to use these characters so we could make up these adventures and everything so we can use it. If we just, say, had everything in a business setting, we would be very limited to what we could do and how much we could teach.

But, er... so, you know, don't be fooled by these characters... one's a dragon and he's always a troublemaker... a little dragon.

(Ana) Oh yeah, they're not kid stories, they're for... yeah, I know, serious learners.

(Tim) So he (Firepop), they didn't want him to go along, but he said he wanted to go along because he was the only one that spoke Scottish. And the other ones... "How did you learn Scottish?" And he said, "It's hard work but you (can learn) a language if you keep at it". "Keep at", so there's another phrasal verb, it's K.

So... of course then they told him that they speak English in Scotland but...

(Ana) That's what's so great about your stories... and how many, how many stories do you have so far, I mean... do you call them... How many products...

(Tim) Er, installments let's call them, or... Well, A, B, C, D, E-F-G, get, we did one just with phrasal verbs with get. You can imagine how many... I think there were, we used...

(Ana) Yeah, you could do a whole series with get...

(Tim) We used fifty just in our story with get. Get, H-I, J-K. We have nine of the phrasal verb series and then we have a Christmas story too where a lot of expressions, phrasal verbs showed up in a Christmas setting but that we only make available during the Christmas season. So we have ten right now.

(Ana) So, everyone, to get Tim's products, Tim and Tammy, go to timandtammy.com

(Tim) Thank you! Thanks for the plug.

(Ana) Yeah, to see all the great products, lots of audio, natural conversation, natural speech, and lots of practice available.

(Tim) Thank you.

Frequent practice makes all the difference

(Ana) So is there anything else you wanna say to Inglês Online readers? Tips for, I don't know, for online students, people who like to access the Internet, what would you recommend? I don't know, anything...

(Tim) I'd just say, keep plugging away at your studies, there's a phrasal verb, plugging away – working hard. Make sure, whatever you do, make sure you enjoy it, that it's fun... I have students that say, "I hate English", and I say, well that's because you... I say, that's because you don't understand it yet. I say, once you start understanding it, then it's gonna start expand your world, you're gonna see things in a different way, it'll open your mind, open up opportunities...

What's important is that they just take steps every day towards their goal. Take a least, no matter how small... you know, get on Inglês Online every day, that'll get them on the right mindset for learning English. Just read your blog entry every day. You know, even simple things, I tell students, just basic things.

I can tell it when a student just goes over his lesson for the next class, right? Just reads the dialogues again,



or listens to the dialogues and repeats them, I can tell. If a student just puts in a little bit of work from one class to the next, from one week to the next, I can tell immediately.

But make sure it's fun, make sure you're enjoying it, it's not a burden, you know...

(Ana) I know, you're reminding me of my piano lessons when I was a, when I was a little girl...

(Tim) I, I played the piano too... exactly.

(Ana) Yeah, my teacher, you know, my teacher, she could always tell I had not done my lessons...

(Tim) I know....

(Ana) Thanks Tim, that was a great interview.

(Tim) Thank you!

(Ana) Thank you so much, it was great having you here. Everybody, once again, this was Tim Barret from Tim and Tammy Teach. To access their website go to www.timandtammy.com OK Tim, thanks again...

(Tim) Thank you Ana, I appreciate that. Thank you very much.