

## Chatterbox #218 – Oregon

### Episode description

In this episode, Suzanne talks to Andrew about her recent trip to the state of Oregon. While Oregon is not the most well-known state in the union, Suzanne tells us it has so much to offer. Have a listen!

### Fun fact

Nike Inc., one of the world's largest sports apparel companies, has its world headquarters in Oregon. Nike's founder, Phil Knight, is a born and raised Oregonian.

### Expressions included in the study guide

- Best-kept secret
- Dude
- To implode
- Tree line
- Malleable
- Y'all



## 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 quiz, visit our website, Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Hey, everybody. My name is Andrew.

Suzanne: And I'm Suzanne.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips.

Hey, Suzanne.

Suzanne: Hey, Andrew. How's it going?

Andrew: I am doing pretty well. How about yourself?

Suzanne: Doing good.

Andrew: Suzanne, I'm excited to get into this episode because we are continuing our talk about your trip to the West Coast. And in our last Chatterbox episode, we talked about your visit to California. Today, we're gonna talk about your time in Oregon.

Suzanne: Yeah.

Andrew: The state north of California.

Suzanne: Yeah. You guys, don't tell too many people about Oregon, 'cause it's kind of one of the coolest places ever, and if too many people know about it then it won't be as cool.

Andrew: One of America's **best-kept secrets**.

Suzanne: I think so. I actually went there in 2007. So 11 years ago was my first time there, and I've been back a few times since, but then this time I was, like, wow, more people have moved here. It's more established, especially on the Oregon coast. The Oregon coast is some cool, cool coastline, I have to say. It's pretty awesome, yeah.

Andrew: I can't wait to hear all about it, Suzanne. But, just before we get started and hear all about your adventures, I would like to remind all of our listeners that there is a study guide for this episode. And, actually, we made study guides for all of our Culips episodes. So if you would like to access our study guide library, which gives you unlimited access to all of our study guides, just visit Culips.com and sign up to become a Culips member. Culips membership is affordable and it's an effective way to really take your studies to the next level with us. So, if you are a serious student, if you have a resolve to improve your English, then we would love to help you achieve your goals. So just visit Culips.com to get all the details you need to sign up and become a Culips member, to study with our study guides.

All right, Sue, so today's episode is a Chatterbox episode, and in Chatterbox this is where we chat, right? We have a natural conversation, we use our normal everyday English that we use in our everyday lives and we let you guys, the listeners, listen in and join the fun.

Well, where should we start, Sue? You know better than I.

Suzanne: So we entered Oregon a little more inland than on the coast. We went to Ashland, Oregon, which is a valley, in a valley. It's near the Umpqua, U-M-P-Q-U-A, Umpqua Valley.

Andrew: Umpqua, cool word.

Suzanne: Yeah, and we kinda followed the Rogue River and it's a famous river, it's huge. And it's famous for steelhead salmon fishing, fly fishing. So we saw tons of **dudes** and ladies in those, kind of, rubber pants, so you go into the river and you have the big, long fishing rod and you swing it around and throw it into the river and hope for some steelhead salmon.

Andrew: Wow.

Suzanne: Yeah, and then we stayed in Ashland and drove to Crater Lake.

Andrew: OK.

Suzanne: Which is amazing.

Andrew: Crater Lake.

Suzanne: Yeah. So Crater Lake is this huge lake that was made because a volcano **imploded**. It, like, exploded and, like, then, like, collapsed on itself.

Andrew: So do you have to hike up a little bit to access it?

- Suzanne: Yeah, a little bit. But it's kinda like the Grand Canyon where there's, like, a whole rim walk, you know? Around this crater.
- Andrew: OK.
- Suzanne: And there are mountains all around it, so you have some gorgeous hikes and views, and the colours down into the lake are magnificent because of all the lava colours. So it's, like, purple and deep, deep, deep, deep blues and purples and it's just incredible. I can post a picture of Crater Lake, it's pretty spectacular. I mean, Olivier was just, like, so impressed by this. It's quite magnificent.
- Andrew: All right. So, guys, be sure to check our Instagram and Facebook for the picture of Crater Lake.
- Suzanne: It's great. This is my second time to Crater Lake. And the first time I went, I hiked up Mount Scott, which is the highest peak at the Crater Lake. I think it's about 12,250 feet.
- Andrew: Which means nothing to me.
- Suzanne: That's it, I'm not sure in metres.
- Andrew: Sounds quite high.
- Suzanne: It's pretty high and it's above **tree line**. So at one point there are no trees and you're just climbing rock in open sky. And it's quite beautiful because when you hike Mount Scott, you have a 360-degree view and you are actually on a peak. Like, there's not much space to stand, it's a little scary. But, yeah.
- Andrew: One of my new, kind of, hobbies is trail running. So, I've been running for a little while now, but I've started running on trails and I started following some trail runners on Instagram. And the Pacific Northwest in California, Oregon, Washington state is a really popular place for trail running. So I'm seeing lately all of these pictures that the trail runners I follow on Instagram are uploading. I gotta say, Oregon and the mountains, they are very impressive, like, it looks so beautiful. I can't wait to visit there and go running someday, hopefully.
- Suzanne: Yeah, it's amazing. It's amazing, yes. I'm gonna get to this other mountain in a second that you might wanna go up, as well. But I highly recommend trail running in Crater Lake. The views are so spectacular all the way up, so you're under the trees all the time. You're really seeing lots of different things. So, I would put that one on your list.

- Andrew: Suzanne, I also want to ask you about coffee, 'cause I know coffee is really, really popular, and coffee culture, in Oregon. Did you go to any good cafés? Or did you have a good cup of Joe anywhere?
- Suzanne: Every day.
- Andrew: Every day.
- Suzanne: Yes, good coffee every day. So after Crater Lake, we actually went to the Oregon coast. I'm gonna tell you that in a second, we're gonna jump quickly to Portland, because that's where I had the best coffee. So, in Portland, we stayed at an Airbnb for three nights. So that was great to really just relax in a city. Portland is amazing, not just for the coffee and the beer, but also it's extremely well-designed recently. It wasn't always this way. But there are so many bike paths and pedestrian paths and there's a bridge—there's nine bridges. And one of the bridges is strictly for the metro, walkers, and bicycles. So no cars are allowed on this bridge. And it's so bike friendly, I mean there are so many signs just for bikes. It's quite accommodating for pedestrians and bicyclists. So, the coffee, there's this famous coffee in Portland called Stumptown Coffee.
- Andrew: Right, I've heard of this before.
- Suzanne: Yeah, I might be able to send you a picture of the packaging, actually. And it's so good. It's so good. And we went to this great café right near us. We were staying in the Laurelhurst neighbourhood, which is kind of, you know, I mean all the neighbourhoods are, like, funky and hip, like hipster. But this is a really good neighbourhood, a fun neighbourhood to stay in. It's, like, outside of the downtown area. And this coffee shop is called Crema and they just had the best coffee. Every morning, they knocked it out of the park, every morning. And finally I told them, I said we're visiting and we're gonna miss you guys and they're, like, aww, thanks, you're awesome.
- Andrew: I've visited Portland a long time ago, maybe at least 10 years ago, and I was really impressed. I thought it was just a fantastic city, good vibe, good people, good coffee.
- Suzanne: The bookstore.
- Andrew: Yeah, Powell's. Yeah.
- Suzanne: The Powell Books, oh my gosh. It's like, you guys, if ever go to Portland, you have to go to Powell Books. It's the largest bookstore that's not, like, Amazon. It's, yeah, they have everything you could ever want. You could spend the entire day in there, it's like a book-lover's heaven, I would say. It's pretty awesome.

Andrew: It's a paradise, absolutely.

Suzanne: Yes, it's a paradise, for sure. So what was fun, so there was a lot of, like, coffee shops and a lot of food trucks with amazing food from all over the world. Lots of little food trucks and food courts with food trucks. So, like, at night you'd just go hang out and you'd have your dog, you play cards, you just hang out in the courtyard with lots of food trucks, and it's super cool. There was even a beer, craft beer food truck.

Andrew: Nice.

Suzanne: Super cool. Yeah. From Portland, we also saw the Columbia River valley, so this is like Multnomah Falls. this huge, huge, famous waterfall. I highly recommend some hikes around there, that the views are incredible to see where the Columbia River is flowing out into the Pacific Ocean.

Andrew: Oh, that would be beautiful.

Suzanne: It's really cool, and it separates Washington from Oregon. So that's really neat. And we also, we spent a lot of time on the coast. One place that's super fun is Florence.

Andrew: Florence, OK.

Suzanne: Florence, Oregon, that's where we did sandboarding. So Olivier and I love to snowboard, and in Florence there are these huge sand dunes.

Andrew: Right.

Suzanne: For like 30 miles, OK? It's not just like one sand dune, it's like the entire 30 miles of coast are these sand dunes.

Andrew: So these big hills, these piles of sand, right?

Suzanne: Yes. Exactly. And the wind is blowing over it, so you see the sun setting over the ocean and the wind is blowing the bits of sand over it. And I took a time-lapse video, and it looks like you're in a Star Wars movie. Like, you know, those swirls of sand where it's just, like, all sand. And we took a sandboard and we did some sandboarding down the dunes.

Andrew: Wow.

Suzanne: And it's more like surfing, I would say, than snowboarding, because sand is a lot more **malleable**. But it was super cool, and if you ever get a chance to do that, you guys, try sandboarding. It's really fun, and if you fall, it's OK 'cause it's sand. You get a nice tan.

- Andrew: I've seen people do that before. I've never tried it, but it looks fun. So I'll have to give it a whirl, next time I'm in Oregon.
- Suzanne: Yes, you have to try it. It's really worth it. It's a weird thing. It's quite different, you know, than just your normal snowboarding or skiing.
- Andrew: Sue, I know, just like in our previous episode about California, probably a lot of other places in Oregon that you visited and lots of other awesome experiences that you had but, unfortunately, we just don't have time to talk about everything. But just like in the previous episode, I wanna end this episode by talking about food. So, I know there's like some really famous food from Oregon like the doughnuts, what are the doughnuts called? The Voodoo Doughnuts, right?
- Suzanne: Yes, we went to Voodoo Doughnut, for sure. Now that's in Portland.
- Andrew: Portland, and there's, yeah, it's famous for coffee, for craft beer and for the food trucks. But what was your most memorable food memory from Oregon?
- Suzanne: So there are a lot of craft breweries around. A lot of them have, like, visiting chefs that come and make these amazing menus.
- Andrew: OK.
- Suzanne: There's that, and then there's also, kind of, craft beer places that also have incredible food. And then there's just, like, really good restaurants and stuff, too, obviously, like regular restaurants. But we went to this kind of craft beer place where they kind of feature all of the local beers and then they have an incredible menu. And it was our anniversary and we wanted to just have a really good burger. We wanted like an amazing burger, and this place really delivered.
- Andrew: Nice.
- Suzanne: It was two blocks from where we were staying and so that's awesome, too, 'cause you can just, like, drink beer and walk home.
- Andrew: Walk home, yeah.
- Suzanne: Yeah, and the burger was perfect. It was one of the best burgers, maybe the best burger, I've ever had and you could, just the ingredients, the toppings, like, it was so good.
- Andrew: It just hit the spot.



Suzanne: Yes, yes. And the fries were drizzled and made with truffle oil. So that's a mushroom, a kind of very fragrant and herbaceous, I would say, tasting mushroom. And, yeah, so this kind of flavour was just super good. Super good.

Andrew: Awesome. Well, you've started to make my mouth water here, Suzanne. Talking about doughnuts and beer and coffee and burgers, wow. It sounds like a paradise that I have to get to sometime sooner than later, Oregon.

Suzanne: Yeah, yeah.

Andrew: Sue, thanks again for recapping your trip. It was really exciting to hear about your adventure in Oregon.

Suzanne: Yeah, thanks for listening guys.

Andrew: Yeah, it's fun. And just before we wrap it up, I would like to remind all of our listeners that the study guide for this episode is available on Culips.com. So check out our website to give it a download and, of course, if you'd like to email us, you can reach me and Suzanne and everyone on the Culips crew by shooting an email to [contact@Culips.com](mailto:contact@Culips.com), C-O-N-T-A-C-T@Culips.com.

Hey, Sue, we will be back soon with part 3 of your trip, and this is the last episode in the series, where we'll be talking about Washington state.

So, everybody, stay tuned for that, and we'll meet **y'all** in Washington state.

Suzanne: Yup, bye.

Andrew: Bye.



## Detailed Explanations

### Best-kept secret

#### Idiom

A **best-kept secret** is something very good that only a few people know about. In this episode, Andrew refers to Oregon as one of the United States' **best-kept secrets**. He means it's a great tourist destination but one that is not overrun with too many tourists. The opposite expression is the worst-kept secret, meaning something that should be secret but that everyone knows.

Here are a couple more examples with **best-kept secret**:

Anna: Do you want to go to this really cool coffee shop this evening?

Christopher: Sure. Where is it?

Anna: It's on McTavish Lane.

Christopher: McTavish Lane? I didn't know there was a coffee shop there.

Anna: It's kind of hidden. There's no sign above the door. It's downtown's **best-kept secret**. That's why it's so cool.

Candice: What is that you're drinking?

Ian: It's called makgeolli. It's a Korean alcoholic beverage.

Candice: Can I try? Yum! That's so good. Where did you find it?

Ian: You can only find it at the Korean market on my street. It's the city's **best-kept secret**. Don't tell too many people—it's in limited supply.

## Dude

Noun, informal

A **dude** is another word for a man. **Dude** is similar to the word guy or fellow. You wouldn't use **dude** to address a woman.

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

Rita: Can you help me? I'm moving out of my apartment this Saturday, and I can't book any professional movers on that date.

Wendy: Sure, no problem. I'm busy as well, but I know these two **dudes** who've helped me out in the past. They'll do it for sure.

Rita: Oh, that's great! Thank you.

Wendy: No problem. I'll give them a call right now.

Peter: Hey, Bryan, I heard something weird happened to you the other day. What was it?

Bryan: Yeah. I was walking down the street and this **dude** approached me. He said he was my long-lost half-brother. He said we have the same father.

Peter: Really? Is that true?

Bryan: I don't know. We exchanged numbers and will try to get to the bottom of it.

## To implode

Verb

In this episode, Suzanne talks about a volcano that exploded and then **imploded** onto itself. **To implode** is to collapse inward. When a house of cards **implodes**, it falls down onto itself. The same can be said about an organization or a situation. If a company **imploded**, it fell apart because of problems caused from within, as opposed to external causes.

Here are a couple more examples with **to implode**:

Esa:	They're tearing down the old downtown hospital tomorrow. Do you want to go see it?
Yannick:	See what?
Esa:	They're going to <b>implode</b> the building.
Yannick:	Like with dynamite?
Esa:	Yeah. You've seen that on television, right?
Yannick:	Of course.
Esa:	Well, tomorrow we can see a building <b>implode</b> in person. Let's go!

Nick:	Did you hear the tire manufacturing plant is closing down?
Patty:	Really? How come?
Nick:	It looks like the mother company went through bad mismanagement. Their whole business model <b>imploded</b> and now a bunch of people are going to lose their jobs.
Patty:	That's going to be terrible for the city.

## Tree line

Noun

In this episode, Suzanne talks about hiking above the **tree line** while in Oregon. The **tree line** is the limit of where trees are capable of growing. Above the **tree line**, trees cannot survive because of the extreme environment.

Here are a couple more examples with **tree line**:

Duane: I went hiking the other day with my buddy.

Tara: Cool. How high up did you go this time?

Duane: Just 1,915 metres.

Tara: That's still pretty high. Is that above the **tree line**?

Duane: No. We still had trees, but the peak was mostly rock.

Yuri: I was thinking of going mountain climbing this weekend. Are you interested?

Holly: Sure. Where were you thinking of going?

Yuri: I don't know. Maybe somewhere above the **tree line**. I've never been that high.

Holly: Oh, I know a cool place about 3 hours away. But we'll have to stay overnight and it gets really cold at night. Is that all right?

Yuri: Let's do it!

## Malleable

Adjective

If something is **malleable**, it is easy to manipulate or to change. In this episode, Suzanne says that sand is more **malleable** than snow. By this she means to say that snow can be hard and unmovable, whereas sand is silky and easy to move. **Malleable** can also apply to a person, as a person's opinions or thinking can be made to change.

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

Greg:	I heard you're a pretty good artist. What forms do you work in?
Franny:	I like working with soft metals, like tin or copper.
Greg:	Oh, why those metals?
Franny:	They're fairly <b>malleable</b> . I find I can really get the shapes I'm looking for with soft metals like those.

Diana:	I'm having difficulty with the 3-year-old. He's picked up a few bad habits.
Olivia:	Don't worry. He's still young.
Diana:	I'm little concerned.
Olivia:	Look, a young child's mind is so <b>malleable</b> . You can still correct those habits.

## Y'all

Idiom, informal

**Y'all** is an abbreviation for you all. In this episode, Andrew signs off by saying, "We'll meet **y'all** in Washington state." This expression is another way of saying everyone or everybody, and is especially common in the southern United States.

Here are a couple more examples with **y'all**:

Terence: I'm bored. My wife and I haven't done anything exciting in weeks.

Penelope: The two of you work way too much.

Terence: I know.

Penelope: Say, what are **y'all** doing this weekend? There's a barbecue festival out in my hometown. How about you join my husband and me?

Coach: Bobby, Jimmy, Craig! I need you three to pass the ball to each other more frequently.

Bobby: Sorry, Coach. We'll do that, Coach.

Coach: Good. And **y'all** need to run back on defense when we lose the ball. Is that clear?

Bobby: Yes, Coach.

## Quiz

- 1. Which of the following is not a synonym for y'all?**
  - a) every person
  - b) everybody
  - c) you all
  - d) everyone
  
- 2. Does the word dude exclusively refer to men?**
  - a) yes
  - b) no
  
- 3. Which of the following is not a synonym for malleable?**
  - a) bendy
  - b) pliable
  - c) flexible
  - d) long
  
- 4. True or false: Implode refers only to buildings or mountains.**
  - a) true
  - b) false
  
- 5. What is the opposite of the expression best-kept secret?**



## Writing or Discussion Questions

1. Hearing Suzanne talk about Oregon, what strikes you as the most interesting part?
2. Have you ever hiked a volcano? If not, would you?
3. Are you a foodie? Do you like to travel for food?
4. What is the best-kept secret in your hometown?
5. What is the most interesting public transportation system you have seen?

## Quiz Answers

1.a    2.a    3.d    4.b    5.worst kept secret

### Episode credits

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