



## Video Transcript: Real English® # 71

Int: O.K. What's your name?

Randee Mia Berman: My name is Randee Mia Berman.

Int: Randee! That's a beautiful name.

Randee: Thank you so much.

Int: What do you like doing with your free time?

Randee: Well, since I recently lost my job, go to a lot of film and theatre, and go to the library, start reading again, you know – children's books - I'm writing a children's book, so - I do a lot of rhyming characters. I have nonsense characters and musical characters like Mister Cadittle who plays the fiddle, and Heather Shekout who plays the flute, Benny O'Lumm who plays the drum.

Randee: Now, there's something you really should know about me. This is a linguistic thing. I talk backwards.

Int: Do you really?

Randee: I really do. It's phonetic.

Int: That's cool. I'm going to give you a sentence, and you say it backwards. O.K. Say: "What is your name?"

Randee: Name your is what? Tawss yoorimane. Mane yor is toew.

Int: That's extraordinary.

Randee: And in French...

Int: That's cool. You could just... And in French....

Randee: In French, it's "Quel est votre nom?" Nom votre est quel Leq ê tov non . Non tov ê leq. You see it's phonetic, so I don't even have to understand the language to do it. You can give me a Tahitian sentence and I could do it backwards.

Int: But you do speak French.

Randee: I do speak French. Yes.

Randee: My name is Randy Mia Berman. Namber aim deeran si eman ym, (etc!).

Int: Wow ! That's extraordinary. That's extraordinary.

Int: Apart from New York,

Randee: Yea,

Int: tell me one other town that you've lived in

Randee: One other town? Ithaca, New York.

Int: Cool. When did you live there?

Randee: I lived there during college at Cornell University in the early 70's, a great, active, political, cultural, social time of our lives. That's New York, upstate, freezing winters but it was beautiful , rural, idyllic gorgeous countryside of New York state, Apple country. La Pomme.

Int: When were you born? Where were you born?

Randee: Where was I born? I was born right here. I'm one of the few New Yorkers who was born and raised here. There's very few of us here - I'm a rare...

Int: My wife is one.

Randee: Well, she knows

Int: Yeah, great, Uh, let's see.

Int: What's been the best year of your life?

Randee: Ah, the best year of my life was the year I was in France as a matter of fact. In 1972 I was in an Abbey in the South of France: L'Abbaye de Sénanque: I was playing Gregorian chant, I was learning French literature, I was surrounded by lavender fields, and Provence, and I, I cannot match that. So, a New Yorker would like to go back to France.

Int: That's great. What have you been doing in the city today?

Randee: Uhm, actually I've been job-hunting. My background is in television, but I recently lost my job at NBC news, so I've been job-hunting, and now I'm going to the library, because I actually have a library degree. So I figured, here I am. It's the library. I have a library degree. Maybe I'll get a job in the library. Remember Audrey Hepburn in "Breakfast at Tiffany's"? She went to the library, so I'm going too.

Int: Were you good at school?

Randee: I was excellent at school. Excellent student. Unfortunately it doesn't work the same way in business. If you do well, it doesn't mean you're rewarded. You know, intelligence doesn't necessarily play a factor in the business world in New York, you know.

Int: What's the most beautiful city in the USA?

Randee: Oh, in the United States? I think New York is really the most beautiful city in the United States. It's got it all: architecture, culture, aesthetics, language - a mixture. It's, it's just a beautiful city, it really is. I have to say that.

Int: Which is bigger? New York or San Francisco?

Randee: Bigger, uh, in geography, I think New York. Possibly bigger in spirit, it may be San Francisco.

Int: In your opinion, which is the most beautiful language?

Randee: Well, Italian is a magnificent language. French and Italian are a close match because French is just,

Int: (inaudible)

Randee : Is that true? I was just in a Brazilian restaurant and I have to say Portuguese is magnificent as well. The music, the sound and the language is soft.. sh, sh, sh..., but French is just, you know, it's like "Oui, je t'aime." How can you be better than that? It...

Int: What would you do if you won ten million dollars?

Randee: I'd buy my family – my, my parents, that is, who are magnificent people - I'd buy them a house on the beach, and we could all read, and swim, and play music, and I'd, I'd open up a children's theatre and I'd have lots of kids around, and, and I would just give away a lot of money. I would just do all the good things for all the people who really deserve it, because there's such inequity in this society, you know, you've got millionaires and you've got people living on the streets and it's just an impossibly irrational, crazy world. It's just impossible to fathom. So I would, I would have some water, I'd give some music and water to myself and my family and I would give a lot of it away.

Int: Cool. What do you hope to achieve before you die?

Randee: I would like to spread some comedy. I do some comedy. I would like to give people the spirit of humour, so that they can just - not live so seriously and so stressfully. This is an amazingly stressful city. Nobody relaxes - especially the women - they just - you know, they're so tense and they're so tight. I would just like to give some people the sense of humour, a sense of joy, and the sense of music and enjoying their lives. It's too short to just be so serious all the time, you know.

Int: Hear hear...What are you going to do tonight?

Randee: Tonight, I uhm, I'm meeting a friend who's arranging a musical on Broadway, who lives in Los Angeles, and I haven't seen in many years and we have that same synchronicity. And we're going to just, you know, have a nice meal, and talk, and exchange stories, and the joys and the sufferings of life, and you know have some sympatico conversation, talk about France maybe, you know.

Int: Thank you so much for stopping.