

## Episode 1 - Transcript

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**Kit (00:01.89)**

Hello and welcome to Unscripted English. I'm your host Kit.

**Lawton (00:05.005)**

And I'm Lawton. And this is the first official episode of Unscripted English, official or otherwise.

**Kit (00:12.882)**

pilot episode.

**Lawton (00:14.695)**

Exactly. So yeah, we're excited to be starting this YouTube channel slash podcast slash whatever format you are actually viewing it in now. And as this is, this is our first episode. We thought it would be a good idea to just go over what we're hoping to do here. You know, who we think that we are going to be reaching out to and you know, how we think we're going to be helping essentially. So yeah, Kit, what is Unscripted English? What are we trying to do here?

**Kit (00:49.052)**

So what we're trying to do is to just provide some listening practice for non-native English speakers who are not necessarily beginner level but are also not expert level. If you're in that sort of weird in-between place where your level is too high and you're probably too old to watch a lot of like the younger children's English content that might be more traditional for lower levels, we are hoping to give you a better option.

**Lawton (01:27.109)**

Yeah, exactly. Like Kit said, I think we are looking to target kind of the intermediate range. And I think that this can go up or down a little bit. If you're a high beginner, I wouldn't say that you necessarily shouldn't watch. And definitely if you are more in the advanced category also, I don't necessarily think you shouldn't watch. I think what we're really hoping to do is...provide some content and some listening practice to, to kind of a wide range of listeners, but what we will also try to do is after each episode, we will try to provide some follow-up content, probably both in the form of kind of language explainer for those who maybe need a little bit of support. For example, if there are some idioms or things like that that we use throughout the episode that we think maybe we could provide a little bit of additional context for, then we'll do that. But also some links to content around, around kind of the same topics that we've covered. And so hopefully, particularly for the more advanced learners, this will provide some additional content that you can kind of do a little bit more of a deep dive on and continue to get, you know, that additional input that, you know, I think a lot of language learners are looking for.

#### **Kit (02:51.858)**

Exactly, and I think we're also trying to really provide you with a way that you can just sort of naturally interact with the English language and get your practice in rather than sitting down and having to study. I know there's lots of different study resources that are available, but you might just be sitting in the subway or on a bus or just even be at home and not want to...really focus in on your studying and your flashcards or whatever, hopefully this will be a different way that you can get some practice in without feeling like you're studying. Hopefully it'll just be more fun.

#### **Lawton (03:33.211)**

Yeah, exactly.

And this is probably a good kind of way to introduce ourselves a little bit because both Kit and I are also language learners ourselves. We have also been language teachers, though neither of us are currently doing that professionally at the moment. We have both worked as English language instructors and teachers. And like I said, we are both language learners ourselves. And I think part of the inspiration for this channel, this podcast is that in kind of in our own journeys. So both of us are Korean second language speakers to a pretty high level. I think for both of us, there is a Korean language test that both of us have taken. And Kit, what was your what was the last time when was the last time you took that? And do you remember what you got?

**Kit (04:31.398)**

think it's been four years since I last took the test. I did get, yeah, I did get topic level five at that time. It's expired now, but if anything I feel like my Korean's gotten better since then. I just haven't bothered to retake the test.

**Lawton (04:36.228)**

So, bye.

**Lawton (04:43.493)**

Yeah. Yeah.

Well, hopefully in the last... Yeah, hopefully in the last four years you would expect so. I also took it a number of years ago, think similarly maybe four years ago, maybe even a bit longer than that. I did manage to get level six, which is the highest level on the test, which is cool. Barely got it, but I did get it. we're both... Yeah, just barely. So we're both at a pretty high level of...

**Kit (05:10.35)**

It counts.

**Lawton (05:16.167)**

Korean though, I think both of us. I mean, maybe I should just speak for myself I feel like I still have a long way to go to really get to my goal level and my goal level goal level being kind of native or at least near native level But what I find what I found and and kit what I think you found as well is that there is not as much content as we would like that kind of fits in to what our level can understand and follow very well, but also find enjoyable. There are a few resources out there that provide this. I don't want to say that there's none, but there aren't a lot. It tends to be very textbook-heavy, grammar and vocabulary-focused type of content, or it's a Netflix, you know, drama.

Which is cool, and I was just watching one today, and you know that can be extremely helpful But I would like something that is a little bit I don't want to say I don't necessarily want to say easier But yeah in some sense a little bit easier than a drama is going to be But still interesting still about topics that you know I find compelling

**Kit (06:35.82)**

Right, I think that's been a similar struggle for me as well. It can be hard if I just want to sit down and get some quick, easy practice in and sort of relax while I do it. A lot of times it's either just not the right type of content or it's just at that more difficult level that I really have to lock in and pay more attention than maybe I'm willing to do at that point in time. So I think we both kind of as we experience this ourselves realized you know it's probably the same for English and we ended up looking into it and looking and yeah a lot of it is heavy study resources or it is those Netflix dramas and things like that. Not a lot of it is sort of that nice in-between place.

**Lawton (07:30.885)**

Yeah, exactly. And it's probably a good place for us to kind of more fully introduce ourselves. You've heard a little bit about us now, but maybe to give you a more kind of complete background, you know, including kind of how we met and where we live now and things like this. Kit, do you want to go first?

**Kit (07:51.366)**

Yeah, so I am originally from Ohio in the US and I ended up studying Korean as an undergraduate at my university in Ohio. And that's sort of how I first got into learning Korean and coming to Korea. I was really interested in learning languages and I figured that Korean seemed easier than Chinese or Japanese, not sure if that's actually true, but that's what I thought at the time. So that's sort of how I ended up doing Korean. And I came and studied abroad in Korea and had a great time and improved so much in the one year that I was here that after I graduated I came back. And so I came back as an English teacher. That's sort of an easy way.

**Lawton (08:41.585)**

Mm-hmm.

**Kit (08:48.178)**

for a native English speaker to come and come to Korea and so that's really where I got into teaching English and English as a second language and that's where I learned really a lot about that. But there wasn't really much career growth that I could go on to from there so I ended up doing a master's here in Korea at Seoul National University, which, spoiler alert, that's how I met Lawton. Because I think you graduated, what was it, like the semester before me, right? Before I started.

**Lawton (09:24.357)**

Yeah.

**Lawton (09:31.707)**

Yeah, think I graduated exactly the semester right before you entered, if I remember correctly.

**Kit (09:39.558)**

Yes, yeah. So we still ended up having classmates in common and meeting at some of the school events.

**Lawton (09:46.471)**

Right.

Yeah, and we still have some mutual close friends from that time as well, definitely. Yeah, and then we worked together as well.

**Kit (09:57.07)**

Hmm.

And then we worked together. Lawton got me my first job out of Masters at an ed tech company. He vouched for me and I will forever be thankful for that.

**Lawton (10:04.391)**

You're fired.

**Lawton (10:12.103)**

No worries, no worries. Yeah, just a quick background on myself. I'm also from the US originally. My family lives in Virginia now, and that is where I spent my last year of high school and also where I went to university.

But before that, my family moved around quite a bit. We weren't in any one city or even state for all that many years before we tended to move to the next place. So lived in several places in the US. And then I started university at Virginia Tech, and I ended up studying abroad in France for a year. And this was my, that was my first real experience with language learning. I had taken French in high school and I hated it because I didn't get it. I just didn't get it. I felt like I just wasn't good at it. And that was frustrating for me because I was in most other things a pretty good student. I was never absolute top of the class, but I was always, I always got good grades and I was somewhere nearish the top of the class and French I've just found really difficult. I just didn't get it. And that continued into early university. I decided to continue studying French kind of...very largely out of frustration. I just felt like I couldn't learn it and I really wanted to. I was so annoyed that this thing seemed to be sort of beating me. And so I decided that, well, okay, I'm really struggling to learn this. I should go to France.

**Lawton (12:02.315)**

and I had the option to go for a semester or go for a year and I decided to go for a year, which was when I initially arrived, terrifying. But by the time I had been there for a couple of months, I was so glad that I had decided to stay for a full year because in that first semester I did learn a lot, but it kind of really was in the second semester that I think a lot of what I learned sort of took full shape. And then I came back to the U.S. and I graduated, graduated and I was Very eager to travel more basically, you know going to France really I got bit by the travel bug we sometimes say and wanted to continue traveling a bit see a bit more of the world and as Kit said it was at the time pretty easy to come to Korea as an English instructor

and I knew a couple of people who were a year or two older than me that had done that. And so yeah, I came initially as an English instructor and my experience in France had been, you know, that I went there for a year and I learned a huge amount, like kind of going from like B1 level of the language, kind of barely, to about a C1.

Which was a pretty big leap and so I was kind of expecting that after being in Korea for you know a year or so that I would be very proficient in the language well I got here and in the first year learned basically nothing in the second year Slightly more than nothing but not much more than that so after I think it was in my third year I decided okay. This is silly, I'm going to take some classes. So I was in a fortunate position where,

**Lawton (13:53.893)**

I was teaching all my classes in the afternoons and evenings. That left my full morning. So I was able to actually go to a local university for morning classes, which were nine o'clock to one o'clock every day for two full semesters. So that was pretty helpful, obviously. I learned a lot during that period. And by the time I finished that class, realized that I was interested in learning more formally about language, about learning language. about language structure, about language meaning, all these things. And so that was why I decided to go to SNU and study linguistics for my masters. And yeah, graduated a couple of years later and yeah, since then have been working, and have continued to be very interested in languages, learning languages, and of course, you know, for myself continuing to improve in Korean. So yeah, that's just a little bit of my background.

**Kit (14:58.898)**

That's so interesting. I never knew that about you studying French and going to France before. I actually also studied French in high school and that was what also made me want to learn languages kind of because I really liked French and I liked learning it so kind of the opposite. But I felt like I had kind of plateaued after high school and I wasn't that motivated with it so I wanted to do a different language.

**Lawton (15:04.197)**

Yes. Yes.

**Lawton (15:09.382)**

Okay.

Interesting. Okay, kind of the opposite. Yeah, that's interesting.

**Lawton (15:26.277)**

Yeah, I gotcha, I gotcha, that's interesting. So where do you live now, kid?

**Kit (15:32.76)**

So now I live in Seoul, South Korea. Still in Korea, I've been here I think about 10 years now. Which, mean, Lawton, you say wow, but how long have you been here?

**Lawton (15:35.441)**

to still in Korea.

**Lawton (15:41.638)**

Wow.

**Lawton (15:46.567)**

Yeah, so I live in Sokcho, actually. Sokcho, South Korea, which is on the East Coast. I did live in Seoul for a number of years, but I came, when I first came to Korea, I came to Sokcho and then...

to Seoul to do my master's program and to work and then a couple years later I moved back to Sokcho because I love Sokcho. It is beautiful, it is a really great place to live and visit. If you ever have a chance to come to Korea you should definitely come to Sokcho and check it out. It is a really nice place. So I live in Sokcho now and I have been in Korea total, this will



be coming up on 17 years in August of this year. So yes, I have been here for a very long time.

**Kit (16:27.004)**

Wow, that's wow.

**Lawton (16:29.477)**

Yes, and actually I did get my Korean citizenship last year. So I'm now a dual citizen of the US and Korea, which is pretty cool and was a real pain to get, but I'm so glad that I did do it. yeah.

**Kit (16:48.964)**

Yeah, I, that's something I should start maybe looking into is that process of getting citizenship. But, as I know, it's a

**Lawton (16:58.231)**

It is a whole thing, so yeah.

**Kit (17:02.044)**

That's so I haven't yet because I know it's a lot of work.

**Lawton (17:06.855)**

It is a lot of work, it is a lot of work, but it's pretty cool. So, I mean, I got the citizenship last year, but I just got my Korean passport, like, a week ago, and it's... Anytime, I guess, you have a big life event, it takes a while for it to sink in, and I think the Korean citizenship didn't fully sink in for me until I got my Korean passport. Now, it's like, wow, yeah, okay. I'm, you know...Korean now, that's cool. That's Not yet, not yet. Yeah, not yet, but soon I guess yeah Yeah, so what about just like hobbies kid like what are you into?

**Kit (17:38.546)**

Have you voted yet in Korea? Not yet.

**Kit (17:45.618)**

Probably soon. That's exciting.

**Kit (17:53.266)**

so I have a lot of hobbies actually. This, I could talk a lot about my hobbies so Lawton cut me off if I'm talking too much. but I, I love to knit and I love to crochet. I also do some needlepoint and cross stitch so I have some old grandma hobbies. I am quite a homebody, I like making things.

**Lawton (18:03.962)**

No worries.

**Lawton (18:15.952)**

That's cool.

**Kit (18:20.474)**

I also, I've played violin from a young age and so I still enjoy playing and practicing my violin. I don't really do any concerts. I'm not in any orchestras or anything. I just kind of have it and I play it for fun myself sometimes. I read a lot. I like to read. I also like to watch a lot of TV, specifically Star Trek I am obsessed with. And we will probably have...

**Lawton (18:36.92)**

Boom.

**Kit (18:49.584)**

just an episode at some point where I just talk a lot about Star Trek because...

**Lawton (18:53.393)**

about Star Trek. I'm looking forward to it because I know nothing about Star Trek, so I'll be learning along with our viewers.

**Kit (19:01.838)**

that'll be perfect because you'll be able to like get me to focus on like okay what i need to talk about for people who maybe don't know it because it's obviously like a huge american cultural

**Lawton (19:16.539)**

Definitely.

**Kit (19:17.946)**

reference point, right? Like there are so many things that reference Star Trek and that come from Star Trek that you probably don't even know about. So even if you're listening to me talk and being like, okay, that's an episode I'm gonna skip, maybe don't because it is more relevant than you think to things. yeah, let's see. And then I also like, I also ski and I snowboard. I'm going...

**Lawton (19:19.345)**

that right there.

**Lawton (19:38.823)**

Totally.

**Kit (19:45.562)**

to Gangneung this weekend to go skiing, so I'm very excited. I like active things like that, riding my bike and hiking here in Korea. People ask me, I've been unemployed now for a while and I've been job seeking, but I've had people ask me like, well what do you do with your time? Aren't you bored? And my answer is no, I am never bored.

**Lawton (20:11.941)**

Okay.

**Kit (20:14.674)**

I like to do a lot of things so yeah. What about you, Lawton? What sort of hobbies do you have?

**Lawton (20:19.739)**

Yeah.

**Lawton (20:23.685)**

Yeah, I mean, I'm kind of the same in that I do have a lot of hobbies. I do have to say that over the last several years, really since the master's program, I do feel like I let a lot of my hobbies fall away. And so I'm looking to pick a lot of those back up now that I have a little bit more time. I'm also in a job seeking status currently. So I have a little bit more time on my hands and I'm looking to take advantage of that to get back into some of my hobbies. some of the ones that I have been doing, you know, very consistently are, basically working out at the gym. I try to go to the gym and get in a workout at least let's say three times a week. And I also try to run a couple of times a week. And I've also gotten into bouldering recently, which is for those of you who don't know, it's basically rock climbing, but no ropes. you stay, you're not climbing up a super high, you know, rock face, it stays relatively low and there's padding and mostly I'm going to an indoor gym here in Sokcho called I'm Not Boulder. And I go there a couple of times a week, but there are actually a lot. For those of you who don't know, Korea is very mountainous and there are a lot of actually really high quality boulders in this area and kind of all over Korea. So as it's coming up on spring, probably we'll be looking to do some more actual outdoor bouldering, which I'm excited

about. I also like to read, although I kind of fell out of the habit of reading for fun during the master's program.

**Lawton (22:04.901)**

at Seoul National University and was mostly just absolutely buried in papers that were interesting and that I enjoyed reading but were not kind of the same as reading fiction for fun like I used to really enjoy. So I'm looking to get back into that for sure. And then, yeah, mean, definitely I do like watching TV as well. These days I do try and watch quite a bit of Korean TV both because I enjoy it and also because I think it's you know, it's helpful to to continue learning and I'm kind of trying to get back into my French as well. It's been a really long time, but there are a couple of French podcasts that I really like. There's one called Inner French that I think is really, really good. And for me was a little bit of the inspiration for this podcast. They kind of present materials, very interesting materials in a slightly more friendly way for Anyone who is maybe not a super advanced speaker, but again, let's say kind of intermediate level And then you know if you want to find out more they kind of give you some resources for that. So Yeah, trying to get back into my French a little bit and yeah, those are Yeah, those are most of my hobbies. I think

**Kit (23:27.228)**

And that actually reminds me too of a tip I want to give our listeners that might seem really obvious, but it's something I did not immediately think of when I first started listening to podcasts and to audiobooks. And that is you can control your playback speed, right? If we're talking too fast or if you're listening to anything that's too fast, you can just slow it down.

**Lawton (23:33.191)**

Night.

**Lawton (23:49.169)**

Totally.

**Kit (23:57.114)**

Or if the pace is too slow for you, you can speed it up. And I do that actually a lot with different podcasts and audiobooks that I listen to, is I tend to speed them up or slow them down depending on what it is. I rarely listen to anything on one time speed anymore. So.

**Lawton (24:00.871)**

Thank

**Lawton (24:11.184)**

Yeah, definitely.

**Lawton (24:16.069)**

Hmm interesting. Yeah, I definitely have used that especially for audiobooks kind of point eight speed Normally like a little bit easier If it's a if it's a Korean audiobook then and if it's an English audiobook, yeah often kind of more like 1.5 or something

**Kit (24:24.571)**

right.

**Kit (24:33.424)**

That's what I usually do with my English audiobooks too. And then anything Korean, I slow it down. just you talking about that made me think of that. And I wanted to make sure our listeners don't feel bad if you have to slow us down or speed us up. It's your listening and it's your enjoyment.

**Lawton (24:37.061)**

Yeah, yeah, that's a good tip.

**Lawton (24:44.069)**

Yeah, that's a good tip.

**Lawton (24:52.155)**

Yeah.

**Lawton (24:56.101)**

Yeah, and actually that's probably a good time to introduce kind of the, let's call it the philosophy, at least for me, coming into this podcast, which is basically a concept called comprehensible input. And this is a relatively well known language acquisition theory, let's call it, language acquisition people. But I feel like it still hasn't necessarily really reached all that broad of an audience. So my guess is that a lot of people who are listening probably don't really know what I'm...referring to currently and that is completely fine. And I don't want to dive too deep into the details of it right now. We can maybe do a follow-up episode in the future where, you know, we go a little bit into a little bit more detail about the specifics of it, but just to give kind of a quick overview. The input hypothesis was something that was developed by Stephen Krashen, who is a linguist and has been for many years now. And to, again, try and just keep things very simple, he basically posits that the, really the main thing, and in some sense the only thing that allows you to learn a language or I should really say acquire a language is input in that language. And this separates it from especially the language instruction at the time, but language instruction that I think is still very common around the world,

**Lawton (26:55.493)**

which tends to be very grammar and vocabulary focused. So this was part of the reason that I didn't like French in high school very much. And I think it's part of the reason that I didn't learn it very well is that we were being taught these quite abstract grammar concepts and then given normally sort of almost context free vocabulary words and then just kind of mashing them together in these, you know, drills and stuff and that wasn't working for me. I wasn't able to really make natural language out of that and I think a lot of people have had that experience. So as kind of a reaction to that there have been a couple of different approaches to language teaching, language learning, language acquisition, not only the input hypothesis but there is also a different approach. Let's call it, I'll call it the

communication focused approach, which is not an official name, I'm just making that up, but that is a lot more focused on speaking. typically people who are interested in that type of approach... basically recommend that you speak as much as you can as early as you can and that it's by it's basically through speaking practice that you eventually really you know become a full speaker of the language and that contrasts with the with the input hypothesis in that the comprehensive input hypothesis kind of says that well if you haven't learned a piece of language yet You can't really use it to speak. You might be able to do some sort of speaking drill where you're just prompted to use it and so you use it quickly in a sentence and then it sort of falls away. But that's not really the way that we naturally learn languages. We naturally learn languages by listening to them a lot.

### **Lawton (29:05.732)**

or reading them a lot. And so basically the approach says that the best way to learn a language is to get as much input as possible and even better. again, comprehensible input. So, crashin has this idea of of in plus one, basically saying that the ideal input for you is like is basically you understand a hundred percent of it except this like one thing, this one additional thing. And when that is the case, you will always learn that one additional thing because you have sufficient context to to infer it or to learn it. And of course, that's not always possible. It's very difficult to find content that is exactly at that level. But, you know, to put it simply, you're looking for content or input where you understand the great majority of it, but there's just a little bit in there that you can't quite catch. And the more content you get like that, the more that you will learn naturally. One other just...important piece of information or part of the theory that I'll briefly communicate is the difference between language learning and language acquisition according to Krashen and basically he makes he distinguishes between those two things in that he says that language learning is essentially a conscious process. So it's like when you're learning English and you learn that in the third person singular present tense, you're supposed to put an S at the end of verbs. Like, you know, he eats pizza, for example. You learn that as a rule. Whereas acquisition is when you have just faced something so many times, you've seen it or heard it so many times that

### **Lawton (31:00.483)**

eventually when you produce the language, you just produce that. You don't think consciously, yeah, I have to put an S there. Native speakers don't think about language that way. So when you truly acquired it, you just produce it naturally in the correct way. And I



think it would be completely reasonable for somebody to say like, well, yeah, but is there really a difference? Don't you have to learn it before you can acquire it? And I think that's a completely reasonable question. I would say no, for a couple of reasons. First, because again, native speakers don't learn language that way. Nobody ever taught, nobody taught me when I was, you know, a toddler that I had to put S on the end of, you know, third person singular present tense. I just heard that a bunch and eventually started to do it.

**Kit (31:47.634)**

They teach you that after you know it, right? In elementary school.

**Lawton (31:52.805)**

Right. Yeah, right, right. You may later have grammar sections in your English classes or something where they sort of point it out and they start telling you these parts of speech and things, but that was not part of your initial language learning. And additionally, additional piece of evidence that I would give that at least shows that learning a language rule is not at least not sufficient to acquire it is that I would guess that somewhere around 96 % of the population in Korea knows the rule that I just mentioned that when you when you have a sentence, know, he eats and pizza you have to put an S he eats pizza and if given a test You know virtually everyone in Korea You would be astounded knows that rule even people that can barely speak English at all. They will be able to on a test say, yeah, you got to put an S there. I know that. But when the language is produced, many people still forget and will say he eat pizza. So in that case, I would say they have learned that language rule, but they've not acquired it, just another piece of evidence that there's at least a distinction between the two that's worth making. So yeah, that is kind of the philosophy that we're basing things on. We want to be providing you with input, hopefully a lot of input that can help you acquire the language naturally.

**Kit (33:23.676)**

Yeah. And so obviously we've done the research that shows that, but I think also just from firsthand experience as well, I know, like we said, learning Korean, I definitely feel that way. There were a lot of rules and a lot of things that I learned, but didn't actually feel comfortable producing until I came here and I just did it and I heard it all the time. And I've learned a lot more that way as well, just through hearing it and...

**Lawton (33:33.798)**

Yeah.

**Lawton (33:54.139)**

Yeah.

**Kit (33:54.482)**

copy in people and I know certain things in context and I don't know how to necessarily describe its rule or anything. I just know context and so I think a lot of language learners will also collaborate. Collaborate? No, that's...corroborate! That's a hard word. Agree! Most language learners will agree that that is the case.

**Lawton (34:13.041)**

Yeah, there we go.

**Lawton (34:23.815)**

Yeah, yeah, I think I think so too. I think so too. And I think some people will ask like, about like, you know, very early learners, you know, when you understand 0 %? You know, what do you do that? know, I say, okay, well, first, this, this channel, this podcast is not intended for true beginners. We're expecting people of at least a high beginner level, but I still think it's an interesting question. And yeah, I think that we can get into some more detail about what Krashen says about that in a future episode where we sort of deep dive on the comprehensible input hypothesis.

**Kit (35:02.832)**

Yeah so I think that's the podcast. That's what this is gonna be about. We ended up there with a lot of more technical theory type things but you know that's not gonna be what it is every single time. Sometimes we'll do more like fun pop culture-y things, sometimes we'll do more science things, and sometimes we'll just chat you know.

**Lawton (35:20.135)**

Yeah.

**Lawton (35:26.503)**

Bye.

**Lawton (35:32.271)**

Yeah, yeah, I think that that's a kind of a good way to think about. What we're going to be trying to do is you know really you know kid and I are gonna come on and we're gonna have a chat and we're gonna kind of invite you to be a part of that and You know, obviously you can't literally be speaking with us, but hopefully you can feel like a part of the conversation And you know as much as possible, please feel free to jump in in the comments. Leave us any feedback We would be really happy to receive it And also, of course if you enjoy the episode, please do like it and consider subscribing, and we look forward to bringing you many more episodes in the future. Thanks everybody. Bye bye.

**Kit (36:10.172)**

Great to meet you. See you next time.