

## Episode 1: The First Date

Narrator:

Welcome to *Play it by Ear*, a podcast for extensive listening designed for English language learners. This is the first episode of our six-part story, *The First*. This story is made for people who are learning English at an intermediate to advanced level. Extensive listening means listening to English that is very easy to understand. If you have trouble understanding this story, please ask us questions on [alleande.com](http://alleande.com). We have a PDF version of this conversation on the website as well. Now, let's start listening to *Play it by Ear's* story, *The First*. This first episode is called *The First Date*.

(In James's car)

James: Are you nervous?

Michelle: No way. I've done this so many times. This guy will be, like, the 29th guy I've gone on a date with.

James: You got all those dates through that dating app?

Michelle: Well, one was a blind date arranged by a friend.

James: Still! You must be soooo popular on the app!

Michelle: Naw, you just gotta know the game. I just like entertainment and free dinners from good-looking single guys.

James: \*smacking sound\* Gurl! There are no good guys on the dating apps I use.

Michelle: Don't hate the player, hate the game.

James: Whatever. Anyways, what do you know about this guy you're meeting today?

Michelle: His name's Tyler and he's 5 years older than me. I honestly don't like texting a lot before going on a date, (scoff) because I get too bored. So I don't know much about him and I don't really care.

James: But what if this guy is different?

Michelle: I'm not interested in anything serious. I'm just trying to have fun while I'm still young.

James: Well you never know. There's *the first* time for everything.

Michelle: Oh, turn right here. That's the restaurant.

James: Ah, ok. Gotcha.

Michelle: Ooh! That's Tyler! He's right outside by the door!

James: Ooh yes! He is a cutie!!

Michelle: Time for that free steak dinner~!

James: Well, text me if the date goes bad. I can pick you up like last time.

Michelle: Thanks, you're the best. But I have a feeling that I won't be using your emergency text.

(music transition)

Michelle: Hey, you're Tyler, right?

Tyler: You got that right, and you're Michelle.

Michelle: And *you* got that right.

Tyler: You look better in person than in your profile pictures.

Michelle: I know.

Tyler: smirks Oh you're confident. I like that.

Michelle: Let's go sit down; I'm hungry.

(music transition- short)

Tyler: So, what do you do?

Michelle: I'm a university student. In May I'll graduate and become a nurse.

Tyler: No way! I'm in school for physical therapy!

Michelle: Oh really? Why did you choose to go into that?

Tyler: Well, originally I was in the military, because I didn't know what I wanted to do. But then, in the military, I was assigned to be a medic, and I really liked that.

Michelle: Ooh a military man. Yeah, that explains the muscles.

Tyler: Yeahhh thanks, I try my best. Yeah I got to travel a lot during the military.

Michelle: I love traveling! Where have you been?

Tyler: Uhh.. lemme see... Korea, the Philippines, Guam, Indonesia, Laos, and (pause) uhh Vietnam.

Michelle: Cool. I went backpacking in South East Asia last summer!

Tyler: Oh really? Where was your favorite place?

Michelle: Definitely Vietnam. It's so different from here. The food was good and I met some really great people.

Tyler: Yeah... umm, so why do you want to be a nurse? \*cheeky laugh\*

Michelle: I took care of my grandparents when I was younger, especially when they couldn't walk and had to use wheelchairs.

Tyler: Mhm

Michelle: I guess, I just like helping people. These days people seem to care less

Tyler: Ugh, I know, right? My ex was probably the least helpful person I've ever known. Exes, right?

Michelle: Mmm, yeah I guess.

Tyler: Wait, when was the last time you were in a relationship?

Michelle: Never.

Tyler: Wait, really?

Michelle: Yeah... I've never had a boyfriend before.

Tyler: But you seem so... "*experienced*".

Michelle: Well, I never had a boyfriend, but I've been on a lot of dates.

Tyler: Oh, okay.

Michelle: Dating culture nowadays, (sigh) it's so hard to trust, it seems like no one dates seriously anymore.

Tyler: Well... I would take *you* seriously.

Michelle: Well, (cough), uhh, the food's here! I'm starving!

Tyler: Bon appetit. Eat as much as you want.

Michelle: Oh don't worry, I will. I'm not a shy girl.

(transition music)

Michelle: Wow! Our date was so fun!

Tyler: Fun enough to see me for a second time?

Michelle: Hmmmm What do you mean by that?

Tyler: A second date? Like next week Friday, on *the first*. Let's go to the movies.

Michelle: Oh wow. You're so confident!

Tyler: So is that's a yes?

Michelle: I'll see you next Friday.

Tyler: Cool, It's a date then.

Narrator:

That's the end of our first episode of *The First*. Do you think Michelle and Tyler would be a good couple? Let us know at [alleande.com](http://alleande.com). Tune in next week for the next episode of Play it by Ears'

story, *The First*. Intro music by Andrew Kim. Transition music by Kevin MacLeod. Check the description for the link to Kevin's music.

Transition music:

Groove Grove by Kevin MacLeod

Link: <https://incompetech.filmmusic.io/song/3831-groove-grove>

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Grade level 3.8

Reading ease: 81.3