

# Podcast Transcript 003

## Leo was an Exchange Student

All right, all right my dear friend! And welcome to episode number three. I am really excited about this podcast and first off, I want to thank you for the feedback and for all the comments on the blog. I don't know if you are aware that all the episodes here on this podcast, they're published on my blog and all the material and all the download material is there for you, available for you to download. Anyway, and if you want to leave a comment about the episode, you know, just go to [www.AgoraEuFaloAcademy.com/blog](http://www.AgoraEuFaloAcademy.com/blog) or if you just go to [www.agoraEuFalo.com](http://www.agoraEuFalo.com) And you just click on the blog tab. That's all. Anyway, I am really, really excited about this. This episode because first, I don't know if you've noticed, it's going to be all in English, my friend.

Yes. I really understand that what you really want is that I talk in English to you so you can practice your, listen and you're right. You know? Come on. Let's. Not be afraid of, you know, putting ourselves out there and exposing our ears to English speaking. And that's what we're doing here.

And in this episode, I want to do something very, very different. You know what I'm going to do? I'm going to tell you a story. You know that I am the King of the magic stories, right? And. I'm going to tell you this story, and it's a story about one of the experiences, one of the most important experiences I've ever had in my life, which is my exchange program, when I was an exchange student in the United States back in the 90s right in the early nineties in the early nineties so I'm going to tell you the story. You're going to listen. And of course you can download the script of this story all in English so you can read and listen, but we are going to do something even more exciting. I am going to transform this audio, this story of my life in America, into a magic story. So what's going to happen is you will listen, you will read and listen, and then you are going to answer questions about my story. Then you're going to ask questions about my story, and of course this episode, is going to turn into a magic story, a real lesson or real class. I'm going to try to make it short though, cause you know, we can't have a two hour episode because you know, it gets too long.

So I'm going to try to stick to about 35 minutes to 50 minutes or maybe an hour. Let's see how it goes. So my intention here is to have you listen to me talking in English to you, practicing English with you wherever you go. So you can be listening to this podcast in the car. You can be listening to this episode in the gym. Right? commuting to work on the bus, on the train, traveling on a plane.

So I want this, this podcast to be something really fun for you. And so that's why it is so important that you leave your feedback there on the blog. So don't forget to go back to the blog and leave your comments there, which is very simple because all you gotta do is, , go to a, go to follow [academy.com/blog/](https://academy.com/blog/) the number of the episode zero zero three right. Okay. So in this story, I'm going to talk about my exchange student experience my exchange program. I don't know if you know this, but back in, , in 1991, I went abroad as an exchange student .

To Seattle in the state of Washington in the United States. It wasn't my first experience going abroad. I had already traveled abroad before I went to the United States, which helped me a lot with my English. But, , you know, the big, , jumpstart. , in my English was when I went to the United States.

And, and before he start telling you the whole story, it's important that you understand that I don't speak the English. I speak today because I spent this exchange programming in the United States. Uh, so you know, that, uh, the exchange program lasts only a year. And I stayed in the United States longer than a year.

And then I can, I can tell you a little bit more about that later, but it is very, very important that it's not the solution for your English speaking. Okay. You can speak English exactly the way I do. . I actually, I don't find my English that good. Okay. I really don't. I really don't. I think I make mistakes all the time and sometimes I think my pronunciation is not that good, but something, but something is true.

I can communicate and people can understand me and I can talk about anything I want and I can listen to people talking about anything they want. If I don't understand what they say, I know how to manage it. So if somebody says something that I don't understand, I don't panic and and I can get the person get the message across anyway.

Let's go to the story.

## The Story

Okay. The first part of the story is to tell you when , what part of my life it was. So it was in the beginning of the nineties it was 1991 and I was 18 years old. Actually, my birthday is on July 1st and my trip was scheduled to the 16th of August? Of 1991 so I had already turned 18 when I traveled. Why am I telling you about this age thing? It because it was crazy. According to the program, one cannot travel, cannot take this program if he is over 18 and I had applied. For the exchange program two years before I applied for the exchange program in, 1990 1989 I think I was 16, 17 and you know, I took all the tests and I went in, I had all the interviews, but nobody told me anything .

One year later, I was already getting ready for, for the university to, for the university exams here, what, what we call vestibular, right? So I was getting ready for vestibular here in Brazil when I got a call. Well, actually, I, yes, I got a call from the guy from the guy who works at FedEx.

It's one of those express delivery companies: FedEx, DHL, TNT, ups. Right. Well, this is so funny. The guy called me and I was living in an apartment, but, uh, when I applied. For the exchange program. I was living in a house with my parents and my parents got divorced and then I moved and then I moved, uh, back with my mom into our apartment.

And so that happened in between. So this guy calls me and said, are you Leonardo Leite? Yes. Well, I am blah, blah, blah. And I worked for FedEx and I've been trying to reach you for about four months. But you, you moved out and I wasn't able to find you until one of your neighbors gave me your phone.

Remember guys? 1991 there was no cell phone, right. . And I think that, and I think that my phone number was the same, I think. I'm not sure. Anyway, uh, so this guy called me said, I have a package for you, so what's your address? So I give him the address and he came to my house and brought this big envelope from FedEx.

When I opened it, it was, , a letter saying, you have been approved and you you need to make the arrangements. You are, traveling. You have to be here on the 17th of August, 1991. Well, guess what? I was reading this document on July 15th. It was exactly one month. I had one month to prepare for everything.

That was crazy. It was crazy. And it, lots of people said, Oh, come on, you're, you're getting ready to go to college. How can you do this? And I don't care. I am going well, but do we have money? And my mum was worried about money cause we didn't, we didn't have a lot of money. And they said, mom. And, and my mom , had recently got divorced from my dad.

So I had to talk to my mom, I had to talk to my dad, and my dad was going a little better that time. He's innocent. And he said, okay, I'll buy you the ticket. And, and my mom said, okay, I'll help you with the monthly expenses. And so on. Anyway. I was going, so I went to the rotary. I don't know if I mentioned that I, I took the rotary exchange, , student program.

So I went to rotary, and the lady there said, Oh boy, you're late. I mean, you've got a month to go and you have to go. The lady said, I said, I know. I know. So what am I supposed to do? So they arranged a few trainings with some, , former, , exchange students and, you know, they gave me sort of a lecture on how things were going to go anyway , I was ready to go.

So I, I, you know, I had, Oh yeah, I have to cancel, not cancel, but I have to make arrangements at schools so I wouldn't miss that year. And that was my senior year , in Brazil. Well, now I'm not sure

if, what if it was senior or junior? Not sure. If it was a second or third grades of our school system here anyway.

, and my English was not that good either. My English was not that good. So how, so in one month I sort of prepared myself for emergency situations as, as I arrive in the United States. And that was funny. And, , I decided, guys, remember I was 18 years old. Okay. So I thought to myself. Hmm. I think I'm going to memorize some phrases.

So imagine I knew nothing about English learning or English teaching or anything I had already been to, to those, , cursinhos de Ingles and. And my English was really bad. I couldn't understand very much what people said. I could express myself somehow, but I really couldn't understand what people, you know, , especially native speakers.

And so I decided to imagine everything that people there in the States would ask me. So what are they going to ask me as soon as I get there? So that's how I started preparing myself. So, okay, they're going to, I know that they're going to ask me. How my trip was. What about my family? You know, how many people are in my family, what the members of my family do, um, about my school.

, I thought about that, about that. Okay. I really did. So I started collecting the phrases. To say as soon as they asked me about those subjects, right. And man, I tell you what, I did great. I really did because I practiced, you know, I, you know, I, I repeated the dialogues in my head. For these 30 days before I traveled and it was great.

Well, anyway, so I talked about when it was a, how old it was, how I prepared. So the preparation is very, very important guys so if you were, if you were going to a place in which you are going, you're going to have to speak English, be prepared. Think about the things that you were going to talk about. Uh, think about the, the questions that people might ask you.

Right. Okay. What are people going to talk to me about? What are they going to ask me about? And, and be creative. I mean, people normally talk about the same things. All right. I knew that they were going to ask me about my trip. I knew they were gonna ask me about my country, my language, my, my family. That is a lot of, um, things to talk about.

Anyway, the trip to the United States, that was the, that was the 16th of August, 1991. And th the most interesting part was that . Uh, some, some of my best friends, my best friends decided to drive me to the airport. Can you believe that? Ah, that was nice. It was really nice. So my friends went to the airport.

Um, my father and I don't know. I don't know if somebody else from my family went. Cause I remember my mother didn't want to go to to the airport. You know. She was gonna cry. She, you

know, she had been crying for about, for about four for the entire 30 days. Right. So, but I remember it was my father, maybe my aunt or uncle, I can't remember.

But I do remember my friends coming to the airport with me, to say goodbye. And that was great. Imagine when you are 18 you know, man, your friends are the most important people in the world and you know what? They still are. Your friends are the most important people in your world. My friend believed me cause you know what?

I've been friends with these people until today. Isn't that nice? So the, uh, they drove me to the airport and I said all the goodbyes and so on, and I boarded the plane alone. And as soon as I, I, I took my seat on the plane. I, you know, I reached in my pocket, in my, in my jacket, and inside that pocket. There was one note from each one of them.

Each one of them wrote me a note, you know, saying, Oh, we love you, I love you, and please enjoy your stay there, and we were all waiting for you here. Oh man, that was great. It was really, really cool. Anyway, on this trip to the United States, there were a few other. A few other exchange students from rotary, uh, some, um, one from San Paulo and another one, another one from Rio, another one from Belo too.

So they were there. There were a few guys and girls going to the same place. Well, actually going to Los Angeles. I was, my final destination was Seattle. In the state of Washington. So there were few people going with me to Los Angeles and from Los Angeles. , each one would connect to a different city, but I still had a girl, this girl, and I remember her name, , and if and if she's listening to it, cause I lost touch with this, with this lady, I met her on, on the plane.

And. We spent the entire exchange program year in, the United States being friends. And when we came back, we lost touch. I remember her name. Her name was Valeriana from Sao Jose do Rio Preto so if somebody from Sao Jose do Rio Preto listening to this episode. Please get in touch, because Valeriana was part of a very special moment in my life, and I know that was very, very special for her too, because we went to the same city.

We both went to Seattle and she had her experience in the, in a city, very close to Seattle, but the airport was the same. Anyway. We landed in LA, in Los Angeles, from Los Angeles. We flew to Seattle, and I remember Valeriana didn't speak English at all. She really didn't. I mean, she spoke a few words and she was really, really nervous.

But when we got off the plane, we got off the plane and then. We met our families. And what do you think happened when I and valeriana met our families at the airport. What were they doing? What did we talk about? Could I speak English to them? Could VALeriana speak English to her family? In the next episode.

Questions	Answers
When did Leo go abroad as an exchange student?	
How old was he?	
How was his English?	
Was it his first experience abroad?	
How did he prepare his English?	
Did he go to the airport alone?	
Did he travel alone?	
Who did he travel with?	