* **English Conversations**
* **-1**
* **Todd: OK, Julia, we're talking about types of people and we have some more that we can discuss. So the next one is worry wart. Are you a worry wart?**
* **Julia: I guess when it comes to some things maybe yeah. Like sometimes I get insomnia and I know it's because my brain is worrying about stuff.**
* **Todd: Right. You just can't let it go?**
* **Julia: Yeah, which is kind of why I took up yoga and meditation because just calming down those, you know, those thoughts that are just going crazy round in your head. So I would be a worry wart if it wasn't for my yoga practice. I think the yoga helps me keep my mind calm.**
* **Todd: Oh, cool.**
* **Julia: But I have that natural tendency I think.**
* **Todd: OK, so what about things around the house? Are you a clean freak?**
* **Julia: No. No, I am messy, like ridiculously messy. I don't see mess. I don't see it. It's like a blind spot.**
* **Todd: So you're a slob?**
* **Julia: Yes, kind of, yes and this is the one thing that drives my husband crazy because he's very tidy, he's very clean, very neat.**
* **Todd: So you guys are yin and yang?**
* **Julia: Yeah. He likes things to go in the proper place and he likes things to be tidied up, put away and for him it's very, it's a sort of therapeutic thing. It's, I guess, the mirror of his mental state. If there's a mess going on he feels uneasy so he needs to tidy up in order to kind of be focused and calm. I'm kind of the opposite. If everything's too tidy and neat, I get a bit freaked out. I like, I'm comfortable in mess, very comfortable in mess.**
* **Todd: Comfortable in chaos?**
* **Julia: Yeah.**
* **Todd: Well, that leads us to the next one and maybe this relates to your husband. Is he a control freak?**
* **Julia: Yes. Absolutely. He is, yes.**
* **Todd: So can you explain what a control freak is?**
* **Julia: A control freak is someone who likes to be in control, has to be in control all the time of all things.**
* **Todd: And if there's not, if there's disorder or something left?**
* **Julia: It causes him stress. It causes him stress so just simple things like maybe like a house guest. While he's a very friendly and generous and warm person, having an extra person in the house makes him uneasy because it's a factor that it's out of his control.**
* **Todd: So how about other things like are you a, like a video game junkie or TV junkie?**
* **Julia: There are certain games that I have to take off my phone because they will eat away my time.**
* **Todd: Right, like Angry Birds and stuff like that?**
* **Julia: Stuff like that. The ones that, just really simplistic ones, things like Tetris and putting squares in boxes and Bejeweled where you change, moving things around. Those kind of games I can get very readily addicted to so I have to, I have to be careful. I had like a brief intense fling with TechM, like those fighting games. I was really into fights, fighting games and playing.**
* **Todd: Wow, that's hard core.**
* **Julia: Yeah, but it was shortlived, and I felt like it was an unhealthy obsession.**
* **Todd: Yeah, you can, yeah.**
* **Julia: But yeah it was great. I enjoyed it when I did it. It was fun.**
* 2-
* **Peter: So, Jana, you told me that you'd been a student in three different countries and now you're teaching in Japan which is yet another different country. It sounds really interesting.**
* **Jana: Yeah, that's right. Well, I did my undergraduate degree in Prague, in the Czech Republic and as a part of that I did an exchange program in Madrid for one semester and after that I moved to Sydney in Australia and I did my master's there and now I teach in Japan. So, yeah, you're right.**
* **Peter: Wow, that sounds really interesting. I'm curious about the student life in these different countries. Do you think there are big differences in these countries in terms of student life?**
* **Jana: Well, I haven't been a student in Japan, but I can sort of compare from my experience. Yeah, I think it is quite different. In Prague, it was a very serious study environment sort of thing and a lot of my classmates were a bit older as well, so they were like really interested in the subject they were studying, and it's more like autonomous learning. So everybody spends a lot of time in the library researching and reading and that sort of thing and the teachers were really good in their subjects, but they were great experts, but maybe they were not really good teachers.**
* **Peter: Right.**
* **Jana: So at that time I didn't really enjoy that environment. I felt it's too advanced for me. I would have preferred some, a bit more guidance maybe. But, yeah, Sydney was different too because there's so many international students, so it was a whole different experience, not just about study but meeting people from different countries. And I guess Japan and Spain might be a little bit similar in a way.**
* **Peter: Really? How come?**
* **Jana: I felt in Spain it was more teacher-fronted style of teaching so students taking notes and perhaps not participating so much and I guess it depends on the student, but maybe some of them were not that interested in the subject.**
* **Peter: I see.**
* **Jana: And it's a similar kind of feeling I get in Japan.**
* **Peter: OK. How about studying in Sydney? Was that, in that way was it really different? Were people more active and participating students?**
* **Jana: I guess it depends on the student. Some students were more active than others, but I suppose they were there by choice. You know, they wanted to experience studying in another country and expand their horizons, so I think they were a bit more active.**
* **Peter: You said about that people in Prague were really serious students. How about the students in Spain and in Sydney, Australia?**
* **Jana: Right. Well in Spain I actually found it difficult to meet, to become friends with local students although you would think that, you might think that Spanish people are really friendly and open but actually it was quite difficult to get into the local life so I, most of my friends were other international students too to be honest. But I think they all had, you know, part-time jobs and their own activities outside of school that they were interested in.**
* 3-freak and animal
* **Todd: So, Julia, let's talk about types of people.**
* **Julia: OK.**
* **Todd: Right, first one, are you a fitness freak?**
* **Julia: A fitness freak? I'm fairly fit, but I'm not a freak. No, I'm not a fitness freak, no.**
* **Todd: So you exercise but it's not like you do it all the time?**
* **Julia: No, and I do some unhealthy stuff as well. I like to drink and I'm a former smoker and yes, no I'm not a fitness freak.**
* **Todd: Right. I think a fitness freak is like somebody who does it, who exercises compulsively.**
* **Julia: I indulge in bad stuff too, so no I'm not a fitness freak.**
* **Todd: OK, so that leads us to the next question. Are you a party animal?**
* **Julia: Not any more. I'm too old now.**
* **Todd: When you were younger, you were a party animal?**
* **Julia: I think, yeah, that was probably the type that I most fitted into.**
* **Todd: Nice. I was never a party animal.**
* **Julia: No?**
* **Todd: No, I've always been pretty tame. I've always been pretty tame.**
* **Julia: Yes, I was pretty wild when I was younger.**
* **Todd: Really?**
* **Julia: Yeah.**
* **Todd: So you used to drink, smoke, stay up late?**
* **Julia: Yeah. All that and more, yeah.**
* **Todd: Come home in the wee hours of the morning?**
* **Julia: Oh, yeah.**
* **Todd: Oh, nice, that's cool. OK, next one would be do you know anybody in your family who's a couch potato?**
* **Julia: Couch potato?**
* **Todd: Because I know that you're not a couch potato.**
* **Julia: I'm not a couch potato, no. My brother sometimes demonstrates couch potato traits.**
* **Todd: Yeah.**
* **Julia: He likes to play video games and stuff like that, and he'll spend a lot of time watching movies, and so he does spend a lot of time sedentary compared to me. He makes me look like a fitness freak, I guess, because he doesn't do so much exercise.**
* **Todd: Right. And so for people listening a couch potato is somebody who watches a lot of TV and sits on the couch.**
* **Julia: Spends a lot of time on the couch, yeah.**
* **Todd: Well, how about the similar personality trait of the bookworm? Are you a bookworm?**
* **Julia: A bookworm? No, but I think my husband's probably a bookworm.**
* **Todd: Yeah?**
* **Julia: He spends a lot of time reading books. He reads very fast, so he gets through a lot of books.**
* **Todd: He's a speed reader?**
* **Julia: Yeah, he's a very fast reader and he has to read. He has to have a book with him all the time. He cannot, a waiting room or on a train or any situation where you've just got to sit around, he cannot do it if he doesn't have a book.**
* **Todd: Yeah. You know I live alone and that's a terrible trait that I have. I cannot sit and eat and just eat without something to occupy my attention. I have to read or I have to be like watching something on the computer, and if I go to a waiting room or anything like that or I'm on a plane I'm the same. I have to have something to read. It drives me nuts.**
* **Julia: You see I can't read on transport because I get sick. It makes me sick, it makes me nauseous.**
* **Todd: Like motion sickness?**
* **Julia: Yeah. So I don't have a habit of reading on a train. A bus or a car, oh my God no, I can't read. No way, but my husband reads everywhere all the time.**
* **Todd: That's cool.**
* 4-studnt life abrod
* **Peter: So, Jana, we were talking about academic life in different countries but how about daily life for students? Did students also have part-time jobs and where did they eat? Did they eat at home or in dorms or did they go out?**
* **Jana: Right. So my life in Prague was quite different because I was living with my parents, but obviously I would go to university for the lectures or seminars and yeah, I think most of my classmates had part-time jobs or even full-time jobs and they would study sort of in their free time and in the Czech Republic usually students go to university in their city so they stay at home with their parents, but if they choose to go to a different city then they would stay at dormitory, so some of my classmates who were staying, who were living in dormitory, I felt like they had more social life than I do because that's where all their social events happen.**
* **Peter: Right.**
* **Jana: I have actually never lived in a dormitory so I don't know what it's like.**
* **Peter: So how about student life in Spain?**
* **Jana: Yeah, I suppose again it depends on the students. Maybe local students and international students might have different lifestyles but I was living with a host family and they cooked for me once a week. That was really nice. Every Sunday we had a really nice meal, but apart from that I would eat at the cafeteria or cook at home and I didn't have a part-time job but I think a lot of my classmates did. It wasn't so easy for international students to find work so...**
* **Peter: Yeah, yeah. And then you moved to Sydney? How did that change things for you?**
* **Jana: Well, Sydney was a lot of fun. There are so many international students, so many different cultures and it's a big part of education actually. International education in Australia is a huge business as well.**
* **Peter: Really?**
* **Jana: So there are so many international students. In fact, in my class I think there were maybe two Australians.**
* **Peter: Wow.**
* **Jana: And the rest were from all over the world.**
* **Peter: Hm. I also had a friend who studied as an international student at, in Sydney, and he told me it's quite expensive for international students to live there. Is that true?**
* **Jana: That's right. One, you have to pay the tuition fees, but also, depending on where you come from, you need to apply for a student visa and often one of the requirements is you need to show that you have enough funding for the whole course.**
* **Peter: Right.**
* **Jana: And the actual living costs might not be that high. It depends where you live. A lot of students share houses.**
* **Peter: Right.**
* **Jana: Or work part-time as well.**
* **Peter: So part time work is allowed then?**
* **Jana: Yes. You can work up to twenty hours per week.**
* **Peter: OK.**
* **Jana: While on a student visa.**
* **Peter: Right. So you can have some income at least to support yourself?**
* **Jana: That's right.**
* **Peter: Where did you live in Sydney and did you have a share mate or somewhere like that?**
* **Jana: Yeah, I lived in a share house with other students. It's a really common thing to do in Sydney because the rent is so expensive.**
* **Peter: Oh, really?**
* **Jana: So not only students but even working adults often share apartments. Yeah, I actually moved maybe five times while I was there.**
* **Peter: It sounds pretty hard actually.**
* **Jana: It was fun to try living in different areas and with different people.**
* **Peter: Great.**
* 5- More Moms
* **Todd: Now there's a couple that are kind of, that are not as nice. They can be positive or negative like for example a helicopter parent.**
* **Julia: A helicopter parent? What's that?**
* **Todd: So a helicopter parent is basically a parent that just hovers over their child all the time. They're always worried about their child. They follow them everywhere. They want to know what they're doing at all times and they just worry a lot. They're so worried...**
* **Julia: That sounds very stressful.**
* **Todd: Yeah.**
* **Julia: As a parent.**
* **Todd: They're always worried their child's going to get hurt or something, you know, or they just are just over-protective, I guess yeah. So are you a helicopter parent?**
* **Julia: No, I don't think so, no. No, I'm very happy for my daughter to have independence.**
* **Todd: That's good. That's good. So you don't like, if she goes outside for a few minutes or if she's, you know, you hear some clanging in the next room, you don't go rushing over.**
* **Julia: No. I wait for the tears before I go over.**
* **Todd: Smart, smart. There's, recently because of a very popular book we have, it's called the Tiger Mom.**
* **Julia: A Tiger Mum?**
* **Todd: Yeah, Tiger Mom.**
* **Julia: Sounds cool. Is it a positive term or is it a negative?**
* **Todd: It is kind of. Actually it comes, the tiger I think comes from the Asian reference. It's like for an Asian mother and it's basically really strict, really driven, like really push your kids, make them study hard, demand good grades, demand that they do extra curricular activities, really push them to have high paying careers or successful careers, do well academically and stuff like that.**
* **Julia: From very young, does this...?**
* **Todd: Yeah, from very young. The woman who wrote the book, I think it's actually called Tiger Mom and she was a Yale professor and I think she was of Chinese ancestry and she raised these very successful daughters and so she wrote a book and basically saying you need to be strict and push your kids and demand excellence. I think that's what she wrote.**
* **Julia: Is the tiger, is it reference to like the Chinese horoscope, maybe like the characteristics of the tiger for that year?**
* **Todd: No. Actually I just think it has to do with being a tiger comes from Asia, I think that's it.**
* **Julia: OK, well a tiger does have a pretty kind of aggressive or driven sort of image.**
* **Todd: Right.**
* **Julia: When a tiger gets something in its sights, you know, like where it comes from.**
* **Todd: Totally.**
* **Julia: No, I'm not so much a tiger mum, no.**
* **Todd: So you're a soccer mom?**
* **Julia: More of a soccer mum I think, yeah.**
* **Todd: That's good. Yeah, that's what I would want, a soccer mom.**
* **Julia: A soccer mum, yeah.**
* 6- Soccer Mom
* **Todd: So, Julia, now you are a parent.**
* **Julia: That's right.**
* **Todd: And have you heard of all these terms that we have in the US for different types of parents? I wonder if you have them in the UK?**
* **Julia: You mean like soccer mum, stuff like that?**
* **Todd: Exactly.**
* **Julia: That's the only one I've heard of actually.**
* **Todd: OK. So what do you think a soccer mom is? What have you heard?**
* **Julia: My image is a mother who dedicates her time to running her kids to and from soccer practice. Is that right?**
* **Todd: Right.**
* **Julia: And also drives a big vehicle? My image is of a big SUV or a big four wheel drive.**
* **Todd: Right. I think it's also, it's like a parent that has many scheduled events for their child.**
* **Julia: Oh, OK.**
* **Todd: So maybe they have swimming class or soccer practice, ballet and stuff like that.**
* **Julia: Oh, maybe I'm a little bit of a soccer mum.**
* **Todd: Yeah, I think now, yeah. I think it's actually a good term. It's like, I think a soccer mom usually is considered a caring parent.**
* **Julia: OK.**
* **Todd: And they try to have their child doing productive things.**
* **Julia: It must be pretty, quite an affluent perhaps middle class kind of parent.**
* **Todd: Yeah, exactly, exactly. Now we have the equivalent, it's called a Nascar dad.**
* **Julia: Is Nascar some kind of car racing?**
* **Todd: Yeah, basically it's just the, these cars they run around and ride around in a circle. It's kind of like horse racing for cars, you just go round and round. But, yeah, so I guess it's the same thing. It's just a dad who's really, you know, really into his kids, spends a lot of time with his kids.**
* **Julia: Would this be a stay at home dad, like a...?**
* **Todd: No, no. It's just kind of like a good old boy father, like a dad who's kind of blue collar, not rich, you know, maybe lower middle class maybe but just kind of like your typical sitcom, TV sitcom dad I guess.**
* **Julia: But that's nice. Takes his kids everywhere, that's nice.**
* **Todd: Yeah, yeah.**
* **Julia: Involved in the...**
* **Todd: Yeah, like a Nascar dad would probably take his sons hunting and maybe take his daughter shopping and stuff like that.**
* 7-Shipwercks
* **Jana: So, Peter, I've been asking you about hunting for treasure. Can I ask you a few more questions?**
* **Peter: Sure.**
* **Jana: So why are there so many sunken ships in South Africa?**
* **Peter: Well I guess around the southern tip of Africa because of the really bad weather. It really changes really quickly in those parts and with the ancient ships I guess they weren't really prepared for that kind of weather, it's unexpected, so I think that's probably one reason. And I think one of the other reasons is probably piracy, people that were after them, the loot I guess if you want to put it that way, yeah.**
* **Jana: Right, and if it's so dangerous, how do people find these sunken ships nowadays?**
* **Peter: I think, obviously with technological advances it's easier to track where the, possibly where these sunken ships might be. I think they can use satellite navigation and things like that but obviously also finding out more about history and, you know, going through historical records and finding out the old shipping routes and possibly where ships got lost and finding it that way, I think, is now, is more easier than it used to be.**
* **Jana: So it sounds like an interesting combination of technology, science, history...**
* **Peter: I would guess so.**
* **Jana: Adventure.**
* **Peter: Adventure, yeah.**
* **Jana: So your friend does this as a hobby. Do you know if it's very expensive? Is it a big investment to...?**
* **Peter: As far as I remember what he told me and I think it's really expensive and they formed a little company to start off with but because it involves so much searching and basically doing historical research, also doing a lot of preparation and technological preparation and finding, first tracking, sorry first finding places where possible finds may be and then actually preparing equipment and some of it's really deep sea diving so it involves, I think, a lot of initial capital investment to get it going. Obviously there might be a lot of return when they actually find something but I think in many cases they don't find as much as they expected so there's a potential for losing a lot of money so you'd have to have quite a bit of capital investment behind you if you start out.**
* **Jana: Right. So you need a lot of courage and a lot of money?**
* **Peter: Yes. But I think he's an adventurer so he, I think he goes where adventure leads him so it would be a nice job to do I think.**
* **7- Treasure Hunt**
* **8-1220 Metrosexual
Daniel talks with Vella about the concept of some men being metrosexual.**
* **9- 1219 Men Cry**
* **Daniel and Vella talks about the cultural norm for men not to cry and if they should cry more often.**

سميث : يرحمكم الله !‫Smith: God bless you!ويلد : شكرا لكWild: Thank you.سميث : هل لديك برد ؟Smith: Do you have a cold?ويلد : نعم ، لهذا السبب أنا أعطس كثيراWild: Yes, that’s why I’m sneezing so much.سميث : أتمنى أن تتحسن في وقت قريبSmith: I hope you feel better soon.ويلد : أصاب بنزلة برد كل شتاءWild: I get a bad cold every winter.سميث : هل تأخذ شيئا لمعالجة نزلة البرد؟‬Smith: Are you taking anything for your cold?ويلد : أنا آخذ كونتاكWild: I’m taking Contac.سميث : هل يساعدك ؟Smith: Does it help?ويلد : نعم، ولكنه يسبب لي النعاسWild: Yes, but it makes me sleepy.سميث : من الأفضل ألا تقود إذا!‫Smith: You’d better not drive then!