

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: 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.

Hey, everybody. My name is Andrew.

Morag: And my name is Morag.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips.

Hey, Morag, how's it going?

Morag: Pretty well, Andrew. How are you doing?

Andrew: I'm doing pretty well, as well. Morag, today we're going to do a Chatterbox episode. And this is our series where we have a conversation about an interesting topic and we let all of our listeners listen in. Today we're gonna talk about **patriotism**. **Patriotism**.

But just before we get into it, I would like to let all of our listeners know that there is a study guide for this episode. So, guys, if you wanna study along with us today, all you have to do is visit our website, Culips.com, and download that study guide.

So I think we should start this episode by defining **patriotism** and what **patriotism** is. Morag, what comes to mind when you think of this idea, **patriotism**?

Morag: Well, the first thing that comes to mind when I think of **patriotism** is flags, actually.

Andrew: Flags.

Morag: And the interest in displaying your country's flag whether you are in that country or abroad.

Andrew: So, simply, we could define **patriotism** as love for your country. If you really love the country that you're from, then you are patriotic, right?

- Morag: Yeah. If you're devoted to your country, too, if you want to support your country and the other people in it. Canadians aren't very patriotic, though.
- Andrew: Yeah, that's what I really wanted to talk about. And I thought it would be super fascinating to see how you feel, Morag, and see if it's similar to me. Because, to be honest with you, I think I'm a terrible patriot. And I'm not patriotic at all.
- Morag: I would generally agree, at least not compared to our neighbours down south.
- Andrew: Yes.
- Morag: For our listeners who aren't aware, it's reasonably common in the United States to see a lot of American flags, people with American stuff, **memorabilia**. You know, it's wearing their pride for their country, physically and on their things, is quite common. In Canada, you do not see people wandering around in Canadian flag shirts, like, it's just not something we do. We don't have the outward appearance of it. We also don't tend to fly flags at our homes like many Americans.
- Andrew: Not very often, no.
- Morag: Not very often, no, but many Americans do. But, we're also quite proud of our country in a lot of ways compared to the Americans, as well, such as our **universal health care** and cheaper education. So there are things that I would say most Canadians would be very proud of, but it's not the banner of Canada, period. You know?
- Andrew: Right. From my perspective, when I think of **patriotism**, I think, "My country is the best," "I'm the best," "I'm from the best country." And I think Canadians, although we can be proud of our country, I don't think we think it's the best. I think we think it's pretty good, you know? But there's always room for improvement. I'm quite critical of my country, I think there's a lot of great things about Canada, but by no means is it a perfect country at all. There's a lot of problems in Canada that I would like to see solved. I guess this is my take on **patriotism**. You know, I love Canada, I think it's a great country, but I don't have this desire **to brag** about it and say it's the best at anything, really.
- Morag: I would, you know, I would bet that that's partly a symptom of the fact that we're a colony.
- Andrew: Could be.

- Morag: And that we are culturally, in a lot of ways, colonized by the United States. Again, for our listeners who don't know, we were, for a long time, an actual colony of the UK. So we have never been the best, because there's always been someone else dictating and or controlling part of what we do or our culture. I think it would be kind of insane to say that you were the best under those circumstances. I wonder if other ex-colonial countries are similar?
- Andrew: Yeah, I don't know if they would say we're the best, but I think they would be quite patriotic, I think. Countries that regain their freedom after colonization, probably extra patriotic, maybe even ultra patriotic.
- Morag: That's a good point.
- Andrew: Yeah. I'm thinking of Korea, where I live now, and I would say that Korea is a very patriotic country and has a colonial history of being colonized by Japan. And that's a major aspect of Korean **patriotism**, is this independence from Japan and being an independent country, even now. Even though this was a long time ago, it's still quite strong. So, I don't know, to answer your question, it's a very complicated issue, I think.
- Morag: That's a very good point. I don't think that this is a simple concept.
- Andrew: So, Morag, I didn't hear your opinion, are you a patriotic person?
- Morag: I think I'm becoming more patriotic the older I get, but it's still not at all very, truly patriotic. Yeah, I like my country. I don't want to leave it, for practical reasons. But I definitely don't think it is the greatest place, nope.
- Andrew: Yeah. So, listeners, as you can tell, us Canadians, we have a bit of a **wishy-washy** sense of **patriotism**. It's not very strong. However, I think not everybody feels this way.
- Morag: Oh, no.
- Andrew: I think there are definitely some people who are much stronger in their support of Canada. Especially, like, the older generation, my parents' generation, they're probably more patriotic than I am.
- Morag: You know, I would actually go out and say that we, at least in the North American English-speaking world, make some of the best comedians and musicians and artists. I'm pretty sure that I'm comfortable in saying that we are the best at creating strange artist minds that go down to the States. There we go, yeah. The best.

- Andrew: It's true. There are some things that we should be proud of as Canadians, but I think we just have more of an open mind about this idea. It's not just an engrained "Canada's the best, of course" belief, you know what I'm trying to say?
- Morag: I do know what you're trying to say. I think that one of the most interesting things about, or difficult things about, the Canadian national identity, though, is that what we're just saying comes with a little bit of superiority, as well.
- Andrew: It's very smug, isn't it?
- Morag: It's very smug, it's like, oh well, we don't think we're the best because that would be ridiculous and **full of yourself**. We just we know we're pretty good.
- Andrew: Yeah.
- Morag: So I don't know if that, actually, that smugness is actually part of Canadian **patriotism**. It's an interesting question. One that we will not solve here.
- Andrew: One final question for you today, Morag.
- Morag: Yes?
- Andrew: When you think of the most patriotic country, what country pops into your head?
- Morag: It's still the States. It's still the States. I think that's just purely because of proximity. I see their **patriotism** the most.
- Andrew: I think of the USA, as well. I think because, in the USA, it's like a badge of honour if you're a patriot. You know, in politics, politicians will say, "Vote for me, I'm a patriot, I fought in the Vietnamese war" or something. There's this idea of the patriot that's really strong in American politics. So I think that's why it comes to mind for me, as well.
- Morag: It's funny, for me, it comes to mind because you will actually hear crowds going, "USA, USA" And then I remembered that you actually get that with Australia, as well. But they've got, like, "Aussie, Aussie, Aussie, oi, oi, oi," that stuff, right?
- Andrew: Right, right.
- Morag: So, I mean, if you're talking purely chanting crowds, maybe I should revisit this.

Andrew: I remember that I visited the USA in October of 2001, so just a couple weeks after September 11. And I was just blown away by how many American flags were all over the place. Everywhere, every house, every car had a bumper sticker, it was just a huge outpouring of **patriotism** in the USA at that time. So I think that image has kind of stuck with me and makes me feel like, yeah, the USA is definitely the most patriotic place.

Morag: I'd be interested to hear what our listeners think, though.

Andrew: Yeah, I would be interested, as well. Feel free to send us an email at contact@Culips.com and let us know your perspective. We would be really interested to find out. Are you a patriotic person? Is there a lot of **patriotism** in your country? It would be really cool to compare it with Canada and see what people from around the world think of **patriotism**.

Well, that will wrap it up for us today, everyone. Thank you for listening and, again, if you wanna get the study guide for this episode, which includes a transcript and detailed vocabulary explanations, examples, and lots of other great stuff, just visit our website, Culips.com to download it.

And we're on social media, as well. We're on Facebook and YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, all of your favourite social media platforms. So if you'd like to follow us on social media, just search for the Culips English Podcast and you'll certainly find us.

We'll be back soon with another new episode, so we'll talk to you then. Bye.

Morag: Bye.

Detailed Explanations

Patriotism

Noun

Patriotism is when you have a lot of pride in your country. In this episode, our hosts discuss how you can have mild **patriotism**, when you love your home country and are proud of it, or extreme **patriotism**, when you think your country is the best. You can say that someone who has this love for his or her country is a patriot.

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

Claudia:	Are you going to watch the soccer match tonight?
Terry:	There's a match tonight?
Claudia:	Of course!
Terry:	Who's playing?
Claudia:	Our national team is playing in the finals! You didn't know that?
Terry:	No. I don't really care about that stuff.
Claudia:	Where is your sense of patriotism ?

Florence:	Which country do you think is the most patriotic?
William:	That's really difficult to say. There's patriotism in every country.
Florence:	Yes, but I feel some are more patriotic than others.
William:	I guess so.

Memorabilia

Noun

Memorabilia are objects you keep as reminders of a special event or something else you want to remember. You can have ballet shoes from when you were young. You can have a room full of **memorabilia** dedicated to your favourite singer. Similar words are souvenirs, mementos, and collectibles. The word **memorabilia** is always plural. If you want to talk about one object, you can say a piece of **memorabilia**.

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

Gunter:	I heard you're a big Elvis Presley fan.
Warren:	Yeah. He's one of my favourites.
Gunter:	Have you ever been to our friend Jackie's place?
Warren:	No, I haven't.
Gunter:	You should see it. His basement is full of Elvis memorabilia . He has records, mini statues, posters, and even a suit Elvis once wore. I'm sure he would love to show you.

Ronda:	Do you have any hobbies?
Paul:	Not really. But my dad and I used to collect things from the American Civil War when I was younger.
Ronda:	Really? That's interesting. Are they worth anything now?
Paul:	I don't know.
Ronda:	You should go to a market and check it out. You can make a lot of money selling Civil War memorabilia in the United States.

Universal health care

Idiom

Universal health care is a healthcare system that covers everyone in a country, whether they pay or not. In Canada, for example, basic services are all paid through taxes. There is no cost to the patient when they go to the hospital. Some countries do not have **universal health care**. In those countries, patients must rely on their insurance.

Here are a couple more examples with **universal health care**:

Patrick:	Who would you say is the most important person in Canadian history?
Vincent:	Actually, there was a television show about that a few years ago. People voted for Tommy Douglas to win.
Patrick:	Tommy Douglas? Who's that?
Vincent:	He was a politician. He's considered the father of universal health care in Canada. It's weird—not everyone knows him, but he's super important!

Dave:	Are you all right? You don't look well.
Oona:	I've been sick for a week now.
Dave:	Why don't you go to the hospital?
Oona:	I'd like to, but I can't afford it.
Dave:	Is there no universal health care in your country?
Oona:	We don't have that. And I don't have insurance.
Dave:	Oh no. But you should really go to the hospital anyways. Maybe start a webpage where people can donate money to you for medical services.

To brag

Noun

To brag is to talk about yourself and your achievements in an overly positive way. This is more extreme than just being happy about yourself and saying so. People generally do not like it when someone **brags** too much. You can **brag** about yourself and also about other things related to you, like your car, your favourite sports team, or your school.

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

Janice:	Do you know the swimmer who won the gold medal in the 100-metre freestyle last Olympics?
Fiona:	Yeah.
Janice:	He's from my hometown.
Fiona:	Cool.
Janice:	And the runner who won the 200-metre sprint, he's from my hometown, too.
Fiona:	Oh, that's nice.
Janice:	And the MVP of the volleyball tournament, also from my hometown.
Fiona:	Quit bragging ! What have you done?

Harry:	I'm going to the gym with Benny in a few minutes. Do you want to work out with us?
Trey:	Benny? Um, I'd rather not.
Harry:	Why? You don't like him?
Trey:	I like him, but not at the gym. He brags all the time about how much weight he can lift. It's a bit annoying.

Wishy-washy

Adjective

Wishy-washy means to be uncertain of a position or unable to make up one's mind. In this episode, Andrew says that Canadians have a **wishy-washy** sense of patriotism. He means that Canadians are patriotic only on some occasions.

Here are a couple more examples with **wishy-washy**:

Blaine:	Hey, I'll buy you some ice cream. What kind would you like?
Zoe:	I love vanilla.
Blaine:	OK, cool. I'll get you some vanilla.
Zoe:	Actually, wait. That chocolate chip looks good. Hmm, so does that strawberry flavour.
Blaine:	So ... Which one do you want?
Zoe:	I guess strawberry. But I haven't had vanilla in a long time.
Blaine:	Stop being so wishy-washy ! Tell you what, let me choose!

Dean:	You look like you're in a bad mood. What's wrong?
Ines:	My husband and I have been redecorating our living room. It's very frustrating.
Dean:	I know. We did that last summer.
Ines:	But my husband is especially wishy-washy . He changes his mind a dozen times a day. It's too much!

Full of yourself

Idiom

Being **full of yourself** means that you have too high an opinion of yourself. It is said as an insult about someone else. You can also use it in the third person: "He's so **full of himself**."

Here are a couple more examples with **full of yourself**:

Oliver: I was playing basketball with Greg yesterday. Do you know him?
Kevin: Tall guy with a shaved head? Always wears bright red sneakers?
Oliver: Yeah, that's him. He's really good.
Kevin: He's OK. I'm better than him.
Oliver: Really? He played for the university team. That's more than you.
Kevin: Yeah, but I can beat him one on one.
Oliver: You're so **full of yourself**! He would kill you. Let me call him up. Can you play this afternoon?
Kevin: Umm, no. I'm ... Busy.

Lisa: Do you see Polly over there?
Trish: Yes. And?
Lisa: She's talking to those guys because she thinks they'll buy her drinks.
Trish: Really? She's not even that pretty.
Lisa: I know. She's so **full of herself**.

Quiz

1. Which of the following is NOT synonym of wishy-washy?

- a) forgetful
- b) indecisive
- c) hesitant
- d) unsure

2. What does universal health care mean?

- a) you have health care in every country
- b) health care is free
- c) if you have insurance, you don't need to pay at the hospital
- d) health care is paid through taxes

3. Which of the following is NOT a clear sign of patriotism?

- a) putting your country's flag outside your house
- b) renewing your passport
- c) saying your country is the best

4. True or false? Bragging about yourself and being full of yourself is pretty much the same thing.

- a) true
- b) false

5. Which of the following is a good example of a piece of memorabilia?

- a) the cat you have had for 11 years
- b) the bus ticket you bought to go to work this morning
- c) a vintage computer game from your childhood
- d) your 3-year-old car

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. What do you think about patriotism?
2. Do you think your country is very patriotic? Is that good or bad?
3. If you were to brag about your home country, what would you say?
4. Are there certain pieces of memorabilia your home country is famous for?
5. What kind of memorabilia have you collected in your life?
6. What are your thoughts on universal health care?

Quiz Answers

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

Episode credits

Hosts: Andrew Bates and Morag St. Clair

Music: *Something Elated* by Broke For Free, *Step On* by Jahzzar

Episode preparation/research: Andrew Bates

Audio editor: Andrew Bates

Transcriptionist: Heather Bates

Study guide writer: Matty Warnock

English editor: Stephanie MacLean

Business manager: Tsuyoshi Kaneshima

Project manager: Jessica Cox

Image: Jason Leung (Unsplash.com)