

## Chatterbox #276 – Evaluating different sources of listening materials

### Episode description

Have you missed hearing Jeremy's voice on the podcast? Then tune in to this episode, which was recorded last year while Jeremy was still on the team. This Chatterbox episode is full of useful tips and resources for finding great listening materials for learning English.

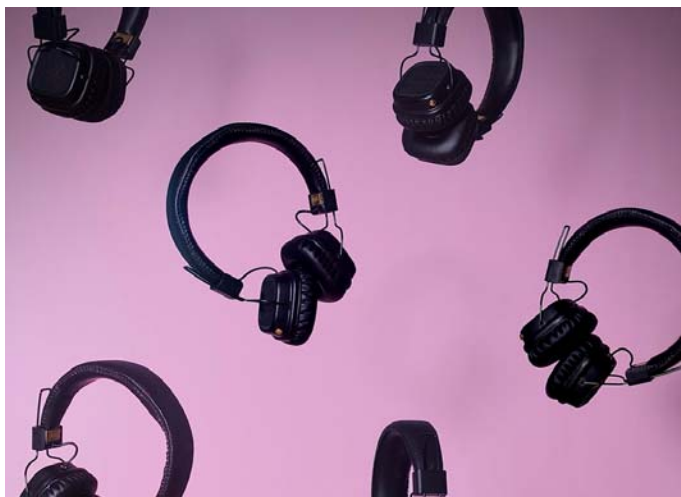
Culips' Chatterbox series is perfect for upper-intermediate or advanced English learners to practise their English listening skills. The hosts talk in everyday English at an ordinary speed. If you're looking for English listening materials where the hosts talk at the same level as native speakers, then this is the series for you. Enjoy!

### Fun fact

Radio has been around for awhile, but radio stations first started popping up around the globe in the early 1920s. One of the first radio stations in the United States started in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It first aired on November 2, 1920, broadcasting the returns of the presidential election between Harding and Cox.

### Expressions included in the study guide

- Off to the races
- Geeky
- Fleeting
- Crystal clear
- To cut [someone] off
- On the surface



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## 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. The transcript has been edited for clarity.

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**Andrew:** Hey, everyone, Andrew here. Before we start, I just wanted to tell you that what you're about to hear is an older episode that we recorded with Jeremy last year. Now, I originally lost the audio files for this one and thought that we had to abandon it. But then I found the files again and we've decided to release it even though Jeremy has left the Culips team. There's just a lot of helpful information in this podcast episode and it would be a shame not to share it with you. So this is probably the last Culips episode, at least for now, that you'll hear with Jeremy. So please just keep that in mind and we hope that you enjoy this one. Thanks.

Hello, everyone. I'm Andrew.

**Jeremy:** And I'm Jeremy.

**Andrew:** And this is the Culips English Podcast.

Hello there, everyone. Welcome back to Culips. This is a Chatterbox episode, which is our series where we feature completely natural English conversation that you can listen in to. And we hope by studying with this series, you can upgrade your English listening skills and become a fluent English listener. Today I'm joined by my cohost, Jeremy. Hi there, Jeremy.

**Jeremy:** Hey, Andrew. And hey, everyone. I'm excited for today's episode topic. Today, we're going to evaluate different kinds of listening material and talk about the pros and cons of studying English with them. But before we do that, we should let everyone know about the study guide so that they can follow along as they listen today.

**Andrew:** Yeah, that's right. So, everyone, the study guide for this episode includes the transcript, detailed vocabulary explanations, and examples, and a quiz. And also more. There's bonus material in there, as well. You can download the study guide as a PDF and print it off, if you would like to, or you can view it in a mobile-friendly version that is designed to look good on smartphones. And to access it, you just need to visit [Culips.com](http://Culips.com) and become a Culips member.

**Jeremy:** Awesome. So don't sleep on the study guide, everyone. It's a great resource that we designed to help you make the most out of your time studying with us.

**Andrew:** Before we get into the topic of today's episode, I want to share an email with all of our listeners. Jeremy, it is from one of our Culips members from Brazil named Juliana and Juliana writes, "I am a Culips member. And since then, I have been listening to the podcast every day during my stretching routine in the morning. I love Culips because Andrew and the other hosts speak in a very clear way. They have experience teaching English as a second language. And Andrew and Jeremy said that they have been studying Korean, so they know how difficult it is to learn a new language. I also enjoy Culips because there is a great variety of content and it helps me to improve my vocabulary. While I'm listening, I have a lot of fun and I do it with pleasure. Maybe one of the keys to learning a new language is doing it with enjoyment. So thank you very much for your help. Juliana."

**Jeremy:** Wow, that's so nice.

**Andrew:** So, Juliana, thank you for that message and, listeners, if you want to get in touch, we love hearing from you. We love getting these kinds of messages from you. They're super encouraging and help us to keep going and to do a good job to help you learn English. So if you would like to get in touch with us, just send us an email to our email address, [contact@Culips.com](mailto:contact@Culips.com).

OK, so in a recent Chatterbox episode, Kassy and I evaluated studying English with different types of videos, with Netflix and movies, with TV shows, and with YouTube. But today, Jeremy and I are going to evaluate the pros and cons of studying English with different types of listening materials, like the radio, podcasts, and audiobooks. And, Jeremy, I think the two of us are going to have a lot to say about this topic.

**Jeremy:** Yes, we do. Yes, we do.

**Andrew:** So let's kick things off by evaluating the radio. Jeremy, in your opinion, is listening to the radio a good way to study English?

**Jeremy:** It can be. I have experience studying Spanish and Korean that way, by listening to the radio. And I think the best thing is the advertisements, because they are usually very clear and repeated and they are short. So they are sort of easy to understand. You can predict the context, like, oh, this one is talking about car sales, and this one is talking about a pizza place. So it can be good in that way.

**Andrew:** They are also designed to be very catchy and to get stuck in your head, right? So you might kind of have them stuck in your head, and you will repeat them throughout the day, if the ad writer did a good job with the jingle.

**Jeremy:** Also, it's great that you can listen to them in the car. And it's very easy to just turn on the radio in the car and start driving. I think that's a nice part of using the radio.

**Andrew:** Yeah, you know, if you're listening to a podcast, or you want to listen to music or something, maybe you have to load up your phone with that podcast or with that file. You have to do something, right, usually, to get it prepared. But with the radio, you just turn it on and it's there and you're **off to the races**. You can start listening.

**Jeremy:** I also like listening to call-in shows where a listener will call in and talk to the radio hosts, because usually there is a common topic or question that is being discussed. So you can try to figure out what they're talking about. Why are they laughing at this point? And it can help you stay focused on what you're listening to because it's interesting.

**Andrew:** Sure. So a call-in show is a show where listeners can just call the radio DJ or the radio show host and they have a conversation and you get to listen to that conversation. So it's very natural, it's unscripted, and it makes great authentic listening material.

One of my favourite call-in shows is a kind of **geeky** show that's on Canadian radio. The Canadian radio station is called the CBC, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. And this show is called Cross Canada Checkup. It happens every Sunday. And the host just opens the phone lines to Canadians across the country, from the west coast to the east coast. And people call in to just talk about what's on their mind. It's usually a political issue, but it can sometimes be a social issue, or a pop culture issue, too. And it's interesting, because you have this conversation this way, right? One caller will phone in and share their opinion. And then 20 minutes later, somebody will phone in to add to the conversation or to debate that original caller, to share an alternative opinion. So it's, I think, really, really awesome listening material for English learners.

**Jeremy:** But do you think that sometimes politics or, you know, world events and things like that, those can have a lot of difficult vocabulary associated with them, right?

**Andrew:** Yes, and this is one of the cons of studying with the radio that we should talk about. Because listening to the radio, in my opinion, is one of the most difficult kinds of listening material, right? As you said, Jeremy, talk radio is often focused on politics and world events and current events. So it's just not that accessible for intermediate learners, I think.

**Jeremy:** Actually, there was a specific show that I used to listen to in Spanish a lot on the radio. And every Sunday, they did the show, and they talked about a certain kind of health product, like maybe a special mushroom or some diet pills or something like that. And I liked it because I knew they were trying to sell something and explain the benefits. So I could understand some of it. But there were so many difficult words that I had to give up after a while. Also, every time I started listening to it, it was usually in the middle of the show. So I had already missed 20 minutes of the show and it was hard to catch up.

**Andrew:** Yeah, that happens often, right? You hop in your car and you just turn on the radio. And very often, the time that you hop in your car doesn't line up with the start of the radio show. So you're catching things in the middle. And it's hard to know the context of what's being talked about.

And also, we have no subtitles or transcripts for the radio, too, right? It's just, it's **fleeting**. It comes through the airwaves into our ears and then it's gone. So that also makes it a really difficult way to study English, but the content is good. So I guess if we had to sum up studying with the radio, the pros are that it's easy to access and the content is very interesting. But on the other hand, it's difficult. And there are no transcripts or records of the show that you can study with later.

**Jeremy:** So, should we talk about podcasts next?

**Andrew:** Yeah. Let's talk about podcasts. Jeremy, we are obviously big podcast fans and podcasters ourselves. So we're probably a little bit biased here. But in my opinion, podcasts are one of the best ways to study English.

**Jeremy:** Yeah, I agree. I have used podcasts for years to study Korean. And it has been absolutely invaluable.

**Andrew:** Right. Me as well. Actually, Jeremy, before you called me, I was listening to a Korean podcast. One of my new ways to study Korean with podcasts is to listen to movie review podcasts. So I watch the movie and then I listen to people talk about the movie afterwards on a podcast.

**Jeremy:** Great idea.

**Andrew:** And it's been a really cool way to study the language. And so this is, in my opinion, a huge benefit of podcasts is that there are so many different genres, so many different topics. And you can find a podcast about absolutely anything that interests you.

**Jeremy:** Sometimes some very strange things, too. But that's what makes it really cool. Also, I think it's great, because usually there's very good audio quality. Sometimes with the radio, you know, there's just kind of a far-away sounding voice. It's not very clear, right?

**Andrew:** Yup.

**Jeremy:** But podcasts are always **crystal clear**. And usually, like Andrew and I, the speaker will have a microphone right by their mouth. So the voice is very clear, easy to hear.

**Andrew:** Exactly. It's also great for repetitive listening, right? Since you have it downloaded onto your phone, it's really easy to just play again and again and again, which is something that you just can't do with the radio at all.

**Jeremy:** Correct. Yeah.

**Andrew:** Unless you do what I used to do when I was a kid, and that is record the radio with a cassette tape, then you could do it. But that's a lot of work.

**Jeremy:** The other thing I really like about podcasts is that you can take them with you anywhere and listen while you're doing almost anything. So I used to listen while I was running, or riding a bike, or doing the dishes. And doing repetitive listening while you do another thing, while you do another habitual thing, is a great way to create a new, repetitive listening habit. So if you listen every time you do the dishes, and you do the dishes every day, then you will make a habit of listening each day. And this will bring you better results from your language study.

**Andrew:** Right. Yeah, there's a lot of talk on the internet these days about passive immersion and passive listening, just while you're doing other things. So it's just like a way to spend time with English throughout your day while you're still getting other work done.

**Jeremy:** Really, it's a way to keep English in your life and add it into your daily routine so that you can keep up your exposure and your study will be more effective and probably more fun.

**Andrew:** And, in my opinion, the best thing about podcasts is that they are free.

**Jeremy:** Yeah, super free.

**Andrew:** Super free. I think there are only few podcasts that I know about that actually charge money to listen to the episode, where you actually have to pay to listen to the podcast. I would say almost 99% of podcasts are free and nobody is going to complain about this.

**Jeremy:** Yeah, I agree.

**Andrew:** Now, we should talk about some of the disadvantages to studying with podcasts, too. And, really, there aren't too many, but a couple come to mind. And, again, it's the issue of transcripts. Now here at Culips, we realize the value of transcripts. And this is why we make one for every episode and include it in our study guide. But for most podcasts, there are no transcripts. So I think this is a bummer for English language learners.

**Jeremy:** Yeah. And also, sometimes the podcasts can be very, very long, sometimes 2 or 3 hours. And this makes any repetition of that podcast very difficult. So I usually like to listen to podcasts that are 20 to maybe 40 minutes.

**Andrew:** Yeah, one of my favourite podcasts is called Hardcore History. And it's a history podcast, super interesting, great host. I love it. But each episode is like 5 hours long. It's crazy. It's like an audiobook. And it takes me forever to listen to one episode. So this is, I think, kind of a disadvantage, because it's just hard to stay focused for that long. And another disadvantage that comes to mind is that many podcasts have multiple hosts, multiple speakers. And because of this, they'll be talking over each other. They'll be **cutting each other off**, they'll be laughing a lot. And that can be hard for everyone to follow. Even native English speakers, sometimes we get lost when listening to these kind of roundtable podcasts.

**Jeremy:** Yeah, those are the hardest for me in Korean to listen to. That's why I prefer podcasts with two or maybe three people, if they don't talk too fast. But you're right, the constant interjection and laughing and other sounds make it quite difficult to follow what the speakers are saying.

**Andrew:** Right. So, listeners, if you're listening to these kinds of podcasts and you find them difficult to understand, well, don't worry, because sometimes we do as well.

**Jeremy:** That's true.

**Andrew:** OK, and quickly here, we will make sure that we don't have a 5-hour Hardcore History-esque podcast, we will evaluate our final listening source for today, which is audiobooks, audiobooks. Jeremy, have you ever studied a language using audiobooks before?

**Jeremy:** Honestly, no. I listen to audiobooks in English, often, but I haven't used them for Korean or Spanish. I tried listening to *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho in Spanish, but it was quite difficult for me. So it was hard to focus. And I couldn't go back to check anything because I've lost my place in the story.

**Andrew:** Yes, that can be an issue for sure, staying on track. I've had that happen to me before. But, recently, I started studying with audiobooks. And I found it to be a really great way to get some listening in throughout the day. I've been listening to a Korean audiobook and I have an app that I downloaded onto my phone that solves the problem that you had, Jeremy, of staying on track because it keeps your place for you. You can set a bookmark so that you don't lose your place. And one of the things that I really love about this app is that there is a sleep timer built in. So I can set it for 30 minutes and then have it turn off. And I can track how much I study during the day by just having that sleep timer on. It's a really cool feature. So what I do is I listen for about 30 minutes, and then I go back to my bookmark and listen again. So I'm able to get that repetitive listening in through the audiobook.

**Jeremy:** That's a great idea.



**Andrew:** You know, it's nice. Reading is one of the better ways to improve your vocabulary, you get exposed to a lot of more advanced, more specialized vocabulary that you don't really hear in everyday, casual conversation. You meet these kinds of words in novels and in nonfiction, as well. And also, of course, there are professional readers. So the audio is **crystal clear**. And you also have the book that you can buy to follow along with. So in my opinion, I think audiobooks are great for pushing yourself to get to that next level and improving your vocabulary, especially if you pair it with reading. So you're doing some reading time. And then, you know, while you're going about your day doing your dishes or cleaning your house, you can listen to the audiobook to get that repetitive element in.

**Jeremy:** But I think if we mentioned the cons, one will be, like I mentioned, the language was too difficult for my level of Spanish at the time, so I wasn't able to follow the story. And it was also hard to focus on the listening.

**Andrew:** Yes, that is a big con. And even some books that, **on the surface**, if you judge the book by the cover, they look easy, like, oh, this is, like, Harry Potter, it's gonna be easy, right? It's for kids. No. There's a lot of weird, obscure vocabulary in those kinds of books. And it can make understanding it very difficult and frustrating.

And we should also talk about the major disadvantage of studying with audiobooks, and that is that they are expensive, they are very, very expensive. And while I do think it's a great way to study, I haven't purchased too many audiobooks, because, well, they're expensive.

**Jeremy:** Yeah, they can be quite expensive.

**Andrew:** Yeah, maybe if you could use the library or something, that would be great. But purchasing them is not cheap. And, obviously, that makes for a major con, in my books.

**Jeremy:** These days, some libraries have digital access to their audiobooks, so you can get some for free. So you should check with your local library to see if they have a website or an app that would let you listen to their audiobooks. I know there is one in my area, where I live. So hopefully there is one near you, as well.

**Andrew:** All right, everyone, I think we will wrap things up here. Thank you for listening to this episode with us today. We hope that you learned a lot and we hope that you'll get out there and spend a lot of time listening to English content to improve your English skills, not just with Culips, but with a variety of sources, because variety is the spice of life. And it's the thing that will help you stay motivated and focused on your ultimate goal of becoming fluent in English, right?



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One more time, I want to let you know about our website, Culips.com. It's the place where you can access our past episodes and also sign up to become a Culips member. That's a great way to support us and to help us keep doing what we're doing. But it's not the only way to support us. You could also tell your friends about Culips. You could follow us on social media. Or you could also leave us a five-star rating and a nice review on Apple Podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts. We will be back soon with another episode. And we'll talk to you then. Goodbye.

**Jeremy:** Bye, everyone.

## Detailed Explanations

### Off to the races

Idiomatic expression

**Off to the races** is an idiomatic expression that means you are in midst of an activity. In this episode, Andrew says that radio is nice because you simply turn it on and then you're **off to the races**. In other words, Andrew is saying that listening to the radio doesn't require any preparation like searching, buying, or going anywhere specific. You simply turn on the radio and you can start practising your English listening skills as soon as it's on.

We can also break down the phrase **off to the races** to understand its meaning a little better. If you go somewhere, it can be said that you are going off to that place. For example, saying you're **off to work** means you're leaving for work, or saying he's **off to the store** means he's going to the store. The races originally referred to horseraces, which were very popular a few decades ago.

Here are a couple more examples with **off to the races**:

**Lauren:** Are the bags all packed?

**Henry:** Yes, honey.

**Lauren:** Did you remember Janey's sand toys?

**Henry:** Yup, I packed them with the beach towels.

**Lauren:** OK, then I guess we're all set.

**Henry:** All right, family, get in the car. We're **off to the races**! Sunnydale Beach, here we come!

**Boss:** How are things on the production line today, Mr. Panjeti?

**Manager:** Excellent, sir. We hit a few snags in the morning, but now we're **off to the races**. It should be a very productive day.

**Boss:** Great to hear. Keep up the good work.

**Manager:** Thank you, sir. We'll do our best.

## Geeky

Slang adjective

A geek is a socially awkward and unfashionable person who is usually really interested in things that are not considered “cool.” Thus, the word **geeky** describes a person or thing that is considered unfashionable, uncool, or a little bit weird. A **geeky** appearance includes glasses, unfashionable clothes, and a bad haircut. Stereotypically **geeky** pastimes include gaming, playing Dungeons & Dragons, playing chess, watching Star Wars or Star Trek, or playing an instrument in a marching band. However, the distinction between what is considered **geeky** and what’s not is continuously changing.

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

**Gemma:** What do you think of my new t-shirt?

**Heather:** Oh my goodness! It’s so **geeky**. I love it!

**Gemma:** I know, right?! I saw it online the other day and I just HAD to buy it.

**Heather:** I can see why. It’s amazing. Everyone in math class is gonna be so jealous of that shirt.

**Mom:** Honey, I bought you some new clothes for school. Go try them on and see how they fit.

**Terrence:** OK, Mom.

**Mom:** So, how were they? Does everything fits all right?

**Terrence:** Yeah, everything fits, but I’m not sure if I’ll actually wear this one.

**Mom:** What? Why not? It looks so clean and professional.

**Terrence:** Nobody wears clothes like this to school, Mom. It looks kinda **geeky**.

**Mom:** Well, the kids in your school wear their pants around their ankles and have rips in their jeans. They don’t know what fashionable really means.

## Fleeting Adjective

**Fleeting** means to last for a very short period of time. In this episode, Andrew and Jeremy say that one of the downsides of listening to the radio is that it's **fleeting**. In other words, they believe listening to the radio is not the best way to practise your English listening, because the conversations you hear on the radio are **fleeting**—you hear them once and then they're gone. This is unlike podcasts, videos, and audiobooks, which are all recorded so you can listen to them as many times as you want, at any time of the day.

The word **fleeting** is often used to describe thinking about something for a brief time or seeing something very briefly. For example, people often go on tours to get **fleeting** glimpses of whales and dolphins when the animals come up for air. Or a man might have a **fleeting** idea to become a musician before he gives it up to pursue a more stable career.

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

**Frankie:** How's your daughter these days? Is she still into ballet?

**Marabelle:** Ha, no. Her interests are always very **fleeting**. She quit ballet and moved on to gymnastics. I'm sure she'll want to quit that soon, too, in pursuit of something else.

**Frankie:** Any guesses what the next obsession will be?

**Marabelle:** Hopefully something that doesn't require a lot of equipment. I'm sick of buying all of these outfits and things just to have them end up in the closet gathering dust.

**Randal:** You see that girl over there? She's in my chemistry class. I really like her.

**Sean:** You should ask her out, then!

**Randal:** What if she says no?

**Sean:** Then you move on or try again later. Life is **fleeting**. Don't waste your time and energy worrying about the what-ifs. Just go do it.

**Randal:** You're right. I'll go ask her right now.

**Sean:** That's the spirit! Go get her, man. I'm rooting for you.

## Crystal clear Adjective

To be **crystal clear** is to be extremely obvious and easy to understand. If your teacher gives you **crystal clear** instructions, then her instructions are perfectly easy to understand and require no further questions.

**Crystal clear** can also be used to describe something that is extremely clean or high quality, like **crystal clear** water or **crystal clear** audio.

Here are a couple more examples with **crystal clear**:

**Ms. Frederick:** What we just discussed in this meeting is confidential. Do you understand? You cannot talk about this with your friends or your family.

**Jack:** Yes, ma'am.

**Ms. Frederick:** Good. If you were to talk about this to someone else and I find out about it, there will be dire consequences. I hope I've made myself clear.

**Jack:** **Crystal clear**, ma'am. I won't say a word.

**Ms. Frederick:** Excellent. Then, you are free to go, Mr. Smith. I'll see you at our next meeting.

**Danny:** Wow, these headphones are amazing!

**Ian:** I know. They're the best!

**Danny:** Totally. The audio is **crystal clear** and they block all outside noise. If I turn these babies up, I can't hear you even if you shout right next to my ear.

**Ian:** Exactly. They weren't cheap, but they're worth every penny I paid for them.

**Danny:** You're spoiled now. You won't be able to tolerate the quality of any other headphone after using these. Be careful with them.

## To cut [someone] off

Phrasal verb

**To cut [someone] off** has multiple meanings, but in this episode we will talk about what it means **to cut [someone] off** in conversation. **To cut [someone] off** in conversation is to interrupt someone while they're talking so that you can say something yourself. It is usually considered very rude **to cut [someone] off** in conversation. Therefore, instead of simply **cutting [someone] off**, it's better to say something like, "Excuse me, could I say something first before you continue?"

Here are a couple more examples with **to cut [someone] off**:

**Lenny:** So, if you do it just the right way it will –

**Tyler:** Hey, what do you think about going to this concert with me this weekend?

**Lenny:** Dude, I'm trying to show you something, and you totally just **cut me off** right now. Pay attention.

**Tyler:** Sorry, you're right. That was rude. What were you saying?

**Lenny:** Ugh. You **cut me off**, and now I don't remember what I was going to say.

**Riley:** Hey, Vin! So nice to hear from you! How have you been?

**Vin:** I'm doing well, and you?

**Riley:** Oh, really well. I just went to the hair salon today and got a new hairdo. Also, just yesterday I ran into Betty. You remember Betty, right? So, I ran into Betty and –

**Vin:** Sorry **to cut you off**, Riley, but I don't have much time to talk. I just called to ask you a quick question.

**Riley:** Oh, no problem. What is it?

**Vin:** We're having a party for Maddie's birthday in a few weeks and I was wondering if you'd be willing to make one of your famous chocolate cakes for the party.

**Riley:** I'd love to. You know how much I adore little Maddie.

**Vin:** Thanks, Riley. I really do have to go now, but let's talk soon. Thanks again!

## On the surface

### Idiom

The idiom **on the surface** refers to the outward appearance of something or the obvious details about something. The surface of something is the outside part of something or the most visible layer. For example, we often refer to the dirt we walk on as the surface of the Earth. However, there is much more going on underneath our feet. Under the surface of the Earth, there may be tunnels dug by animals, caves, underwater streams, and, even farther below that, you can find the Earth's mantle and inner core.

Thus, if you only look **on the surface** of something, you are only noticing the most superficially obvious parts of something. For example, a house might look very tidy and proper **on the surface**, from the outside, but on the inside, the house could be a total disaster area filled with dirt and clutter. As another example, a businessman could appear confident, calm, and enthusiastic **on the surface**, but, deep down, he could feel insecure and unsatisfied with his career and his life. The phrase **on the surface** refers to the fact that not everything is exactly as it might first appear.

Here are a couple more examples with **on the surface**:

**Paulina:** So, Josh and I broke up over the weekend.

**Stacey:** What? You guys were like the perfect couple! You even wore matching outfits up until last week.

**Paulina:** Yeah, I guess **on the surface** we might have appeared pretty perfect, huh? But we fought a lot and we haven't really made enough time for each other lately.

**Stacey:** Wow, I don't know what to say. Well, I'm here for you, whatever you need.

**Paulina:** Thanks, Stacey. That means a lot.

**Cara:** Ugh. Why is Dad such a grump? He never lets me do anything fun, and he's always lecturing me about how to act.

**Mom:** You know, **on the surface** it may seem like your Dad is being unfair, but he does those things because he cares about you and he wants to make sure you stay safe.

**Cara:** Yeah, I know, but doesn't he trust me? I can take care of myself.

**Mom:** It's not that he doesn't trust you. It's that he doesn't trust others. You've gotta be careful as you grow older and go out in the world without us.



## Quiz

**1. Which word means to be uncool or unfashionable?**

- a) chic
- b) grippy
- c) geeky
- d) jazzy

**2. What goes in the blank? He appeared brave \_\_\_\_\_, but he was actually a big coward.**

- a) on the edge
- b) on the surface
- c) in the races
- d) in the face

**3. Which word has the opposite meaning of lasting or long term?**

- a) lengthy
- b) flighty
- c) sturdy
- d) fleeting

**4. True or false? It is usually considered rude to cut someone off in conversation.**

- a) true
- b) false

**5. In the phrase “crystal clear,” what could the word crystal mean?**

- a) poor
- b) barely
- c) completely
- d) somewhat

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## Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Out of the methods talked about in this episode, what is your favourite way to practise English listening: audiobooks, radio, or podcasts? Why?
2. Choose one new method of listening practice that you would like to try in the future. Why did you pick that one?
3. Would you consider yourself a geeky person? Why or why not?
4. Have you ever misjudged something or someone based upon what you saw on the surface? How did it differ from the reality?
5. Have you ever had a dream or goal that you considered pursuing fleetingly, but then decided to give up? What was it? Why did you decided to give it up?

## Quiz Answers

1.c    2.b    3.d    4.a    5.c

### Episode credits

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