

Series information

Title: Talk It Up!
Producer: Daniel Midgley
Station: RTRFM, Perth

Synopsis:

Talk It Up! is a show about linguistics, the science of language. Linguist Daniel Midgley discusses the ins and outs of language with his friends Ben Ainslie and Kylie Sturgess.

Everything about language is on the table, including the peculiarities of English, how language changes, and how language interacts with society and culture.

Ben Ainslie teaches media studies to this generation of secondary school students. Kylie Sturgess studies skepticism and philosophy, and is the voice of the Token Skeptic podcast.

Opening Dialogue:

Hello, and welcome to Talk It Up, where we talk about what's going on in linguistics, the science of language. I'm Daniel Midgley.

Closing Dialogue:

I'm Daniel Midgley. Thanks for listening to Talk It Up. Produced at RTRFM in Perth, for the Community Radio Network. Check out our show, Talk the Talk, at talkthetalkpodcast.com

EP 1:	Red Big Balloon
Interviewees:	Daniel Midgley, Ben Ainslie, and Kylie Sturgess
Synopsis:	<p>Why can we have a big red balloon, but never a red big balloon?</p> <p>We use adjectives — these describing words — all the time when we describe things as beautiful, blue, tenacious, or loquacious.</p> <p>But as crazy as English can be sometimes, these adjectives show incredible discipline! Why do they always seem to line up in a way that makes sense?</p>
Duration:	7 minutes, 52 seconds

EP 2:	Spelling Reform
Interviewees:	Daniel Midgley, Ben Ainslie, and Kylie Sturgess
Synopsis:	The spelling of English is a little funny sometimes. English spelling is complicated by silent letters, double letters, influences from other languages, and just good old-fashioned sound change. So what are the chances that English spelling will be reformed?
Duration:	7 minutes, 54 seconds

EP 3:	Eggcorns
Interviewees:	Daniel Midgley and Ben Ainslie
Synopsis:	Do you live in a doggy-dog world? Do you sow your wild oaks? Or do you have to curve your enthusiasm? These commonly misheard phrases are called eggcorns, and if you think your phraseology is up to stuff, you may get peeved at people who don't notice such Monday details. Sorry: mundane.
Duration:	8 minutes, 00 seconds

EP 4:	By Any Other Name
Interviewees:	Daniel Midgley, Ben Ainslie, and Kylie Sturgess
Synopsis:	Shakespeare once asked: "What's in a name? that which we call a rose / By any other name would smell as sweet". And yet, it can be difficult to imagine ourselves by any other name. We talk about different conventions of naming around the world, and show how we get from one nickname to another.
Duration:	8 minutes, 00 seconds

EP 5:	Whistled Languages
Interviewees:	Daniel Midgley and Ben Ainslie

Synopsis:	<p>Some languages use speech sounds. Some languages use gestures. But a few languages use whistling. That's right; a surprising number of languages around the world are whistled, rather than spoken.</p> <p>But how do they work? And do they operate like other languages do in our brains?</p>
Duration:	8 minutes, 00 seconds

EP 6:	Emoji Disasters
Interviewees:	Daniel Midgley, Ben Ainslie, and Kylie Sturgess
Synopsis:	<p>Emoji are so hot right now. These days, it seems everybody is using those tiny pictures on their electronic devices.</p> <p>But pictures can often be taken more than one way. And that can lead to misunderstandings. So how comprehensible are these emojis? Are they an international form of communication, or do they mean different things to different people in different places?</p>
Duration:	8 minutes, 00 seconds

EP 7:	Palindromes
Interviewees:	Daniel Midgley and Ben Ainslie
Synopsis:	<p>Anyone who loves words has probably noticed palindromes. They're words or phrases that read the same forward and backward.</p> <p>But palindromes aren't just for fun. They have an interesting place in history, showing up in places as diverse as Ancient Rome and Bletchley Park.</p>
Duration:	8 minutes, 00 seconds

EP 8:	Synaesthesia
Interviewees:	Daniel Midgley, Ben Ainslie, and Kylie Sturgess

Synopsis:	<p>Do you think of the number 3 as having a particular colour? Or do you associate letters with a certain sound? If so, you may be synaesthetic. Synaesthetes experience some senses in terms of other senses.</p> <p>All of us are at least mildly synaesthetic; it's easy for us to think of things in other terms, and we speak as though this is so. We look into the insights that synaesthesia can provide into how we perceive language.</p>
Duration:	8 minutes, 00 seconds

EP 9:	English Plurals
Interviewees:	Daniel Midgley and Ben Ainslie
Synopsis:	<p>Is it octopus, or octopi? Mongooses, or mongeese? English plurals can be tricky sometimes, and it's partly because of our fascinating history.</p> <p>What does this history mean for us today? What's the right way to pluralise words, and how do we know?</p>
Duration:	8 minutes, 00 seconds

EP 10:	Numbers
Interviewees:	Daniel Midgley, Ben Ainslie, and Kylie Sturgess
Synopsis:	<p>What do numbers have to do with language? Quite a lot, actually. While numbers seem straightforward, the names for numbers vary quite a bit between languages. Some languages only have words for one, two, and many. Some languages, like the Pirahã language of the Amazon, don't have names for numbers at all. And even the languages most of us know show some pretty funny behaviour when it comes to the higher numbers.</p>
Duration:	8 minutes, 00 seconds

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