

I have a confession to make... – Transcript

Welcome to Easy Stories in English, the podcast that will take your English from OK to Good, and from Good to Great. I am Ariel Goodbody, your host for this show, and today, I have a confession to make.

Today's episode is just going to be a short one. There will be a transcript in the description as a PDF document, but I'm not going to put it on the website because this is really just a short episode to make an announcement and to ask something of all of you.

So I have a confession to make. I don't know what you want. So on the 3rd of September, you might remember I announced my Story Builders online course. This is an eight-week online group Zoom course, which theoretically starts on the 23rd of October in just five days. Now, I say theoretically, I'll explain that later.

But basically, for the last few weeks, I've been promoting the Story Builders course a lot. You've probably got sick of hearing me talk about it. I made a video where I dressed up like a builder, I sent out lots of emails, I mentioned it on the podcast many times.

I guess now is a good time to take a moment to explain why I made this course, and why I chose to make this course in this way. If you don't know, the Story Builders course is an English course, but the goal is for us to create a story together which will then appear on the podcast.

So basically, I made Story Builders to be everything I would want in a language course. As you may know, I speak eight languages, so I've had a variety of different language learning experiences, from traditional classes in school to teaching myself. So, what makes Story Builders different?

Well, one, it's interactive. Many language classes involve a teacher talking at you, or you're just talking a lot with other students, but there isn't much beyond conversation and exercises. However, writing a story together is a really deep form of interaction that engages many different parts of the brain and of our identities.

It's also something real. It's not just doing imaginary role plays or hypothetical grammar exercises. Yes, of course, when we write a story, we are creating a new form of reality. It's not like it's about our lives specifically. But we always bring a lot from our lives into the story and it has relevance to our real life.

It has a concrete goal, a real, tangible goal. So at the end of the course, you will have something to take away. You will be able to say, look, this is a story I helped write. These are the ideas that were mine. These are the things that I added. Whereas normally when you finish a language course, you might get a diploma or a certificate saying you're this level, even if maybe you're not actually that level. Or you just get the teacher telling you, you did this well or that well, but there's not really a sense of completion of receiving something at the end of the course.

Story Builders is very affordable. It's great value compared to other online classes and in-person classes, and it's much cheaper than doing one-to-one lessons with me.

And finally, it's completely unique. I would love to do Story Builders with other teachers in other languages, because, I don't think there are many teachers who can offer that kind of experience, and not only offer that experience, but then take the finished story and put it on the podcast.

But that's what I would want. And clearly, I don't know what you all want, because, here comes the real confession: so far, nobody has signed up for Story Builders. Not a single

person has signed up. That's why I said, theoretically, the course will start on the 23rd of October, because obviously, if no one signs up, then the course won't happen.

I assumed I knew what you all wanted, and clearly, I got it wrong.

Now, it's possible that some people will sign up at the last minute. It's also possible that some of you wanted to sign up, you wanted to do the class, but the times didn't work for you. Or maybe it's possible that you just want something else. Maybe you want more books, more episodes of the podcast, more live streams, I don't know, maybe there's something else that you think would be much more useful for you studying English.

So clearly, I need to get to know you all better. I did do a big survey of my audience, I sent a questionnaire out with lots of questions about you and what you like and what you find useful, but that survey was in January 2021, so over three years ago. So I've decided it's time to do another survey so I can really understand, one, what happened with Story Builders, but also more generally, what you want from the podcast.

So, go to [EasyStoriesInEnglish.com/Ask](https://www.EasyStoriesInEnglish.com/Ask), A S K, and I'll put a link to that in the description to answer the survey.

Now I know that surveys are a bit boring. I've tried to make this as short as possible, it should only take five to ten minutes, and as a bonus, when you finish the survey you'll get an extra beginner level story, The City Mouse and the Country Mouse. I would be so, so grateful if you could fill out this survey. If you just have one thing to say, you can always just leave me a comment or write me an email, whatever you prefer.

So, I recently have started teaching in a language school in London. I talked a bit recently about my job hunting, about me looking for jobs. Really, I would love to be able to make Easy Stories in English my main job, because then it means I get to do a lot of fun writing and videos and podcasts and it means more content for you.

But another confession, I tried doing that this year, I tried making Easy Stories in English my main job, and it was incredibly stressful. I was so worried about money and, you know, algorithms, YouTube, Spotify, all of these things. There's so much out of my control that it makes it very difficult, so that's why I decided to get this extra job teaching in a language school that's more stable.

So because of that, I'm not going to have as much time for the podcast, which means I'll be going back to doing episodes fortnightly, or once every two weeks instead of every week.

The idea behind Story Builders was to give me a stable way to keep doing the podcast without having to take on another job. Obviously that isn't quite working so far. But maybe it's a possibility in the future, or maybe I focus on something else like doing more books, for example.

I don't want to seem ungrateful. I don't want to seem like I don't recognize all of your support, because many of you do really support the podcast, you support me in a very beautiful way. Some of you donate money, some of you take classes, some of you are members of Easy Stories in English Premium, some of you write reviews and of course just by listening you are supporting me or telling your friends about it for example.

So the reason I'm saying all this is, you can still sign up for Story Builders. Maybe you were thinking about it, but you weren't sure. If you want to do it, now is your moment, because if you don't, then it might not happen, okay?

So if you want to sign up, you can go to [EasyStoriesInEnglish.com/Build](https://www.EasyStoriesInEnglish.com/Build), B U I L D. I only need three students to do a class, so if three people sign up the class will happen and that means it's even better for you because then we get a really nice small class size and we can all get to know each other really well.

But if you can't afford Story Builders, or you're not interested, or the times don't work for you, or there's simply something else you're more interested in, the most helpful thing you can do is answer my survey. I'm being really serious here. I clearly don't know what to focus on. I clearly don't know what would be best for you. And if you answer this survey, it will really help me understand where to focus my efforts.

There are things I've considered doing like in-person events, like live events, but I've never really known if it's really what you want, and I don't want to try and run a live event and then have nobody buy tickets because that would be very stressful.

So again, go to EasyStoriesInEnglish.com/Ask or click the link in the description. And a reminder that you get that cheeky little beginner story, The City Mouse and the Country Mouse, for completing the survey.

Okay, I'm sorry for spending so long just asking you to do things. I am so thankful for everything you all do to support me. I really enjoy doing the podcast and the fact that I can make any money from it is pretty cool. You know, a lot of artists, a lot of creative people aren't able to make any money from their work, or they generally have very unstable working conditions, so I'm very grateful.

Again, thank you for listening, and I look forward to reading your survey answers. Bye!