

Chatterbox #195 – Apps

Episode description

Do you love technology and the latest apps? If so, this episode is for you! Sit back, relax, and listen to Andrew and Morag as they chat about the devices and apps they've fooled around with.

Fun fact

Apple is one of the most successful companies worldwide, generating more money than Google or Facebook. After coming back from an apple orchard, Steve Jobs, one of Apple's founders, suggested the name Apple for the company, and it stuck.

Expressions included in the learning materials

- A diehard fan
- Off to the races
- To be lame
- To fool around with [something]
- To cross over to the dark side





Transcript

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.

Andrew: Hey, everybody. My name is Andrew.

Morag: And my name is Morag.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips.

Andrew: Good morning, Morag.

Morag: Morning, Andrew, or evening, Andrew.

Andrew: How are you doing?

Morag: I'm all right. I've got a cup of coffee in me, so we are off to a good start.

Andrew: Morag, I had a great day today, for a very simple reason. Actually, this might sound **a little lame** to some people, but it really made me happy—and that I bought something off the internet, I bought a little memory card for my phone and this little chip that literally was smaller than the size of my pinky finger nail. Pop this in my phone and all of a sudden, I have so much room on my phone. Room for photos and music and apps. I don't know why I waited so long to get extra memory for my phone, but I'm really glad I did and, yeah, it's just a little thing that made me happy today.

Morag: That's lovely. I'm actually pretty jealous because I do not have a phone with expandable storage. So it may be a little thing to you, but that would be huge.

Andrew: It's awesome, it was a really killer feature that I just ignored for too long, but, yeah, now I got all this free space, so it's great.

Morag: I don't know about you, Andrew, but I definitely have, oh, way too much on my phone, but it's mostly music, some photos. But then, the majority of what I keep on my phone and what uses up all of that memory is apps.

Andrew: Actually, this is what we are going to talk about today, in this Chatterbox episode. Now, if you're not familiar with our Chatterbox series, what we do is have a totally natural conversation in English and we let you eavesdrop, we let you listen in. And today's topic is apps.

Morag: Mmm.

Andrew: And I wanted to start by defining this word apps ... Apps



- Morag: Well, the first thing to know is that app is short for application, so it's just a program or application that you have on your phone that you can download, and it is its own standalone little something, game, utility, something along those lines.
- Andrew: Exactly, it's just a little piece of software that you use on your phone.
- Morag: Mmhmm.
- Andrew: Now, Morag, you mentioned two things to me here that I want to question you about. The first is that your phone doesn't have expandable memory.
- Morag: No.
- Andrew: So, I'm assuming it's an iPhone. Is that correct?
- Morag: Well, yeah, I actually have two phones.
- Andrew: Oh! One for each hand?
- Morag: Yeah, right? No, I wish, no, I inherited an iPhone a little while ago, an iPhone 6 plus. It's so big.
- Andrew: Wow.
- Morag: But I also have a Nexus 6p.
- Andrew: Oh, you got two nice phones.
- Morag: I know, right? Yeah, and I had been an Android user for a long time and I just decided to try out the iPhone and see what was going on, and I totally fell for it. But you know why I fell for it?
- Andrew: Why?
- Morag: It was the Mac app ecosystem.
- Andrew: What do you mean by that? Because even I'm not sure—the app ecosystem, what is that?
- Morag: It's the variety of things available and being made for that particular platform. So when someone makes an app, they need to make two different versions for Apple and Android, or if they were going to do Windows phone, but I mean come on.
- Andrew: Nobody's going there.



- Morag: Yeah, or Blackberry or something, it's not happening. But you do need to make two different pieces of this software, and so a lot of times, the Android releases come much later, if they ever come at all. There's so much more, there is a richer app ecosystem on any Apple device, so on an iPhone or an iPad or whatever, than there is on any of the Android devices. You can just get way better stuff in terms of apps.
- Andrew: It's true that Apple get apps first, and I guess this is one point that I will have to give to Apple, even though I am **a pretty diehard Android fan**.
- Morag: Yeah, yeah, I think I go back and forth. It just depends on what you want and need at a certain point. How much you want to customize, how much would you want to do. At this point, I just really want to be able to have all the cool apps.
- Andrew: Well, that is the second thing that I wanted to ask you about, because you mentioned that most of your storage space on your phone is taken up by apps.
- Morag: Mmhmm.
- Andrew: So, what kind of apps are takin' up all of your storage space?
- Morag: Well, there is a lot, man! Yeah, I have a lot of utilities and things that I need for daily living, like, oh, banking—and, strangely, I put this in the same category like the amazon app.
- Andrew: One is for storing your money and one is for spending your money.
- Morag: Yeah.
- Andrew: But I guess they're both related to money, OK.
- Morag: It's true. And then, you know, like, weather, translation, dictionaries. That sort of thing, I'll just, sort of, generally useful stuff and then, of course, there's Instagram and Snapchat and Facebook and all of the social stuff. And then I have a favourite daily horoscope app, which is pretty great.
- Andrew: Oh, nice.
- Morag: Then there's a whole lot related to French, so there's some language learning stuff and French radio and all kinds of that sort of thing. And then we kind of get into the games.



- Andrew: So, now this is one area where you probably know much more than I do, because the only games that I have on my phone are chess. As people know, I am kind of a chess addict and so I have two or three apps. One is the chess game that I can play online and the other one, the other two, I think, actually, are strategy games. We call them tactics, so chess tactics.
- Morag: Oh.
- Andrew: So these are the games I have. I'm not very interesting when it comes to smartphone games, but what kind of games do you play on your phone?
- Morag: Oh, well, on my phone—this one is large enough that you can pretty much play anything you want—so if you have, like, a nice big screen, you can play stuff like ... There is actually a game that just came out, or this second version of it just came out, the second release. I don't know if anybody has heard of Monument Valley? But it is this absolutely beautiful puzzle game-ish, but mostly you just tap around to navigate these bizarre and gorgeous scene pieces, like set pieces, this scenery, and you kind of move stuff around to try and get your person to the end. It's just stunning and kind of mind-bending, so the second one of those just came out.
- Andrew: Mmhmm.
- Morag: Yeah, so if you have, if you have, like, I don't know, I think maybe it takes 2 or 3 hours to play through all of it, and it's just gorgeous.
- Andrew: Cool.
- Morag: Yeah, really nice. And then there's, then there's stuff about, you know, well, it's the embarrassing stuff, the stuff that isn't actually, it's not art, it's not interesting, it's just something that you play to pass the time when riding the bus. I had one that I was, I think I actually played for months called Rodeo Stampede. It was so stupid. Yeah, I've had that before, where something was like Pocket Zoo and I collected all of the animals. That must have been hours and hours and hours. The main thing I play, though, and this may be, I'm hoping this will be familiar to at least some of our listeners, is Picross or Nonograms.
- Andrew: OK, not familiar to me, but if they're popular I'm sure a lot of our listeners know about them.
- Morag: They're Japanese, I believe, in origin.
- Andrew: Ah, OK.
- Morag: Yeah, well, Sudoku is a Nonogram.



- Andrew: Mmhmm, oh, OK.
- Morag: Then there's ... But there's tons and tons of different varieties on that, so you don't always just have to use numbers set up in a grid in that way. There's also ways that you can, you can say how many colours, where they are, that sort of thing. You can make pictures with things, you can ... It's, yeah, very strange.
- Andrew: Morag, if you ever decide **to cross over to the dark side** and install a chess app on your phone, let me know and we can play online together.
- Morag: Oh, OK, yeah! I wish there were some sort of face-off Picross game—that would be a fun exchange.
- Andrew: I would have to say that one of the most popular apps on my phone is my dictionary, because I'm living in Korea. There are still a ton of words that I don't know and I just have to look them up. I hate not knowing what something says, so I'm always using my dictionary to find the definitions of words that I encounter in everyday life.
- Morag: Yeah, the French dictionary for me is also really helpful if you're just out and you see something, you're like, what is that?
- Andrew: And I always love it, it's kind of a game I play with myself to try and guess the definition from the context and from the characters that are used. You can do this with French, too, sometimes, you can look at the root and try and guess the meaning. That's always fun.
- Morag: That makes a lot of sense, yup.
- Andrew: One thing that I think I have complained about on Culips before, and I'll complain again, is, well, chatting apps. To be honest, chatting apps and texting apps drive me crazy.
- Morag: Mmhmm, why?
- Andrew: Well, I have friends in Korea that use one app, friends in Canada that use a different app. My best friend lives in China, he uses a different app.
- Morag: Oh god.
- Andrew: My parents use a different app, so I actually have four or five different apps, and this is what drives me crazy, is that everybody's using a different service. So there's: KakaoTalk, Telegram, WhatsApp, WeChat, and Facebook. Those are the five that I am currently using.
- Morag: Who uses Facebook? Because that's what I'm most use to.



- Andrew: Yeah, Facebook—mostly my Canadian friends are using Facebook, yeah.
- Morag: Yeah, so, 'cause I had used WhatsApp for work for a while. And then there's the general text messaging app.
- Andrew: Mmhmm.
- Morag: The actual text messages, and then Facebook, so I have the experience with, like, three kind of going all the time, but I can't imagine five or six. That would be really frustrating. You should, you should designate one of them as the Andrew app and just make everybody use it.
- Andrew: I don't know if my friends like me enough to download a new app on their phone. I don't know if I'd like to find out the results of that experiment.
- Morag: Ah, yes, sometimes it's best not to actually test, yeah. You don't want to know your potential.
- Andrew: Exactly, OK, an interesting question here. Something that I've actually never done is buy an app. To pay money for an app, have you done this before?
- Morag: Oh yeah.
- Andrew: Yeah?
- Morag: Yeah, Monument Valley, the game I was talking about before, the second one is, at least in Canada, is \$6.99.
- Andrew: Mmhmm.
- Morag: So that, I'm like, no problem! Games are something that I believe should be paid for, because if you don't it's funded by advertising, which I don't think makes a very good experience. It's also that the people who made the games need to build that really obnoxious advertising into the way that they understand you're going to play the game. Even paying 2 or 3 dollars for something, that's not much, that's a cup of coffee out somewhere, you know, that's like, I don't know, a side addition to a meal or, yeah, I don't know. It's not a lot of money, but if you pay for something you'll allow the developer to, or promote developers who are trying to give you an experience that isn't built around making you watch 30-second ads every 2 minutes, which is just not that great.



- Andrew: Yeah, I totally agree with you, that ads can ruin the experience that you have in an app. Now for me, it's usually OK because I'm not using an app for gaming or something that would really, you know, the user experience isn't as important. But it still is important and, you know, here we are recording a podcast, right? And I'm a podcast megafan, as I think you are as well? And Android doesn't have iTunes, we don't have the podcasting store, so I have to use a different type of app. And I've been **fooling around with several different free ones**. You know, I use one for a couple of months and then change and then change, just haven't found one that I really love. So I think I'm ready to buy my first app. I'm going to go for the premium version of the best podcasting app.
- Morag: Do it.
- Andrew: I'm ready to make that leap.
- Morag: I think it's really important to pay people for their labour.
- Andrew: Yeah, I agree.
- Morag: If they created something that you use and you love, and is the best one of those products, give them, like, some money, man.
- Andrew: Totally.
- Morag: And then again, though, I'm a good tipper, so.
- Andrew: Just a generous person, Morag.
- Morag: Well, I was just about to say, you see where I stand on giving my money away to other people. I tend to believe it's good.
- Andrew: OK, my very last question that I want to throw out here today is, if you had the option of doing something on a phone app or have the option of doing the same thing on your computer, which would you choose?
- Morag: It completely depends for me, I base a lot on the actual experience of using that application or that website. If you have a better-designed, more friendly and comprehensive, and easy to use and attractive app than you do website, I'm going to use the app.
- Andrew: Interesting.



- Morag: But, if the website has significantly more functionality, if it's better, if it's just better made, better kept up, like, if it is easier to use, then I'm going to use your website. But that's the other nice thing about Apple products, is that usually the apps are more streamlined and easier to use and don't have as many bugs. So, and maybe in the past, like, 6 months or in a year, maybe, my bank's banking app has finally caught up to the website in that they're totally identically easy to use and helpful now. They do the same stuff, so I just use the phone 'cause it's already in my hand.
- Andrew: Yeah, I agree. Actually, maybe we use the same bank, I'm not sure, but my bank got a new app about 6 months ago, too, and it's awesome. It's super simple, it's super easy to use, and I actually prefer to do it on my phone now, online banking. But I think my main issue is that I'm still much better at typing on a keyboard, so when I have to enter a lot of information, then I prefer to do it using a computer and keyboard than typing on my phone.
- Morag: Ah.
- Andrew: I think that's why I'm resistant to using apps for some tasks.
- Morag: That makes sense. I get what you mean. I do use my phone as a notebook, so, through my, it's where my grocery lists go, it's where all of the, sort of, to do's go, so I type on my phone and have, I've been typing on a phone for about 10 years. All the time. So I'm pretty sure, I'm about equal now, but if you don't do that, it can be frustrating.
- Andrew: I recently received a gift and it was a Bluetooth keyboard, a little miniature keyboard for your phone. So now even when I'm on the road, if I have to do a lot of typing and it's, you know, a pain in the neck to do with my thumbs, then I can pull out this little keyboard boo boo boo Bluetooth and I'm **off to the races**. I'm typing just like I regularly would.
- Morag: That's lovely, although I have a little Bluetooth keyboard, but it's about three times the size of my phone. I would feel very funny.
- Andrew: Yeah, it's true that the keyboards are not as modern as their phone counterparts, they're a little bit big when compared to the phone these days.
- Morag: Mmhmm. OK, well, I think that brings us to the end of our episode today. So thank you all for spending your time listening to us. Do remember that our website is Culips.com. If you want to learn more about how you can study with us and improve your English, you can visit Culips.com



Andrew: Yeah, our website is the place where you can become a Culips member and get access to our learning materials, which include full transcripts, detailed vocabulary explanations, and examples, as well as quizzes for each episode—and we have over 400 episodes.

We'd also love to hear from you. If you have an idea for an upcoming episode, definitely send it our way. You can get in touch with us through our Facebook page, which is [Facebook.com/CulipsPodcast](https://www.facebook.com/CulipsPodcast), or email us directly at contact@culips.com. And, guys, if you have a really awesome app on your phone that you love to use, let me know 'cause, you know, I'm interested. Anyway, we will talk to you next time. Bye, everybody.

Morag: Goodbye.

Announcer: Do you like listening to Culips? If so, please show your support by leaving Culips a five-star rating and a review on iTunes or Stitcher. This helps new listeners find the show. So don't delay—rate and reviewA today.



Detailed Explanations

A diehard fan

The noun a diehard means a person who believes or defends something, like an idea or a cause, that is outdated or hopeless. They are unwilling to change their beliefs or behaviours. Similarly, the noun a fan, which is a shortened form of the word fanatic, means a person who is devoted to or admires something or somebody. Therefore, **a diehard fan** means a person who is utterly and completely devoted or filled with admiration for something or somebody.

A diehard fan is loyal to the end. For example, let's say the Toronto Argonauts (a football team) are losing a game and it is pouring rain. A fan who would remain sitting in the rain to support the Argonauts no matter what would be **a diehard fan**.

In this episode, Andrew mentions that she is **a diehard fan** of the Android devices (eg, phones or tablets). By using the expression **a diehard fan**, Morag is saying that she thinks the Android devices are fantastic. Even though she can recognize that the Apple devices have great apps, she is intensely loyal and remains a steadfast fan of the Android devices. No matter what, you cannot change her mind about Android devices.

Here are a couple more examples with **a diehard fan**:

Johnny:	What'd you do last night?
Steven:	I ended up binge watching the first season of Seinfeld and stayed up late.
Johnny:	Didn't you just watch all the seasons a few months ago?
Steven:	What can I say? I'm a diehard fan of the show. I've probably seen every episode at least ten times. The episodes never get old, and George really cracks me up. Did you know that the character of George is actually based on the co-creator, Larry David?
Johnny:	Yes, you've told me. I get it. You love the show and can't get enough of it!

Julie:	Did you catch the Vancouver Canucks game last night?
Jim:	Of course! I'm a diehard fan of the team. I wouldn't miss a game for anything. I would even take a sick day from work to watch a game if it came down to it.
Julie:	Silly me. I should have known better than to ask you that question!



Off to the races

The idiom **off to the races** means to be busy doing something or to do something interesting or exciting. In other words, if someone is **off to the races**, they are in the process of taking part in some activity.

To better understand this expression, try imagining a car race. In a car race, the race car drivers compete at high speed to see who is the fastest. There is a lot of activity, and the speed, competition, sounds, and intensity are all very exciting. So if someone is **off to the races**, they are off to be very busy and active, or to be doing something interesting or exciting.

Do not confuse **off to the races** with off to the rat race. The rat race means the daily grind or competition for money or power. **Off to the races** has a positive connotation, whereas off to the rat race has a negative connotation.

Here are a couple more examples with **off to the races**:

Judy:	I'm so excited to go on the retreat that we have booked this weekend. I really think that it's going to help us grow as individuals and as a couple.
Aiden:	I couldn't agree more! They have so many fun activities. It's going to be hard to choose which ones to do.
Judy:	Only a couple more sleeps, and then it's off to the races !
Aiden:	I can't wait. I love you, Judy.
Judy:	I love you, too.

Chip:	Did you hear about the funky new bar they opened right about the corner from us?
Gary:	Yeah, I drove by last night, and it was packed. Want to check it out tonight?
Chip:	Let's do it! I need about an hour to get ready.
Gary:	Perfect, and then it's off to the races !

To be lame

When used in casual conversation, **lame** is slang for boring, stupid, unoriginal, or uncool. Calling something **lame** is an informal way of saying that something is bad or sucks. You can use **lame** to describe things, people, actions, or places. However, it is mean to call someone **lame**, and the expression can be considered rude, so avoid using it at work or in polite situations.

Lame can also be used as an exclamatory phrase or sympathetic response to something someone else has said. It is another way of saying, "That is uncool." For example, if your friend tells you that her boyfriend didn't buy her a present for her birthday, you could say, "**Lame!**"

Although **lame** can mean crippled or disabled, in casual or informal conversation it means uncool or unoriginal. If someone is talking about a physical disability or injury, they probably are not using the slang meaning of **lame**. But if someone is talking about a situation or an object, they are probably using the slang meaning of **lame**.

So in casual and informal speech or writing (eg, Twitter or Facebook posts), **lame** is an adjective that means uncool or unoriginal. It is a way of saying that something is bad.

Here are a couple more examples with **to be lame**:

Mason:	Did you see the picture that Liam posted yesterday on his Facebook wall?
Elijah:	Lame! He has to stop posting so many pictures of his cat and get a life. If he keeps it up, he'll never find a girlfriend! She'll take one look at his profile, and think he's boring and uncool.
Mason:	Maybe we should talk to him.
Elijah:	Why don't you do it? He'll listen to you before he listens to me.

Olivia:	I can't believe how mean Jason is.
Sofia:	Why? What'd he do this time?
Olivia:	He said that I was stupid and boring.
Sofia:	He's the one who's lame! He's just trying to put you down so he feels better about himself. I can't stand people like that. Maybe it's time to make a formal complaint to human resources. That kind of talk is unacceptable at work.

Olivia: I think you're right. OK, I'll talk to human resources tomorrow.

To fool around with [something]

The expression **to fool around with [something]** means to play with something, often with no goal in mind. In other words, **to fool around with [something]** means to amuse yourself by playing with something, or to aimlessly spend time fiddling with something.

For example, in this episode Andrew mentions that he has been **fooling around with different apps**. By using the expression **to fool around with [something]**, Andrew is saying that he has been spending time playing with different apps, trying their features and just figuring them out. He hasn't been spending his time seriously. Instead, he has been amusing himself by messing around and trying different apps.

The expression **to fool around with [something]** does not mean the same thing as to fool around with [someone]. If someone is talking about fooling around with another person, they either mean that they did nothing of importance or engaged in sexual activity!

Here are a couple more examples with **to fool around with [something]**:

Dean:	What are you doing right now?
Melanie:	Nothing, just fooling around with the TV and looking at its different features. I didn't realize that we could connect to YouTube.
Dean:	We can connect to YouTube? That's cool.
Melanie:	It sure is!

Chris:	Hey, babe. How was your day?
Whitney:	Pretty good. I took the kids to the park, and then we came home and they just fooled around with their toys .
Chris:	Did they nap? They both look pretty tired.
Whitney:	Darius napped, but Samantha couldn't. She had so much fun playing with her toys that she couldn't settle down and fall asleep. We'll have to put her to bed early tonight.
Chris:	Sounds like a plan!

To cross over to the dark side

In order to understand **to cross over to the dark side**, you first need to understand what the dark side is. The dark side means the bad or negative part of someone or something. The dark side was popularized by the Star Wars movies, which are very well known in North American and have become part of mainstream culture.

The Star Wars movies focus on the war between good versus evil in the universe. They introduce the idea of the Force—good and bad energy created from all living things. When someone gives in to bad emotions, like fear, anger, and aggression, they are giving in to the dark side of the Force. So **crossing over to the dark side** means to give in to bad temptations, and to go from the good side to the bad side.

In casual conversation, **to cross over to the dark side** is used in a lighthearted and joking manner to talk about embracing an opposite opinion or attitude. For example, if someone has always been a big fan of Coca-Cola and then decides to drink Pepsi, you can jokingly say that they've **crossed over to the dark side**. Because soft drinks are not a serious subject, using the expression **to cross over to the dark side** is funny.

So if you **cross over to the dark side**, you change your original opinion.

Here are a couple more examples with **to cross over to the dark side**:

Tim:	Over the last few years, my taste in movies has really changed. I used to like the summer Hollywood blockbusters, where there's little to no story and a million explosions every few seconds, but now I just can't get into them.
Tom:	How come?
Tim:	I took a film class, and it really changed my view and perspective. I prefer arthouse movies now.
Tom:	Oh no, you've crossed over to the dark side ! Michael Bay will miss you.

Pam:	When I was in school, I really tried to keep up with the latest trends.
Sam:	And you don't do that now?
Pam:	Not really. I find I'm more interested in what's comfortable and functional, rather than what's expensive and sexy.
Sam:	Wait, does this mean you wear socks with sandals now?
Pam:	Don't worry. I haven't crossed over to the dark side yet.



Quiz

- 1. True or false: To fool around with [something] means to have different apps.**
 - a) true
 - b) false

- 2. Which of the following is the best example of someone going off to the races?**
 - a) Corey is going to work in the city
 - b) Carrie is going to drink soda
 - c) Lyle is going to watch car racing on TV
 - d) Jerrica is going to a new club

- 3. True or false: If Mary calls Joe lame after he makes her angry, she is just being sympathetic.**
 - a) true
 - b) false

- 4. If someone is a diehard fan, they are _____ to the end.**
 - a) Canadian
 - b) wet from rain
 - c) loyal
 - d) sporty

- 5. What does it mean to cross over to the dark side?**
 - a) to switch your opinion
 - b) to watch Star Wars
 - c) to walk to the other side of the street
 - d) to walk the path between good and evil

Quiz Answers

1.b 2.d 3.b 4.c 5.a

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