QualityTime-ESL Podcast No. 7: “to want someone to do something”

Hi! I am Marianne Raynaud, and I am here to help you improve your level of spoken English. QualityTime-ESL podcasts are aimed at people who have the basic vocabulary but have difficulty expressing themselves orally. The key is to listen to language you understand and repeat this language or listen to a stimulus and then transform it according to a model. We present either short sequences with blanks for you to “Listen and Repeat” or transformation exercises. In each podcast we will work on one or two of the basic structures you need to feel comfortable when speaking English. To download our written scripts, just go to our website QualityTime-ESL.com, however it is best to do the exercises WITHOUT looking at the scripts.

Today we will be working on the expression: “to want someone to do something”

The main verbs we will be using are:
Help
Come
Look at
Try
Turn on
Read

Everybody knows the verb “to want” is used to express a wish or desire.

Listen and repeat:
I want a glass of water.
He wants to go on a walk.
You want to eat some lunch, don’t you?
We want to visit the USA.
They want to order dinner right now.

But there is also the expression: “to want someone to do something”. This means you are asking someone to do something for you. In many languages like French or Spanish you use the subjunctive tense. In English it is easier. You use a direct object plus the infinitive of the verb.

Listen and repeat:
I want you to help me.
I want you to come with me.
I want you to look at this.
I want you to try this.
I want you to turn on the computer.
I want you to read this.
And now repeat the following:

I want him to help me.
I want him to come with me.
I want him to look at this.
I want him to try this.
I want him to turn on the computer.
I want him to read this.

Now let's do a transformation exercise:

I say: Help me.
You say: I want you to help me.
I say: Come with me.
You say: I want you to come with me.
I say: Look at this.
You say: I want you to look at this.

Now you go on. Be sure to speak BEFORE I give the right answer:

Help me.
I want you to help me.
Come with me.
I want you to come with me.
Look at this.
I want you to look at this.
Try this.
I want you to try this.
Turn on the computer.
I want you to turn on the computer.
Read this.
I want you to read this.

Now let's try with a question. Listen and repeat:

Help me.
Do you want me to help you?
Come with me.
Do you want me to come with you?
Look at this.
Do you want me to look at this?
Try this.
Do you want me to try this?
Turn on the computer.
Do you want me to turn on the computer?
Read this.
Do you want me to read this?
Now you will say the questions BEFORE I give the right answer:

Help me.
Do you want me to help you?
Come with me.
Do you want me to come with you?
Look at this.
Do you want me to look at this?
Try this.
Do you want me to try this?
Turn on the computer.
Do you want me to turn on the computer?
Read this.
Do you want me to read this?

Now let's try with a negative sentence. Listen and repeat:

Help me.
I don’t want you to help me.
Come with me.
I don’t want you to come with me.
Look at this.
I don’t want you to look at this.
Try this.
I don’t want you to try this.
Turn on the computer.
I don’t want you to turn on the computer.
Read this.
I don’t want you to read this.

Now you will say the negative sentences BEFORE I give the right answer:

Help me.
I don’t want you to help me.
Come with me.
I don’t want you to come with me.
Look at this.
I don’t want you to look at this.
Try this.
I don’t want you to try this.
Turn on the computer.
I don’t want you to turn on the computer.
Read this.
I don’t want you to read this.

Please notice that the verb “to want” is used very often, but it is not always the most polite way of expressing yourself. Generally it is better to say, “I would like” instead of “I want”.

Let us practice with “I would like”

Listen and repeat the following:

I want a glass of water.
I would like a glass of water.
He wants to go on a walk.
He would like to go on a walk.
You want to eat some lunch, don’t you?
You would like to eat some lunch, wouldn’t you?

*Now you go on. I will say the sentences with “want” and you will say them with “would like”.*

I want a glass of water.
I would like a glass of water.
He wants to go on a walk.
He would like to go on a walk.
You want to eat some lunch, don’t you?
You would like to eat some lunch, wouldn’t you?
We want to visit the USA.
We would like to visit the USA.
They want to order dinner right now.
They would like to order dinner right now.

*Now let us use the expression “to want someone to do something”*. Listen and repeat:

I want him to help me.
I would like him to help me.
I want him to come with me.
I would like him to come with me.
I want him to look at this.
I would like him to look at this.

*Now let's do a transformation exercise:*

I say: Help me.
You say: I would like you to help me.
I say: Come with me
You say: I would like you to come with me.
I say: Look at this.
You say: I would like you to look at this.

*Now you go on. Be sure to speak BEFORE I give the right answer:*

Help me.
I would like you to help me.
Come with me
I would like you to come with me.
Look at this.
I would like you to look at this.
Try this
I would like you to try this.
Turn on the computer.
I would like you to turn on the computer.
Read this.
I would like you to read this.
Now let's try with a question. Listen and repeat the examples:

I say: Help me.
You say: Would you like me to help you?
I say: Come with me.
You say: Would you like me to come with you?
I say: Look at this.
You say: Would you like me to look at this?

Now you will say the questions BEFORE I give the right answer:

Help me.
Would you like me to help you?
Come with me.
Would you like me to come with you?
Look at this.
Would you like me to look at this?
Try this.
Would you like me to try this?
Turn on the computer.
Would you like me to turn on the computer?
Read this.
Would you like me to read this?

Now just listen and repeat:

It is not easy to speak correct English, but if you practice exercises like these for a few minutes every day, you will soon be able to master the most important structures in the English language. Speaking English is like playing music or playing a sport. You have to practice regularly to keep up your level or to make progress. The more you practice the better you will become. Moreover, it is just as important to practice simple structures as learning complicated vocabulary.

That is the end of today's podcast. We will soon be back with more exercises and even short texts to repeat. If you find these exercises useful please let us know by writing to our website QualityTime-ESL.com. You can also tell us what structures you find difficult, and we will write exercises to help you progress. Thank you all for listening.

Bye for now and don't forget to keep smiling!