

Chatterbox #241 – You ask, we answer

Episode description

We're really happy we receive so many emails for our listeners! So in this Chatterbox episode, our hosts Andrew and Jeremy have decided to answer as many emails as they can in one episode. Maybe we've answered your questions!

Fun fact

At one point in this episode, hosts Andrew and Jeremy talk about their desire to run. Who could blame them? It's quite the popular activity. An estimated 60 million people in the United States ran or jogged in 2017. That's a lot of exercise!

Expressions included in the study guide

- Pristine
- Island fever
- To butcher [something]
- To follow the news
- Something in the water
- Mad respect



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.

Hello, everybody. My name is Andrew.

Jeremy: And I'm Jeremy.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips.

Hi, guys, I'm here with Jeremy. Jeremy, how's it going today?

Jeremy: Good, good.

Hi there, everyone. Hope everybody is doing well.

Andrew: Me, too. I hope you're all doing well. Jeremy, today I made a post on Instagram and I asked our Instagram followers to give us some suggestions for what to record about today.

Jeremy: Nice.

Andrew: I said, guys, give us your best ideas for some interesting episode topics. And, I have to say, the response was overwhelming. We got tons of responses, so thank you to everyone who sent us an episode suggestion. Now, some of the suggestions were really good and I thought that we could prolong it and make a whole episode about it, and some were also really good, but I thought, mmm, it's gonna be hard to talk about this topic for 20 minutes. So that being said, I thought what we'd do here today is talk about some of these shorter topics in rapid fire.

Jeremy: Sounds good.

Andrew: So we'll cover a bunch of them here in one episode. We'll bundle them up and talk about them today.

Jeremy: Nice, let's do it.

Andrew: All right. But just before we do it, I do have to remind our listeners about the study guide. The study guide is awesome, it's made with love by the Culips team and it is available for download on our website, Culips.com. So go and check that out.

OK, Jeremy.

Jeremy: Just so everyone knows I have not seen these, so Andrew is bringing them to my attention right now. Live.

Andrew: Right here, right now. So number one comes from an Instagram user named Traveling Police.

Jeremy: OK.

Andrew: And I guess this one is more for me than you, because he wants to know about the pros and cons of living in Canada.

Jeremy: I would like to know.

Andrew: The pros and cons. OK. The pros, well, it's a very clean country. So the environment is quite **pristine**, the air is clean. It's a beautiful place, lots of amazing natural beauty. So that's definitely a pro.

A con is the weather, the winter. Canadian winters are quite rough in most of the country, and this could be a pro or a con, depending on your perspective. But our population is so small that I felt like I was kind of trapped. Even though Canada is a huge country, there's really only three cities that you can live in. So I felt a little trapped in that way, but if you like small places then maybe you would like living in Canada.

Jeremy: Did you get a case of **island fever**?

Andrew: Yeah, to an extent that's one of the reasons why I left Canada for Korea. I just felt like there wasn't too much room for growth in Canada. Yeah, so I would say, just quickly, the pros of Canada: clean, beautiful. The cons: very cold in the winter.

Suggestion number two, comes from a user named Ehsan, or Ehsan. I'm sorry I don't know how to pronounce all of these.

Jeremy: How do you spell it?

Andrew: E-H-S-A-N.

Jeremy: Ehsan. That's one of my friend's name from when I was a kid.

Andrew: OK.

- Jeremy: Probably Iranian.
- Andrew: I think so. I think so. OK. Ehsan, how did you say it?
- Jeremy: Ehsan, "E," Ehsan.
- Andrew: Ehsan.
- Jeremy: That's how he said it.
- Andrew: Ehsan wants to know, "How do you like to spend a night out with your friends?"
- Jeremy: OK.
- Andrew: How do you like to spend a night out with your friends, Jeremy?
- Jeremy: I have a feeling we are similar in this regard, but because we had one of these nights together in Korea when I was visiting recently.
- Andrew: Sure.
- Jeremy: But I like to sit somewhere, either listen to live music or, if it's not too loud, sit, have a beer, and have nice conversation with a friend.
- Andrew: Yeah, pretty much, I'm exactly the same, to be honest.
- Jeremy: That's what I thought.
- Andrew: Yeah, I don't really like loud places anymore. You know, when I was younger, I liked to go to parties or to go maybe see a live concert, which I still like doing from time to time, but these days I prefer, like, a quieter place with a friend or a couple of friends that I can have a nice conversation with, or maybe a dinner with, or something like this.
- Jeremy: Cool, me too.
- Andrew: All right. Let's move on to the next one here, from user Sam Lilery. I don't know how to say that either, I'm sorry I'm going **to butcher every single one of these user names**. The question is, "What is your dream?"
- Jeremy: What is your dream? Goodness.
- Andrew: If I can briefly address these, I have, I guess, these are more goals than dreams, but I just signed up for my first-ever full-length marathon. So that will be happening at the end of October, and my dream is to finish that without dying.

- Jeremy: I think you'll be fine.
- Andrew: I hope so. And what else? We study Korean, both Jeremy and I, and my dream is to always improve. Or my goal, more specifically, is to always be improving at Korean and to not stop studying and learning. So these are my two goals. But I guess you could say they are also dreams.
- Jeremy: That's very strange, because I don't mean to copy you, but my goals are the same.
- Andrew: Did you sign up for a marathon?
- Jeremy: No, but I made up my mind to run one next year and start training for it soon.
- Andrew: Nice.
- Jeremy: I've never run a marathon before, so I'm very new at that. But it feels like it's time to do it.
- Andrew: Yeah, there comes a time in every man's life when they turn 30-something and start running.
- Jeremy: Yes, I gotta do something, just run around. And, of course, I also am learning Korean. I want to never stop improving. I need to work on my academic Korean, my reading and writing and things. I always kind of feel not quite good enough, you know what I mean?
- Andrew: I know exactly what you mean.
- Jeremy: Yup.
- Andrew: I'm sure a lot of our listeners know this feeling too.
- Jeremy: Yes, language learning is an endless journey. So that makes perfect sense. I also, my dream, one of my dreams, is to see my son grow up healthy, happy, bilingually. So we are teaching him Korean and English as he's growing up. He's so far doing quite well. He's almost 2 years old now, for those who are curious.
- Andrew: Very nice. All right. So let's move on to suggestion number four. Abraham asked us about art. He just said art. And, actually, we could probably turn this one into a full topic, but I suck at talking about art. I'm really bad at talking about art. So I thought maybe I shouldn't do that on the podcast. But, Jeremy, do you have a favourite artist?

Jeremy: Not really. When I go to, you know, art shows or galleries and things, I do enjoy going and I tend to stare at the piece for a while. And if it brings some feeling or thought to me, if I can see the intention of the artist, then I talk about that with whoever I went with and we discuss it and then we move on to the next one. But I am by no means qualified to speak intelligently about art.

Andrew: Well, we're in the same boat there, because, yeah, I have a really hard time expressing myself when I talk about art. And if I do, then I feel like I just sound like a pretentious art nerd, which is not what I want to be. But my favourite artist is named Henri Rousseau. He's a French artist.

Jeremy: Nice. OK.

Andrew: Yeah, that's all I gotta say about that.

Jeremy: The end of the art episode, everyone.

Andrew: So we have another question by someone named Ehsan. But this is a different guy this time, but I imagine also Iranian because he asked about US and Iran relations. So, Jeremy, you're in the US right now. Maybe don't give us the view point of, you know, the typical American, but what about you and your circle of friends and family, what's the view of Iran?

Jeremy: Well, I don't **follow the news** very much in this regard, but I can say my experience with Iranian people growing up, there is a very big Iranian community in California near where I grew up in the Silicon Valley.

My two best friends growing up were Iranian, and so I spent lots of time in Iranian households, eating Iranian food, celebrating their holidays, going to festivals and things with them. They have Persian new year, they have different foods they eat at different times of year, ghormeh sabzi, I think, is one name of Iranian food, something else. There's a few saffron rice, I remember. So I really enjoy their food and their culture. And my friends' parents were like parents to me in a way. I spent so much time at their house that I still feel like they are family.

And so I know that the political relationship between the countries may be rocky at times, may not be very smooth, but in my personal life, I have lots of positive experiences with Iranian people, Iranian Americans, those who were born here. I have other friends from university also that are Persian.

- Andrew: Yeah, my experience is much the same. I didn't have any really close Iranian friends like you did, but a lot of Iranian people that I met in university and grad school are super nice people. Love them. And, also, I have to add, some of the best English language learners out there. You know, as an English teacher, I get to talk with people from all over the world, and I've always been the most impressed by Farsi speakers learning English. I don't know if it's **something in the water** over there or the education system. Or maybe Farsi and English are kind of similar.
- Jeremy: They're very different from what I heard. Actually, Farsi and Korean have a lot of similarities, like word order, they also write in the opposite direction. So there's a lot of big differences.
- Andrew: Yeah, so I've always really respected that about Iranian people, and I know we have a lot of listeners there, too, so, yeah, it's a place that I would love to visit one day. And I hope whatever political issues are happening that they can get them sorted out ASAP and we can get on to being friends again.
- Jeremy: Yeah.
- Andrew: The next suggestion comes from Goldia, again I'm **butchering that pronunciation**, and she wants to know, "What is in your mind when you hear a person's hardly noticeable accent during a conversation with them?" So, if you have a conversation with a non-native speaker and they have a slight accent, what do you think?
- Jeremy: Well, I first have to say that I am much more sensitive to this as an English teacher and Korean teacher. I also teach Korean, for those who don't know. So, as a language teacher, I'm very sensitive to accent and pronunciation, so for me when I hear someone with a very slight accent, I feel tremendous respect for them. I can tell that they did not grow up speaking English or whatever language, and I know that they must have worked very hard and practiced a lot to be able to pronounce these sounds in English the way that we do. So if I hear a very subtle accent, I feel great respect. But I think most people, people who are not language teachers like me, they just become curious where you're from, usually. So once the average American notices your accent, they might say, "Where are you from?"
- Andrew: Right, exactly, yeah. And I'm gonna copy your answer, because my answer is actually the same, is that I have **mad respect** for people that have slight accents because, yeah, I know how hard it is and how much work you have to put in to achieving that. So I have nothing but respect for those people and admiration, but, yeah, I think maybe the typical person that's not a language geek like us, they would probably be curious about where you're from.

- Jeremy: And I think maybe I'm reading into this question a bit too much, but it sounds like our listener here is worrying about their own accent a little bit.
- Andrew: Probably, that's what I was thinking.
- Jeremy: Yeah, thinking, oh, I need to speak perfectly with zero accent in English. In general, if you're in a very diverse place, it doesn't matter almost at all. If your language structure, your syntax, your grammar is mostly correct and you have a wide vocabulary and you can express yourself, no one will care at all. In fact, I grew up in a very diverse area. My Persian friends, I just mentioned, their parents had accents but they are functionality native speakers.
- Andrew: Yeah.
- Jeremy: It never affected me, you know, it never made me think badly of them. But there are places in the United States and in Canada, I'm sure, where people are more ignorant and if they hear an accent then, you know, maybe that will affect them differently. But my advice with English is don't worry about it.
- Andrew: Right, yeah. I wouldn't worry about it, especially a slight, hardly noticeable accent, it's nothing to stress out about at all because you'll notice that there are tons of people going around their day-to-day lives speaking English with extremely heavy accents and they're still getting it done. Society still functions, it's OK.
- Jeremy: Yeah, with English that is OK, with Korean that is not OK. In Korean, you have to be almost perfect just to be understood. If you're not near perfect with your pronunciation, people flat out cannot understand you. So it's much more important with other languages that are less commonly learned as a second language. But English is a world language, so.
- Andrew: One of the benefits of English, for sure.
- Jeremy: Yup, so don't worry about it.
- Andrew: OK, the next one comes from Little Pico and, Jeremy, I think this one maybe I will save for a conversation with Suzanne. She wants to know, Little Pico—I'm assuming that it's a she but I don't know—anyways, Little Pico wants to know, "What is an international relationship like?" And so.
- Jeremy: I have one of those.
- Andrew: Yeah, is your wife American or Korean or Korean American?

- Jeremy: My wife is Korean American. She was born in Korea and then moved to the US when she was 9 years old. So she's both.
- Andrew: She's both. OK. So we could talk about this one day, too. The reason I mentioned Suzanne is Suzanne's boyfriend is from France. So she's in an international relationship and, yeah, my girlfriend's Korean, as well, so maybe we'll get all three of us together and we'll complain about the difficult things that are present in an international relationship.
- Jeremy: Yeah, I may have less of those. Thankfully, my wife has a lot of time in America, she went to school here and such, but there are some things I can relate to.
- Andrew: OK, so listeners stay tuned for a future episode.
- Jeremy: Stay tuned.
- Andrew: The next suggestion comes from Donkihano, and Donkihano wants to know, "What are some podcasts you're listening to these days?"
- Jeremy: I usually listen to Joe Rogan.
- Andrew: Joe Rogan, very popular podcast.
- Jeremy: I think one of the most popular in the world? Maybe.
- Andrew: Probably, probably. It's very successful, yeah.
- Jeremy: And Elon Musk, who we talked about in a recent Simplified Speech episode, he was on there as well, and I watched that 3-hour long conversation between him and Joe Rogan. It was very interesting.
- Andrew: Joe Rogan's podcast is quite interesting because it covers a lot of different topics. The host Joe Rogan is a stand-up comedian. He's also involved in mixed martial arts, and what else does he do? Does he do anything else?
- Jeremy: Now he's probably most famous for that podcast.
- Andrew: For the podcast. And so, because of this, he has a variety of different guests and it's what's called a long-form podcast. So each episode is 2 to 3 hours long. He really dives into some interesting and sometimes crazy topics and jokes around a lot. It's a fun podcast.

- Jeremy: I like it because he keeps, well, I don't listen to all the episodes. I like to listen to episodes with interesting people. He's had experts on AI come in or psychologists or, you know, sociologists, very interesting, educated people. And I like the way that he asks questions and guides the conversation. I feel like he asks the questions, I would want to ask. So, in a way, it's like I get a chance to talk to these famous, intelligent, you know, people. So I like it for that reason, but I don't like all of his episodes, I don't agree with him on every point. But, really, that's the main podcast that I listen to.
- Andrew: These days I've been listening to the new Conan O'Brien podcast. It's called Conan O'Brien Needs a Friend. It is really hilarious, sometimes I forget how funny Conan really is. So, yeah, listeners, these would probably be quite challenging podcast for English language learners, but if your level is advanced then I think you could get into them. And if you can understand them or parts of them, I think you'll find them quite rewarding, because the Conan O'Brien podcast is hilarious.
- Jeremy: If anybody is interested in learning Korean, I do another podcast called SpongeMind.
- Andrew: Yeah, how could we forget SpongeMind?
- Jeremy: That's actually how you found me, right?
- Andrew: Yeah, that's how we connected is I was listening to SpongeMind and got in touch that way.
- Jeremy: Yeah, so it's about learning Korean. We do each episode in both languages separately. So we do an English version and then a Korean version.
- Andrew: It's also about learning English, as well, kind of could be related to language learning in general, right?
- Jeremy: Yeah, it's mostly language learning in general. Sometimes we have Korean-specific topics. But it's myself and my Korean sidekick, counterpart, partner in crime, Jonson. And he is a Korean man who has learned English to a very high level and, actually, his pronunciation is not perfect, but he has almost no problem getting his point across, speaking eloquently and being accepted as a native speaker. So, anyway, that's one podcast, just wanted to mention that.
- Andrew: Yeah, check it out, SpongeMind on Apple Podcasts and Spotify.
- Jeremy: Wherever you get your podcasts.

- Andrew: OK, we got two more, Jeremy. The next one, number nine, is from Nicklasosmo159. Nicklasosmo wants to know, "Talk please about Chinese history and the dynasties." I'm out of my league on that one.
- Jeremy: We would have to do some research to talk about that one.
- Andrew: You know, embarrassingly, my undergrad degree is in history, with a concentration in Chinese history. But it's been so long that I think I would embarrass myself talking about Chinese history on the podcast.
- Jeremy: This is on you, then.
- Andrew: Yeah, sure.
- Jeremy: I will say this, just to satisfy our listener a little bit. I will say that from my study of Korean and the Korean language, there is a big impact of the Chinese language on the Korean language and, through learning Korean, I have sort of learned about Chinese as well, a lot about Chinese. And I find their language very interesting. The language system being a pictorial alphabet, as opposed to a phonetic alphabet like English and Korean, actually, Korean is also a phonetic alphabet, meaning each letter means a sound. Whereas in Chinese, each piece or letter, you could say, indicates something visual. A tree, fire, water, things like that. And I also really admire how they have kept their history preserved, such a long story of history, and kept such a large country together. I think there's a lot of great things about China and some very, of course, dark things, as well, in any country's history there are dark things. But I think we should do a longer-form episode about this, where Andrew breaks out his dusty textbooks and organizes a nice outline.
- Andrew: Five thousand years of Chinese history in 10 minutes. That will be the goal.
- All right, Jeremy, let's move on to our final one. And this is from a user named Arashabbasi wants to know, I like that username, Arashabbasi, he wants to know about sports, talk about sports. And so we could probably do that in a future episode, but, just briefly, what's your favourite sport?
- Jeremy: Come on man, you know.
- Andrew: Basketball.

- Jeremy: Basketball. Yeah. I played basketball since I was—actually, as long as I can remember. My dad grew up playing basketball. My dad played basketball in high school and in college for a little while, and in the US we say college, it's like university. I also played throughout middle school and high school and university for 1 year. So I've played my whole life. Basketball is a part of my body and I really enjoy it, I know the game very well. It has taught me many things, I've met lots of people, made lots of good friends through the sport, as well, and I'd like to maybe, if my son is interested, teach him how to play some day.
- Andrew: Nice, cool.
- Jeremy: What about you?
- Andrew: Yeah, I love ice hockey. I would probably say that's my favourite sport to watch, although I'm getting more into running and also cycling. I've been riding my bicycle a lot this summer. And last month—right now we're recording at the beginning of August, I'm not sure when this episode will be released, but it's the beginning of August right now—and every month in July there's the most famous bike race in the world, the Tour de France. So I spent all month following the Tour de France race. I would stay up late and watch it on the internet, some of the stages, and if I couldn't stay up late that night because of work, as soon as I woke up in the morning, I'd watch the highlights, and that was a real pleasure to follow the Tour de France this year.
- Jeremy: Well, cycling is pretty big in Korea, right? So you, it must be pretty easy. I heard there's some very nice tracks that go all the way from, you know, south of Seoul to north.
- Andrew: You can go, actually, I was planning to ride my bicycle all the way to Busan, which is about 500 kilometers from Seoul to Busan, but I had to cancel because it's the rainy season right now and, yeah, I got rained out. Not a good idea. But hopefully I can do that some day. And, yeah, you're right, there's a lot of people riding really nice, really fast bikes here in Seoul and I'm very jealous, all these sick bikes that I see every day.
- Jeremy: Yeah, yeah.
- Andrew: OK, this was a monster episode. We covered a lot of ground, and it's all thanks to our amazing listeners who gave us lots of suggestions. Guys, once again, thank you for these suggestions and we hope that we satisfied your curiosity at least to some extent.
- Jeremy: Thank you all for these questions. We appreciate it and we hope you enjoyed this episode.

Andrew: That is right. If you would like to get in contact with us, maybe you have a question or a suggestion yourself, then just shoot us an email. Our address is contact@Culips.com. If you're a social media user, we're on Facebook and YouTube, Instagram and Twitter. You can just search for the Culips English Podcast and you'll be able to find us. And, finally, don't forget about that study guide we made for this episode just for you, and you can download it from Culips.com. That is it for us, we'll be back soon with another episode and we'll talk to you then. Bye.

Jeremy: Bye, everyone.

Detailed Explanations

Pristine Adjective

In this episode, Andrew says that much of Canada's nature is **pristine**. That means it is clean and largely untouched.

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

Harry:	Hey, I have a question.
Robin:	Shoot.
Harry:	When we go hiking on the mountain, how much water should we bring?
Robin:	Actually, you don't really need to bring any. The water up there is pristine .
Harry:	So it's safe to drink?
Robin:	Very safe. Just bring an empty container to fill.

Karen:	Is that the same shirt you wore yesterday?
Jinyoung:	Yes, it is.
Karen:	Why is it so white? Yesterday it was so dirty!
Jinyoung:	I spent all night cleaning it.
Karen:	Wow, good job. It looks pristine . You're really good at that.
Jinyoung:	Don't get any ideas—I'm not doing your laundry, too!

Island fever

Idiom, informal

Island fever is the feeling of isolation and claustrophobia you can feel living on an island. In this episode, Jeremy uses this expression in an informal way. When Andrew says one of the reasons why he left Canada was because he felt he didn't have enough opportunities, Jeremy calls it **island fever**. Jeremy means that Andrew was isolated, as if on an island, and wanted more opportunities elsewhere.

Cabin fever is a similar expression, where you feel irritable and uncomfortable because you are spending so much time indoors during the winter.

Here are a couple more examples with **island fever**:

Ivor:	How was your trip?
Roland:	Oh, it was all right.
Ivor:	Just all right? Weren't you on a tropical island for a month? That sounds pretty good to me.
Roland:	Yes, it should. But I started getting legit island fever .
Ivor:	How come?
Roland:	We were on a small island in the middle of the Caribbean. Sometimes we felt like we were lost in space. Kind of a strange feeling.

Mae:	Hey, long time no see! What's new?
Sang:	Actually, I just changed jobs.
Mae:	Oh, really. How come?
Sang:	I felt I was in a bit of a dead-end job. I guess I had some island fever .
Mae:	I understand the feeling. I've done the same.
Sang:	I'm much happier now.
Mae:	Good stuff.

To butcher [something]

Verb

To butcher [something] is to ruin or disfigure it. In this episode, Andrew reads out a lot of listeners' names. Since he is unfamiliar with many of them, Andrew announces ahead of time that he will **butcher many of those names**. That means he will mispronounce them. This expression comes from the original **to butcher**, which means to cut meat up like a butcher.

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

Eddie:	Yo, we're going to sing at a karaoke bar tonight. Wanna come?
Melanie:	Sure!
Eddie:	Oh, and tell your friend John to come along.
Melanie:	No way!
Eddie:	Why not?
Melanie:	He butchers every single song anybody tries to sing. He's terrible.
Eddie:	That's all right. That's why we go to karaoke!

Paula:	Hey, I saw the name Jeonghyeon on the sign-up sheet. I was wondering, is that you?
Jung:	Yeah, actually.
Paula:	I never knew your full name.
Jung:	I shortened it and simplified the spelling. Everybody kept on butchering my name. I got pretty annoyed.
Paula:	I can see how that can happen. How do you pronounce your full name?

To follow the news

Idiom

In this episode, Jeremy mentions that he doesn't **follow the news** too much. **To follow the news** is a very common expression you can use when talking about world events. It means you are aware of current affairs and you often read news articles. This expression can also be used in the negative form, as Jeremy used it.

Here are a couple more examples with **to follow the news**:

Geoff:	Have you heard about what's going on in Hong Kong?
David:	No, not really.
Geoff:	What do you mean? It's big news.
David:	I haven't been following the news lately. I've been so busy.
Geoff:	You should check it out. There are a lot of protests. It's major stuff.

Gita:	By the way, what's been going on with the president these days?
Blanche:	Why do you ask me?
Gita:	Well, I know you usually follow the news , way more than me. I figured I'd ask you.
Blanche:	Ah, OK. Maybe you should follow the news more closely. There's a lot going on right now. Let me tell you ...

Something in the water

Phrase, humorous

In this episode, Andrew says that most of the Farsi speakers he met were very good at English. He follows this by saying that there must be **something in the water** over there. This expression means that many people in a certain place do something similarly well, so perhaps they are really good at something because they have different drinking water that makes them better at it.

Here are a couple more examples with **something in the water**:

Tamara:	Have you ever met an Olympian?
Sally:	Actually, I know quite a few Olympians.
Tamara:	Really? How is that?
Sally:	Well, I'm from a small town, but that town has produced dozens and dozens of them, mostly because of wrestling.
Tamara:	Wow, there must be something in the water over there!
Sally:	Maybe! I don't know why. But, yeah, our town produces a lot of Olympic wrestlers.

Curtis:	You just went to Okinawa, right?
Sasha:	Yeah, last month.
Curtis:	That's cool. I just read an article about how Okinawa has so many people who live to the age of 100. Like, Okinawa has way more than other places.
Sasha:	I know! I read something about that, too.
Curtis:	What are they doing differently? Is there something in the water ?
Sasha:	I don't know. But I hope some of their lifestyle has rubbed off on me!

Mad respect

Idiom, informal

When asked about his reaction to second-language learners of English who have only a slight accent, Andrew says he has **mad respect**. In this sense, mad is an adjective of degree. It means he has a lot of respect. It is similar to saying he has crazy respect for them. Although **mad respect** is a common expression, you can also say things like being mad hungry, having mad fun, and having mad skills. But be careful, mad as an adjective doesn't go with everything! Stick to the ones we just mentioned.

Here are a couple more examples with **mad respect**:

Bob:	Hey, I was watching some crazy videos about people skydiving. They looked like they have absolutely no fear.
Frida:	Those people are nuts. I would never do that. I have a friend who skydives. Let's just say, he's a special individual.
Bob:	I have mad respect for anyone who can do that.
Frida:	Totally. I wish I could have enough courage to do that some day.

Henry:	After a year of training, I finally ran a marathon!
Lester:	Seriously? That's awesome!
Henry:	Yeah. And I ran way faster than I thought I would. I finished in slightly under 3 hours.
Lester:	Under 3 hours? Mad respect , Henry!
Henry:	Thanks!

Quiz

1. What is a good example of something that is pristine?

- a) a well-decorated park
- b) a beautiful curated art exhibition
- c) a very clean building
- d) a natural forest

2. Overall, is island fever a good feeling?

- a) yes
- b) no

3. What is a good example of butchering something?

- a) singing a song you don't like
- b) mispronouncing everyone's name
- c) cutting your finger slightly
- d) making a spelling mistakes

4. What does it mean to follow the news?

- a) to be aware of current affairs
- b) to talk to your journalist friend
- c) to rarely buy a newspaper
- d) to run behind newspaper trucks

5. The expression mad respect sounds a little crazy. But, in the sense used in the episode, is the expression mad respect a positive or negative statement?

- a) positive
- b) negative

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. In this episode, Andrew talks about the pros and cons of living in Canada. He mentions how clean and beautiful the country is, but he also says the weather is often rough and cold. What are some of the pros and cons you would consider if ever you went to another country?
2. As one of our listeners asks, what is your dream?
3. Again, turning this episode's questions back on you, what is your ideal evening out?
4. How do people who speak your native language treat second language learners? How do you think it differs from how native English speakers treat English second language learners, in your experience?
5. Have you ever considered an international relationship? How different do you think your life would be?

Quiz Answers

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

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Image: Helloquence (Unsplash.com)