

Chatterbox #244 – Meeting celebrities

Episode description

It seems everybody has a story about meeting a celebrity. Sometimes it is an uncomfortable situation, and sometimes it ends up being a great story. In this Chatterbox episode, hosts Andrew and Suzanne have some interesting stories to share with you about their celebrity encounters.

Fun fact

Paparazzi are famous for stalking celebrities to take their pictures. Interestingly, the word paparazzi comes from a character named Paparazzo in the movie *La Dolce Vita*. As you might have guessed, Paparazzo was a pretty intrusive news photographer.

Expressions included in the study guide

- To get a lot of buzz
- Starstruck
- To freak out
- Under the radar
- A-lister
- Down to earth



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.

Suzanne: And I'm Suzanne.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips. Welcome back to another addition of our Chatterbox series, the series where we have totally natural English conversations and we let you listen in. Today, I'm joined by my cohost Suzanne.

Suzanne, how's it going?

Suzanne: Hi, Andrew. It's going well, just relaxing this evening, just finished watching a movie on Netflix, a French movie.

Andrew: From France or from Quebec?

Suzanne: This movie was French from France. Olivier is from France and we try to watch movies with actors that we recognize and we like from France. So, yeah, it was really good.

Andrew: We should say Olivier is your boyfriend, right?

Suzanne: Yeah, and now fiancé.

Andrew: Yeah, Suzanne, now fiancé. We'll talk about that story maybe in an upcoming ...

Suzanne: Yes, in another podcast, another episode.

Andrew: That's awesome, that's big news on your end. And, actually, I also watched a movie on Netflix recently, just the other day, and it's called a Marriage Story. A Marriage Story.

Suzanne: Oh, yeah.

Andrew: So it's kind of connected to fiancés. While I was watching this movie, it made me think about an experience that I had about meeting, or not necessarily meeting but seeing, one of the stars of this movie. So I thought today we could talk about meeting celebrities or running into celebrities in real life. So that's what will be the topic of today's Chatterbox episode, running into celebrities.

Suzanne: That sounds great.

Andrew: Cool. But before we share our celebrity stories, I think we should remind all of our listeners that there's a study guide for this episode that includes a transcript, detailed vocabulary explanations of some of the key vocabulary that we'll use here today. There's also examples and quiz and prompts for speaking or journaling practice. So if you'd like to study along with the study guide, and we highly recommend that you do, just visit our website, Culips.com, and you can download it.

All right. So, Suzanne, I told you that I watched this movie Marriage Story recently. It's **getting a lot of buzz** these days. I've seen a lot of people talking about it online, and also many of my friends have watched it. I was surprised to find out that a lot of my friends have already seen this movie. I think it's getting promoted pretty heavily by Netflix, like when you log into Netflix, it's the key movie that's the kind of preview that you see when you log in, so a lot of people are probably just clicking on it right away.

Suzanne: Yeah, it's true.

Andrew: It's directed by Noah Baumbach, who's a pretty cool director, and it stars Scarlett Johansson and Adam Driver, and my celebrity story is about Adam Driver. Do you know this actor, Suzanne?

Suzanne: Yeah, I do, and one of my favourite things that he's done is Star Wars.

Andrew: Yeah, he was in Star Wars and he was also on the HBO TV show Girls.

Suzanne: Girls, yeah.

Andrew: I think this is where I first saw him, was on this TV show, Girls. He's kind of an aloof, hip, young 20s, creative guy. I think he's kind of stereotyped as this type of actor in a lot of his roles.

Suzanne: OK.

Andrew: Not necessarily in Star Wars, though, so I guess he's got more depth to his acting than that. Anyways, I met Adam Driver one time and I would like to share this story with everyone.

Suzanne: Cool.

Andrew: Actually I was in Canada, visiting Canada, and I was flying back to Korea. This was last year. And when I arrived at the airport in Incheon, which is the name of the airport here in Seoul, I came out of the airport into the arrivals section and I was just exiting the airport to catch the bus to go back to my apartment. And when I came out of the arrivals door, you know where all of the people are kind of waiting for their friends and family members to arrive, this section in the airport, there was Adam Driver. He was just standing there and you know, when you ...

Suzanne: Oh my gosh.

Andrew: Yeah, it was a little bit surprising to me. Because even though you're at an international airport, when you're in South Korea most of the people are Korean, so you kind of stand out as a foreigner. So he's very tall, too, and he's got longer hair, like he definitely looks different than most Koreans. So I was really shocked that he was just standing right there. And so he noticed that I was kind of staring at him, kind of **starstruck**, you know when you see somebody famous like that, you're a little bit **starstruck**, right? You're like, "Where do I know you from? Are we friends?"

Suzanne: Confused and shocked and overwhelmed and excited.

Andrew: Exactly. So I was kind of like looking at him and he was like, "Hey, dude." He said to me, "Hey, dude" because, I don't know, maybe he gets this often, I imagine.

Suzanne: That's cool. He said, "Hey dude."

Andrew: Yeah, he said, "Hey, dude," and I was like, "Oh, hey." I didn't wanna bother him, I'm not gonna ask him for, like, an autograph or anything. But he was actually trying to leave Korea and he went to the wrong area of the airport. So that's why he was on the arrivals floor instead of the departures. And I found out later that he was in Korea to promote Star Wars when that launched, a year or two ago, I can't exactly remember, recently, though. And it was really cool to see him in real life. And it was also surprising to me that: a) nobody knew who he was, there was no fans around, even though he's in a big TV show and a big movie like Star Wars, nobody recognized him, and b) he was all alone. I would have thought that he would have had a manager or an assistant or someone to sort of guide him to the right area of the airport, but he was just by himself. So maybe he doesn't like the celebrity lifestyle, you know, having somebody help him around, doing everything, I'm not sure.

Suzanne: Yeah, like a security person, you mean, or something like that?

Andrew: Yeah, because you think of a big movie star would have, you know, a manager or something, at least, to kind of guide you through a foreign airport, but he seemed to be all on his own.

Suzanne: So cool.

Andrew: Doing his own way. So, yeah, that's my recent celebrity encounter with Adam Driver.

Suzanne: That is really cool. And that's like a really current, popular actor, so that's super cool.

Andrew: How about you, Suzanne? Have you ever had a run-in with a celebrity?

Suzanne: Yeah, well, I actually went to college with a lot of actors and a bunch of actors that are now famous and are celebrities. So I have some celebrity friends, I guess, that I don't really think of them as celebrities, they're just my friends. But then when I talk about them, people are like, "Wait, do you mean the bla, bla, bla?" And I'm, like, yeah. And it's just weird because we've known each other since we were, like, 17, 18 years old.

Andrew: Right.

Suzanne: So it's kind of, you know, to me they're just my friend and I support and love their work and admire their work. But I don't have a **starstruck** feeling because I know them deeply, I know them intimately.

Andrew: Right, as individuals, not just as celebrities.

Suzanne: Yes, exactly. I know them first as friends.

Andrew: Right.

Suzanne: So one of my closest friends, who I've known for a long time and who is also in, like, sci-fi stuff is my friend Zach, Zachary Quinto, and he is, he plays Spock in the new Star Trek movies and stuff.

Andrew: Yeah, that's awesome.

Suzanne: Yeah, he's also done a lot of films and he has that new TV show out, I think it's on AMC and it's NOS4A2 or something like that.

Andrew: OK.

Suzanne: And he plays, like, an old man and then a young man, like, vampire something or other. I'm not sure, have to check it out because I don't actually have AMC.

Andrew: AMC is the name of TV channel.

Suzanne: Network, yes.

Andrew: OK.

Suzanne: Yeah, but he is a great actor. And he is really so good at not just acting but producing and he has, like, a production company as well. So he produces a lot of projects, independent projects.

Andrew: Yeah, he's a really popular actor. I'm a little shocked, I didn't know that you guys were buddies. That's awesome, 'cause he's been in a lot of movies and he's really quite popular. Yeah, that's cool. Suzanne, you should get him onto the show to do an interview for Culips.

Suzanne: I need to do an interview, yeah, I'll ask him. I'll totally ask him. I'll see what he thinks. I actually, we've been talking about him coming to visit me in Montreal soon, so maybe we'll see. We'll see, that would be so cool.

Andrew: Yeah, that would be cool.

Suzanne: He is a really good friend and we've done some acting together as well, like in school and stuff. And I did a voice-over project, actually, I think it was our second year of our master's, Andrew. He was producing a movie called *The Most Violent Year* and I was a character in that movie, but I was a voice. You never see me, I'm just a voice of a dispatch woman named Kathy who's actually throughout a lot of the film, but you don't ever see me.

Andrew: But we can hear your voice?

Suzanne: Yeah, it's funny because I like do a lot of voice acting, so he was, like, would you do this, like, super fast? I had to do like a Brooklyn accent and it was fun.

Andrew: OK, so listeners, if you wanna hear Suzanne's voice in a movie, then you can check out this movie, *The Most Violent Year*. I actually haven't seen this, but I just Googled it and it has a 90% rating on Rotten Tomatoes, which means it's pretty good. It means a lot of people liked the movie so, wow. I didn't know, I'm going to check this out, Suzanne. Now I have a plan for the weekend.

Suzanne: Yeah, Zach is also a great person. Like, he's super, super nice. So he's done a lot of stage work, as well, on Broadway. And when I've gone to see him on Broadway, I've also been able to go backstage. And whenever we exit the stage door, people will be like, "Zach, Zach!" And they ask him, you know, for pictures or autographs, and he's super cool. He's, like, "Hey, man, yeah, give me your phone, let's take a selfie." Like, he's super nice. So you know it's not easy, because you're giving a lot while you're on stage and then you have to, you know, also kind of be on, as they say.

Andrew: Right, you can't really, you know, be rude to your fans, or if you're having a bad day you still have to be, you know, positive and smile and give people your time even though you may be really tired after performing.

Suzanne: I find he does a really good job with still taking care of himself as a person, but still being a really kind and present person to his fans. And he also has a really cute dog named Skunk.

Andrew: OK, is it a stinky dog?

Suzanne: No, I don't know why he's named Skunk. I think he's just black and white, but he's just so funny. He's got, like, a really funny personality.

Andrew: OK.

Suzanne: Yeah, so I think I would be **starstruck** if I ever saw Meryl Streep in person. I would probably **freak out** and, like, cry, maybe, or not know what to do if I ever see her. But for the most part, other than someone like her, I have seen other actors on the streets in New York.

Andrew: OK.

Suzanne: For example, when I was just recently there, I saw a play with Mary-Louise Parker. And her theatre was right next to the apartment that I was staying at. And on her break, I saw her outside with her sunglasses on, having her water bottle and walking her dog. And I saw her play, actually, that night and then I was, like, watching her leave the theatre and I wanted to be, like, "Hey, it was so great, thank you, it was awesome." But I felt dumb, she was with friends. So I didn't bother her. I didn't feel **starstruck**, I just felt like I wanted to be, like, thank you. That was so good. Yes, thank you so much for your performance and your work, you know?

Andrew: Right, right.

Suzanne: But I didn't, so whatever.

Andrew: I've had a couple of experiences where I've seen musicians that I really respect, but I'm always too afraid to talk to people because I know that I'll have nothing to say. We know so much about their lives, celebrity lives, and they've made such a big impact on us, but they don't know us. We're complete strangers to them, so it's kind of weird. I remember when I was maybe 18, 19, I went to a concert to see the band U2 play, the big, internationally famous rock group from Ireland, U2. And my friends and I were driving by the stadium several hours before the show and the group and the band just happened to be hanging out outside. I don't know why they were there, but we saw them and we went over to them to go meet U2. We were all big U2 fans, and then we kinda got too nervous and didn't go and talk to them because, I don't know why, because it would have just been a little bit weird to be like, "Hey, guys, we're big fans. We love your music."

Suzanne: Yeah.

Andrew: And at that time, I don't think we had smartphones, so we couldn't really have taken a selfie or anything. This was maybe in the year 2001 or maybe the year 2000. So almost 20 years ago, oh my gosh. But it was cool to see them. But I didn't feel the need to introduce myself to them. And I had a similar experience with the indie musician Kurt Vile. Kurt Vile was actually at one of my band's shows when we played a concert in Montreal. And I saw him outside of the venue after the show, and I was like "Hey, Kurt Vile." I kinda said that to him, you know, like, hey, and I was hoping that he would be like, "Oh, I liked your set" or, "Cool show, man" or something like that. He didn't say anything. So I was like, oh, he didn't like my band.

Suzanne: He probably just wasn't even paying attention to you who you might have been, you know what I mean? Doesn't mean he doesn't like your band.

Andrew: It looked like he had been partying hard that night, let's just say that. So I don't think he was really paying too much attention to the music. But, yeah, that was another kind of celebrity encounter that I've had. Not that Kurt Vile is a huge international star or anything, but he's pretty respected in the indie music community in the States and in North America, at least.

Suzanne: Oh, yeah. I think, honestly, I have a weird thing, like, I don't know to do sometimes. For example, one time I got to go see a taping of Saturday Night Live with Zach.

Andrew: Cool. Nice.

Suzanne: And yeah, and then afterwards.

Andrew: Oh, no way, did you go to the SNL party?

Suzanne: No, we didn't go to the party, but we did go backstage and hang out. It was John Krasinski was the guest.

Andrew: No way, from The Office.

Suzanne: Yup. And it was super fun. That was really cool and crazy. I was, like, what's happening, because I love Maya Rudolph and everybody, I was gonna, like, **freak out**.

Andrew: To me, that would be one of the most nerve-racking situations, hanging out with a bunch of funny celebrities, because I would feel like I would have to be, you know, if I wanna hang out with them, I would have to be on and be entertaining because they're so funny and entertaining themselves, right?

Suzanne: Yup. Oh my gosh.

Andrew: But that's an awesome experience, going behind the scenes, backstage at SNL, Saturday Night Live.

Suzanne: I was so overwhelmed.

Andrew: Yeah.

Suzanne: So overwhelmed. I mean, I did not know what to do.

Andrew: Wow, legendary.

Suzanne: That's like a dream. My friend Lynn is also pretty famous actress, but she's cool because she stays kind of **under the radar**. But she is doing great acting, great work. Fun fact, she was or is in the series, like, the Unabomber and she plays the linguist who, like, discovers the Unabomber.

Andrew: Wow.

Suzanne: Anyway yeah.

Andrew: Cool. I didn't know there was a Unabomber series out there.

Suzanne: Yes, you should totally Google that. I think it was on Netflix.

Andrew: Cool, I'll check it out. I love that Unabomber story. Even though it's very dark and sad, real-life event, it's interesting history.

Suzanne: It's really cool how you can actually find a criminal through the language that they use, right? The kinds of words that they use more often than others.

Andrew: And the Unabomber was a very unique individual, I guess we could say.

Suzanne: Yes, right.

Andrew: Kind of. Very educated and had a unique writing style.

Suzanne: Well, she was doing a movie or a play with Ethan Hawke.

Andrew: **A-lister.**

Suzanne: It was the Oscar party, yeah, it was the Oscar party, like, maybe about 8 years ago in New York, and we went to an Oscar party at his house, OK.

Andrew: Wow.

Suzanne: At his apartment in New York. And I get there and there he is and he shakes my hand and he's like, "Hey, I'm Ethan, what's your name?" And I'm, like, Sue and I'm, like, yeah, I know who you are, you don't have to introduce yourself. But I mean, that's what you do, even celebrities use the common introduction in English of like, "Hey, I'm Andrew, how are you? What's your name?"

Andrew: Right, right.

Suzanne: Like, that's a normal introduction for everyone. But when you're a well-known celebrity, it's kind of funny because you're, like, yeah, hello, everybody knows you. But it's just common sense, that's how you would introduce yourself. So he was so nice. I mean, I can't even begin to say the hospitality was just really, really, really kind. He had lots of food, he was making sure that we all had drinks and food and we're comfortable and had, like, pillows on the ground and blankets and, like, just so kind. Really.

Andrew: Sue, your celebrity stories are so much better than mine.

Suzanne: Oh my gosh, no, no. I was in that world all the time in New York City, for example, and so I was always around. And when you're in that world at a certain calibre, you know, it's a small world. You know, you can go to one party and you're like, oh my gosh, there's all those people, because it's not a major big world. It's pretty small.

Andrew: I kind of have a similar experience with the music community in Canada. You're either friends with or friends of a friend with almost everybody in the music scene, once you get to a certain level. So even some people that would be considered celebrities aren't really celebrities to you, they're just kind of your friends or your friends' friends, they're acquaintances. And it kind of destroys that barrier between celebrity and non-celebrity. I'm sure that the acting world and Hollywood is kind of the same way, right? At the end of the day, it is a very small club. And once you're inside the club, then you're kind of equal with everyone, to an extent.

Suzanne: Yeah. I mean, what's so interesting is, like, for example, at, like, the Ethan Hawke hangout at his place, he didn't act like he was a celebrity and I wasn't. He was like I'm human and you're a new possible friend and you're friends with my friend, so you're awesome, too. There's no, like, level, you know?

Andrew: Right.

Suzanne: One of my friends was dating Keanu Reeves.

Andrew: Wow.

Suzanne: And he, yeah, right? And I was doing a play off-Broadway at the time and he, after my performance, we all went out to dinner and he was, like, sitting with me for like an hour.

Andrew: Wow.

Suzanne: He was asking me all about my process and, like, what I did to prepare and my character and like.

Andrew: Process meaning your acting process right?

Suzanne: My acting process, yeah. And I was just, like, kind of in awe, like, why are you asking me this, because you're the famous actor. Me, I'm just, like, random girl doing a play off-Broadway. Like, it's not as big of a deal as you. But it's, like, we're all artists, you know?

Andrew: Right.

Suzanne: He didn't see it as better or worse or more famous or not. He was just interested in the art and in the craft. And that's so cool, you know? When you realize we're all just doing the best we can to be artists and work on a craft. And so brainstorming and sharing ideas and processes is just a great opportunity and such a privilege. So, yeah, that was a crazy dinner. I remember being, like, what?

Andrew: I think I would be pretty **starstruck** in that situation. That's really cool that you've had all of these experiences to meet some really high-level actors, that's great.

Suzanne: Totally. Yeah, he was also extremely kind, I have to say. I've only met really nice celebrities, not a lot, but the only ones that I've met have been very kind and generous.

Andrew: He is famous for being nice, right? He's, like, a famous Hollywood nice guy. People say that about Keanu Reeves all the time, that's he's just a really **down to earth**, normal guy that just happens to be a huge movie star at the same time.

Suzanne: Absolutely, yeah, you're absolutely right. I have heard that.

Andrew: Sue, I think we'll wrap it up there. This was a really, really fun episode to get to listen to your stories. Man, I was kind of wondering, who should I talk to this topic about? Should I talk about it with Jeremy or Morag or Sue? And I'm glad that I chose you. I bet you have the best celebrity stories from the Culips team.

Suzanne: Just been in that world more, maybe, that's all.

Andrew: That's all.

Thank you again to everyone for listening. And if you want to get the study guide for this episode, just visit Culips.com to do that. We're also everywhere on social media, on Instagram and Facebook and Twitter and YouTube. So if you like using those social media platforms, check us out and give us a follow on them. It'd also be great guys if you could leave us a 5-star ranking and a nice review wherever you listen to your podcasts. This will help other listeners find Culips and study with us. We would really appreciate it if you could do it for us. We'll be back soon with another brand-new episode and we will talk to you then. Bye.

Suzanne: Bye.

Detailed Explanations

To get a lot of buzz

Idiom

In this episode, Andrew and Suzanne talk about a movie called Marriage Story. Andrew mentions the movie has been **getting a lot of buzz** lately. **To get a lot of buzz** is to receive a lot of attention. In the case of a movie, you can say it's **getting a lot of buzz** among critics or on the film festival circuit. That means many people are talking about it. This doesn't only apply to movies. You can also say it about a TV show, a musical album, a musical band, or an athlete. You can also change the verb to say someone is **creating or receiving a lot of buzz**.

Here are a couple more examples with **to get a lot of buzz**:

Garrett: Have you seen the new Martin Scorsese film?

Dora: Not sure. What's it called?

Garrett: The Irishman.

Dora: Oh. No, I haven't seen it, but I heard it's really good.

Garrett: It is, and it's **getting a lot of Oscar buzz**. You really should check it out.

Dora: I should put in on my list of movies to watch. Thanks.

Sonya: How's your favourite hockey team doing this season?

Freddie: Not well. They're in last place in their division.

Sonya: That's too bad. I hate it when my home team isn't good.

Freddie: Me too. But we have a rookie on the team who is **getting a lot of buzz** this season. He should be a star in the future, so that's something to look forward to.

Starstruck

Adjective

When talking about meeting celebrities, a key expression to use is **starstruck**. **Starstruck** is when you meet or see a celebrity and you are overwhelmed. In that moment, you don't really know what to say and you freeze a little. Think of being struck by a lightning bolt, but in this case the lightning bolt is the presence of a celebrity. In her case, Suzanne isn't usually **starstruck** seeing celebrities, because she has met many of them and is personal friends with some famous people. But when she went backstage during the taping of a Saturday Night Live episode, she says she was overwhelmed. That's being **starstruck**.

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

Hazel: I got us reservations at a restaurant downtown. You should wear something really nice.

Duane: Anything special about this restaurant?

Hazel: We'll probably see a few celebrities. It's pretty famous. Get ready to be **starstruck**.

Duane: I don't get **starstruck**.

Hazel: Really? What about that time you saw Mick Jagger on the street?

Duane: That's different! He's a mega-celebrity!

Byron: I just checked out your Instagram page. Is that a selfie of you with Brad Pitt?

Estelle: Yes, it is!

Byron: Wow, that's super cool. Was he nice?

Estelle: He was very charming.

Byron: What did you say to him?

Estelle: Actually ... I didn't say anything. I was so **starstruck** that I froze.

Byron: Oh. At least you got a nice picture.

To freak out

Phrasal verb

Although Suzanne says she doesn't usually get starstruck, she admits that she would **freak out** if she met the actress Meryl Streep. **To freak out** is to lose control emotionally. This can be caused by joy, embarrassment, shock, or excitement. If ever you see fans of some pop group shouting, yelling, waving their arms, and crying, you can say they are **freaking out**. You can also **freak out** when you are suddenly scared of something. For instance, you might **freak out** whenever you see a spider.

Here are a couple more examples with **to freak out**:

Jo: You know my favourite singer is Elton John, right?

Tasha: Sure.

Jo: Well, my husband was in Las Vegas last week for business. When he came back, he handed me his phone and said there was a video I might find interesting.

Tasha: What was it?

Jo: It was Elton John saying hello to me! I totally **freaked out**. My husband met him and asked him to record a message for me.

Tasha: That's so sweet.

Janis: How was your camping trip last weekend?

Brad: Terrible.

Janis: Oh no. Did someone get hurt?

Brad: Worse. We had no internet!

Janis: Isn't that a good thing when you go camping?

Brad: No way. Our plan was to watch the football, but they didn't have Wi-Fi. We were **freaking out**.

Janis: That's funny.

Under the radar

Idiom

In this episode, Suzanne talks about how her friend Lynn, who is a famous actress, lives **under the radar**. That means she tries not to draw too much attention to herself. Some celebrities try to be as famous as possible. In that sense, they want to be on everybody's radar. However, other celebrities simply want to act and create art without having to deal with too much fame. That's being **under the radar**. Think of fighter jets. They often fly low and **under the radar**, so they won't be detected.

In another sense, to be on someone's radar is to be aware of who they are and how good they are. If you have known of a young soccer player for years and she is now suddenly getting famous, you can say she has been on your radar for years.

Here are a couple more examples with **under the radar**:

Randy: Hey, I haven't seen you out a lot lately. Everything OK?

Carol: Yeah, no problem. I've been laying low, mostly staying at home.

Randy: Any particular reason?

Carol: Not really. I like to keep **under the radar** every once and a while just to refresh my batteries.

Randy: That's sensible.

Craig: I'm picking players in my fantasy sports league. Do you have any suggestions?

Terry: Let me think. Actually, there's this young player called Nick Suzuki. He's pretty good.

Craig: Never heard of him.

Terry: He's been **under the radar** because he's still pretty fresh. I suggest you pick him before everyone knows about him.

Craig: Good call.

A-lister

Noun

An **A-lister** is a very famous person, usually an actor. If you were to make a list of famous actors, you would put the most famous on the first list, the A-list. Then you would have a secondary list, the B-list. Some actors who are not very famous joke about being on the D-list.

In this episode, when Suzanne mentions the actor Ethan Hawke, Andrew immediately responds by saying **A-lister**. That is because just about everyone who follows Hollywood movies knows who Ethan Hawke is and has seen many of his films. The term **A-lister** mostly applies to actors and not so much to other celebrities, such as sports stars, writers, musicians, or politicians.

Here are a couple more examples with **A-lister**:

Ismael: I heard you went to some Oscar after-parties. Did you meet anyone famous?

Florence: Kind of.

Ismael: What do you mean?

Florence: I'm not exactly an **A-lister**, you know. I don't get invited to the parties where the major stars go.

Peggy: OK. Now let's talk about our marketing campaign for next year. What do you have in mind?

Candace: I was thinking we should go big next year. We should put more money into advertising. That will grow our brand.

Peggy: Any specific ideas?

Candace: Yeah. Why don't we hire a really big name for our commercials? Let's get an **A-lister**, like Bradley Cooper or Jennifer Lopez. That will give us massive exposure.

Peggy: I see. Let's take a look at our budget.

Down to earth

Idiom

Down to earth means someone is humble and tries not to show everyone how good they are at something. It's the opposite of arrogant or pretentious. After meeting Keanu Reeves, Suzanne says he was very **down to earth**. Although he is famous and could act like a superstar, he acted in the exact opposite manner.

Here are a couple more examples with **down to earth**:

Darrell: You used to play hockey as a teenager. Have you ever played with anyone famous?

Kenny: Not with someone on my team, but with someone who came to visit our practice once.

Darrell: Who was that?

Kenny: Sidney Crosby.

Darrell: THE Sidney Crosby?

Kenny: Yes, the captain of the Pittsburgh Penguins. One of the best players ever.

Darrell: What happened?

Kenny: He just showed us some drills to practice. He's super **down to earth**.

Darrell: You're so lucky! I would have loved to share the ice with him.

Amy: I'm meeting Gary's parents for the first time tomorrow night. Do you have any suggestions? I'm really worried.

Mercie: There's no need to be worried. I know his parents.

Amy: Really? What are they like?

Mercie: They're pretty laid back and **down to earth**. They'll love you.

Amy: That's good to hear. I always get nervous meeting new people.

Quiz

1. Which of the following celebrities has Suzanne NOT met?

- a) Zach Quinto
- b) Meryl Streep
- c) Keanu Reeves
- d) Ethan Hawke

2. What is the opposite of down to earth?

- a) friendly
- b) talkative
- c) conceited
- d) considerate

3. Who is more famous?

- a) a D-lister
- b) a B-lister

4. What is something that DOES NOT happen when you are starstruck?

- a) you ask for a selfie
- b) you ask for an autograph
- c) you act completely natural
- d) you do not talk to the famous person

5. What does under the radar mean?

- a) to fly an airplane
- b) to seek out information on other people
- c) to enjoy fame
- d) to try not to be too noticeable

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Who are some of the famous people you have met or seen in person?
2. What do you think is the best way to approach a celebrity you want to talk to?
3. If you were a famous person, how well do you think you would deal with fans constantly coming up to you?
4. Would you rather be rich but not famous or famous but not so rich?
5. In what kind of situation do you freak out?

Quiz Answers

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

Episode credits

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