

## Chatterbox #278 – Music festivals

### Episode description

Are you a fan of music festivals? In this episode, Andrew and Anna discuss the ins and outs of a typical musical festival. Tune in to learn about music festival culture and useful tips to make your music festival experience more enjoyable, all while practicing your English listening skills.

Culips' Chatterbox series is great for high-intermediate and advanced English learners. This episode is chock-full of interesting phrases and vocabulary related to music festivals and festivals in general. Hit the play button and enjoy!

### Fun fact

Festivals have been around for thousands of years. Festivals were especially popular in ancient Greece and ancient Rome, with competitions and performances in athletics and the performing arts being the most popular.

### Expressions included in the study guide

- Skill set
- A staple of [something]
- A trooper
- Luck of the draw
- Out-of-body experience
- Lead-up/buildup



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## Transcript

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Note: The words and expressions that appear in **bold text** within the transcript are discussed in more detail in the Detailed Explanations section that follows the transcript. The transcript has been edited for clarity.

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**Andrew:** Hello everyone, my name is Andrew.

**Anna:** And my name is Anna.

**Andrew:** And you're listening to the Culips English Podcast.

Hello, Culips listeners. Welcome back. Today we have a Chatterbox episode for you. And Chatterbox is the Culips series for intermediate and advanced English learners that features natural, unedited conversations between native speakers about an interesting topic. And today I'm joined by my cohost, Anna. Hey, Anna, how's it going?

**Anna:** I'm great, thanks. How are you, Andrew?

**Andrew:** I'm good, Anna, and I'm pumped up and excited for our conversation today, because I think it's going to be a fascinating talk about music festivals, music festivals. And we'll get into that conversation here in just a moment. But before we do, I would like to let all of our listeners know that there's a transcript and study guide available for this episode. And following along with the study guide while you listen to us is one of the best ways to study with Culips. And you can do that by just signing up and becoming a Culips member. There are also a bunch of other extras that you'll get when you become a member. So to sign up and get the study guide, just visit [Culips.com](http://Culips.com).

**Anna:** We also wanted to give a shout-out to our listener from Russia, but I'm not sure what that name is. But it finishes in 1986. I'm afraid I can't read those characters. You left us a nice comment and a five-star review on Apple Podcasts. And you said "Amazing, dear friends, thanks a lot for the podcast. I listen and re-listen to every episode with great pleasure. Recommend for everybody. It is marvelous."

**Andrew:** Very good. Thank you so much for that amazing review. And, Anna, you're right, this listener wrote his name in Russian in the Cyrillic alphabet. Unfortunately, I don't know how to read that. But I got some help from Google Translate and I found out that we pronounce this listener's name as Alexandrovich. So, Alexandrovich, thank you so much for your amazing review. And it's too bad that I don't know how to read Russian, Anna.

**Anna:** Me neither. It's not part of my **skill set** at the moment.

**Andrew:** Maybe one day, maybe one day. Nonetheless, we appreciate the review and, everyone, leaving a positive review and a five-star rating on Apple Podcasts or whatever platform you use to listen to Culips really helps more English learners around the world connect with us and study with us. So even if you leave just a short, simple review and a five-star rating, we'd really appreciate it.

And with that being said, I think it's time to talk about our main topic for today, music festivals. So, Anna, why don't we get started talking about festivals. And I'm going to actually throw it over to you first, Anna. And the reason why I'm doing that is because when I think of countries that are really, really famous for having awesome, huge, amazing music festivals, the first country that comes to mind is the UK for me. And since you're from the UK, you're the perfect person to tell us about UK music festival culture. So what is a music festival like where you're from?

**Anna:** Well, first of all, music festivals are **a staple of British culture**. And by staple I mean essential. They're just a part of our culture. And there's just something special about going to a music festival. It's not the same environment as going on holiday, for example. But it just, there's something about having everybody together. Everybody's there to enjoy music and the vibe and it's really hard to put your finger on it. It's a special atmosphere that you really don't get in other places, because everybody's happy. Everybody wants to be there and listen to good music and relax and meet new people and you just don't get that vibe in many other places. So we just have a really interesting music scene and so many different types of music festivals. It's crazy. There's literally a music festival for everybody. Jazz, metal, pop, dance music. I mean, literally, you name it and we've got a music festival for that.

**Andrew:** Sounds awesome. Sounds like heaven for a music lover like myself. Why don't we take a step back and talk about exactly what a music festival is? Because I'm sure some of our listeners maybe haven't ever visited the kind of music festival that we're talking about. So, could you kind of just tell us what people would expect to see when they visit a music festival?

**Anna:** So a music festival, for me, is where many people or a large number of people visit one place to listen to music. So often of course, because it's a lot of people, these places are normally outside of city centres, but not always. And you get loads of people going there. And then across maybe a few days, maybe 1 day, maybe 2 days or, in Glastonbury's case, 5 days.

**Andrew:** Wow. Five days. I didn't realize it was that long.

**Anna:** Yeah, it's a working week. And you go and throughout the days, they have different acts, different music artists that will perform across the schedule or the agenda, I guess.

**Andrew:** The lineup, the schedule, the program. Yeah.

**Anna:** Yeah, the program. And lots of festivals now not only have things like music, but again to talk about Glastonbury, they have many other types of stores, clothes, food. So it's really a mixture of many different things. But it's a large group of people all going to one place to enjoy music.

**Andrew:** So you said there's loads of people that go to these festivals, which means many, many, many people go, but do you have an estimate of like, for example, Glastonbury, we're talking about Glastonbury, one of the most famous music festivals in the UK. Do you know exactly how many people would go to a festival like that over the 5-day time period?

**Anna:** So in 2020, they sold around 135,000 tickets.

**Andrew:** Oh my God, that's wild.

**Anna:** This is one of the biggest ones. Of course, not all festivals have thousands and thousands of people. Some are, you know, maybe 50,000, or 25,000. They're not all enormous. But Glastonbury, definitely, it's huge, Glastonbury. It's like a mini city.

And another thing I wanted to mention as well is that when you go to festivals, another big part of that experience is camping, because obviously you don't go to a music festival and stay in a hotel. You go to a music festival, and you go camping in a lot of cases. So this is also a really important part of the experience to take into account. This is what it's like, you go with your friends, you take a tent, and you camp for 5 days, which for me is just too much.

**Andrew:** You'd have to be a **real trooper** to be able to camp at a music festival campground for 5 days. You know, maybe I could have done that when I was a university student. But these days, I don't know if I'd last, maybe 1 day or 2 days would be all right for me. But 5 days, that would be tough. Are there people that do that, that stay for the whole festival?

**Anna:** Yeah, I mean, that's the experience, you go and you stay there for the 5 days. Now, of course, there are other options. You can upgrade to have a luxury experience. You can go in a caravan, for example. But of course, those are more expensive options, but most people will go and they will come for the whole 5 days. But let's just put that in perspective, because that's 5 days without your own shower. That's 5 days using portaloos, OK, toilets.

**Andrew:** Yes, portable toilet, yes.

**Anna:** You've kind of got to have a high tolerance for that type of thing.

**Andrew:** Especially because the lines are really long, right? It's not like you can just go anytime you want. If you have to go, you have to wait in the line. And that could take anywhere between, who knows, 20 minutes to an hour, 2 hours. It's crazy.

**Anna:** You've got to have a toilet strategy. And by that I mean, going to find the portaloos at a specific time when there aren't a lot of people because otherwise, as you said, the queues are just insane. And also when you arrive at the loo, it's probably not in a very nice state. So you know, it's also—you have to have a tolerance for these type of things when you're at music festivals. It's not your home comforts. That's not what you're gonna get.

**Andrew:** Right. So have you ever visited Glastonbury?

**Anna:** I haven't actually. It's on probably what I would say my bucket list, Glastonbury, because I think it's one of these rites of passage. Something if you're British, you have to do it or at least try and get a ticket. Because you have to remember that nearly, I think in 2020 over 2 million people applied for tickets.

**Andrew:** Wow. So it's not like you can just go if you want to any year. You have to apply for a ticket and even though 135,000 tickets are available, it's still a challenge to buy a ticket?

**Anna:** They sold out in 34 minutes.

**Andrew:** Wow. I'm shocked. It's on a level that's completely different than what I imagined. Of course, I knew about Glastonbury. And I've even watched some concerts from Glastonbury live on YouTube, because I think every year they do livestreaming. So you can check out some of the concerts from your home, which is cool. But I had no idea that it was that competitive to get a ticket.

**Anna:** There's all kinds of methods that people try and find to get a ticket. But the worst thing that I've heard is when you go as a group of people and some people get tickets, some people don't. You know, so some people in the friend group are, like, really excited. And then you know, one or two are, like, absolutely devastated because they didn't get tickets. So it's kind of **luck of the draw**. And sometimes, in some cases, you might apply every year and never get a ticket. So it is really, really competitive to get tickets, and you might not get one when you want it.

**Andrew:** Well, now I think that I have to go if it's that competitive and I have an opportunity in the future, I'm going to have to go. You know, sometimes it's kind of like a supply and demand thing, right? When you can go any year and it's no problem, then you're like, I don't need to go. But if it's unique and special, and somehow I come across a ticket, then I feel like I would have to go and check it out. I had no idea about that. That's very interesting.

**Anna:** Yeah. And they have your face on the ticket. And you know, so you can't pass it to anybody else. It's super strict. So you know, if you get a ticket, you're super lucky and lots of people will be very, very jealous.

**Andrew:** It reminds me almost of that book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, with the golden ticket.

**Anna:** Exactly.

**Andrew:** Yeah, that's, that's pretty cool. And what kind of music plays at Glastonbury? If you were to go, what kind of genres? Is it many different styles of music? Or is it mostly rock? What kind of music plays there?

**Anna:** So I think one of the reasons that Glastonbury is loved by so many is that it is so eclectic. You know, they really have such a range of stuff, electronic music, jazz music, rock music, pop music. And they have headliners every year, which are, you know, they've had Jay Z in the past, who I think was their first hip-hop headliner. And so they always have new people and different types of artists, because it's actually, I think they classify it as an arts festival, not necessarily a music festival. So you know, it's kind of like performing and you can see the artists performing to like, I don't know, crowds they've never seen before. I think as an artist, it must be incredible to perform at a music festival. And that feeling you get standing at the front of the stage. And being in the crowd, like, being in the crowd is, you know, incomparable, I think, when you're at a festival and watching an artist that you love. It's really exciting.

**Andrew:** Yeah, it must be such a jolt of adrenaline to perform in front of all of those people. Like, I could only imagine when you're on the stage and you're looking out at the audience, it must just be like a sea of people that never ends. Like maybe you couldn't even see the end of where the people are standing. So it must be like a real **out-of-body experience** to perform in that kind of situation.

**Anna:** Yeah, I love it. It's just, I really always think it's a great thing to do. It's an alternative, as well, to going on holiday, I think, because a lot of people in the UK, we have to try and make do with what we've got, because we haven't got the nice weather. So this is one way that we try and have a nice experience in our own country.

But there are funny things about music festivals, as well. You know, one of the things that I always think about as well as the horrible toilets are the hugely overpriced food.

**Andrew:** Oh, yes.

**Anna:** I remember paying nearly £10 for chips with mayonnaise. You know, it's, like, really overpriced food. And also losing your friends in the middle of a crowd and having to try to find your way back to your tent are also some festival challenges.

**Andrew:** Yeah, you know, in North America, festival culture is a lot newer than it is in Europe, I think. But over the last 10 to 20 years, the festival scene in North America has really started to blossom. And the first festival that I ever visited was called the Sasquatch Festival and that was in Washington state. In eastern Washington state, an area called George, Washington, if you can believe it or not, the city name is George and the state is Washington. So it's called George, Washington, kind of funny.



And that was the first big, like, multiday music festival that I ever visited. And it was great. When I went, I believe Kanye West was the headliner. So it was another hip-hop headliner. But most of the acts were, like, rock acts and folk acts and indie acts. There were also a lot of stand-up comedians. I don't know if that's a part of the UK festival culture, but in American festivals, it seems like there's a big stand-up comedy component to it. Is that the same in the UK, as well?

**Anna:** Yeah, I mean, we have things like that. We also have things like food festivals. I mean, there's really any type of festival that you can get. But no, that's something that happens in the in the UK. Well, actually, another huge festival in the UK is the Edinburgh Festival. And, that, of course, has many stand-up comedians, and that is a fabulous festival.

**Andrew:** The Fringe Festival, right?

**Anna:** Exactly. The Fringe Festival. Yes, that's the correct name. And it's wonderful. Oh, it's just fantastic. If you ever get a chance to be in Edinburgh, it's so busy. There's no way that you can compare Edinburgh to any other time apart from the festival, because it's so busy. I mean, just all of these people descend on the city centre. But it's fantastic. You could see all these little plays of really random things. Some of them are good. Some of them are bad. You have street performers, markets. The Fringe Festival is another really special experience.

**Andrew:** You know, I was in Edinburgh when the Fringe was happening a few years ago, and I was only there for 2 days, and I didn't see any shows. The first reason why is that I didn't know it was happening until I arrived. So I didn't do any planning. And also, I had different things that I wanted to do. I went and watched a bicycle race, and I went to a hike and did a hike, and so I just had different plans already. So I didn't see any shows.

But one thing that I did notice when I was walking around the city, A) you're absolutely right, there were so many people. Of course, I didn't have anything to compare it to. But I felt like, wow, this is a lot of people for kind of small city. Like, there's just a lot of people out and about and that kind of festival vibe or atmosphere that happens when people are gathered for that kind of reason. And also, I had many people approached me and hand out little pamphlets for their show, like, come see my show tonight. Like, OK, maybe, but I never did.

**Anna:** No, I mean, that's the point. You never you never actually go, but there are all these people handing you flyers. But that's the beautiful thing is that you can go and sometimes what you do is you get a little flyer and you're like, oh, I'll just go and see what it's like. And I went to one it was fantastic. It was really funny. So you find these little gems of, you know, arts and performing arts and acting. And it's, I mean, obviously Edinburgh in summer, it's, you know, it's not like you get the good weather or anything like that. But it's a fantastic festival and, and an arts festival as well. It's, there's music, there's lots of different things going on. So it's really like a variety of, of different things. I love it. It's great.

**Andrew:** Yeah, it almost reminds me a little bit of my favourite music festival in Canada, which is called Pop Montreal. And the way that it reminds me of Pop Montreal is that instead of being concentrated in one venue for, you know, 5 days like Glastonbury is, or like the Sasquatch Festival that I visited in George, Washington, is, is that it's spread out among multiple venues over multiple days. The nice thing about that is that you don't have to camp, right? You can, like, stay in a hotel, or you could stay at home. And then you can just go to a different venue every day. And there are different performances, different shows.

That's exactly what the Pop Montreal music festival is like. It takes place over about 2 weeks and there are lots of concerts and lots of big name acts that perform. But they're all spread out over about a 2-week period, different venues and different locations.

So when the Pop Montreal festival would happen, and I lived in Montreal at the time, I would always get a festival pass. And it was so fun with my friends. We would ride our bikes to one venue and watch like the opening act for one concert. We'd get it back on our bikes and rip across the city to another venue to catch the headlining act at a different venue. And then we'd go to a party afterwards where there was maybe, like, a DJ playing or something. So it was super fun. And one of my favourite festivals in Canada.

**Anna:** That sounds amazing. I think now that, now that I've done the whole camping experience, I think I've kind of moved on in my taste. So, I think for me being able to stay at my own house or having a hotel seems like a very attractive proposition rather than camping. But I mean, there's just some festivals that are absolutely massive. I think the largest one is in the USA, Summerfest.

**Andrew:** Summerfest, yes.

**Anna:** Which attracts 800,000 or 1 million people each year.

**Andrew:** Isn't that wild?

**Anna:** It's wild.



**Andrew:** I've never visited Summerfest before. But I've heard of this festival. And apparently there are up to 800 different performers. And the performances take place over 11 days. So I imagine this festival is similar to Pop Montreal or Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, where it's spread out in different venues, because I can't imagine that any country has the infrastructure to host 1 million people for a concert.

**Anna:** This is another thing as well, like, the organization. Like, I used to like events planning. But then I think the idea of organizing and managing a festival like Glastonbury must just require or Summerfest or Pop Montreal or the Edinburgh Festival, I mean, it must just require so much organization and infrastructure, as you said, to make sure that everything runs smoothly. I mean, it must be so stressful while the festival is going on. You've got all the **buildup**, all the **lead-up**. And then, you know, really stressful so many things going on. And—but there's so many festivals now.

And I mean, I've travelled abroad to go to a festival, that's very common as well. There's a big festival in Serbia, I went to a festival in Croatia. So there's also this kind of festival tourism that has, over the past few years, that's definitely grown a lot. And that's also the sad thing that's happened over the past couple of years, because we haven't been able to go to festivals and I really hope that, you know, things seem to be starting to, you know, they're doing test events and things like this. And I really hope that maybe in the next few months, or probably next year, in the next kind of cycle of summer festivals, people will be able to enjoy this type of event again, because I think people really miss it. It's such a wonderful experience. And I think it's been really missed over the past year or so.

**Andrew:** Yeah, I completely agree with you. And, you know, I think it goes back to that point that I made earlier. It's, like, you don't really know what you got till you don't have it. You know? You don't really appreciate a Glastonbury ticket until you realize that there are a limited amount of tickets. You don't really appreciate music festivals until you can't go to music festivals because of a pandemic. So for the last few years, I kind of skipped going to any music festivals. But as soon as it is safe to open festivals again, and we have some great festivals here in Korea where I live, I definitely would love to go and just hang out and enjoy some music with a bunch of other people at the same time. It's a really unique experience and there's really nothing else like it.

**Anna:** I completely agree. And I think it's great to get—I'm sure artists as well, they're going to be desperate to start performing live and in front of audiences and not through a screen because I think that's a beautiful part about being an artist is getting to go and, you know—it's the artists and also the audience as well. It's just, you know, I really think it's a, as you said, unique experience. And definitely if you're in the UK or anywhere else that has a music festival and you get the opportunity to go, I would really, really recommend it.

**Andrew:** Absolutely. Well, listeners, we would love to hear what you have to say about this topic. Have you ever visited a music festival, maybe in your country or abroad, maybe one of the most famous music festivals in the world, like Glastonbury in the UK or Coachella in the USA? We would love to know your experience, or even if you haven't visited a festival before, but would like to in the future. Please drop us a line and send us an email. And let us know which festival you would like to visit. You can contact us through email at our address, which is [contact@Culips.com](mailto:contact@Culips.com).

Well, Anna, that brings us to the end for this episode. And we'd like to say thank you to all of our listeners for making it to the end. And we hope that you learned a lot with us here today.

Our website is [Culips.com](http://Culips.com). And, again, if you want to get the study guide, including the transcript and practice exercises for this episode, just check out the website to download it.

**Anna:** Becoming a Culips member is a great way to support us, but it's not the only way. You can also support us by leaving a five-star rating and a nice review on your podcast app, telling your friends about Culips, and following us on social media.

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We'll be back soon with another brand-new episode and we'll talk to you then. See you later.

**Anna:** See you soon.

## Detailed Explanations

### Skill set

Noun

A **skill set** is collection of skills or abilities that someone possesses. In other words, anything that a person is good at doing is part of his or her **skill set**. Abilities that you could include in your **skill set** include things like cooking, communication, creativity, number sense, or financial literacy, for example.

In this episode, Anna says that Russian is not part of her **skill set**. This a different way of saying that Anna is not fluent in Russian; speaking Russian is not an ability that she possesses.

Here are a couple more examples with **skill set**:

**Ralph:** Are you ready to go to the escape room café tomorrow night?

**Travis:** Of course. I love escape rooms! Who else is joining us?

**Ralph:** Zac, Frannie, and Amora are coming too.

**Travis:** Amora's coming? Solving puzzles isn't really a part of her **skill set**. Won't she slow us down?

**Ralph:** She might not be good at solving puzzles, but she's a great communicator and a team player. She'll help us keep on schedule and mediate any arguments that might break out.

**Kole:** What are you doing this weekend?

**Omari:** I've got a computer programming class that I'm doing every Saturday for the next few months.

**Kole:** I didn't know you're into computer programming.

**Omari:** I just started. I figured programming would be a good thing to have in my **skill set**. It'll look good on applications and such.

**Kole:** Wow, you're making me feel lazy in comparison.

**Omari:** The first class starts tomorrow. You could join if there's still space left.

## A staple of [something]

### Phrase

A staple food, product, or activity is a basic and important part of a person's life, a place, or an event. For example, kimchi is **a staple part of the diet in Korean culture**. Kimchi is served as a side for almost every meal in Korea, so it is a basic and important part of the average Korean person's life. Likewise, in this episode, Anna says that musical festivals are **a staple of British culture**. Thus, musical festivals are an important and integral part of Britain's culture.

Here are a couple more examples with **a staple of [something]**:

**Mariyah:** How was your trip?

**Stewart:** It was amazing! I brought you back a little present.

**Mariyah:** Really? Thanks! What is it?

**Stewart:** Durian candy. Durian is **a staple fruit of Southeast Asia**. Have you had it before?

**Mariyah:** No, I'll try one now ... Oh! What is that strange smell?

**Stewart:** That's the smell of durian. Interesting, huh?

**Mariyah:** Yeah, interesting is one word to describe it. Hopefully the taste is better than the smell!

**Piper:** What's that guy making in that stall over there? It smells amazing. Is it some sort of food?

**Emilis:** No, it's not food. This area is famous for its honeybee farms. That man over there is making homemade beeswax candles. They're **a staple of this area**. Everyone's got a couple of beeswax candles that they use at home.

**Piper:** Wow, neat! I'm gonna go buy some. They would make excellent gifts, as well.

**Emilis:** Most definitely. Let's go check out his stall.

## A trooper

### Slang

**A trooper** usually refers to a police officer or soldier. However, in this episode, our hosts refer to the slang meaning of **trooper**, which is a person who willingly and optimistically participates in difficult situations without giving up easily. In this episode, Andrew says that someone would have to be **a real trooper** to willingly sleep at a musical festival campground for 5 days. Sleeping at a musical festival is not easy; it's noisy, dirty, full of people you don't know, and just generally uncomfortable. Therefore, someone who is able and willing to sleep at and participate in a music festival for 5 days straight is **a real trooper**—someone who willingly participates in a difficult situation despite the general lack of comfort of the setting. In this example, **real** emphasizes the word **trooper**, so **a real trooper** is someone who deals exceptionally well in a difficult or uncomfortable situation.

Here are a couple more examples with **a trooper**:

**Gwen:** How was the camping trip last weekend?

**Leonard:** It was really fun. We had a good time.

**Gwen:** Did Charlie survive? He's a little young to be doing a 2-day, 20-mile backpacking trip in the mountains.

**Leonard:** Charlie was **a real trooper**. We made sure his pack was extra-light and we took lots of breaks throughout the hike.

**Gwen:** That's great! I was worried he might not make it.

**Penny:** So, how did it go this weekend? Did your husband survive alone with the kids?

**Carla:** He was such **a trooper**. It was great for the kids and him to bond this weekend while I went on my business trip.

**Penny:** Did anything crazy go down?

**Carla:** Well, the kids told me he let them have ice cream for dinner one night and they didn't take baths the entire time I was gone, but nobody died or got seriously injured so I'm calling it a success.

**Penny:** Ha! Sounds about how I expected it to be.

## Luck of the draw Phrase

**Luck of the draw** refers to the fact that the results of some event or action are not determined by any particular skill, but simply by chance. The phrase **luck of the draw** originated several decades ago, and it was first used while playing card games. If players said the results of the game were the **luck of the draw**, it meant that no matter how skilled a player was at any given card game, often the results of each game came down to chance and how lucky you were when drawing cards from the deck.

Here are a couple more examples with **luck of the draw**:

**Juan:** Dude, are those the limited edition Travis Scott Nike Jordan collaboration sneakers?

**Vinnie:** Yeah, man, they are.

**Juan:** How were you able to score a pair of those? They're over \$1000.

**Vinnie:** I actually got them at the sales price from Nike, less than \$200, I think.

**Juan:** What? How?

**Vinnie:** They were holding a buyer's lottery. Anyone whose name was picked could buy them at the original sales price. It was just **luck of the draw**.

**Greta:** Oh, look. There's only one ticket left for the concert tonight. Do you mind if I take it?

**Terrie:** Actually, I really wanted to go tonight. How about we play a game for it? Winner gets the ticket.

**Greta:** OK, that's fair. All right, I'll put two marbles in a bag. The person who picks the green one gets the ticket.

**Terrie:** OK, well, here goes.

**Greta:** Ah, you picked the green one. The **luck of the draw** was in your favour today. The ticket is yours—here you go.

**Terrie:** Thanks, Greta. I'll be sure to take lots of pictures and tell you all about it.



## Out-of-body experience

Noun

An **out-of-body experience** is a situation in which someone feels as if they have left their own body and they're observing the world around them in kind of a detached, spiritual state of being. In this episode, Andrew says that he imagines singers and musicians have **out-of-body experiences** when they perform at music festivals in front of crowds of hundreds of thousands of people. In other words, performing in front of so many people must be such a crazy, adrenaline-inducing, amazing experience that the performers feel as if they are simply observing the event as a spirit. It's not hard to imagine that this would be unbelievable to experience, seeing so many people standing in a crowd, cheering, and singing along to the lyrics they wrote.

Here are a couple more examples with **out-of-body experience**:

**Jerry:** Have you ever done drugs?

**Tyler:** I did mushrooms once.

**Jerry:** Dude, really? What was that like?

**Tyler:** It was a crazy **out-of-body experience**. It was kind of like experiencing Alice in Wonderland in real life.

**Anabelle:** How have you been holding up since the divorce?

**Rachel:** You know, this whole process has been a bit of an **out-of-body experience**. Sometimes I just stare out the window and wonder how my life led to this point.

**Anabelle:** I can't imagine what you're going through.

**Rachel:** Yeah, it's been hard. But honestly, even though I'm drained emotionally and I'll probably die alone, I'm also a little bit glad, too.

**Anabelle:** Glad?

**Rachel:** Yeah. Daniel and I had been living in this broken marriage for a long time. Although it hurts more than anything I've ever experienced, there's also some relief that this chapter in my life is finally coming to an end.

## Lead-up/buildup

Noun

The **lead-up** or the **buildup** are the events or key moments that come before a big event. In this episode, Anna and Andrew discussed the things that must be done **leading up** to a music festival. Before a music festival, an organization must choose a venue, plan the entertainment, invite artists, organize ticket sales, and plan the layout of the festival grounds. All of these tasks are considered the **lead-up** or the **buildup** to the final event, the music festival itself.

**Lead-up** or **buildup** can refer to any preparation that is done before the main event. While **lead-up** and **buildup** are nouns, they can also be used as verbs, as in the sentence, "There was chaos in the kitchen in the last few hours **leading up** to the charity dinner." In this example, **lead up** was used as a phrasal verb to talk about the crazy amount of activity going on in the kitchen right before the main event, the charity dinner.

Here are a couple more examples with **lead-up/buildup**:

**Dolores:** OK, everyone! This is the final week of rehearsal before the big concert. We need everyone here on time and ready to go by 5:00 every night this week during the **lead-up** to the Friday night debut.

**Hillary:** What if we can't come one day this week?

**Dolores:** What? Why not? What could possibly be more important than practice?

**Hillary:** I've got a dentist appointment on Tuesday.

**Dolores:** You want to skip practice for a dentist appointment 3 days before we debut? Are you insane?

**Gordon:** Do you wanna run a marathon with me?

**Reese:** What? I can barely run 5 kilometres without stopping for a break. You want me to run 42 kilometres?

**Gordon:** Yeah, but the marathon isn't for another 8 months. If we start training for it now, we can **build up** to that 42-kilometre mark.

**Reese:** Easier said than done, my friend.

## Quiz

**1. Which of the choices below is an example of the phrase luck of the draw?**

- a) getting an A on a test by studying hard each night
- b) getting a raise at work for your good work ethic
- c) winning a chess competition
- d) winning a trip to Hawaii in a charity raffle

**2. True or false? Someone could call you a real trooper if you dealt really well in an uncomfortable situation.**

- a) true
- b) false

**3. Which is a staple of the 21st century?**

- a) smartphones
- b) floppy disks
- c) Morse code
- d) analogue clocks

**4. What is a synonym to the words buildup or lead-up?**

- a) increase
- b) preparation
- c) excitement
- d) look-up

**5. What word goes in the blank? An out-of-body \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) experiment
- b) explosion
- c) experience
- d) achievement

## Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever attended a music festival? Where was it? What was it like?
2. Are there any music festivals you hope to attend in the future? Which ones and why?
3. What is your favourite thing to do at a festival? (It can be a music festival or another kind of festival.)
4. What are some positive and negative aspects of attending a music festival?
5. What is a staple music style in your country? Do you enjoy listening to this kind of music?

## Quiz Answers

1.d    2.a    3.a    4.b    5.c

### Episode credits

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