

## Chatterbox #212 – The World Cup

### Episode description

What do you know about the beautiful game? The beautiful game, otherwise known as soccer or football, is probably the most popular sport in the world. This year marks the 21st World Cup season and, as such, Andrew and Jeremy thought it would be a perfect topic to discuss in this Chatterbox episode. Enjoy!

### Fun fact

Did you know that this year, 2018, is the first time that Russia hosted the World Cup? However, Russia has yet to win a World Cup title. Starting in 1930, the World Cup has occurred 21 times in 17 different countries. The country with the most World Cup titles is Brazil, with five wins.

### Expressions included in the study guide

- Vibe
- To fizzle out
- Superstar
- Tearing [one's] hair out
- To take on [something/someone]
- To take the place of [something]



## 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.

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Andrew: You're listening to the Culips English podcast. To download the study guide for this episode, which includes the transcript, detailed vocabulary explanations, real-world examples, and a quiz, visit our website, Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Hello, everybody. My name is Andrew.

Jeremy: And I'm Jeremy.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips.

Hey there, Jeremy, how's it going?

Jeremy: Really well, Andrew, how about you?

Andrew: I am doing very well, as well. I'm up early in the morning to record here with you, Jeremy, but I have a big cup of coffee and it's helping me wake up and I'm ready **to take on the day** by starting the day with a Culips episode. There's no better way to start the day, really.

Jeremy: I agree. It is mid-afternoon for me in California, in California time. So I'm tired for different reasons.

Andrew: All right. Well, I'm sure when we talk about today's exciting topic, we'll both be refreshed and rejuvenated. And that's because we're going to talk about a very topical issue today, Jeremy, something that's happening right now, and that is the World Cup.

Jeremy: The World Cup.

Andrew: The World Cup. But, just before we get started, I want to remind all of our listeners that we have a study guide for this episode. So if you would like to study along with our study guide, which includes lots of great things like a transcript, discussion questions, vocabulary definitions, and examples, well, you can download it by visiting our website, which is Culips.com.

OK, Jeremy, you and I were laughing a little bit just a couple minutes ago because we thought maybe we're not the most qualified people to talk about this topic, the World Cup.

Jeremy: Yeah, I feel a little unqualified.

- Andrew: Well, I'm Canadian and you're American and, actually, both the Canadians and the Americans didn't even qualify for the World Cup this year. So maybe that tells everybody something about the interest in soccer that North Americans have.
- Jeremy: Yeah, whenever I think of the World Cup, I think about other countries. I never think about the US team and the World Cup. I don't even remember hearing much about it in my lifetime.
- Andrew: The earliest memory I have of the World Cup is when the USA hosted the World Cup, and that was in 1994.
- Jeremy: Oh, wow.
- Andrew: I think I'm a couple years older than you, though, Jeremy, so maybe you don't even remember that time.
- Jeremy: That was, let's see. I was in first grade. So, no, I don't remember very well.
- Andrew: Well, let's talk in a general sense.
- Jeremy: OK.
- Andrew: And I'm curious about the **vibe** in the USA, do people care? Is it just you that really has no interest in the World Cup? Do other Americans watch the games at all?
- Jeremy: Well, I'm not the most representative American in the sense that I live in Los Angeles, California, and this area specifically is very diverse, very international. So, for example, yesterday I heard that when Mexico won the recent game that they played against South Korea, in a certain area of Los Angeles someone went outside and they could hear people cheering around the neighbourhood. Like, everywhere you went you could hear Mexican people cheering for their team.
- Andrew: Oh, wow.
- Jeremy: And since my family is Korean and I spend a lot of time around Korean people, I also heard about the game before it happened and how people were interested in watching it. So, to make a long story short, basically I hear about the World Cup from people from other countries. I don't hear much about it from American people.
- Andrew: Yeah, I think, to share the Canadian perspective, Canadians are slightly interested in the World Cup, but that's only because it's the off-season right now for hockey. If hockey was on at the same time as these international soccer games, well, I think there would be a very low level of interest.

Andrew: But one thing I don't really understand, and I'm curious if it's the same in the States as well, is that when you're a little kid in Canada, I don't know, from maybe 5 years old to 13 years old, almost every kid plays soccer. It's really, really popular for parents to put their children into soccer. So we have this kind of infrastructure, we have a system in place that gets kids interested in playing soccer when they're young, but for whatever reason that **fizzles out** once these kids become teenagers. And it seems like there's not many people that continue to play soccer on a higher level or that continue to be interested in watching soccer on a professional level. Is that the same in the States as well?

Jeremy: Yeah, at least in my experience that was the same. I grew up playing soccer, my brother played soccer as well. It's very common to see a group of children running around chasing a ball at a park on a Saturday. It's very common to see that and, yeah, I remember playing soccer much more than watching soccer in my life. However, when I got a little older, I started playing basketball. I played baseball a little bit also when I was young. And it seems like, as I got older, I started to get interested in more, I guess you could say, American sports like basketball.

Andrew: OK.

Jeremy: Specifically, basketball and American football. They kind of **take the place of soccer** or, as it should be called, football.

Andrew: Right.

Jeremy: They **take the place of that**. So people are much more excited about those games and the playoffs and the finals and the championship, things like that. Is it the same with hockey in Canada and, if not just hockey, are there other sports that people get excited about?

Andrew: Yeah, absolutely, hockey is the most followed sport in Canada. We also have a league called the CFL, which stands for the Canadian Football League, which is similar to the NFL but has a couple of rule changes to try to make the games a little faster and more interesting. And that's really popular as well. My father's a huge fan of the CFL, so we would always watch it at my house.

Jeremy: Oh, wow.

- Andrew: Basketball is huge, too. But for whatever reason, soccer, it just doesn't get the respect it deserves. And I know we probably have some listeners right now who are **tearing their hair out** because they're frustrated. We have a lot of listeners from countries like Brazil and Mexico and Korea and Japan, where soccer is absolutely huge. So, I'm sorry to all of those listeners, that we can't say anything more interesting about the World Cup. But I think that's just North American culture.
- Jeremy: Yeah, it seems like the sports that North Americans are attracted to are more individual-oriented. So, in basketball one player can dominate the game and the team can win because of that one player's effort. In American football, the quarterback or some famous receiver or some famous running back, what I mean is there are usually heroes, sort of, to follow. There are individuals that can dominate the game, and it seems like North Americans really like this style of play. But I don't know much about hockey. Is hockey that way as well?
- Andrew: Yeah, there are definitely hockey **superstars**. I actually don't follow hockey too closely myself these days. But there are elite players in the league that everybody worships and that can really dominate a game and, yeah, I think you might be on to something that we really like the **superstars** in North America. But there are really, really good soccer players who are worshipped as well and respected as well. So.
- Jeremy: Maybe one other aspect of it is every other country has a long history, sometimes thousands of years of history, you know. Whereas North America being, you know, countries—Canada and the US are countries mostly of immigrants, right, from Europe or from wherever, so there's less a sense of pride or country pride, nationalism, sort of.
- Andrew: Yes.
- Jeremy: There's more a sense of city pride or state pride. So people are proud of the city they're from and there's a hockey team that represents that city, there's a basketball team that represents that city. In California, it's very common to see someone with a football, American football team flag on their car from a different city. So they live in LA, but they have an Oakland Raiders license plate frame and a flag flying out of their car. It's like nationalism. It looks like country pride in Europe, but it's more about the city here, I think. Would you agree?
- Andrew: Yeah, that's an interesting perspective. I think you're right, in terms of the professional hockey league in Canada, it's always city versus city, right? I come from Vancouver, we have a huge rivalry with Calgary, which is the next closest city.
- Jeremy: Oh, interesting.



- Andrew: So it's kind of this intercity battle. But I will say, overall, I think Canadians are not as patriotic as people from other countries. Definitely living in Korea now, I notice, wow, Korea is really patriotic, more so than I think Canada is. But, Jeremy, the one time that Canadians get really patriotic over sports is when we face your country, when we play the USA.
- Jeremy: Exactly.
- Andrew: For whatever reason, you know, if it's a gold medal hockey game in the Olympics, if it's versus Russia or versus Sweden, of course we're cheering for Canada to win. We're patriotic. But if it's versus the USA, it gets ramped up to the next level and we're extra patriotic, and I don't know why that is. It's so silly.
- Jeremy: Well, now that you say that, it makes me think maybe it's just shared borders. We don't share a border, really, except with Mexico, but that's sort of a different, you know, the situation is a little different there. But in Europe, every country borders another country. Korea as well, although it's North Korea now, you know, China is over across the water. Japan is on the other side. So, other countries in general, are, they have a long history and they're near, they have a neighbouring country, sometimes sharing a border, so maybe that contributes to the sense of national pride and desire to battle the neighbours nearby. Something like that.
- Andrew: Yeah, I'm not sure what it is. It's definitely interesting. And, Jeremy, I'm not sure if you heard the news, but it was just announced that, not the next World Cup, but the World Cup after that—I think it's in the year 2022 or 2024, I'm not sure when, actually—but it will be co-hosted by the North American countries, so Canada, USA, Mexico. We're going to share the World Cup. And it will be interesting to see if the interest in that World Cup is higher than this World Cup that's in Russia right now because it will be in our own backyards.
- Jeremy: I hope it will be.
- Andrew: Yeah, I think it will be fun. And, Jeremy, one last question here before we take off. What's your prediction for a World Cup winner? Do you have any idea?
- Jeremy: Oh, I have no idea. This is embarrassing. I should, I feel like I should look something up on the internet before I say anything.
- Andrew: I think picking a country like Brazil or Argentina or Germany is always a safe bet. So I'm gonna to select Germany to win the World Cup this year.

Jeremy: Well, my completely uneducated opinion is that Germany will win as well, because, actually, my only positive memory of the World Cup was when I was in Germany for the World Cup, gosh, I forget how many years it was. Maybe 12 years ago.

Andrew: OK.

Jeremy: And I have very fond memories of being around German people watching World Cup games, so I hope the Germans win the World Cup this year.

Andrew: OK. Very good. Well, we'll leave it at that for today. I want to thank everybody for listening. And I'm sorry, guys, that we didn't have anything more interesting to say about the World Cup.

Jeremy: We apologize.

Andrew: Once again, the study guide for this episode is available on our website, Culips.com, and we're also on social media. You can find us on Facebook at Facebook.com/CulipsPodcast and on Twitter by searching for Culips. If you wanna send us an email, you can definitely do that. Our email address is contact, C-O-N-T-A-C-T@Culips.com. We will be back soon with another episode and we'll talk to you then. Bye, everybody.

Jeremy: Bye for now.

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## Detailed Explanations

### Vibe

Noun

**Vibe** is an informal word that means the mood or feeling of a person, place, or thing. It's a slang term from the word vibration. If the atmosphere of a place is not good, one could say that the place has bad **vibes**. Or if a song makes you feel calm and relaxed, you could say the song has soothing **vibes**.

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

Jeff:	What do you think, Tom? Do you think he's telling the truth?
Tom:	Yeah, I do. I'm getting good <b>vibes</b> from this guy. I don't think he did it.
Jeff:	Man, there goes our last suspect. We'll never catch the guy who stole my bike.
Tom:	Don't worry. We'll find 'em eventually.

Allison:	Can you explain to me why we are here in this smelly old attic?
Shelly:	I told you. We're looking for Dad's old record player.
Allison:	Well, hurry up. This place has got really strange <b>vibes</b> . There's probably ghosts up here or, worse, spiders!
Shelly:	Oh, don't be such a scaredy-cat.



## To fizzle out

Phrasal verb

**To fizzle out** means to gradually end, die out, or get weaker over time. It can be used literally ("The fire slowly **fizzled out**, leaving nothing but smoke.") or more figuratively, like when talking about love ("The couple's relationship **fizzled out** a few months after they moved away from each other and began college."). In these two examples, something gradually weakened and died. In the first example, the fire died and became smoke, while in the second example, the couple's love slowly lessened and died with distance.

Similarly, in this episode, Andrew says he's noticed that American children's interest in soccer tends to **fizzle out** once they reach their teenage years. As they get older, kids lose interest in soccer and replace it with a love for basketball or American football.

Here's one more example with **to fizzle out**:

Monica:	Sarah, what causes love <b>to fizzle out</b> ? Right when I think I've found my soul mate, something happens and slowly but surely the man pulls away and eventually leaves me for someone younger and more attractive.
Sarah:	In that case, it probably wasn't real love, but lust. When the lust <b>fizzles out</b> , the men start to look for something else to entertain them.
Monica:	Love, lust. It's so hard to balance the two. I'm gonna be single forever!

## Superstar

Noun

A **superstar** is a person who is very famous for their acting or sports talent. Extremely famous, successful, and respected actors, actresses, and athletes are called **superstars**, probably because their abilities make them shine above everyone else.

Robert Downey Jr., who plays Iron Man, is an acting **superstar**, while Stephen Curry is a basketball **superstar**. **Superstars** are the best of the best in their field.

Here's one more example with **superstar**:

Announcer:	And now here comes French <b>superstar</b> Kylian Mbappé onto the field. This 19-year-old is said to be the fastest player in the tournament this year, showing his skills in a crushing defeat against Argentina.
Ryan:	So cool! What were you doing at 19?
Tyler:	I certainly wasn't a <b>superstar</b> ! Kylian is gonna be a legend.

## Tearing [one's] hair out

### Idiom

**Tearing [one's] hair out** is used when someone has a lot of stress, frustration, and worry due to a problem. A person will not literally tear his hair out but, rather, he may feel so upset that he wants to tear his hair out. In this episode, Andrew says soccer fans are **tearing their hair out** with frustration over the fact that North Americans don't care about soccer.

Here are a couple more examples with **tearing [one's hair out]**:

Ming:	Are you OK? You look a little stressed.
Zhea:	These kids are making me so crazy! Always screaming, running around, and making messes. I swear I'm <b>tearing my hair out</b> with the stress.
Ming:	I know a great babysitter. Would you like her number?
Zhea:	Oh my god, yes!! You're the best!

Georgio:	Have you solved the bug in that computer code of yours yet?
Sergei:	No, I've been <b>tearing my hair out</b> all week over this. I can't find it!
Georgio:	Maybe you just need a fresh pair of eyes. Shall I take a look?
Sergei:	Sure, go ahead. If you find it, I'll kiss you!
Georgio:	Haha. No need for that. Dinner would suffice.

## To take on [something/someone]

Phrasal verb

**To take on [something/someone]** means to deal with a challenge or to challenge someone. In this episode, Andrew says he's ready **to take on the day**, which means he's ready to challenge himself today and have a successful day.

Similarly, if one were to **take on a person**, it usually means to fight with that person. For example, "Jeff **took on the bully** after he made Jeff's sister cry." In this case, Jeff decided to challenge the bully to a fight to avenge his sister.

Here are a couple more examples with **to take on [something/someone]**:

Bill:	Who is brave enough to fight me? Nobody? I thought so. I'm the best fighter in here.
Manny:	I'll <b>take you on</b> .
Bill:	You? Haha. You can't weigh more than 150 pounds. You think you can beat me? There's no way. I'll crush you.
Manny:	Do you wanna bet on it? How about \$50?
Bill:	Easy money. Don't say I didn't warn you. Let's go.

Gina:	Mom, can I get a puppy? You said last week you would think about it.
Mom:	Honey, are you sure you are ready <b>to take on the responsibilities</b> of taking care of a new puppy?
Gina:	Yes, Mommy. I read a bunch of articles about it, and I promise to feed him, and give him a bath, and play with him all the time.
Mom:	Well, if you think you're ready. I guess we can take a look this weekend.
Gina:	Oh, thank you, Mom!! I'm so happy!

## To take the place of [something]

Phrasal verb

**To take the place of [something]** means to replace or to be a substitute for something.

For example, in the episode, Jeremy says that basketball and American football **take the place of soccer** in America. Soccer is the most popular sport worldwide, but in America that love of soccer is replaced by a love for basketball and American football.

Here are a couple more examples with **to take the place of [something]**:

Donna: It's a disaster! Alice broke her leg. Who will **take the place of Wendy** in the school play? We cannot do Peter Pan without a Wendy!

Bernard: Don't worry. Britney can do it.

Donna: Britney? She can't remember her lines half of the time. Oh, what a disaster!

Dad: Here you are, son. I know this toy will never be able **to take the place of the teddy bear** that you lost, but I thought it might help.

Miles: I miss Berry Bear.

Dad: I know you do, son, but do you know what this toy can do? It can speak to you in English and Spanish, just like Diego in your favourite TV show.

Miles: Really? Can you show me?

## Quiz

**1. Which is not an example of something that can fizzle out?**

- a) A fire fizzles out
- b) A relationship fizzles out
- c) Sound fizzles out
- d) Food fizzles out

**2. What is a similar meaning to the phrase to take the place of [something]?**

- a) To steal [something's] location
- b) To find the location of [something]
- c) To be a substitute for [something]
- d) To take [something] and place it somewhere

**3. What is the usual cause for using the idiom tearing [one's] hair out?**

- a) Sorrow, sadness
- b) Frustration, stress
- c) Confusion, uncertainty
- d) Crazy, madness

**4. What does it mean for someone to have bad vibes?**

- a) To have a bad smell
- b) To have bad fashion
- c) To give off a bad feeling
- d) To dance badly

**5. Which is not a proper use of the phrase to take on [someone/something]?**

- a) To take on clothes
- b) To take on new responsibilities
- c) To take on an opposing team
- d) To take on the day

## Writing or Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been to a World Cup match in person? What was it like? Who won the game?
2. Is soccer your favourite sport to watch? If so, why? If not, which is your favourite sport to watch, and why?
3. Which team do you think will win this year's World Cup, and why?
4. Who is your favourite superstar actor, actress, or athlete, and why?
5. Do you have anything going on in your life these days that makes you want to tear your hair out? If so, describe it.

## Quiz Answers

1.d    2.c    3.b    4.c    5.a

### Episode credits

Hosts: Andrew Bates and Jeremy Brinkerhoff

Music: *Something Elated* by Broke For Free

Episode preparation/research: Andrew Bates

Audio editor: Andrew Bates

Transcriptionist: Heather Bates

Study guide writer: Kassy White

English editor: Stephanie MacLean

Business manager: Tsuyoshi Kaneshima

Project manager: Jessica Cox

Image: Fancy Crave (Unsplash.com)