

# FFCC Podcast Transcript: Student Spotlight- Paola

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**Here's some advice on how to use the podcast and transcript:**

1. Listen to the podcast and see how much you can understand. Is it 50%? 70%? The percentage doesn't matter. Just make a note of it.
2. Try to summarize the conversation. You can think about it, say it out loud, or write it down.
3. Read the transcript. Do you understand more now that you can read the words? How accurate was your summary?
4. Listen and follow the transcript, so you can hear the difference between how English is pronounced vs. how it is written
5. Note any words or expressions that you did not understand. Add these to your vocabulary list in your English notebook and make flashcards so that you can study them and grow your vocabulary.
6. Write down any questions you have about the new words or expressions so that you can ask about them during FFCC.
7. Go back and listen again. How much do you understand now?
8. Repeat this process as much as you'd like.
9. Feel free to use this as a topic of conversation with your discussion partner!

## **Faster Fluency Conversation Club Podcast: Student Spotlight- Paola**

Welcome to the Faster Fluency Conversation Club podcast by Business English with Christina. The Faster Fluency Conversation Club takes place on Zoom and is a way for you to improve your fluency and confidence in English by talking about real world topics. We meet for one hour every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday and we would love you to join us. If you want to practice your English, become more confident and meet people just like you from all around the world and have guidance from my expert teachers and me, just click in the show notes. Our podcast listeners receive a 50% discount on the first month of membership with the discount code FFCC50. Come and join us today.

# Faster Fluency Conversation Club

Christina:

Hi everyone, Christina here with the Faster Fluency Conversation Club podcast. I hope you are all doing very, very well and taking care of yourself. Today is a special episode because it's a student **spotlight** episode where we bring on a member of, uh, Faster Fluency Conversation Club. So you can get to know them better so they can share their experience learning English. And you can see that, you know, maybe if you're struggling with English, if you had questions and, and all of that stuff, you can see that there are lots of other people just like you. And today we have Paola with us. Paola, how are you doing today?

Paola:

I'm doing well. Thank you. And you?

Christina:

Well, very well. I'm super excited to have you on the podcast. Um, thank you. As I said before we started recording, thank you very much for volunteering to come on. Um, I'm very excited about this. So let's get started. Um, Paola would you like to introduce yourself, tell us a little bit about you and where you live and the basics?

Paola:

Yes. My name is Paola. I'm currently living in Guadeloupe for 23 years now and, I'm Italian, but I started learning French at 11 years old. When I come to Guadeloupe I built a little hotel with my husband and then we start receiving people for our job. During the last ten years I need to speak English because English-speaking people came from USA, Germany, a lot of stranger don't speak French. So, uh, I need to improve my English. Um, I, started, um, learning English when I was in high school, but I never used, um, the language because I don't, I didn't need it. So when I went my first time, I went to Florida in, uh, in 2008. Yeah. I didn't understand anything.

Christina:

Sure. Right. And it's, it's not, it's not easy to understand Americans like in the US, I think. Yes. Yeah.

Paola:

And, uh, when I come back, uh, I start, uh, listening the video on YouTube with English subtitles. A lot. Yeah. And then, uh, the next year I started, I started, uh, understanding better English.

Christina:

Okay. Yea.

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Paola:

Yeah. So I decided to, to continue on this way and, uh, I improve a lot, my listen. But, uh, as, as I didn't speak, I try to find another way to, to speak with people. And I start going to English for English course online, uh, with my (inaudible), in French. Yeah.

Christina:

Right.

Paola:

Um, I had, um, 60 hours with a private coach.

Christina:

Right.

Paola:

It was interesting because there was, there were teacher from, uh, America, from, uh, UK, too.

Christina:

Yeah.

Paola:

Most of them were American cause of, uh, my timeframe

Christina:

I'm **time zone**. Yeah.

Paola:

Time zone. But, um, it was interesting and I improve a lot because I, I took the course three, three days a week. And, uh, at the end of the course, I was, uh, speaking better. But, um, but uh, with the COVID I lost a little bit because I didn't speak with anybody.

Christina:

Yeah. Cause yeah. Cause I imagine if you, if you, cause you had a hotel and so COVID meant no, no clients...

Paola:

Right. Correct. And so I, I, as I was watching your videos for a long time yeah. Uh, when you were in a room alone with a camera...

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Christina:

Right? Yep. Yep. I remember those days. Yeah.

Paola:

But I, I, I found, uh, your video very interesting. And so I decided to contact you for the FCC club and

Christina:

OK. Yeah. And, and you you've been in FFCC for, um, for a long time. I believe now. Yes.

Paola:

I start in starting March last March.

Christina:

Okay. All right. Yeah. So several months

Paola:

I renewing at the end of my course, cause I, I like it.

Christina:

Oh, thank you. <laugh>

Paola:

And um, Karyn was my teacher, private teacher, private coach. It was very good for me because she was looking for my interest and yeah. Um, I like a lot in working for her.

Christina:

Mm oh, good. I'm I'm Karyn will probably hear this on the podcast, so yeah. I'm sure she'll be very excited to hear that.

Paola:

Yeah. And, um, the club is good because we, I can speak with the different people, uh, different accent. Mm. And I, I like it a lot.

Christina:

OK. Yeah. No, it's, that's, I I'm, I'm glad to hear it. And I think, you know, just talking with a lot of people, um, in FFCC, they say they like the, the, the possibility to like to talk with people from different countries, with different accents, you know, and, and get to connect with people around

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the world, I would say. Yeah. Yeah. No, I'm, I'm glad to hear that. You're also enjoying that. Um, and maybe like, you know, when you started your English lessons, I mean, English lessons with, with us or, or with the company that you were with before, um, like what was the, I guess the, the thing that made you say like now is the time for me to start doing some English lessons

Paola:

For the first time it was because, uh, the beginning I, was compelled to speak with English people at my hotel so I needed this. And FFCC club was because in the beginning, I would like to move to Florida. But right now, it's not cancelled, but it's postponed because there are some difficulties for the visa and so on.

Christina:

And it's kind of complicated right now. I think. Yeah.

Paola:

It's still my goal, maybe not right now, but next year maybe, maybe, we'll see.

Christina:

Yeah. Uh, and that's interesting. So you said you, um, yeah, you went to Florida, then you decided you would like to move there one day, let's say in, in the future. And I, I hope that happens for you. Um, what is it I'm just curious to know, like what's like what, what is it that attracted you to, I don't know if it's the United States in general or if it's Florida specifically, but, um, yeah. What's, what's the motivation behind that goal?

Paola:

Mmm..because in Florida we met some people from different countries, like French, Italian, German. Yeah. And, um, I think there is, there, there is a melting pot of people and it's easier to connect with them because when I... the first time I went to America it was in Pennsylvania. And it was in the rural area and people was, uh, more, um, yeah, they was friendly, but not as in Florida.

Christina:

Not maybe not so open perhaps. Yeah.

Paola:

Uh, so I, I enjoyed these, uh, these people and we stay in touch, stay in touch for several years. Before we went there, um, seven years **in a row** for vacation. So we met always the same people and enjoyed.

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Christina:

OK. No interesting. Yeah. And I think, I think you're right. Yeah. It's, it's like, like you said, in Florida, there's people, um, yeah, Florida, it's kind of like California, it attracts people from many different areas, you know, different countries, but different regions of the US as well. And so it's almost like everybody is a, a foreigner. Yes. So maybe, maybe that means they're more **open to** meeting other people. **Whereas** like rural Pennsylvania, I imagine is not the most diverse, um, no region of the United States. Yeah. Right. Very interesting. Um, and I would say maybe what is it that you enjoy about, um, about, maybe about FFCC, but about learning English in general?

Paola:

I enjoy because I like, uh, languages in general. Uh, when I was, uh, younger, I always thought about, um, languages. Yeah. And then my life was different because life is always [inaudible]

Christina:

Right there. There's an expression I heard the other day. Sorry. I, I, I know I just interrupted you, but it's a very interesting expression. I heard it's um, life is what happens to you when your plans don't happen. So it's, so it's like you plan for things and then life happens and yeah. And that's life. So, okay. So sorry. I, I interrupted you.

Paola:

No. No. I never imagined my, when I was younger to move to Guadeloupe for example. I enjoy a lot to stay here. But now it's time to **move on** and change our life.

Christina:

Exactly. No, I, I think I like, I like that, um, that **outlook** it's like, you know, okay. I had my time in, in France or in Italy, I have my time in Guadeloupe. Uh, and now it's time for the, the next chapter of your life, whatever that will be. Okay. Very nice. Very nice. And I think maybe that's a, a good place to, to end our conversation for today. Um, whatever the next chapter holds for you, I definitely hope it is what you want. Uh, and if it's not what you want, I hope it's something even better. So thank you very much, Paola, for being a guest on the, uh, the Faster Fluency Conversation Club podcast, sharing a bit of your life with us. Um, and I'm sure lots of people in FFCC will want to talk to you about all of that. So thank you very much.

Paola:

Thank you very much for having me.

Christina:

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Yep. My pleasure. Talk to you soon!

**Click [here](#) and join the club! We're looking forward to speaking with you soon!**

Thank you for listening again this week. As a bonus for our listeners, we now offer the transcript of this episode for free so you can read after listening. Our goal is to help you improve all aspects of your English. And when you become a member of the Faster Fluency Conversation Club, each week you also get exercises on grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and more directly connected to the topic of the conversation each week. In addition to the daily speaking practice in the club, you'll also make friends around the world with professionals just like you so you have fun learning and remember what you learned better. And because you listen to this podcast, you get a 50% discount on your first month of membership. Just use the code FFCC50. And if you'd like to join the club, the link for more details is in the show notes for this podcast. We hope to see you in the club.