



Life in English Podcast

Transcript

&

Key Vocabulary

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Life in English Podcast | Episode #144 - Steve Harvey's Advice for Young People

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Episode #144 - Steve Harvey's Advice for Young People July 27, 2022

[00:00:00] Most of you probably know Steve Harvey as the host of the TV show Family Feud. But I was first **exposed**¹ to Steve Harvey, the **stand-up**² **comedian**³. I remember my dad had a DVD of the Kings of Comedy Tour with Steve, Bernie Mac, Cedric the Entertainer, and D.L. Hughley. Steve also had his own TV show and has **starred**⁴ in a few movies as well. But what a lot of people don't know is that Steve comes from very **humble**⁵ beginnings. He didn't start his **career**⁶ as an **entertainer**⁷ until he was almost 30 years old, an age at which most people considered their lives over and their opportunities missed.

[00:00:36] So in this episode, I'm going to share a short **clip**⁸ of Steve giving some advice to young people out there who dream of achieving great things in life. Let's

¹ to submit or make accessible to a particular action or influence

² performed in, performing in, or requiring a standing position especially : of, relating to, performing, or being a monologue of jokes, gags, or satirical comments delivered usually while standing alone on a stage or in front of a camera

³ a person whose job is to make people laugh by telling jokes and funny stories or by copying the behavior or speech of famous people

⁴ to perform outstandingly

⁵ poor or of a low social rank

⁶ the job or series of jobs that you do during your working life, especially if you continue to get better jobs and earn more money

⁷ someone whose job is to entertain people by singing, telling jokes, etc.

⁸ a short part of a movie or television program

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get started. Alright **y'all**⁹, as always, I'm going to play the **entire**¹⁰ clip from start to finish and then we'll go back and **analyze**¹¹ everything that was said so you can learn more **vocabulary**¹² and understand **natives**¹³ better. So let's do it.

Steve Harvey: [00:01:08] "Don't be afraid to **reinvent yourself**¹⁴ and don't be afraid to be different, man. You **ain't**¹⁵ got to **fit in**¹⁶ the **crowd**¹⁷. I tell my sons **all the time**¹⁸, "Why are you following everybody when you were **clearly**¹⁹ **meant to**²⁰ lead?" It's always better to just **do your thing**²¹. And I don't care what situation you done got your life in. You can **turn your life around**²² cos it ain't never too late.

⁹ short for "you all"; used to address a group of people that you are speaking to

¹⁰ whole or complete, with nothing missing

¹¹ to study or examine something in detail in order to discover or understand more about it

¹² all the words that exist in a particular language or subject

¹³ a local resident

¹⁴ to change your job and/or the way you look and behave so that you seem very different

¹⁵ am not : are not : is not : have not : has not

¹⁶ to feel that you belong to a particular group and are accepted by that group

¹⁷ a large group of people who have gathered together; a crowd is also a group of people with similar interests

¹⁸ at all times: constantly

¹⁹ used to show that you think something is obvious or certain

²⁰ to be intended to

²¹ to do what you want without worrying about what anyone else thinks of you

²² to change your life completely

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See, I didn't **get into**²³ **comedy**²⁴ til I was 27. I was **homeless**²⁵ from 30 to 33. I lived in a 1976 Tempo. I lived in a car for three years, man. And so people see me today, they don't know where I come from. And I tell young **cats**²⁶ all the time, man, the **key**²⁷ is you can't ever give up."

[00:01:49] Alright my friends, now, like I usually say...or as I usually say, let me speak **grammatically**²⁸ correct - as I usually say, don't feel bad if you couldn't understand everything in that clip and there are...and just know that there are a bunch of reasons that you might not have understood everything in that clip. It could be somebody's **accent**²⁹. It could be their word choice, the **dialect**³⁰, so don't feel bad. We're going to **break it down**³¹ or analyze it in detail right now. So let's go back and I got the **transcript**³² of his words in front of me so I'm gonna **kind of**³³ play a little bit, then explain a little bit, and play some more, and explain a little more until we reach the end of the clip. Alright, my friend. So let's do it. The first sentence...

²³ to become interested in an activity or subject, or start being involved in an activity

²⁴ a movie, play, or book that is intentionally amusing either in its characters or its action

²⁵ people who do not have a home, usually because they are poor

²⁶ slang for "guy"

²⁷ the most important part of achieving something or explaining a situation

²⁸ in a way that relates to grammar or obeying the rules of grammar

²⁹ the way in which people in a particular area, country, or social group pronounce words

³⁰ a form of a language that people speak in a particular part of a country, containing some different words and grammar, etc.

³¹ to divide something into smaller parts

³² a complete written copy of spoken or written words

³³ in a way that approximates: more or less

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Steve Harvey: [00:02:33] "Don't be afraid to reinvent yourself. And don't be afraid to be different, man."

[00:02:40] So the word I want to explain in this sentence is "reinvent". When he says, don't be afraid to "reinvent" yourself. What he's saying is, don't be afraid to change the direction of your life, because to reinvent oneself means to **take up**³⁴ a very different job or take up a very different **way of life**³⁵. And when I say "take up", I mean "**adopt**³⁶", you know, adopt a new way of life or choose a new way of life. Right? So that's what it means to reinvent yourself. Maybe today you're an **accountant**³⁷ or you're studying accounting at university and you've reached the end of your **degree**³⁸ and you realize, I don't want to do this **shit**³⁹. Don't be afraid to reinvent yourself. Don't be afraid to choose a completely different career, life, **path**⁴⁰, **profession**⁴¹, whatever it is. Don't be afraid to do that. You are in control of your life, so you control the direction in which you and **thus**⁴² your life end up

³⁴ to accept or adopt as one's own

³⁵ an important activity, job, etc., that affects all parts of someone's life

³⁶ to choose someone or something or take something as your own

³⁷ someone who keeps or examines the records of money received, paid, and owed by a company or person

³⁸ a course of study at a college or university, or the qualification given to a student after he or she has completed his or her studies

³⁹ nonsense; foolishness; crap

⁴⁰ a way of life, conduct, or thought

⁴¹ a principal calling, vocation, or employment

⁴² because of this or that: hence, consequently

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going. I think that's what he was trying to say. Alright, so don't be afraid to reinvent yourself. Let's continue.

Steve Harvey: [00:03:37] "You ain't got to fit in the crowd. I tell my sons all the time, 'Why are you following everybody when you were clearly meant to lead?'"

[00:03:49] Alright. There's a few things I want to explain from those three sentences, so let me go back. The first thing, "You ain't got to fit in the crowd." There's **a couple of**⁴³ things I want to explain in that sentence. The first one is "ain't got" another word "ain't" is **confusing**⁴⁴ for a lot of people 'cos it means so many different things. And some people say it's correct, other people say it's incorrect, and all these things. For now, I'm just going to explain this word in the current **context**⁴⁵. So when he says "You ain't got to fit in the crowd", what he's saying is "You don't have to fit in the crowd.", which is another way of saying, "You are not **obligated**⁴⁶ to fit in the crowd." It's all the same. You are not obligated. You do not have to. You ain't got to. Three different ways of saying the same thing, right?

[00:04:36] So the next thing is "fit in". You might be asking yourself, what does that mean? And to fit in, it means to feel that you belong to a particular group and you are accepted by that group. So if you want to fit in with the gamers, you might try to play video games and listen to gaming podcasts so you can talk about gaming with

⁴³ two (things) or a few (things)

⁴⁴ something that is confusing makes you feel confused because it is difficult to understand

⁴⁵ the situation within which something exists or happens, and that can help explain it

⁴⁶ feeling that you owe someone something because you are grateful for what they have done for you

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the gamers. You might try to talk like them and dress like them and look like them so they accept you. You want to fit in, right? You want to belong to this group. If you don't fit in, that means they don't accept you. They don't accept you as one of them. They see you as different or "other". "You don't **embody**⁴⁷ our culture or way of life," or whatever it is. You don't fit in, right? That's the idea. So you ain't got to fit in. You do not have to fit in. You do not have to try to be like other people just to be accepted by them. That's the idea.

[00:05:26] You ain't got to fit in the crowd. And that's the last word I wanted to explain from that sentence. Crowd. C-r-o-w-d. A crowd is just a large group of people. But we use this word a little **figuratively**⁴⁸, let's say, to just refer to people in general. You don't have to fit in the crowd means you don't have to do or be like or look like or talk like or act like the **majority**⁴⁹ of people in society, or the majority of people around you, right? So that's the idea. Don't be afraid to reinvent yourself and just remember, you don't have to fit in the crowd or you ain't got to fit in the crowd. Alright? So the next sentence, "I tell my sons all the time", let me play that one more time.

Steve Harvey: [00:06:13] "I tell my sons all the time."

[00:06:16] "I tell my sons all the time." What I wanted to highlight in this sentence is the way he pronounced "all the time". Three separate words, but he said it as if it

⁴⁷ to represent a quality or an idea exactly

⁴⁸ in a way that uses words and phrases with a more imaginative meaning than usual

⁴⁹ the larger number or part of something

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were one word. He connected those words, right? He said "all 'a time", I tell my sons "all 'a time". "All 'a time". This is a really, really, really common connection of words in the English language, at least in the United States. "All 'a people", "all 'a money", "all 'a problems", "all 'a girls", "all 'a trees", "all 'a time". "All 'a..." It's just a really common way, just... You see those specific words being connected all the time in **casual**⁵⁰ speech. So if this is the first time you've heard it or somebody called it to your attention, just remember to **pay a little bit more attention**⁵¹ and start to notice the **patterns**⁵² of which words are being connected in our speech. Because a lot of people know about connected speech in English. They know we connect our words all the time.

[00:07:12] And for that reason, it's really hard to understand some natives. But if you pay attention to which words are being connected on a regular **basis**⁵³, you might come to understand natives more easily, because, you know, these words specifically sound like this when they're connected. So when I hear that, I not only understand the idea, but I know what words are being said. Hopefully that makes sense. If it doesn't, send me a message or something and let me know, but I'm going to continue the episode. So I talked about reinventing yourself and how you don't have to, or you ain't got to fit in the crowd. And Steve was basically saying he tells his sons this all the time. So let's continue.

⁵⁰ informal; natural

⁵¹ to watch, listen to, or think about something carefully

⁵² a particular way in which something is done, is organized, or happens

⁵³ the way things happen, or are done or organized

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Steve Harvey: [00:07:57] "Why are you following everybody when you were clearly meant to lead?"

[00:08:02] Okay. Three things I want to **point out**⁵⁴ in this sentence. The first one is the **pronunciation**⁵⁵ of a couple of words. He said, "Why are you following everybody when you were clearly meant to lead?" But notice how he pronounced the words "following" and "everybody", let me play it one more time.

Steve Harvey: [00:08:21] "Why are you following everybody when you were clearly meant to lead?"

[00:08:27] So hopefully you could hear he said it a little bit differently than I did. He said, "Why are you followin' errbody?" He didn't say, "Why are you following everybody?" Completely different pronunciation. And it's just, again, it's hard to explain why he does that. I really don't know why he does that. But, you know, it's just a different accent. It's a different dialect and way of speaking. So "why are you followin' errbody?" Again, I guess the point I'm trying to make is that you need to pay more attention to which words or which letters and words are being pronounced in certain ways. "Following", "i-n-g". Words like that in informal speech are **typically**⁵⁶ pronounced in a certain way. Why are you "followin'"? Why are you "talkin'"? Why are you "shootin'"? Why are you "speakin'"? Why are you "eatin'"? All of these words end in "i-n-g", but not...not pronouncing them in what is known as

⁵⁴ to talk about or mention (something that one thinks is important)

⁵⁵ the way in which a word or letter is said, or said correctly, or the way in which a language is spoken

⁵⁶ used when you are giving an average or usual example of a particular thing

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the **standard**⁵⁷ way of pronouncing them, right? So I just wanted to call that to your attention.

[00:09:21] The same thing with the word "everybody". A lot of people, depending on where you're from and what your culture is and you know, what kind of English you speak, a lot of people don't say "everybody", they say "errbody". "I know errbody." "I love errbody, man." "What's up, errbody?" I say that basically every episode. "What's up, errbody? You are listening to another episode of Life in English." I don't say "everybody", I say "errbody". It's faster, it's easier, you know? And that's just how we talk where I'm from. So when you hear that, hopefully now you'll **recognize**⁵⁸, and maybe you already recognize, that we're saying "everybody". And I want to make it clear that you don't have to speak this way. It's...the point here is that you understand what's being said no matter who's talking. You can talk how you want to talk, but you don't have to talk like other people. It's important to understand them, though, okay? So that's the point.

[00:10:10] So he said, "Why are you following everybody when you were clearly meant to lead?" And that's the last thing I wanted to explain. To be "meant to do something". It's the same thing as being **intended**⁵⁹ or **destined**⁶⁰ to do something. So if you are meant to lead, it means you are intended to lead; you are destined to

⁵⁷ usual rather than special, especially when thought of as being correct or acceptable

⁵⁸ to know what something is because you have seen it before, or because you have heard or read about it

⁵⁹ to have as a plan or purpose

⁶⁰ controlled by fate, and not by humans

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be a leader. That is your destiny. You were born to do this thing. That's your purpose. If you're meant to be a painter, your purpose in life is to be a painter. You were born to do that, right? If you're meant to be a teacher, same thing. Hopefully you get the idea. It's a...it's not the most casual way of speaking. I mean, you could say it's slightly a formal thing to say "you were meant to lead", but it's normal. Everybody understands and uses that word. I just wanted to make sure you understood what it meant, alright? So let's keep going.

Steve Harvey: [00:11:02] "It's always better to just do your thing."

[00:11:06] "It's always better to just do your thing." I'm sure you understood that but what I wanted to bring to your attention is the phrase "Do your thing." It's a really common phrase in English and all it means...it's to do what you normally do. To do things in your way without worrying about what other people think or say. And you could use this in any situation, any context, formal or informal. It does not matter. It just means do what you normally do. Be yourself. Do things in your way. Do your thing, you know?

[00:11:36] So maybe you got kids and they're nervous about the performance this weekend. Maybe they play saxophone and they've got a performance this weekend and they're telling you that they're really nervous, they don't know what to do, it's making them **anxious**⁶¹. You can say, "Relax. You've been practicing all year. **You got this!**"⁶² Do your thing. Just do your thing, man!" It means just do what you

⁶¹ worried and nervous

⁶² used to tell someone that you believe they can or will succeed in dealing with something

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normally do. You're already talented. You're already good. Don't put too much **pressure**⁶³ on yourself. Just go up there and do your thing. Do what you always do. Do your thing, alright? Cool. So it's always better to just do your thing. It's always better to be yourself and walk your own path. You don't have to fit in the crowd. You don't have to be like everyone else. That's the idea here. Okay, so let's keep going.

Steve Harvey: [00:12:22] "It's always better to just do your thing. And I don't care what situation you done got your life in. You can turn your life around cos it ain't never too late."

[00:12:31] Alright. There's a lot there. He said, "I don't care what situation you done got your life in." So there's a quick grammar observation I want to bring to your attention in regards to this sentence. He said, "I don't care what situation you done got your life in." "Done got" This is umm...How can I explain this to you? It's just a different dialect of English, but in standard plain English, another way of saying the same thing is "I don't care what situation you have gotten your life in." So in this case, the word "done" is functioning like the word "have". "I don't care what situation you have gotten yourself into" or "you done got yourself into." It's the same thing. So if you're asking, is that standard correct English? **Technically**⁶⁴ it's not. You shouldn't write that way in emails or at work or if you're trying to pass an exam. But umm...a lot of people here do say it, at least where I'm from, you know.

⁶³ a difficult situation that makes you feel worried or unhappy

⁶⁴ according to an exact understanding of rules, facts, etc.

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[00:13:26] So you could say "I done been all over the world." It's the same thing as saying "I have been all over the world." "I done seen a lot of people this week." "I have seen a lot of people this week." It's a very informal dialect of English that I would **imagine**⁶⁵ everyone here understands, but not everyone uses, you know? I just wanted you to understand what was being said, but it's really, really common in certain dialects of English, you know? So, "done got your life in" is the same thing as "have got your life into." And an even more formal way of saying that is, "I don't care what situation into which you have got your life," but nobody really talks like that. I talked like that sometimes on the podcast because I want to sound **fancy**⁶⁶, but in casual speech we don't talk like that.

[00:14:12] Alright? So "I don't care what situation you done got your life in" or you have got your life in, "you can turn your life around." What does that mean "to turn your life around"? It simply means to change your life completely from bad to good. Because typically we move in a particular direction, so if your life is going in the wrong direction, if you're...if you're on a bad path, if things are getting worse and worse and worse, and you eventually **hit rock bottom**⁶⁷, which means you hit the worst point you could possibly hit, the **bottom of the barrel**⁶⁸, the darkest place you could think of, you can still turn your life around 180 degrees and go in the

⁶⁵ to believe that something is probably true

⁶⁶ of particular excellence; executed with technical skill and style

⁶⁷ to reach the lowest point possible

⁶⁸ the lowest possible condition, level, etc.

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other direction. You can still do that. You can turn your life around, go from good to bad, right? Instead of going down, go up, make **progress**⁶⁹. That's the idea, okay?

[00:15:04] So you can turn your life around cos "it ain't never too late." That was the last thing he said. You can turn your life around because "It ain't never too late." So when he says "it ain't ever too late," we find ourselves trying to understand this fucking word "ain't", right? It ain't never too late. So again, I'm just going to explain the meaning in this context when I say "It ain't ever too late." It's the same thing as saying "It is not ever too late." Alright? You can always turn your life around cos it's never too late. That's standard English, and it's the same thing. So, hopefully you're still with me. Hopefully, you're getting the idea, and let's continue.

Steve Harvey: [00:15:50] "See, I didn't get into comedy til I was 27. I was homeless from 30 to 33. I lived in a 1976 Tempo. I lived in a car for three years, man. And so people see me today, they don't know where I come from. And I tell young cats all the time, man, the key is you can't ever give up."

[00:16:10] Okay. So I played those last few sentences together because there's only a few things I want to explain. The first one is "get into". Steve said, "I didn't get into comedy until I was 27." To "get into something" basically means to become **involved**⁷⁰ in something or to start practicing something. So if I get into acting at ten, I start acting or I start getting involved in the industry at ten, or maybe I get into cooking or I get into learning languages or I get into music, whatever it is, just to

⁶⁹ a forward or onward movement (as to an objective or to a goal)

⁷⁰ actively participating in something

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become involved or interested in or start practicing this thing. That's what it means to "get into something" in this context. There are other meanings in other contexts, but I'm not going to confuse you, okay?

[00:16:52] So "I didn't get into comedy until I was 27. I was homeless from 30 to 33." Just in case you don't know, "homeless" just means you don't have a home, right? You are without a home. You live on a street or something like that. A homeless person is somebody who does not have a home and they live on the street. So Steve is saying, from 30 to 33, he was homeless. And I just want to point out really quickly this sentence structure "from 30 to 33". A lot of times we use that, you know, when we're **referencing**⁷¹ periods of time or distance - "I work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m." "I can go from Los Angeles to New York tomorrow night", or something like that. From this **point**⁷² to that point, this **destination**⁷³ to that one. At this point in time to that one. Alright? It's really, really common. So practice that one, alright? Cool.

[00:17:50] Where did we stop? "I lived in a 1976 Tempo", which is just in case you're wondering, a 1976 Tempo is a car. And you...that becomes clear in the next sentence. He says, "I lived in a car for three years", right? "So people see me today, they don't know where I come from." "They don't know where I started." "They don't know about my **origin**⁷⁴." Right? "And I tell young cats all the time, the key is

⁷¹ to refer to someone or something

⁷² a particular time or stage reached in a process

⁷³ the place where someone is going or where something is being sent or taken

⁷⁴ the beginning or cause of something

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you can't ever give up." So he says, "young cats", he's not talking about the animal. Just in case you were wondering, the word "cat" is like...it's American slang for a "guy".

[00:18:26] "I was talking to this cat and he said blah, blah, blah." It's the same thing as saying, "I was talking to this guy, I was talking to this dude. I was talking to this man, this cat." It's an older word, I think. Not a lot of young people say "cat" these days. It's...it's older guys like 45 and up that would typically use the word "cat", I think. I mean, we might use it from time to time just, **for the sake of⁷⁵ variety⁷⁶** or being creative in our speech. Americans do that a lot, at least where I'm from. But the word "cat" typically, and you know how old or you might not know...some people know – most of us know – Steve Harvey is not a young guy anymore. He's **relatively⁷⁷** older, so he would use that kind of word but I typically wouldn't say "I was talking to this cat" on a regular basis. But anyway, just, just so you know, the word "cat" is the same slang for the word "guy". Alright? And typically, men use that word. I've never in my life heard a woman say "this cat". "I was talking to this cat. Well, he's a cool cat. I like that cat." I've never in my life heard a female use that word, just for your information.

[00:19:29] So he says, "I tell young cats all the time. The key is you can't ever give up." So when he says "the key" in this case and in many cases in English, "the key" is another way of saying "the most important thing". Because what is a key? It's a tool

⁷⁵ because of, or for the purpose of something

⁷⁶ a different type of something

⁷⁷ in comparison with other similar things or with what you expect

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that we use to unlock things. Right? So if you think about that, figuratively or **metaphorically**⁷⁸, let's say the key is what's going to unlock the door so that you can enter whatever it is. Alright? Whatever it is you're trying to get into, you get the...you get the point. So the most important thing is you can't ever give up. I want to play that sentence one more time to explain or to show you a pronunciation detail and also explain really common **phrasal verb**⁷⁹. So let me play it one more time.

Steve Harvey: [00:20:21] "And I tell young cats all the time, man, the key is you can't ever give up."

[00:20:26] "The key is you can't ever give up." Just notice how he pronounced that word. He said "cain't". "Cain't". Sounds like the word "ain't". And it's a small difference. This is not extremely important for you to know or pay attention to. It's just interesting the variety of pronunciation we have even within one country, you know, because a lot of people will say "can't". And when we're speaking fast, "can" and "can't" sound very similar, for example, "I can do that." I'm saying "I can do that", but I didn't pronounce it that way or "I can't do that." Now I'm saying "I cannot do that." See what I'm saying? Some people will say "I cain't." "I can" and "I cain't". "I cain't do that." "Ain't, ain't, ain't" is the sound. There's no right or wrong. I mean, just depends on where you're from.

⁷⁸ relating to or using metaphors (= expressions that describe a person or object by referring to something that is considered to have similar characteristics)

⁷⁹ a phrase that consists of a verb with a preposition or adverb or both, the meaning of which is different from the meaning of its separate parts

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[00:21:17] I just wanted to bring that detail to your attention because I thought it was interesting. But anyway, "you can't ever give up." Just in case you don't know the phrasal verb "give up", it just means "quit". So if you "give up on your dreams", it means you quit trying to achieve your dreams. If you "give up on your son", it means you quit trying to **parent**⁸⁰ your son. You see? So "the key", the most important thing is that you cannot ever quit. That's the idea. So, I'm going to play the clip one more time without any **interruptions**⁸¹, pauses or explanations, and let's see how much more you can understand, my friend. Alright, let's do it.

Steve Harvey: [00:21:58] "So don't be afraid to reinvent yourself. And don't be afraid to be different, man. You ain't got to fit in the crowd. I tell my sons all the time, 'Why are you following everybody when you were clearly meant to lead?' It's always better to just do your thing. And I don't care what situation you done got your life in, you can turn your life around cos it ain't never too late. See, I didn't get into comedy til I was 27. I was homeless from 30 to 33. I lived in a 1976 Tempo. I lived in a car for three years, man. And so people see me today, they don't know where I come from. And I tell young cats all the time, man, the key is you can't ever give up."

[00:22:39] Alright, my friend. I really hope Steve's words have **inspired**⁸² you to keep working towards your goals. And if you don't have some goals, I **strongly**⁸³

⁸⁰ to raise a child as their parent

⁸¹ an occasion when someone or something stops something from happening for a short period

⁸² to make someone feel that they want to do something and can do it

⁸³ very much or in a very serious way

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encourage⁸⁴ you to create some for yourself. And just remember, you don't lose when you fail, you only lose when you quit.

[END OF EPISODE]

⁸⁴ to talk or behave in a way that gives someone confidence to do something

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Key vocabulary

Exposed: to submit or make accessible to a particular action or influence

Stand-up: performed in, performing in, or requiring a standing position especially : of, relating to, performing, or being a monologue of jokes, gags, or satirical comments delivered usually while standing alone on a stage or in front of a camera

Comedian: a person whose job is to make people laugh by telling jokes and funny stories or by copying the behavior or speech of famous people

Starred: to perform outstandingly

Humble: poor or of a low social rank

Career: the job or series of jobs that you do during your working life, especially if you continue to get better jobs and earn more money

Entertainer: someone whose job is to entertain people by singing, telling jokes, etc.

Clip: a short part of a movie or television program

Y'all: short for "you all"; used to address a group of people that you are speaking to

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Entire: whole or complete, with nothing missing

Analyze: to study or examine something in detail in order to discover or understand more about it

Vocabulary: all the words that exist in a particular language or subject

Natives: local residents

Reinvent yourself: to change your job and/or the way you look and behave so that you seem very different

Ain't: am not : are not : is not : have not : has not

Fit in: to feel that you belong to a particular group and are accepted by that group

Crowd: a large group of people who have gathered together; a crowd is also a group of people with similar interests

All the time: at all times: constantly

Clearly: used to show that you think something is obvious or certain

Meant to: to be intended to

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Do your thing: to do what you want without worrying about what anyone else thinks of you

Turn your life around: to change your life completely

Get into: to become interested in an activity or subject, or start being involved in an activity

Comedy: a movie, play, or book that is intentionally amusing either in its characters or its action

Homeless: people who do not have a home, usually because they are poor

Cats: slang for "guys"

Key: the most important part of achieving something or explaining a situation

Grammatically: in a way that relates to grammar or obeying the rules of grammar

Accent: the way in which people in a particular area, country, or social group pronounce words

Dialect: a form of a language that people speak in a particular part of a country, containing some different words and grammar, etc.

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Break it down: to divide something into smaller parts

Transcript: a complete written copy of spoken or written words

Kind of: in a way that approximates: more or less

Take up: to accept or adopt as one's own

Way of life: an important activity, job, etc., that affects all parts of someone's life

Adopt: to choose someone or something or take something as your own

Accountant: someone who keeps or examines the records of money received, paid, and owed by a company or person

Degree: a course of study at a college or university, or the qualification given to a student after he or she has completed his or her studies

Shit: nonsense; foolishness; crap

Path: a way of life, conduct, or thought

Profession: a principal calling, vocation, or employment

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Thus: because of this or that: hence, consequently

A couple of: two (things) or a few (things)

Confusing: something that is confusing makes you feel confused because it is difficult to understand

Context: the situation within which something exists or happens, and that can help explain it

Obligated: feeling that you owe someone something because you are grateful for what they have done for you

Embody: to represent a quality or an idea exactly

Figuratively: in a way that uses words and phrases with a more imaginative meaning than usual

Majority: the larger number or part of something

Casual: informal; natural

Pay attention: to watch, listen to, or think about something carefully

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Patterns: a particular way in which something is done, is organized, or happens

Basis: the way things happen, or are done or organized

Point out: to talk about or mention (something that one thinks is important)

Pronunciation: the way in which a word or letter is said, or said correctly, or the way in which a language is spoken

Typically: used when you are giving an average or usual example of a particular thing

Standard: usual rather than special, especially when thought of as being correct or acceptable

Recognize: to know what something is because you have seen it before, or because you have heard or read about it

Intended: to have as a plan or purpose

Destined: controlled by fate, and not by humans

Anxious: worried and nervous

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You got this: used to tell someone that you believe they can or will succeed in dealing with something

Pressure: a difficult situation that makes you feel worried or unhappy

Technically: according to an exact understanding of rules, facts, etc.

Imagine: to believe that something is probably true

Fancy: of particular excellence; executed with technical skill and style

Hit rock bottom: to reach the lowest point possible

Bottom of the barrel: the lowest possible condition, level, etc.

Progress: a forward or onward movement (as to an objective or to a goal)

Involved: actively participating in something

Referencing: to refer to someone or something

Point: a particular time or stage reached in a process

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Destination: the place where someone is going or where something is being sent or taken

Origin: the beginning or cause of something

For the sake of: because of, or for the purpose of something

Variety: a different type of something

Relatively: in comparison with other similar things or with what you expect

Metaphorically: relating to or using metaphors (= expressions that describe a person or object by referring to something that is considered to have similar characteristics)

Phrasal verb: a phrase that consists of a verb with a preposition or adverb or both, the meaning of which is different from the meaning of its separate parts

Parent: to raise a child as their parent

Interruptions: an occasion when someone or something stops something from happening for a short period

Inspired: to make someone feel that they want to do something and can do it

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Strongly: very much or in a very serious way

Encourage: to talk or behave in a way that gives someone confidence to do something