

## 131. Rickipedia

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Hello Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to another episode of Luke's English podcast. In this one, my parents are here in Paris visiting for the weekend, and so I thought, it would be a perfect opportunity to sit down with my Dad, for about an hour, and interview him. And just answer various questions which you, the listeners, have sent in to Luke's English Podcast via the facebook page. Now, I'll go into to that in a moment but...

**Luke:** Dad, are you having a nice weekend here?

**Rick:** Bonjour Luke. Yes, I'm having a very good time, thank you very much. We've been along the left bank of the river Seine. We've been to Notre Dame, and the weather is nice, and it is really great to be here in Paris.

**L:** can I start asking you actually Dad, whereabouts you come from? Where do you come from in the UK exactly?

**R:** Well, I was born in the city of Leeds, which is in the North of England, it's in the big country of Yorkshire and... but I was brought up, in my teenage years, in South London. So I'm originally from Yorkshire but I was brought up in London.

**L:** OK. do you have an accent? No, I don't really. I mean, I... When I was little I did have a Yorkshire accent. It's quite a strong accent.

**L:** What does it sound like?

**R:** It's got flat vowels. It's, you know, ' okay – oop north ' the vowels are all flat. That's right, I've heard that. So if in the... I can't do a Yorkshire accent.

**R:** It's very difficult to do a Yorkshire accent, even though I'm trying to. I mean, it turns out to be more like Liverpool which is completely different but I did have an accent whatever it is like. When I was at school, and of course I was teased when I moved to South London because it

was a strong accent, and that's why I got rid of it.

**L:** It's interesting that thing about Yorkshire accent, having flat vowel sounds. If you know anything about phonetics you'll know that there're sort of two types of vowel sounds. You got single vowels sound, or monophthongs, and then double vowels sound, diphthongs. So diphthongs are things like "au", "ear", things like that.

**R:** Yeah the vowel changes it's quality as you say it.

**L:** Yes, like two vowels "Ear" or "au", things like that. I heard a theory that in some parts of the North of England there aren't so many diphthongs. That's what you mean by flat vowel sounds.

**R:** That is exactly what I mean, yes. So in Yorkshire it's particularly pronounced that you don't move your mouth as you say a vowel. It stays the same. For example, you know, we say "bath" in the north that's supposed to "bath", and we say path that's supposed to path. But also, if you say... in the South England you would say "right" as suppose to right, OK. Right is changing as you say it -right-

**L:** Diphthong "i"...

**L,R:**...right.

**R:** But in Yorkshire, they'll all don't say right...

**L:** Right.

**R:**...and it won't change, "right".

**02:58**

**L:** So it's not "ai" but "ah"right. Interesting that, very interesting. The bath and bath thing, it's not so much a diphthong, more just short vowel sound and a long vowel sound.

**R:** Yes.

**L:** Bath- bath, I've talked about that before. It's a... It's a distinction between north and south in England. Those two sounds. Anyway, on Luke's English podcast, the facebook page, yesterday, I wrote this status update inviting my listeners to ask questions, which I would then pose to my Dad Rick, and the status update goes like this.

*"Hello listeners,*

*I'm with my Dad this weekend and tomorrow, I'm going to ask him for... I'm going to interview him for the podcast. Would you like to ask him some questions? Please add your questions for*

*my Dad here. His knowledge is encyclopedic but slightly unreliable. So, he is like Wikipedia, but I call him Rickipedia because his name is Rick. So please send us your questions for Rickipedia”.*

And as we stand now, on Sunday, there are thirty questions here, and we're not going to be able to deal with all of them. In fact, after about the first fifteen questions I did write a comment saying, *"That's it! We've had enough questions. Please, stop”.*

But the questions kept rolling in. In fact, they're still coming in now, as we do this. So, we're not going to be able to deal with every single question, I'm afraid but let's try and get through as many as we can in about an hour.

**R:** Ok, I'll try to answer as concisely as I can and then, yes, Rickipedia is entirely unreliable.

**L:** Really? OK. So... The other viewpoints are available, Ladies and Gentlemen.

**R:** That's right.

**L: First question** is from a listener called Hai Tuan –I think that's how to pronounce your name. Can I just say actually at the beginning of this episode that it's very difficult for me to pronounce everybody's name correctly. So, I'll probably end up pronouncing your names all completely wrong, and I hope you find that funny rather than just outright offensive, OK? So just [bear in mind](#) I don't necessarily know how to pronounce your names but I'm going to try, I'm going to do my best.

So the first one, Hai Tuan and Hai Tuan begins the message by calling you Sir.

**R:** Oh, that's very nice to you Hai Tuan I'm not... [I] haven't been knighted Sir, Sir Rick, and the Queen has not invited me to Buckingham Palace to lay the ceremonial sword on my shoulders but I don't mind being called Sir. It's very respectful. Thank you very much.

**L:** Do we, actually, do we call people Sir in England?

**R:** Not so much now. No, no we don't. I mean some shopkeepers or people in restaurants might say, *“Sir”*, but it's pretty old fashioned now and I think that it's falling out of use.

**L:** People don't really say it anymore. Except, as you said in shops or restaurants, like sales staff or sales assistants.

**05:55**

**R:** Even that it's not as common as it was because when someone comes up to you in a shop and says "I hope I could help you, Sir?" It has that kind of oily thing about it and, you know, I

think that people tend to avoid it now.

**L:** So, it's not very common to say Sir anymore. Unlike in France, where people call you "*Monsieur*" all the time...

**R:** Indeed.

**L:** ...which is just very polite and all that kind of thing. Right, so Hai Tuan says "*Sir, what's the difference between the UK today and the UK thirty years ago?*" A massive question which you now have to try and deal within just a few minutes. So, what's the difference between the UK now, and the UK thirty years ago? That question received five likes. So not only does Hai Tuan want to know this but five other people are interested in your response to that.

**R:** Well, I can just think of a few things, just to be brief. The first thing of course is that the UK today is thirty years older than it was thirty years ago but in the early eighties, there was a different atmosphere, there was a lot of tension arising from the cold war, and there was a confrontation with the eastern bloc and of course the so-called Iron Curtain was still there, and there was a lot of anxiety about nuclear missiles being moved into the UK from America, nuclear missiles being moved west of the Urals by the Russians and all that tension was really quite an anxious period.

**L:** Cold war!

**R:** Cold war. Now, it's a... it's a much more relaxed international scene across the whole of Europe, I'm glad to say, and the tensions are all about economics. We've had a terrible financial collapse. So, now everybody is suffering in one way or another from the fact that the banks, you know, had this terrible explosion and didn't lend enough money. So, there's two things, one is that international tension has been replaced by a sort of economic difficulty, the other thing of course is, if you look back thirty years, what an amazing change everywhere! The computer, the personal computer was only just appearing and, even in the workplace, it was quite a new thing in the early eighties to have a computer on your desk and we now take it entirely for granted that, you know, we have... computer chips are in absolutely everything but it's only thirty years you know since it really started to happen. I can remember the first time I had... I saw a digital watch.

**L:** Really?

**R:** I can remember the first time I put a calculator in my hand because I had to have one at work at the BBC to work out the timing of the programs.

**L:** Tell me about the digital watch. That probably was in the eighties or early... Seventies I would think, I would guess, but, you know, I remember when they suddenly appeared, digital watches, wow !

**L:** What did you think of your first...? Well, you didn't buy one I think.

**R:** I'm not, I'd never liked them but I'm very unusual. Lots, lots of people had digital watches.

**L:** What did you think of digital watches when they first arrived?

**R:** I thought they were ugly and I didn't like them.

**L:** Yeah.

**08:56**

**R:** ...but the reason for that is that I think that the watch with hands on a dial is a brilliant, brilliant designed concept. If you think about it, how you glance at it and know the time is, It's absolutely incredible... bit of brilliance.. Whoever was the first thought of the clock face.

**L:** You say that...

**R:** Then... Then, the digital watch seemed to be a bit your... leap backwoods, where it gives you figures to tell you what the time is. It's nice as well but that was a little bit boring.

**L:** But wait a minute, you say that it's very easy to read a digital... read an old fashioned watch with hands but I remember having to learn how to read one of these watches and, for example, my students... Well, not my students at school but children have to... they take quite a long time to learn that the little hand means the hour and the big hand is the minutes and that's actually a bit complex.

**R:** Well, I suppose so. I had never thought of that but, anyway, I've told you that the kids had little computers that changed everything, of course, It's just happening in... in... thirty years ago. And the only other thing about Britain itself is of course that the population has increased quite a lot in the last thirty years, mainly through immigration, and it feels a more... It's a more crowded place in the big cities but also it's an incredibly multicultural country now. I mean, London isn't the only city where there's so many languages being spoken on the trains or on the tube in London, or in the street, and the latest census where we... we have a census every ten years, the census of 2011 shows this, shows that in some of the big cities, only half the people who live there were actually born in Britain.

**L:** Really?

**R:** ...and, I think it's a particular characteristic of Britain. now, that it is phenomenally multicultural. One of the newspaper headlines said: "*We are the world*" and I actually think that's rather neat, and certainly the... there aren't very serious ethnic tensions, there're very, you know, localized minor little problems, nothing serious at all. People get on with each other really well. I

think it everyone's accepted that the UK is a fantastically multicultural country.

**L:** They... The rare occurrences of racial tension are often done by sort of individuals and, if, for example, you see this viral videos of someone on the bus who is kind of lost their temper and started shouting in a racist way, but they are always considered to be complete idiots...

**R:** Yes, they are! They have there in a very small minority.

**L:** We have groups like the EDF the English Defence... EDL, English Defence League – EDF is an electricity company in France– EDL, Electri... English Defence League, and they're a sort of English nationalist group, but they're sort of like stupid idiots really.

**R:** They are, they are of a type, they are all ill educated and they are very small in number and fortunately they don't have any significance.

**12:00**

**L:** I hope that the EDL don't now come looking for me because I know that they have baseball bats and cricket bats and things., but...

**R:** ...Yeah, that's their method of persuasion.

**L:** But I know, I know, you know, special Kung Fu techniques, so if they do, I'll just hadouken, I just do a hadouken and it won't be a problem. So the UK changed quite a lot. It's lots more populated and we've got, you know, computers and the internet of course now so yeah, things are changing very rapidly.

**Andre...** It's the next question... André has written the next question and it says " What does it feel like to be British these days?" And... sort of related to the previous one. How does it feel to be British?

**R:** Well, gosh! I can't speak for the other 62 million people who live in Britain, André. I mean, I can just tell you my personal view. I've always quite liked living in Britain and I've traveled around the world quite a lot and I've always been very happy to come home. I like all sorts about Britain and I think, I mean, most people feel quite comfortable about being British. There is a movement at the moment which is a bit hostile to the European Union because people think that the EU has in some ways got too big and too powerful and Britain is probably the most Europe-skeptic country of the 27... soon it would be 28 members of the EU. And it's a general feeling but I don't think it's a... anything other than a kind of intellectual debate. I mean, I think that people wonder whether it's the EU should be reformed, so that there's less bureaucratic and maybe a little bit less wasteful and that is a perfectly intelligent debate and I don't think that there's any anxiety about people feeling un-British because they're in the EU basically is just a

kind of technical debate about what's best for the country.

**L:** Yeah, okay. So, next question is from **Bruno Alves**. And this is a question about football. So if you're into football, listen closely, if you... if you're not into Football, don't worry about it, because we're only going to talk about it for a couple of minutes and who knows you might learn something about football and then you can kind of impress people by saying " Oh well I know that Lionel Messi and didn't score a goal in the latest game which is a huge surprise. You know, you can sort of wax lyrical about football but the question is, Dad, which team is going to win the UEFA for champions league this season?

**R:** Well, I think, I was sure recording this, I think we're down to the semi final stay. There're only four teams left.

**L:** Wait a minute. What are those four teams?

**R:** I can't remember. Barcelona...

**L:** Real Madrid?

**R:** Real Madrid, I think. Certainly Bayern Munich...

**L:** Someone else?

**R:** I don't know. I'm sorry, isn't it terrible?

**L:** There're not British teams left in it.

**R:** All I can say is that a few years ago I was at a conference in Barcelona, and I was fortunate to meet a guy who worked for, he was a senior man in Icelandic television...

**15:02**

**R:** ...and we fell into conversation and he said that his TV station had the rights to the Champion League and therefore he had VIP tickets for the game that was coming up the next evening, Would I like to join him?

**L:** Very nice.

**R:** At the Nou Camp stadium, in Barcelona, and I said; "*yes, please !*" So I went to this stadium and it was Barcelona vs Bayern Munich in this incredible stadium. 80 thousand people, huge noise and, I felt rather sorry for Bayern Munich having to play in this atmosphere but they were brilliant, they were very very cool. They won 3:1, nobody had scored three goals in this stadium for a long long long time and I was always... I was impressed with Munich and I've always kept an eye on them since then and they seem to be a very cool team. They're not the kind of starstruck, they don't have any extravagantly ridiculous players and they just, they play very

very well and I think that if I had to bet on who would win the Champions League I'd go for Bayern Munich.

**L:** OK, cool, calm, collected, well organized, German efficiency, is going to win.

**R:** Well, they've also got a lot of flair but they do, or they don't seem to be affected by the atmosphere.

**L:** OK, right, let's see what happens. We'll see if Rick Thompson's prediction of the German victory, this year, will come true. I wonder if, maybe, you can win some money? You should put some money on it Dad.

**R:** I don't feel that confident.

**L:** Are you a gambling man?

**R:** I'm not, no.

**L:** No.

**R:** No, I think gambling is for losers, really.

**L:** OK, except when you win, and then it is... Right Shall I move on to the next question? Alright.

**Stefano Piarini:** Who I expect is from Italy but I'm not sure. He says, *"I'd like to know what he thinks about Eastern Europe, especially the South Eastern part, for example Serbia and bordering states because I know he worked there sometimes."* He worked there sometimes. You do work in Serbia occasionally, don't you Dad?

**R:** Yes, I do. I mean, I worked for BBC News for a long time and now I do training and development work in broadcasting, in broadcast journalism, in parts of Europe that, you know, people feel they need some advice and some help. And I've done a long project in Serbia. I've been going there, occasionally, with some colleagues to do some training and other work in Radio and Television over the past six years. And I've also done some work in other parts of Southeast Europe; in Croatia, in Kosovo, in... where else? Slovenia and so I do like that part of the world very much, I think, from the perspective of people living in the UK, they don't know much about it. I mean, I think they're pretty ignorant about it, And there're also... I think it's a bad stereotyping for the Balkans. People say *"Oh you're going to Serbia, Rick. Is it safe?"* Well, you know, of course it is, it is a gorgeous country and it is beautiful and really, really nice people, and all I can say is that I think that if they... if that part of the world continues to make the right kind of progress, it's all based on rule of law, where they've suffered terribly from corruption, corrupt business people, kind of... you know mafia kind of stuff, and corrupt politicians. And I think that is improving, and if... if they can establish rule of laws so they have a fair society of the people, that's the first point and it's got great potential. Croatia is going to join the EU on the first of July, becomes the 28th member state and it's... Of course, a lot of people know that Croatia is



beautiful and it's got a great coastline down the Adriatic...

**L:** Yeah.

**R:** I think it's also got a lot of potential. So I think, the whole region has got the potential to grow and it just needs to face up with some determination the fact that society has to be fair based on rule of law.

**19:00**

**L:** So it's a slightly misunderstood region but it has a lot to offer, and as long as they can put their slightly difficult past behind them, and bring a lot of things to Europe. It's going... they could, you know, bring so many things. They have so much to offer.

**R:** Yes, I agree.

**L:** It's a good holiday destination, isn't it? that part of the world?

**R:** It certainly is and not terribly expensive. And Croatia is known, because of its coastline, for its holiday potential but there're other spots that are gorgeous in Northern Serbia. Novi Sad is a beautiful place and they have this big Exit Pop Festival every year in July. The Exit Pop Festival is sensational.

**L:** Exit, well the Exit Pop Festival.

**R:** It's called Exit Pop Festival, yeah. The Exit Pop Festival, and it attracts thousands and thousands of people.

**L:** Any big bands playing there?

**R:** Yeah, they say so, I don't know who's playing this year. You can look it up online. But Novi Sad, in Northern Serbia, is a beautiful place to go to. You can go to Mostar and Bosnia. I mean, there's all sorts of really interesting places to visit in that part of the world.

**L:** And now, thanks to Rick Thompson, if you watch you know the News on TV, it's probably a little bit better than it was before. Mainly thanks to Rick Thompson. So that's what... that's what the Thompson family does, and we save the world through broadcasting.

**R:** Well, they certainly have improved the quality of the broadcast news in the last few years. It's not entirely due to me but it's certainly improving.

**L:** By the way, my Dad works in a sort of journalist... training for journalists in Television and Radio broadcasting. And he is being working in Serbia, and some other places, helping them out there. Good job, well done Dad! He was sort of doing a very good thing.

So, next question is from **Hiroshi Mariyama**.....who is from Japan. Do you speak any Japanese

Dad?

**R:** I remember Arigatou Gozaimasu. Is that right? Thank you very much?

**L:** "[Arigatou Gozaimasu](#)"

**R:** Arigatou Gozaimasu thank you so much.

**L:** "ARIGATOU..."

**R:** Don't laugh out there!

**L:** "...GOZAIMASU " which is like the full version. then you got the shorter more informal version. For example if you've...if you're slightly drunk, on a Friday night, and you have been eating Ramen in a Ramen noodle shop, in Japan, in Tokyo, then you don't have to do the "Arigatou Gozaimasu". You don't have to do the whole thing. You just do the quick version which is, "azamass!" and "ssss". Which is just "azaass" even just "ssss" This is just the super short version. So, if next time you eat Ramen in a Tokyo noodle bar, Dad, that's how you should say "Thank you"

**R:** I'll practice.

**L:** By the way "Azamass" means thank you, thanks, ta, cheers. So it's saying that in Japanese. Anyway this is not Luke's Japanese podcast. It's not like "Luke Nihon no poddo kyasuto" It's not like that. It's just Luke's English podcast.

So the question that **Hiroshi** has is "Why did you, Rick, get the good idea to present a drum kit to your sons for Christmas, you know, many years ago?"

**22:10**

**R:** Well, he's very well informed, isn't he?

**L:** He's been listening to Luke's English podcast and he knows that, for example, I think it was back in 1990 or 1991, you and Mum decided that, for Christmas, you would buy us a drum kit. Now, for listeners, if you don't know what a drum kit is, It's a musical instrument, you know. That's a drum kit, that's the sound of a drum kit anyway, and my parents bought my brother and me a drum kit, for Christmas. and that led to us becoming massive billion pound earning rock stars.

**R:** Well, they do both play drums very well, that's for sure.

**L:** We didn't become rock stars but we did learn how to play the drums and we have always enjoyed playing music ever since. So, why did you buy us a drum kit?

**R:** Well, I... When I was a little boy, my parents were quite musical and we used to play music

together sitting around the piano and I used to hit tin cans and things with knitting needles...

**L:** really?

**R:** ...as a little drummer when I was small... This is like when I was small and then it was at school when I started playing drums. I played drums in bands, in South London, you know, before I went to university and everybody did in those days.

**L:** Wait a minute! What kind of bands did you play in?

**R:** Well, little pop music bands, pop-rock-bands

**L:** This is like the mid sixties?

**R:** We're talking yeah, we're talking 63-64 around that time. Everybody was in a band in those days and you played things like, you know, pop music. You played some American Chuck Berry things, make people dance but you also played The Hollies and you played early record by The Who, you know...

**L:** Bit of Beatles in there then?

**R:** ...and maybe a bit of Beatles even yes.

**L:** Yes? Lovely.

**R:** So everybody, you know, tried to pick up a guitar and playing those days. I did play a bit of guitar but I also played drums. Anyway, so we went on this holiday –you remember, Luke?– to California.

**L:** I do remember, yeah.

**R:** Big holiday, go to California, fantastic.

**L:** It was great.

**R:** And there was a friend of mine who lived there, and we stayed with him for a night or two, and he had a drum kit in his garage...

**L:** he certainly did.

**R:** ...and you two started (24:22)\_\_\_\_\_ showing that you had natural talent for this. You spent a bit of time in this garage with this drum kit.

**L:** Yeah.

**R:** So we thought, hello, we ought to get them one and fortunately we were living in a house which had a little, little outbuilding in the garden.

**L:** It's like a garage which was not saper... a garage which is not connected to the house. It was once upon a time a garage but we used it as their kind of play area where they could hang out.

**L:** Kind of garden house, kind of thing.

**R:** Yes, so it was... and there weren't any other houses very close to it. So it was OK if they

wanted to play drums and play a bit of music in there. It wasn't really disturb anybody.

**L:** So we had a space in the garden where there was a little house that was big enough to fit a drum kit in it and so Mum and Dad decided, well they could, we could put a drum kit in the garden house...

**25:08**

**R:** That's right,

**L:** and it didn't disturb our neighbors too much, and...

**R:** so that's what we did but it wasn't a new one because these things can be extremely expensive. So we got a second hand drum kit which was actually quite a nice one and, and yeah, that's what happened.

**L:** Okay, right. Well, thanks.

**R:** Well, I was so glad you both play drums so well and, listeners, they do!

**L:** I was extremely... I was just over the moon to get that drum kit. And, I, then, played it for about one hour every day, which is just a privilege. Right next one is from... No! Wait a minute. Hiroshi has actually got a few questions but he's a...

**R:** Is he not cheating, Hiroshi?

**L:** Well, he is just cheating. It's mentioning just one question but it's Hiroshi, so you know, we'll let him off.

**R:** Okay quick.

**L:** The next question is "Have you..., Do you or have you ever had Tetrisitis? Tetrisitis of course is what happens when you play Tetris for a long time and when you stop playing, you close your eyes, you can still see the Tetris blocks falling in front of your vision. So, have you ever had Tetrisitis?

**R:** Well, I certainly did when... When there was a Gameboy in the house. I certainly did stop playing a bit of Tetris and it is a bit addictive, isn't it?, But, I mean, after a while I don't think I exactly... I had to go to Tetris anonymous of course and you have to sit around in a circle and stand up and say my name is Rick Thompson and I'm a Tetris addict.

**L:** I'm a Tetriholic !

**R:** No, it's not true all of that. The fact is that every now and then you would wake up at four o'clock in the morning with the Tetris music going round and round in your head. That's how it go?

**L, R:** ([Humming together](#))

**L:** And then the other one, the other one. (humming)

**R:** And this can be really terrible, really really terrible feeling. See you don't want to get Tetrisitis everybody... if you're finally getting it, go and get professional treatment.

**L:** Go to the... Go to the doctor, not Doctor Mario, right? He is not a real doctor Ladies and Gentlemen. Right, so yeah, you have suffered from Tetrisitis I just... as most of us have, you know, if we play Tetris. So, and... alright. Final question from Hiroshi and that's about bird watching. Now, some people, in some countries, think that it's a bit ridiculous that us, British people, enjoy looking at birds in the wildlife, you know in the countryside. We like to go to the countryside with some binoculars and sort of, you know, find some wild birds and have a look. "Yeah, look, what's that"? That's an eagle. Oh my god it's big, ah, scary or what's that one? Oh, it's beautiful. That's an avocet, you know, and you tick it off your list of birds right? You like bird-watching, why?

**R:** Well, I think it's, it's fairly obvious, I'm not the only one. Obviously British people are known to like wildlife very much. Our royal society for the protection of birds has more than one million members but there are different kind of bird-watchers. Some of them do get a bit obsessive and they have to go and see rare birds to [tick them off](#) on their list, so that they have seen more than anybody else. Well, they're a kind of minority. They're called "twitchers". I'm not quite sure why they are called twitchers but they just are. Anyway most people just are bird-watchers because they like knowing what's going on around them, they observe them, and the more you find out about birds, and the more you know about what they look like, and what they sound like, and how they behave, the more interesting they become and I think that in the old days, you know, two hundred years ago, and certainly in medieval times, or in Shakespeare's time, everybody was very much connected with nature.

**29:07**

**R:**...They knew everything about the birds, and the plants, and the seasons. They felt connected with the seasons and now we live in... 80% of us live in big cities, and we're disconnected from nature. I think it's a great pity that, and I think it's nice to be able to hear a bird this time of the year in the spring singing and know what it is, and know something about it. So that's why I advocate people to find out a little bit about birds. Taking notice of them, have a look of them. What are they doing and see if you can identify them.

**L:** Usually, they're just flying around, aren't they? They were just...

**R:** Oh they're always doing something interesting.

**L:**...pecking things, but no, they are beautiful. I love bird-watching too and if you have a good look, not... you see a lot of people, when you say birds they just think pigeons, don't they? You know, I don't like birds but I mean, that they don't like pigeons or, you know, seagulls or something but there are so many more birds and they are often very beautiful, beautiful plumage and they sing nicely as well.

**R:** Brilliantly, I was listening to a blackbird, quite a common bird, a blackbird singing in our garden just before we came here. Unbelievably beautiful !

**L:** Blackbird, that's not a crow because everyone always thinks that a Blackbird is a crow. Crows are large birds that are black and they go "Cahhh, Cahhh, Cahhh..." like that, but a blackbird is like from that Paul McCartney song "Blackbird".

**R:** Indeed.

**R:** How's the blackbird song go

**R:** Oh Dear, I can't... it is very very lazy and fluent, OK?

**L:** Sounds a little bit like me?

**R:** It does these phrases... and then it finishes with a very sharp bit at the end and it kind of rule an extra bit and every phrase is different every time it does it and then it repeats everything. So the blackbird has this fluent lazy sound. Wow, OK?

**L:** So listen out Ladies and Gentlemen, next time when you're in the countryside, listen to the birds. They're pretty beautiful actually, or pretty beautiful –So I dropped the T there, didn't I?– I'm sorry about that. My Dad normally doesn't like it when I do that but he's cool with it these days. Right so next question is from **Francesco** and he says " Good afternoon, Mister Thompson –How did he know it's the afternoon, I wonder? Well, he was probably guessing but good afternoon Francesco.– A few months ago, Luke uploaded an episode about the Maya people and their prophecy about the end of the world. What did you think, what do you think about them? What do you think about the Mayans and their, you know apparent prophecies about the end of the world?

**R:** Well, I mean, I do not waste too much time with this one. Obviously the prophecies of the end of the world were completely nuts, and anybody who believe in these things ... they need their head examining but I think the Mayans actually have been misreported on this. I don't really think that the whole Mayan culture was, was devoted to the idea that the world was get to end at a certain time on a certain day. It's just the way it's been interpreted.

**32:04**

But... I mean, obviously these... these, bizarre beliefs are complete nonsense and I'm saying that with total confidence. If we all get destroyed tomorrow I shall retract this statement.

R: Yeah, OK. If the world ends tomorrow then you'll apologize.

R: I'll say I'm sorry, yes.

L: If the world ends tomorrow then you'll apologize on Tuesday, how about that? Okay. Next one is from **Romain**. Rom, hi,. Rome says "Hi Luke's dad!"

**Rick:** Hi, Rom. -

**L:** "I'd like to know, what are your thoughts about French people? And It can be on any topic " So what do you think of French people in general?

**R:** Well, here I'm in France. The gap between Britain and France is only a short piece of water. The French call it "La Manche". We call it "The English Channel". It is about 30 kilometres wide. It is the narrowest point, not very far apart. But the cultures are pretty different and a historical background is different. The French, I think everybody would agree, have got style, they're known for fashion, and art, and being very creative. I think the French cuisine is quite rightly got a great reputation. You can get a fantastic meal in France, even in cheap little cafes, in restaurants and little hotels. Food is always good, and of course the wine is good. So, you know, they also... France also had the whole range of different cultures and... and scenery. It's a huge country. I mean, I think, that

**L:** Rude people, are they?)

**R:** Well, I think that Parisians are known to be just a little bit rude. And I think that's a pity. I think it is probably true.

**L:** Yeah. A lot of French people I speak to, agree on that. I say to... I say to Parisians: "What are Parisian people really like?", and they'd go "Well, they're all really rude to each other". They've just decided that that's how they are going to be with each other. But when you meet French people in sort of more close terms they're very nice, aren't they?

**R:** Yes indeed. I think that the interesting difference... the French have a bit of an issue with British culture.

**L:** Really?

**R:** Partly because the language is a little bit intrusive and because it's become the international language. Also, they talk about the Anglo-Saxon way of doing things. I'm not quite sure what they mean by that but I guess it's because they think it is too boring, too pedestrian, too matter-of-fact, too pragmatic—

**L:** Coldly pragmatic.

**R:** Yes, so not enough passion. The head rules the heart as opposed to the heart rules the head and the French, I think, celebrate the idea that they are creative and slightly mysterious. So I knew that reflects in the cinema and I think that's "*Vive la différence*" is all I can say.

**35:06**

**L:** OK, alright. I think there is a bit of a change in France these days, in terms of their relationship to the UK. I noticed that they seem to think that a lot of English things are cool these days like, you know, Mark & Spencer is very popular and you see the British flag popping up in some places, like people go around wearing T-shirts with the British flag on it.

**R:** Cool Britannia it's called, this fashion thing. Yes I know, Burberrys are very fashionable and things to do archetypically English—or indeed Scottish, does a bit of a trend of to have Scottish like tartan clothes, and things like that.

**L:** Yeah This is because we are cool

**R:** Oh, yes! Absolutely.

**L:** OK, **Jairo** asked a question but we're going to come back to that. Instead we're going to move on to **Luciana's** question. I think it's Luciana, maybe Lucciana. And she said: "Ask him if he can speak Portuguese or any other language" Well?

**R:** No, actually I can speak some French but I don't speak it terribly well because I don't practice it. But, I mean, I could get by and I wish I did speak it better. But there is... my excuse is that wherever I go everyone seems to speak fantastically good English so It's really quite difficult to, you know, force myself to speak bad Spanish or even bad Serbian when everybody comes back at you with very good English.

**L:** You know why they all speak good English now?

**R:** Why?

**L:** Because they've all been listening to Luke's English Podcast

**R:** Oh, I see, Of course, yes.

**L:** So, no Portuguese then in your vocabulary.

**R:** Sorry, No.

**L:** All right. Sorry about that, Luciana.

**R:** I had been to Portugal. I did a training course in Porto, which I liked very much. I've been to Lisbon and I've been to the South coast of Portugal. But not very length of time. Just, you know,



just a few days and rush home again. I'm not really had the chance to learn any Portuguese.

**L:** All right. Next one is from **Carolina** and the message goes: *"Hi mister Thompson. What do you think about Spanish bullfighting?"*

Spanish bullfighting: matadors, picadors, toreadors - everything with 'dors' on the end of it. Bull fighting.. It's been a very important part of Spanish culture for many-many years. It's considered to be not only a sort of... a kind of sport but an art form as well. And it's a celebrated aspect of Spanish culture but these days it's controversial because of the whole cruelty to animals debate. But you.. You've seen a few bullfights, haven't you?

**R:** I've seen two bullfights. Two six-bull bullfights in my time. Because I wanted to see what it was like and I didn't like either of them at all. I do understand that it is a part of Spanish cultural tradition.

**38:01**

**R:** ...I don't know whether it... All the (38:03)\_\_\_\_\_ and the costumes, and the rituals, and everything else. For me it doesn't justify what I'm thinking is cruelty to animals and I particularly dislike the picadors on horseback making the bull ramming them, lance into a bull to weaken it before the matador comes out. And I think that... if you look back at the relationship between human beings and animals over time there has been a lot of cruelty to animals for entertainment. And in our country it wasn't quite the same glamorous thing the bullfighting is. It was more the people's sports of bear baiting very popular in Shakespeare's time.

**L:** What was bear baiting?

**R:** A bear would be caught and would be tied chained to a pole. And then they set dogs on it. And people bet on how many dogs it kills. And same with cock fighting which is a very popular working persons. sport...

**L:** Two male chicken fighting.

**R:** That's right, to the death. And dog fighting. And dogs against badgers, that's kind of stuff. Well I know bullfighting is slightly different but there is something I really dislike about being in an arena. The bull is in a completely artificial situation. I don't like it at all. All I can say if that is it stops tomorrow I don't think the world would be a worse place.

**L:** OK.. There you go. You laid your cards quite confidently on the table with that one. It's an interesting debate, isn't it? Bullfighting. I wonder what is going to happen to it. Do leave your comments on the podcast if you have something to say about any of these topics. Let's move on

to the next question which is written in Cyrillic not the... Well, the name is in Cyrillic which is the sort of Russian alphabet. I can't read it. Can you read cyrillic?

**R:** Oh, with great difficulty... Who knows...

**L:** Well... Anyway, the name is in Cyrillic, I'm afraid I don't know how to pronounce your name whoever you are so the question is: *"Hi Luke! Please ask him about what he thinks about life in the UK. What are the best and worst things? You've already talked a little bit about life in the UK but can you just pick up two of the best things and two of the worst things?"* Well.. Two good things and two bad things about life in the UK.

**R:** Alright, I'll pick two, just like that. First of all, I do like the variety of scenery in the UK

**L:** Scenery - the landscape

**R:** Yes, the landscape. Because these islands have a very interesting geology and therefore is a huge contrast in the landscapes from Scotland a wonderful wild and rounded icecrypt mountains to the cliffs on the West coast Wales North Ireland, to the lushes green lands and central England, and then, of course, the wonderful landscape of the Yorkshire which is the best of them all.

**41:07**

**L:** Really?

**R:** But it is a huge variety of landscapes, and... I know sometimes people rush to London, they don't have much time, they see Buckingham palace, they see the house of parliament, there is Big Ben. Yes, I've done Britain when you haven't. It would be great if you could spend just a little bit longer to go to Scotland or North of England or maybe down to the south west of Cornwall.

**L:** Not just Edinburgh and Scotland but go to the countryside, go to the highlands if you can. It's an amazing landscape.

**R:** So, there's loads of wonderful coasts across that... because is Ireland. It has coasts all the way around...

**L:** Yeah.

**R:**...but there are... there are some beautiful scenery in Britain. The second thing I would advocate about the UK is, from a personal point of view, is the broadcasting because, I mean, I did work on BBC for long time. It does have a reputation, I which I think is correct, I was proud to work for this organisation. And of course I'm mentioning not just BBC but television and radio in general in the UK is something that you realise how good it is when you go to another places and I've been on lots and lots of other places. And you suddenly realise that we are very lucky,

in the UK, that we have so many programs which are innovative, different, and high quality, and challenging, not formulaic. Only in Britain could you... could you have programs like "Monty Python's Flying Circus", nobody else could possibly see why would you do that. And it's not just slightly... slightly crazy programs, there is a whole range of programs done very-very well. Because the people who work in this industry have absolute dedication to excellency must be perfect and it's a tradition now that our broadcasting is very high quality and very interesting. So I think that's one of the reasons I like living in the UK because I enjoy television and radio at a very high quality.

**L:** BBC TV. I love the BBC documentaries about music. And on BBC four, which is one of the TV stations in England, you regularly have really fantastic, very in-depth documentaries about different genres of music or, for example, there were... I've seen documentaries about, let's see, blues guitarists, jazz musicians from America, there was a documentary about [Jeff Lynne](#) who is the songwriter in ELO (Electric Lines Orchestra). He worked with George Harrison's staff. And you could learn so much from watching these programs. I sound like I'm selling the BBC at this point, I don't work on BBC, I don't have any kind of interest in them, I just think they're very good. A lot of it... a lot of those documentaries are on YouTube now.

**R:** Yes, I think that Jeff Lynne was a long one, wasn't it? It's a long documentary.

**L:** Two hours or something.

**44:01**

**R:** But of course he was an extraordinary producer and we... Luke was brought up just living in Birmingham, in the middle of England, and Jeff Lynne is one of the bunch of musicians who came from Birmingham and he is a... he is a very... very talented guy.

**L:** Yep! Jeff Lynne. Check him out on YouTube - Electric Lines Orchestra (ELO). Have a look. He's also worked with the Beatles as I said Free As a Bird which is the Beatles comeback single that they released in 1996. That's another story ladies and gentlemen. So, there you go. Those are two of your favourite things. What are two of the bad things?

**R:** Well.. I think in the towns I get really fed up that people drop litter on the floor.

**L:** Littering.

**R:** Littering.. Why do people drop things on the ground, they see, you know, I don't want to live in a rubbish dump. And I think the world is divided between those who drop litter and those who pick it up. So, yeah, so when I become president of everything everybody who drops [litter](#) would

be either sent to jail for life or they will have the hands cut off, then they'll never do it again.

**L:** But you see if they have their hands cut off, then they won't be able to pick up litter.

**R:** Yeah, a good point. Maybe... maybe I'm just *[sic]* commute that to a life sentence of picking up litter.

**L:** What you should do if you should chop their hands off. We are joking, by the way. What should you do if you chop their hands off and have their hands replaced by those.. you know those kind of like metal things that grab like things that street cleaners use to pick up litter from the floor. It's like a metal arm with like two grabbing fingers on the end. You just replace their hands with those and all they would be able to do is pick up litter.

**R:** Ok, good plan. We will go for that. Otherwise, what I don't like about Britain, I don't like the class system that still exist. It's still there. It's not as rigid as it was but it is still there. And I don't like the fact that so many people from privileged rich backgrounds who went to expensive private schools get himself into position of power and influence including, you know, present government where, a lot of them, are from that background and you look at it and say: *"This is the year 2013 how we come to this?"*. This David Cameron government is full of rich toffs. And the difference between the poorest people and the richest people in our country just continues to get wider and wider and wider. And this is something I really dislike. I would like a fair society and I would like to think this London social group of privileged people shouldn't have as much influence as they have.

**L:** Is it people who went to Eton School ?

**R:** Yes, Eton is the favourite one but rather expensive private schools. There are from families where they believe that they have a right to be the governing class. And I don't think they do have the right.

**47:05**

**L:** OK. Alright. Bit of politics there, ladies and gentlemen. Let's... Let's move on to question from **Claudio**. He says;– Oh! Alright.– *"According to your dad what are the most common stereotypes about Italy and Italians."* So, just to be clear, ladies and gentlemen, we're now going to talk a little bit about the stereotypes for Italians. Not my dad's actual opinion, let's start with commonly held stereotypes of Italian people.

**R:** But I bet Claudio knows what the stereotypes of Italians are.

**L:** Yeah.

**R:** I mean, obviously the Italians like the good life "la bella vita" and they have a reputation for

not working very hard.

**L:** Yeah, really?

**R:** Well, no. A bit obviously, if you are living in a beautiful country you have time to enjoy the good life and maybe sitting in a cafe is a better thing to do than go to work. But that is a stereotype. Another stereotype of course they are oversexed.

**L:** They like sex?

**R:** Well, oversexed means that they think about it all the time and we know very well that Italian men think about it all the time.

**L:** But, come on. Men think about it all the time.

**R:** I think Italian men think about it all, all the time even when they are unconscious.

**L:** So men... Wait a minute, men think about sex all the time but Italian men think about sex like more than... they think about sex 25 hours a day?

**R:** You have to admit this is a stereotype as well.

**L:** It's a stereotype!

**R:** Ok, fine. And the other thing of course is they are glamorous, very stylish, they like to dress up and show off, and, you know, parade about the place. I think it's also a bit of a stereotype about... still about the Mafia running Italy.

**L:** Yeah, really?

**R:** Just a little bit I think so. Silvio Berlusconi hasn't helped in its... it's image of Italy. I mean, what a terrible showing, he's been in such promoted position and the rest of the world think he is disreputable clown. But people in Italy keep on voting for him but, as we record this, at this moment, a new Italian government has been spawning. And he is not a minister though of course his party is in prominent position in this coalition. But I think it looks good at the moment, so fingers crossed. This is a coalition with all... with the main parties working together to try to solve Italy's economic problems. And they have to do something about it. So, I very, very much hope that it would be a good start for Italy to claim out of this difficult period they have been through in the last two-three years.

**L:** So, you know.. Good luck Italy. Despite the stereotype they don't work hard I know for a fact that, you know, many Italian people worked hard work harder now than they've never done before.

**R:** Of course!

**L:** So, it's not really true that they don't work hard, they work extremely hard. I know that they do. Because I've seen it actually happens in front of my face with Italian student that I've met.

Good sense of humour is well the Italians. They are funny, funny people. Right, Claudio also asks you about Margaret Thatcher but we are not going into that because, I mean, so much has been said about Margaret Thatcher in the last few weeks and, also, I plan to do a podcast just about Margaret Thatcher and in which I'll deal with all of the different aspects, you know, of Margaret Thatcher: the person, the myth, the politician and so on. But he does ask you what's your favourite food and that ties in quite nicely with the question from **Anna Kazan** who is from Russia. And Anna says: *"Please ask your dad what his favourite dishes are? What does he think about English food? What do you have for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, etc? And do you have high tea?"* So that are actual four questions in one, Anna. How did you manage to squeeze four questions into one? I don't know. But... So... Let's start with..

**51:00**

**R:** Breakfast, Breakfast! I mean, Like a lot of people in our country I like nice freshly squeezed orange juice for breakfast in the morning. I don't really feel that the day is started. I've squeezed my oranges and had that. I do like some nice freshly baked bread as toasted with a little bit of honey on it or sometimes a little bit of jam and I quite often have a grilled tomato.

**L:** Grilled tomato on toast?

**R:** Grilled tomato on toast. Because let you know that tomato is good for you especially when it's been cooked. It's very good for you, isn't it? Yeah it's for antioxidants in it. It's got all sorts of good things in it, so it's a... it's a... You know, that kind of thing.

**L:** Grilled tomato on toast.

**R:** Grilled tomato on toast.

**L:** Maybe a bit of honey. Freshly squeezed orange juice.

**R:** Very good. Sometimes I have a yogurt. Good for you. And on a Sunday, especially if we have some visitors around, sometimes we have an English breakfast as a kind of brunch. And Luke and his brother James all know this, because if they are with us at the weekend we, normally, all will have a late Sunday breakfast which should be fried egg, bacon, mushrooms, a little bit of tomato. The English breakfast. And it is a nice thing to have but you shouldn't have it too often nowadays it's a bit unhealthy.

**L:** I think, lots of people think that the English... Lots of people think that English people eat a full English breakfast every day but that is ridiculous because if you did that, you'd probably... you'd die after about eight days.

**R:** It's an occasion treat.

**L:** So, we have, you know, normal breakfast: toast and orange juice, like most other people, but full English breakfast that we can do, honest, you know.. when you got friends or family with you or something like that. So, what about high tea? No, wait... Wait a minute! High tea means when you gather around in the late afternoon and you eat sandwiches and maybe have some cakes or something, and you drink tea served in rather nice tea... using a rather nice tea set, that's cups, and saucers, a teapot, and a milk jug, you know, that kind of stereotype image. Do you drink high tea? Do you sit there going "lovely tea, and it's all very English"? Do you do that?

**R:** No, certainly not. And I don't think very many people will but it used to be... certainly used to be a middle class way of life. My grandmother, who lived up in Yorkshire, she used always produced a little trolley. A trolley would come along the hall and come into the living room with the trolley. What about (53:39)\_\_\_\_\_ for five o'clock. And there will be a plate of ham sandwiches, and cucumber sandwiches, and a couple of cakes, maybe an éclair and a pot of tea in a very nice Chinese tea service with flowers on the cups. Well, that's a very old-fashioned idea now and of course, you know, we don't. If you.. In the afternoon you might have a coffee and a biscuit but I suppose as far as it goes.

**54:06**

**L:** Yeah, I think it's more common... To be honest, English people do drink tea a lot but we don't really drink it... You don't have high tea anymore except maybe very posh people or, you know, the Royal Family or something. But most English people will drink a lot of tea but they drink it out of a mug, you know, like a coffee mug, and you tend to brew it by just putting the tea bag directly into the mug, and you have some milk in it, and you have... may we have a few biscuits.

**R:** I would not recommend the tea bag in the bargain. (54:37)\_\_\_\_\_ I'm sorry, I think you could invest in a teapot. That's the only way tea would taste properly. I've asked for my favourite food gosh. All I'd say is that I've always liked chicken. Chicken is not a glamorous food, it's not very expensive food. But I think it's underrated. I think you can do chicken in so many different ways, and it's always good and it's very healthy, good for you. What I would say I like chicken.. The other thing of course that's traditionally British things that I quite like, and particularly in North of England, great traditional foods are what we called game. There are foods which have been from wild creatures.

**L:** Wild animals, you know, if...

**R:** Venison for example. We are overrun with deer, In Britain, so there are quite a lot of venison around us. People have to call the deer on the farms or estates. And venison is fantastically

good for you. So, I recommend it.

**L:** OK. What do you call it deer with no eyes?

**R:** No idea.

**L:** No idea, right? That's a joke ladies and gentlemen.

**R:** I've picked up it pretty fast. I thought it wasn't too bad.

**L:** Would you call it deer with no eyes and no lags?

**R:** Tell me.

**L:** Still no idea.

**R:** Oh, very good. That's actually not a very nice joke, is it?

**L:** Because now you're thinking of a deer without eyes and legs. It's just a surreal image. It's not meant to be cruel against animals or anything. It's just a joke, I'm sorry.

**R:** Are deer more expensive than lamb or sheep meat?

**L:** Is deer meat, like venison, is more expensive than lamb or sheep?

**R:** I think you'll find that venison is dear but mutton is a ship.

**L:** That was worse than my "No idea" joke. Because no one understood that.

**R:** No, they won't understand that.let's move on!

**L:** I think maybe 35% of my listeners understood my joke but none of them understood your joke. I'm going to have to explain that somehow.

**R:** Don't.

**L:** OK. I've planned to do an episode all about jokes. I've been saying that for years and i'll do it eventually. And it would be awful because it won't be funny because I'll say all these jokes and then people would say "*What? It's not funny!*" And then I'll explain them, and then they'll understand it but they still won't find it funny. Anyway, next! We are not going to be able to answer all these questions ladies and gentlemen because we've got... we've got dinner.

**R:** We must left in the hour.

**L:** We only got... have a few minutes left and then we've got to go and have dinner. So, let's see...

**56:56**

**L:** Marianna Ramirez asks several questions but one of them was: Do you have any funny anecdotes or stories of me and my brother when we were children.

**R:** Well, yes. I can think of you, Luke was a... His older brother used to look after Luke



because, you know, that's what older brothers are supposed to do. And when Luke was little, he used to be very very quiet. Now it's difficult to imagine it, isn't it, listeners? That Luke was a very very quiet little boy but his older brother James is very very talkative. He was talk, and talk, and talk, and Luke obviously didn't feel that he could compete with this when he was smaller. So he used to follow James around like... like a little dog. When anyone...

**L:** A dog!?

**R:** ...asked Luke to say something he would say; "*James says it*". He would ask for James to speak on his behalf. So we started wondering whether he ever will start talking properly. Then suddenly (pumph!). He started talking. But the other... So that's the one thing, he used to be very quiet and I ask James to speak for him.

**L:** You know why I did that? James, you know, was so talkative that if I started, if I opened my mouth he will just interrupt me within the first two minutes, so I just would think "*Oh, well. Someone asks me a question I will just let James answer because he is only going interrupt me anyway*". And it's only now, now! That I have my own podcast that I'm able to catch up and actually do some talking now, maybe too much.

**R:** And the other thing was, when Luke was smaller, he obviously wanted to get away...

**L:** Really?

**R:** ...from the family because he used to make a kind of escape bits every now and then.

**L:** Yeah. I was trying to escape.

**R:** You had a terrible habit of suddenly taking off and running...

**L:** Really?

**R:** ...as fast as you could run.

**L:** I'm just a run away?

**R:** You could just run! There was one occasion when we were... we got to a beach, in France, we parked the car, we got you and James out of the car, turned our back for a moment and you'd just gone! "*Where is Luke? He was there a second ago and now he's gone.*" And it's very worrying, we kind of zoomed out in all directions, one going on my own the other way. "*Where the heck is he?*" And Your uncle Nick said "There he is" It was this tiny little figure running about heck down the beach as far as you could in the distance. So we had to run after and catch you. And it wasn't the only time you went for a run. Maybe you've been in the car so long and you couldn't wait to start running.

**L:** I think what it was, obviously, it's, you know, once I learnt how to walk and run I just thought "*Right, screw this out of here screw you, losers, I'm going to the beach. See you!*" But, yeah, maybe it was just because I'd been in the car and had all this energy and I was like: "I've got

some energy! Just run, just run for it! I don't care which direction. I'm just running because of too much energy".

**R:** But we had to keep a very close eye on you. Because if you kind of just turned away for second he'll be off, he'll be off!

**60:00**

**L:** Yeah! I'm running. So I'm going to run to Japan and now I'm going to run to France. Oh, dear.. I'm still doing it. OK, right. So, there you go, Marianna. I hope you... I hope you've enjoyed those stories. And we're coming to an end here. We are not... As I said we can't answer all of these questions. Sorry! But it's just the way it is. You are too popular, dad. Podcast is too popular. **Ubiratan Silva** says: *"Why just two plus two equal four."* Two plus two is four, why?

**R:** I don't know what kind of question that is. It just is? It just does. If you have two cakes and somebody gives you two more cakes You've got four cakes. Don't you understand that?

**L:** Yeah, but I mean why though? If you have two... Why isn't it two...Why for example isn't it that when you put two with something why just isn't like another one arrive?

**R:** I'm sorry. You're struggling. Luke, the answer to this question is *"because it just does!"*.

**L:** OK, there you go, that sounds to me like that's what teachers say when they don't know the answer. They just go *"Because it is, alright, next question. Don't be too clever Ubiratan?"* Yeah? OK. Two cakes plus another two cakes is four cakes, isn't it? But what happens if you eat one.

**R:** Well, you've just minused one cake.

**L:** Right, OK. I think I've eaten it, haven't missed it. Just eaten it. What about two hamburgers plus two Americans. What you get?

**R:** You get two Americans.

**L:** I think that's it. Exactly. OK. That was a joke, ladies and gentlemen. Well done for not really getting it. It wasn't very funny, was it? So... maybe someone laughed, there may be someone on public transport just trying not to laugh or someone on public transport just trying not to stop listening to this. We've nearly finished. I'm going to go back to **Jairus's** question from earlier on. He asked about.. well, he mentions [Oprah Winfrey](#). Now, Oprah Winfrey is a famous American chat show host. She would end her interviews typically with the question. The question is *"What are you sure of? What are you certain about? What are you sure of?"* There are so many things to be uncertain about in the world. What is going to happen in the future? Who is gonna win UEFA Champions League? Where the Mayans right? We don't really know, you know, we can't be sure. But what are you certain of?

**R:** Well I'm certain at least one thing.

**L:** What's that?

**R:** That is that Luke's English podcast is the best way of learning real spoken English as it's spoken in the UK and entertaining to boot. I would also add "I'm pretty sure that love is all you need". Thank you very much.

**L:** I think on that romantic note we're going to draw this podcast to a close. And Dad would you like to join me in the "Bye, bye, bye, bye"?

**R:** I can, yes. That is the way you always finish it, isn't it?

**L:** That's how I always finish these episodes. So thanks again for listening for Luke's English podcast. Stay tuned for more episodes in the near future, but for now: Bye,bye,bye,bye, bye...

**This episode last 63:48 min. Transcribed by the Orion team: Piotr, Various Ninja, ptholome,**

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**The End.**