



KEP Episode 24: Turkish Dr's OET Journey to Success!

In this episode, I have a short interview with Tefvik, from Turkey, where we talk about his English journey and OET success via italki. We only had a short time for speaking and writing practice, yet, despite that, he passed and secured a grade B, enough to send him on his American fellowship journey!

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Hello and welcome to Kev's English Podcast, real English every week, with your host Kev Dean.

Hello, it's Kevin here. Welcome to Kev's English Podcast, episode 24? I don't know, can't remember.

Anyway, a bit of a, well not exclusive, a very interesting interview today. One of my Turkish OET students here on Italki. So, you know, his name is Tefik.

Now, he doesn't have the camera on because when we recorded this, just a little while ago, he's still at work. It is a hospital. It was his lunch break, actually.

So, he didn't want to have his camera on because there were some issues there. Anyway, so that's basically why it's audio only. You can only see me, not that that's a benefit.

Anyway, so I can say he's from Turkey, get to take the OET because he's applying for a fellowship in America, and so he had to take the USMLE and those other things. He also had to take OET. So, I managed to help him out.

We had about a week or two, like four 30-minute sessions a week or something, but he passed. So,

he got a mixture of scores. He'll tell you about those in the interview.

So, anyway, I hope that all this will be interesting. All links below, wherever you're listening to this or watching. So, anyway, let's get on and into the interview.

Hello, sir. Can you hear me? Yeah? Yeah, I can hear you. Excellent.

Well, first, congratulations on passing your OET. That was excellent. Thank you, sir.

I'm so grateful to you because you have made a lot of things for me. It was very well, very well done. Can you remind us of your score? So, you got, what was it? Was it 350 or 360 for writing and speaking? Something such as that.

My scores are reading 350, speaking 360, writing 380, and listening 400. That's well, that is pretty good. So, can you tell us, I mean, tell like me, I kind of know, but anybody else, can you tell us a little bit about your preparation, your process? Just for people, maybe some of your fellow doctors in Turkey or other countries who may be thinking of taking OET, maybe you can tell us a little bit about how you started and what your preparation was, et cetera.

Okay, thank you, sir. Firstly, I've been working as an orthopaedic surgeon in Turkey. At the moment, I'm actively working in outpatient clinics and surgeries.

So, there is no possibility for me to study during the day. I also have a baby girl who is only 11 months old, and I have to take care of her after work. So, I can only study for about two hours in the evenings after she goes to sleep.

This makes between 15 to 20 hours a week when I calculate the weekends. About my OET preparations, firstly, I started studying for the exam six months before the exam. Firstly, I examined the samples of OET website to see if I can do it.

I was not a very easy exam. I learned the scoring criteria for the test. Then, I searched the resources I could study by asking my friends who took the exam through WhatsApp and Telegram groups.

Then, I registered for an online course, but I couldn't attend the live classes because my work schedule didn't fit. I watched the recorded lessons completely. My priority for the first three months was reading and listening.

When I realised that I could do them, then I studied writing and speaking in the last three months. Especially, in terms of listening, I listened to podcasts every day on my way to and from work and smooth listening tests every day. In the last two months, I tried to write a letter every two days.

Sometimes, I sent it to the course and sometimes to you to see what I did wrong. Also, for reading, I only solved the mock tests. Lastly, for speaking, especially in the last month, I tried to practise as much as possible.

I aimed to see and study as many of the role-playing cards available on the internet as possible. It worked. I got through the exam easily by asking questions similar to role-playing cards.

I don't remember exactly, but we only had maybe two or three weeks of speaking. Yes, we prepared for two to three weeks for speaking practise. Well, it certainly paid off.

Just for people's general information, why do you think OET is popular in Turkey? Now, as I told

you before, because of the Turkish economy, I don't have, I very rarely have Turkish students these days. It's too expensive. I mean, our fees on italki are pretty reasonable, but because of this hyperinflation, I don't have any Turks now, which is a pity because at one time, as I told you, I used to have quite a lot, but that's just how it is.

So, can you tell us why, I mean, is OET, is it still a popular test in Turkey nowadays? Yes, that's a good question, sir. Firstly, I answer for my opinion. For me, I want to do a fellowship in the United States and ECFM GSF-K is one of the required documents to apply for positions.

OET is one of the exams required for the ECFMGS certificate. So, I took the OET exam, but in my country, actually, local foreign language exams are generally used for academic purposes, but IELTS, TOEFL, and OET are also non-English exams. Since OET is the only exam that will meet the requirements for some countries' licences, so it's popular for this reason.

So, how's it going with your application process for this fellowship or scholarship? Have you applied? Yes, sir. Again, in my view, I want to do a fellowship in the United States and for the United States, you should pass the USMLA Step 1 and Step 2 exams and then you should pass the OET exam to take the ECFMGS certificate and you should apply with this certificate for fellowship positions. I applied for some positions and I interview for two universities and I'm waiting for now.

Well, I hope it works out. I hope it works out. So, I know that you are still at work now, which is why you've turned off your camera and probably you don't have a lot of time left, so I'm just to wrap it up for today and thank you for coming.

Is there any specific advice that you would like to give anybody wanting to take the OET, whether in Turkey or any other country? Is there any? Okay, sir. Yes, I have some recommendations for this exam. Firstly, the most important thing here is discipline and constancy.

If you are doing something more or less related to OET every day, this will help you improve more and more. They should know the OET exam and its rules and they should get to know themselves and focus more on their shortcomings. I think that discipline and constancy are the most important things.

Good advice, yeah. I keep explaining to people consistency, you know, having regular practise sessions. I think that's very important.

Just one last thing. What would you say is the number one thing that you would recommend that people do? Actually, my number one thing is now the rules because OET is not an easy exam, but it's not difficult either. If you work with the right study style and resources and the right tutor, it's an easy exam to pass.

That's why I recommend now the rules and study in view of these rules. Well, yeah, that sounds excellent advice. I mean, yeah, I mean, as with all exams, you have to understand the rules, the criteria, how it works, how it's assessed, etc.

Well, it must be nearly time for you to get back to work now. So thanks anyway, doc. So thanks again and good luck in the future.

I hope things work out. Thank you, sir. Thank you very much for inviting me to this programme.

I just hope that it might be helpful for some of my potential students and anybody in the future. I hope it's going to give them some inspiration, give them some ideas and inspiration. OK, doc.

Thanks. Good luck again. Thanks.

Bye.