

A to Z English



A to Z Quick Chat 62: Xochitl's Trip to Seattle

Website: <http://atozenglishpodcast.com/episodes>

Email: atozenglishpodcast@gmail.com

Full Transcript

00:00:01 Jack

Welcome to the A-Z English podcast, where Jack and Social take you on a journey from learning the basics to mastering the nuances of the English language.

00:00:11 Jack

Our podcast is designed for non-native speakers who are looking to improve their English skills in a fun and interactive way. Each episode covers a wide range of topics.

00:00:23 Jack

From grammar and vocabulary to slang and culture to help you navigate the English speaking world with ease.

00:00:36 Jack

My name is Jack and I'm here with my co-host social and this is a special episode and today's topic is how was your trip to Seattle?

00:00:47 Jack

How was your trip to Seattle so social?

00:00:51 Jack

How was your trip?

00:00:54 Jack

To Seattle, WA in the United States of America.

00:00:59 Xochitl

I had a great trip to Seattle, WA.

00:01:02Xochitl

It's a beautiful city.

00:01:04Xochitl

The weather was actually really nice.

00:01:06Xochitl

Seattle is famous for being really rainy.

00:01:10Xochitl

For those of our podcast listeners who aren't aware that area in the West Coast is known for having.

00:01:18Xochitl

Rainy weather almost year round.

00:01:22Xochitl

However, most of my trip there were clear skies, beautiful weather.

00:01:29Xochitl

And a lot to see and do.

00:01:32Jack

No, I saw the pictures that you posted on Facebook and it looked beautiful.

00:01:38Jack

There's lots of lots of water, so there's like the sea and a lot of grass.

00:01:45Jack

It's just a lot of green trees and things like that.

00:01:50Jack

What? Where? Where did?

00:01:52Jack

You go to take those pictures like what were some of the interesting places that you visited in Seattle?

00:02:01Xochitl

I mostly stayed in the downtown area and I also went to Alki Beach.

00:02:07Xochitl

That's where I took some of the beautiful water pictures that you saw.

00:02:11Xochitl

I think a lot of the Pacific Coast has a really beautiful color.

00:02:16Xochitl

And it's funny because if you go anywhere where there's a coast that's Pacific, it's the same lane.

00:02:24Xochitl

Like when I moved to South Korea.

00:02:26Xochitl

In South Coast is on the Pacific and the water was also a really beautiful blue color.

00:02:33Xochitl

Uhm, but Seattle had a really beautiful watercolor, so I was mostly on Alki Beach and in the downtown area.

00:02:44Xochitl

I took the ferry to Alki Beach, which was really cool and yeah, I just walked along the boardwalk where you can.

00:02:53Xochitl

See all sorts of things.

00:02:55Xochitl

There's the docks for the ferries, and there's also Ferris wheels.

00:03:00Xochitl

There's a lot of attractions, like a lot of shops and gift shops.

00:03:04Xochitl

If our viewers aren't allowed, what a gift shop is, it's where you usually go when you're a tourist to buy some, like trinkets or some clothing to take home for people.

00:03:15Jack

Right. Like souvenirs.

00:03:17Xochitl

Yes, sitting here is perfect.

00:03:21Xochitl

So yeah, and.

00:03:22Xochitl

It was really cool because there were also a lot of cherry blossoms, you know.

00:03:27Xochitl

Anyway, felt a little like being in Asia.

00:03:30Xochitl

It's like weird.

00:03:31Xochitl

I would walk on the street and I would just hear people speaking Korean or Japanese.

00:03:37Xochitl

And there were all these cherry blossoms.

00:03:39Xochitl

And there was, like a lot of a lot of the cuisine that I ate when I was abroad was available.

00:03:47Xochitl

Like we had salmon sashimi.

00:03:48Xochitl

And it was like actually good quality.

00:03:51 Xochitl

And yeah, there's like good quality sushi, and there's a whole Asian market, several Asian markets.

00:03:58 Xochitl

Uhm, so I thought that was really interesting.

00:04:00 Xochitl

I think the really cool thing about the US is.

00:04:04 Xochitl

It's so diverse.

00:04:06 Xochitl

Which is kind of.

00:04:09 Xochitl

Where when you visit other places.

00:04:11 Xochitl

To see so many different like cultures and ethnicities represented in one small area.

00:04:17 Jack

Yes, I I I agree with you.

00:04:20 Jack

It's so interesting.

00:04:21 Jack

When I go to the United States, it doesn't.

00:04:24 Jack

It's not what?

00:04:26 Jack

Is represented on television or movies.

00:04:30 Jack

It's not just white people.

00:04:32 Jack

It is every color of the rainbow.

00:04:37 Jack

It's every ethnicity.

00:04:39 Jack

But there is something about there is a an American culture.

00:04:44 Jack

That I think is kind of something that everybody shares, that assimilates in America, but also underneath that you have all these different ethnicities and cultures and different foods.

00:04:57 Jack

And so I guess maybe the choices are so many in America.

00:05:02 Jack

That's what I like about it.

00:05:04 Xochitl

Yeah, I mean, I could stay downtown and decide and this is not just in Seattle, which is a big city.

00:05:10 Xochitl

But in tiny like.

00:05:12 Xochitl

I live in in a tiny city right now in the Midwest.

00:05:15 Xochitl

And you can still pick whether you want to eat like Chinese food or Mediterranean food, or Mexican food, or Japanese food or Korean food that day and may not be the most.

00:05:24 Xochitl

Then the version, but you have the choice to have so many of these different cuisines.

00:05:30 Xochitl

And as someone who's traveled, it's not that far off from the authentic version compared to what you would get in other countries.

00:05:39 Xochitl

Yeah. And is this?

00:05:40 Jack

I think foodies are too hard.

00:05:41 Jack

On on those restaurants.

00:05:44 Xochitl

Yes. Yeah.

00:05:45 Jack

Some people are really here's a good expression stuck up about food.

00:05:49 Jack

It has to be exactly like mom made in Korea to be authentic.

00:05:55 Jack

And I don't agree with that.

00:06:00 Xochitl

Yeah, there's some things that like it since every country and region within the country and everything has its own unique palette.

00:06:10 Xochitl

There are even some foods I'm going to hate myself for saying this because I I like kind of hate people when they say that they prefer the Americanized version of the Mexican dish.

00:06:19 Xochitl

Like, oh God, you have no taste.

00:06:22 Xochitl

But sometimes like for like the Korean food I've had here.

00:06:22 Jack

Right.

00:06:27 Xochitl

Like not only, but there are certain things that like I feel like Korea has a certain.

00:06:35 Xochitl

Variety of spices they use in many of the same dishes over and over again, and then yes, there's just so much more access to different types of produce.

00:06:44 Xochitl

So like if you mix it up a little bit, it's like it just gives you that variety I think.

00:06:50 Jack

Yeah, I totally agree. And actually I think this is kind of off topic, but that's OK because that's the A A-Z everything A-Z.

00:07:00 Jack

The good thing about Korean food abroad is that they will choose the best ingredients over the authentic ingredients.

00:07:10 Jack

So what I mean is like.

00:07:11 Jack

They'll they'll use a a really good carrot instead of a A so so.

00:07:17 Jack

You know, not so.

00:07:19 Jack

Good onion or whatever, or spring onion or whatever is from Korea.

00:07:23 Jack

That you know.

00:07:24 Jack

A radish or something, and so they'll substitute with really good produce.

00:07:29 Jack

And So what you end up getting is a different dish, but it still has the essence of the Korean dish, but it's something different.

00:07:38 Jack

It's something new.

00:07:39 Jack

It's kind of American, Korean American food.

00:07:41 Jack

But it's it's definitely authentic because it's it's it's made in the same with the same care and the same thoughts that a Korean dish would be made with.

00:07:53 Jack

It's not just a.

00:07:56 Jack

It's not McDonald's.

00:07:57 Jack

You know Korean, if that makes sense.

00:07:58 Xochitl

Yeah, it's often made by Korean immigrants with what they have available.

00:08:05 Jack

Right.

00:08:05 Xochitl

They've adapted the dish with what they had available to make it the best possible dish they could, and they did a great job.

00:08:13 Jack

And like you said, sometimes you prefer that over the actual Korean dish, the one that you got in Korea.

00:08:18 Jack

And I think that's OK to say because I'm I'm the same way I agree with.

00:08:22 Jack

Yeah. So OK, so.

00:08:24 Xochitl

Yes, that's not going on.

00:08:26 Jack

Yeah, we got we.

00:08:27 Jack

Got way.

00:08:27 Jack

Sidetracked into Korean food, but it's interesting.

00:08:31 Jack

It's fun to talk about it.

00:08:32 Xochitl

That would be another we could do another beginner chat on that.

00:08:36 Jack

Yeah, we could do a whole beginner chat on just Korean food.

00:08:39 Jack

Last question about your trip to to Seattle.

00:08:43 Jack

Did you go by yourself or did you go with a friend?

00:08:47 Xochitl

So I went by myself to see a friend who was having a baby shower.

00:08:53 Xochitl

It's my first friend to get pregnant.

00:08:56 Xochitl

Like am I getting up there?

00:08:58 Xochitl

You know, getting engaged or married or like, I have one son who's pregnant now and it's like, oh, it's.

00:08:58 Jack

Yeah. Yeah, you are, yeah.

00:09:06 Xochitl

It's weird, you know.

00:09:07 Jack

Yes, the weddings and pregnancies are good, the funerals are bad.

00:09:13 Jack

So that's when you that's when you cross the threshold.

00:09:16 Xochitl

There was a lady there who said she hadn't been to baby shower in so long.

00:09:20 Xochitl

When you get up to her age, you mostly just start going to.

00:09:23 Xochitl

Funerals and it's like.

00:09:24 Jack

Right. She's not wrong. Yeah.

00:09:27 Xochitl

So you know, I guess we're just in the beginning of life.

00:09:30 Xochitl

So everyone's just like, starting doing new thing, whether it's like getting married or getting engaged or.

00:09:36 Xochitl

Having a baby and this was one of my best friends from college and we were roommates for a.

00:09:41 Xochitl

Number of years as well.

00:09:43 Xochitl

And she was like, hey, I'm gonna have a baby shower doing a lot for me.

00:09:48 Xochitl

If you could come.

00:09:49 Xochitl

And I knew a lot of good family wasn't going to be able to make it because they don't live there.

00:09:54 Xochitl

She moved to Seattle recently.

00:09:57 Xochitl

And yeah, I was OK why not?

00:10:00 Xochitl

And I spent a lot of time alone because she lived in a different area than where I stayed.

00:10:06 Xochitl

But man, I had great times.

00:10:07 Jack

Yeah, maybe that was like the perfect amount of time to be with your friend.

00:10:12 Jack

You didn't have to lean on her too much, and she's got a lot on her plate already.

00:10:17 Jack

She's busy.

00:10:19 Jack

So probably you're like the perfect guest.

00:10:22 Jack

You know, just.

00:10:23 Xochitl

Yeah, I I felt like it was great to stay in a separate like staying in a hostel versus staying with her because it's not.

00:10:30 Xochitl

Like I had to.

00:10:32 Xochitl

They didn't feel like a pressure to entertain me or take me to see things I don't think.

00:10:36 Xochitl

And also she's pregnant, which just makes life hard.

00:10:41 Jack

Yeah, yeah.

00:10:42 Xochitl

Uh, yeah.

00:10:43 Jack

Well, it sounds like it sounds like the perfect trip, if I'm not mistaken.

00:10:48 Jack

I thought you mentioned in your Facebook that you were you would like to live there.

00:10:53 Xochitl

Yeah, I'd like to do a work exchange.

00:10:56 Xochitl

There's some work exchange programs where you can live there for, like, a couple of months and fill it out, I think.

00:11:03 Xochitl

I want to feel it out first because while I really enjoyed my trip and everything there, there are some things that I think would make it hard to live there for the really huge homelessness problem.

00:11:16 Xochitl

Which is really sad, but it's also kind of, I hope I don't sound like a jerk saying this, it's.

00:11:21 Xochitl

Kind of scary.

00:11:23 Xochitl

Yeah, because I hadn't seen this.

00:11:27 Xochitl

I I don't want to sound like a jerk.

00:11:28 Xochitl

I just hadn't seen homeless people in a.

00:11:30 Xochitl

Long time really.

00:11:32 Xochitl

There aren't really that many.

00:11:34 Xochitl

Homeless people in Korea, would you agree with that?

00:11:36 Xochitl

OK.

00:11:36 Jack

No, I totally agree with.

00:11:38 Jack

I would totally agree with you.

00:11:39 Jack

I think the homelessness problem in in Korea is much more related to mental illness.

00:11:45 Jack

So they're homeless kind of by choice.

00:11:47 Jack

And are they just they they can't.

00:11:51 Jack

Be convinced not to be homeless or in alcoholism, but I think in America what we have is a systemic problem of homelessness that has a lot to do with.

00:11:51 Xochitl

Thank you for.

00:12:02 Jack

I mean, frankly.

00:12:04 Jack

The you know the divide between the rich and the poor.

00:12:07 Jack

So that's what I think.

00:12:08 Xochitl

Yeah, cool.

00:12:10 Xochitl

There's not as much homelessness either.

00:12:13 Xochitl

While there are homeless people, you can basically set up a shantytown on the outskirts of town.

00:12:19 Xochitl

And while that's obviously not any means ideal.

00:12:26 Xochitl

It gives people a place to at least sleep.

00:12:28 Xochitl

That's like consistent and stuff like that.

00:12:31 Xochitl

And they feel I read once I was there, I was curious about it.

00:12:35 Xochitl

I read a lot about how Seattle's poor areas have been recently gentrified, which meant that the homelessness became a lot more visible and a lot more pervasive and.

00:12:46 Xochitl

And drug use is decriminalized, so you'll see a lot of people on the streets.

00:12:52 Xochitl

And unfortunate situations and it's just very difficult to.

00:12:57Jack

I saw the same thing in San Francisco, which is also on the West Coast of the United States.

00:12:57 발표자

Well, that's fine.

00:13:03Jack

They have a big homelessness problem in Seattle and Portland and all the way up and down Los Angeles, the West Coast, because I think the weather is milder.

00:13:15Jack

So if you're sleeping on the street.

00:13:18Jack

You you don't have a home, you can.

00:13:20Jack

You can survive there better in the Midwest.

00:13:23Jack

There's no way in in the world that you would survive in Iowa or Minnesota.

00:13:24Xochitl

Oh no.

00:13:27Jack

You're dead in the winter, so you know.

00:13:32Jack

Alright, well, I'm not happy.

00:13:33Jack

Notes we will.

00:13:36Xochitl

You get me every time.

00:13:39Jack

We will. We'll finish the episode today. Today we talked about Social's trip. So if you want to support the show and and listen to our other episodes, go to go to A-Z englishpodcast.com that is A-Z.

00:13:55Jack

Englishpodcast.com and if you want to make a comment about this episode, you can send us an e-mail at A-Z, englishpodcast@gmail.com A-Z englishpodcast@gmail.com join our WhatsApp group, become an active member and you I promise you, you will enjoy the experience.

00:14:15Jack

Because we have a wonderful WhatsApp group.

00:14:17Jack

So alright everybody.

00:14:19 Jack

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Thanks and see you again.

00:14:20 Jack

Bye bye.