



English: Personal Experiences

Garth Judd

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I was born in Auckland, New Zealand, I grew up there. I've got two older sisters both went on to be quite successful academically. My mother's a librarian as well so we had a lot of, sort of, they were very big on books and reading and stuff growing up. Starting out there probably learning English, I can't say I noticed any kind of variations in dialect or anything as I, as I was kind of growing up.

I learned a lot from, from books I greatly enjoyed writing and stuff when I was, when I was a kid at making up stories and creative writing and things like that. At primary school there they tended to introduce quite basic elements of Maori language and culture at the same time alongside English. My dad was always quite a stickler on things that he perceived that he was saying incorrectly. Often quite colloquial sort of expressions that you might use, sort of at the end of sentences there you'd use a lot would be like sort of the question of, "a", at the end of things. Like you'd say that's good "a", or that was a good "a" and he'd correct you all the time. You'd end it with "isn't it" or "aren't they".

It has made a lasting impression but I hope it's not something that I'm going to keep doing with my own children anyway.

Having grown up in New Zealand at the age of 16 I had to move to Sydney because of my father's job. He had to move there for work so my parents and I moved there. I found quite early on being there that you were quite often picked up upon for having a New Zealand accent and that led to a lot of teasing, mockery, things like that for the way that you pronounced words. So it became a bit of a, a conscious choice to then try and sort of moderate that out of the way that I spoke in terms of just evening out vowel sounds, things like that. I mean the reasoning behind it, I, I don't know, I, I think Australians seem to perceive us as being somewhat backwards, by contrast to them. I moved to London when I was, just turned 20. I came away travelling initially around Europe and then settled in London. Again I found I sort of moderated the way that I spoke from the time that I had been living in Australia where even then I found that I had to concentrate more on the way that I spoke in terms of enunciating my words more clearly perhaps adjusting expressions that I used. Things like that just to make myself more easily understood. Also living and working in south London for a number of years you sort of started accommodating different speech patterns from there in terms of replacing the ends of words with like an "f" sound, like south is "souf" and stuff like that. Just sort of making those kind of adjustments. It wasn't then until years later than that when I then started working for more professional companies here I think where I felt, again, a conscious need to sort of, I don't know, just wanted to improve the way that I spoke in terms

of speaking in a more formal register and, and a more grammatical way and just speaking more clearly.