

PODCAST WORKSHEET

REAL ENGLISH

WITH

REAL

TEACHERS

BY

HARRY & CHARLIE

ARE SELFIES STUPID?

PODCAST 02

In this podcast we waste 10 minutes of your life by asking each other a very pointless question. Are selfies stupid? We continue to debate over the question, coming up with phrases and vocabulary that real native speakers use in real conversations.

We have created this worksheet for you to learn and start applying the phrases and vocabulary in your own English.



GOOD
LUCK



WHAT IS INSIDE THIS WORKSHEET?

1. VOCABULARY & PHRASES
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VOCABULARY AND PHRASES FROM THE PODCAST

Here is a list of vocabulary and phrases from the Podcast that you may not have understood. Please note that we aim to provide the most understandable definition for non-natives so we choose not to use the Oxford or Cambridge definitions for some.

Strange (Adjective)	Unusual or surprising; difficult to understand or explain.
Go straight ahead (Phrasal Verb Phrase)	Get started immediately
False Sense of Security (Phrasal Noun)	One thinks everything is fine, but it really isn't, there's a danger of failure in the situation.
Stimulus (Noun)	Something that causes activity or energy in someone or something;
Come out with one's weapon (Phrasal Verb Phrase)	Slang phrase - A sexual suggestion where a man shows his male parts to someone.
Expose oneself (Phrasal Verb)	Similar to the above but more formal.
Social Dynamics (Noun)	The behavior of groups that results from the interactions of individuals.

VOCABULARY AND PHRASES FROM THE PODCAST CONTINUED

Awkwardness (Mass Noun)	An uncomfortable / uneasy feeling
Stand-offish (Adjective)	Distant, unfriendly and cold in manner
Autism (Mass Noun)	a mental condition, present from early childhood, characterized by great difficulty in communicating and forming relationships with other people and in using language and abstract concepts.
Autistic side of the spectrum (Phrase)	Here Charlie plays on the informal saying "on the spectrum" which is a phrase used to describe a person with social tics and/or awkwardness usually associated with autism
Hipster (Noun)	a person who follows the latest trends and fashions, especially those regarded as being outside the cultural mainstream.
Mainstream (Noun)	the ideas, attitudes, or activities that are shared by most people and regarded as normal

TRANSCRIPT 1/5

Charlie: Welcome to real English with real teachers, myself Charlie Baxter hello and Harry Gyles

Harry: Hello I'm a real teacher too

Charlie: Ooh congratulations Harry,

Harry: Thank you

Charlie: Alright so we are here together to do podcast number two and we are debating over some rather **strange** yes or no scenarios. Harry's gonna **go straight ahead** for the first one and he's gonna lead this one.

Harry: Okay so the first of today's debate topics and which we will be arguing for very strongly err because we are very determined and we believe in ourselves, don't we Charlie?

Charlie: Hell yes

Harry: First is are selfies stupid?

Charlie: Okay, are selfies stupid? So I'm going to put the ball in one hand and you're gonna choose.

Harry: Err left

Charlie: Left hand? So the left hand has the ball in so yes you are for selfies being stupid and I like selfies therefore.

Harry: Okay

Charlie: Okay

Harry: Right okay well as I am for I guess I should probably start this debate and give my opening argument. So a selfie is a photo that you take of yourself usually with the front camera on a smartphone. Are we happy with that definition.

Charlie: Yeah

Harry: Yeah okay. Firstly I think selfies are stupid because if you look back at the number of people who have risked their lives to take a selfie. For example on the edge of a cliff or on the side of a very tall building. Umm and these people whilst trying to get a cool selfie for their facebook profile they have fallen over the edge and died and fallen to their death and so in my opinion I think putting yourself in that situation to take a selfie is stupid and if selfies didn't exist people wouldn't do these things so I think selfies are stupid. What do you think of that?

TRANSCRIPT 2/5

Charlie: Okay. Err yeah I was doing a bicycle, mountain biking trip in Bolivia and we were doing the, they call it the death Road and you go down at like a whole day of downhill mountain biking along this cliff edge and they said constantly that most people nowadays are falling over because they are trying to do a selfie so that is proof that it's actually happening.

Harry: So do you agree that selfies are stupid then because what what you just said a kind of umm confirms my argument doesn't it.

Charlie: I'm leading you down a **false sense of security**, I'm gunna shock you!

Harry: Ahh a false sense of security.

Charlie: False sense of security, so for listeners a full sense of security is when you are given information or given some sort of **stimulus** that helps you believe that you're feeling safe and secure

Harry: yeah yeah

Charlie: but it's, it's not

Harry: Yeah

Charlie: It's tricking you

Harry: Yeah so in this example you have tricked me into thinking that I'm winning the argument.

Charlie: Exactly

Harry: And supposedly you are now going to umm to to **come out with your weapon?**

Charlie: My Ha! My weapon, yea

Harry: Not not in a sexual way

Charlie: Definitely not definitely not okay that would change the err the podcast quite dramatically wouldn't it

Harry: Yes yes it would yes

TRANSCRIPT 3/5

Charlie: So err I'm not going to be **exposing myself**

Harry: Ahaha ha

Charlie: But I will say that err something that selfies have brought to **social dynamics** is less **awkwardness** in a photo.

Harry: Okay

Charlie: and more coming together.

Harry: Okay, so what is awkwardness?

Charlie: Awkwardness coming from awkward means that you feel uncomfortable in a situation

Harry: Okay so it's like a feeling of discomfort in a situation.

Charlie: Exactly, yeah

Harry: Okay right and the selfie relieves this discomfort does it?

Charlie: Yeah it does because you have to get together, close for the frame of the camera and so if you've got a family member that is quite **standoffish** it gives you a purpose a reason to close that gap...

Harry: Okay

Charlie: Create body contact

Harry: Okay body contact

Charlie: Yea body contact

Harry: Okay that's interesting I mean ~~Honest~~, I see where you are coming from and I, I to some extent agree and I think it's good to get people together in a photo and selfies can do that but from a psychological perspective if we take into account and people with **autism** who really don't like having physical contact and it actually causes them to really want to get out of the situation. If they have body they're forced to have body contact for a photo that's going to cause negative behaviors and potentially ruin a nice evening umm so I tend to disagree I don't think it works in every situation. I think an autistic person would feel more comfortable with a with a normal photograph.

Charlie: You're absolutely right Harry yes sorry I didn't I

TRANSCRIPT 4/5

Harry: I know

Charlie: I didn't really focus my argument on the **autistic side of the spectrum**.

Harry: Mmm

Charlie: I was focusing predominantly on the other side the more social(*able*), comfortable, average human.

Harry: Okay well they are, we're all equals in this world and we may have some viewers with autistic family members so that I'm trying to keep it neutral and for this for the sake of my argument I would say we need to think off and every member of our population because we're all equals.

Charlie: We're all equals yeah.

Harry: Okay my next point of why selfies are stupid. Um no one has ever looked cool taking a selfie and nowadays people want to be **hipsters**, people want to walk around the streets and they want people to look at them and think all their cool and the moment that you get your selfie stick out and you put it in front of you and your friends you look like an idiot and and selfies you just cannot be cool and take selfies.

Charlie: ok ok what **can we just rewind** what, so what's a hipster?

Harry: Hipster? Okay this is difficult because I think hipsters are classed differently in different countries and but for us a hipster is normally someone who has a big beard who wears kind of trendy clothing which is in fashion

Charlie: Yeah

Harry: then often checked shirts and sometimes quite tight jeans

Charlie: Yeah

Harry: and often caps and kind of baseball caps they wear backwards or or or the or the normal way they're they're hipsters I think I don't know they're the the cool people who want to be cool, look cool and who people think are cool.

Charlie: all right yeah well I was going to go for a more, a more politically correct definition but that's fine, that's fine.

Harry: What would be your definition of a hipster?

Charlie: So someone who er who follows the latest trends and fashions.

TRANSCRIPT 5/5

Harry: okay well that's a lot easier than my definition isn't it

Charlie: but they're also regarded as not **mainstream** so they follow a trend but they're not mainstream

Harry: Okay yeah that's a lot a lot simpler than my definition completely agree with that. Okay cool well you got you anything to come back to that?

Charlie: Umm it's difficult because I actually do think they're quite stupid umm...

Harry: Oh right okay well building on that then do you think I probably win this argument Charlie? I mean I'm a lot more convinced by my argument so far and it sounds like you are as well.

Charlie: Yeah so one-nil to Harry Gyles

Harry: BING BONG! Thank you. Thanks very much.

COMPREHENSION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Now it's time to listen to the Podcast again and answer some comprehension questions. These questions are open, so feel free to write as much as you want, and try to use the new vocabulary and phrases when you think it would be appropriate. When you are finished, use the transcript to check your answers. Good luck!

1. Why does Harry not like Charlie's opinion that selfies can help to remove awkwardness?
2. What do you think Harry's strongest point is when trying to argue that selfies are stupid?
3. In Harry's opinion, how does someone who takes a selfie look?
4. What is Charlie's definition of a Hipster?
5. Who wins the debate?
6. What is your opinion of this utterly pointless debate!?
7. In your opinion, who makes a better argument?
8. Do you take selfies? If so do you take them in dangerous situations?
9. Are selfie sticks the best thing since sliced bread or not?
(look up this saying 'the best thing since sliced bread' if you do not understand this question.)



WRITTEN

BY

HARRY & CHARLIE