

Catch Word #171 – Take your eyes out

Episode Description

Do you want to jazz up your morning or evening routine with some fun expressions? Join Andrew and Morag as they introduce and explain some idioms related to getting ready for the day and getting ready for bed.

Sample Dialogue

- Morag: Let me tell you. I had a friend who left her contact lenses in for way longer than they should have been, and she got an ulcer in her eye.
- Andrew: Oh, what?
- Morag: Yeah, it is a terrible, terrible idea to leave your contact lenses in.
- Andrew: Ugh, that makes me so **squeamish**.
- Morag: Always **take your eyes out** before you go to bed. Always.

Expressions Included in the Learning Materials

- To put your eyes in/to take your eyes out
- To put your face on/to take your face off
- In the end
- To take your time
- To be squeamish



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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.

Transcript

Andrew: Hi, I'm Andrew.

Morag: And I'm Morag.

Andrew: And you are listening to Culips.

Morag: If you want to learn English for everyday use, you've come to the right place. At Culips, we help make English understandable. By listening to our podcast, you can learn natural expressions and conversational structure. If you're interested in learning more about Culips and what we do, check us out on Facebook, Twitter, or our website, Culips.com. Thanks for listening. We hope you enjoy this episode.

Andrew: Hey Morag. How's it going?

Morag: Pretty good, Andrew. And you?

Andrew: I'm good. What's new? What've you been up to recently?

Morag: Well, I've actually started doing some language learning of my own.

Andrew: Oh, yeah? What language?

Morag: Well, as you know, I'm living in Montreal, and it is primarily a French-speaking city. So I've decided to do some intensive French courses to get my French better, so I can be more a part of the Montreal culture.

Andrew: Wow, very cool.

Morag: Yeah. It's a ... It's a lot of work though. It's not easy learning a language, especially with different accents and different slang. It's kinda of crazy.

Andrew: When I took French classes in Montreal, my class was very multicultural. Everybody was speaking with a different accent.

Morag: I definitely understand that one. I find it really hard to understand, uh, people who speak Portuguese as a first language speaking French. For some reason, that one is really hard for me, but, uh, you gotta learn.

Andrew: Yup. It, uh, will only make you better **in the end**.

Morag: Mmhmm.

Andrew: Cool. Well, today, we are going to do a Catchword episode. And in a Catchword episode, we define and explain and give examples for some interesting expressions or idioms, or maybe even proverbs. But today, we just have a couple of cool expressions that you can use when you are either getting ready to go out, or maybe, getting ready to go to bed.

Morag: Yes. Now, the first one, I don't have as much experience with. We're talking about **to put your eyes in** or **take your eyes out**. Do you **take your eyes out**, Andrew?

Andrew: I don't wear contact lenses or glasses, so I don't have **to put my eyes in** or **take my eyes out**. But my dad does. And every night, he has **to take his eyes out**, and every morning before he goes to work, he has **to put his eyes in**.

Morag: He puts in contact lenses, and his eyes are in?

Andrew: Exactly. So if you haven't guessed yet, the eyes in this expression are contact lenses.

Morag: I guess that makes sense. It's the eyes that you need because your real eyes, or your natural eyes, don't work so well.

Andrew: Yeah. They need a little help.

Morag: Yeah. Mmhmm, they need more eyes.

Andrew: And when you first hear this expression—if you hear somebody say, “Oh, give me 5 minutes. I just have **to take my eyes out**.” I'm like, what? “**Take my eyes out**”—what are you talking about? But yeah, in this context, eyes mean contact lenses.

Morag: Mmhmm.

Andrew: And yeah, I think that's pretty much it. It's a pretty straightforward definition. And so once again, the two expressions are **to put your eyes in** or **to take your eyes out**. So, how about we give some examples using these two expressions?

Morag: Sure.

Morag:	Can you give me a ride to work?
Andrew:	Sure, no problem. When do we need to leave?
Morag:	As soon as possible.
Andrew:	Oh, OK. Um, well, let me just go put my eyes in , and then, we can leave.
Morag:	Oh, OK. Thanks.

Andrew: So we just heard an example where someone needed **to put their eyes in** before he gave his friend a ride to work because it's very dangerous to drive if you need contact lenses or glasses, and you're not wearing any.

Morag: It's a very bad idea, yes.

Andrew: It's a bad idea. So this guy, he realized that, and he decided **to put his eyes in** before he drove his friend to work. Let's do one more example with these expressions.

Andrew:	Honey, are you coming to bed?
Morag:	Yes, I'm just gonna finish reading this chapter of a book, and then, I have to take my eyes out .
Andrew:	OK. Well, I'm going to sleep now. Goodnight.
Morag:	All right. Goodnight.

Morag: In this example, the woman had **to take her eyes out** before she finally went to bed, so she didn't leave her contact lenses in all night. But because she was still reading a book, she left them in for a little while longer.

Andrew: Exactly. And I don't wear contact lenses, so I don't know. But I'm sure some people out there have fallen asleep with their contact lenses in, and it probably sucks.

Morag: Oh, my gosh! Let me tell you. I had a friend who left her contact lenses in for way longer than they should have been, and she got an ulcer in her eye.

Andrew: Oh, what?

Morag: Yeah, it is a terrible, terrible idea to leave your contact lenses in.

Andrew: Ugh, that makes me so **squeamish**.

- Morag: Always **take your eyes out** before you go to bed. Always.
- Andrew: Very good advice, I think. Excellent advice.
- Morag: Yes.
- Andrew: OK, cool. Well, let's move on to our second set of expressions for today. What are they, Morag?
- Morag: Our second set of expressions are **to put your face on** and **to take your face off**. Now, this is something that I have a lot more experience with because I am a girl, and I do like to wear makeup. So before I go out, I **put my face on**. I put on my makeup. And always, again, before you go to bed, I have **to take my face off**.
- Andrew: So face is not talking about your actual face, right? Because it's impossible to take that off. It's talking about the makeup that you put onto your face.
- Morag: Mmhmm. It's the face on your face, in some way.
- Andrew: Yeah, the face on your face. Exactly.
- Morag: Face, yes. The drawn on face on your real face. Yeah.
- Andrew: And I'm curious—because I don't wear makeup, so I honestly don't say this expression too much—but do you use this expression often in your day-to-day life?
- Morag: I actually do. It's a little bit of a joke sometimes, but I do use it. Um, I'll definitely say that I need **to put my face on**. It has the sense that it's some kind of protection or preparation for going out into the world though. So I'd say that for, like, a night out where I really have to look good. I have **to put my face on** because my real face isn't good enough. Does that make sense? I mean it's not completely true, but that's sort of the sense that it carries when I use it.
- Andrew: OK. Yeah, I understand. So you need to put on sort of a special look, a special face, for a big event or something.
- Morag: Exactly. You have to ... You have to put on a good face to go out.
- Andrew: Cool.
- Morag: Yeah.
- Andrew: I understand. OK. Well, I think we are ready to give some dialogue examples with these expressions. So let's do it.
- Morag: All right.

Andrew: Are you ready to go soon? If we don't leave in the next 15 minutes, we're gonna be late for this dinner party.

Morag: Oh, just a second! I'm almost done **putting my face on**.

Andrew: OK. Well, hurry up.

Morag: Yeah, yeah.

Andrew: OK. In this example, we heard a couple bickering at each other. The guy is impatient. He wants to leave because he is worried about being late to the dinner party, and his girlfriend is still **putting her face on**. She's putting on some makeup to get ready to go out for the evening. So this is a classic situation where one partner is impatient and wants to go, and the other one's **taking their time**. So that's an example where somebody is **putting on their face**.

Morag: Just to say though, it does take a ridiculously long amount of time to do makeup well. That's something I don't think everybody appreciates.

Andrew: Mmm, I think you're right.

Morag: Yeah.

Andrew: I think you're right. Sometimes us guys, we don't really know what goes on in the bathroom when ladies are getting ready.

Morag: Yeah.

Andrew: It's a mystery to us.

Morag: Yeah. Well, it's quite a process, so, you know, be nice.

Andrew: Yes, yes. That's the moral of this example: be nice.

Morag: Yeah, yeah.

Andrew: Good. Let's jump to our final example for today.

Morag: All right.

Morag:	Oh, man. I was so tired last night. I fell asleep without taking my face off .
Andrew:	Oh no.
Morag:	Yeah. I'm worried I'm going to get a pimple or something.
Andrew:	Ah, don't worry about it. You'll be fine. Your skin's great.

Morag: So in this example, the woman committed a major beauty sin, and she went to sleep without **taking her face off**, without taking all of her makeup off. And that can be cause for concern because it can clog your pores and make everything not so happy on your face. But her friend reassured her that everything's probably fine. But, moral of this story, you really should take your makeup off before you go to sleep. Always **take your face off**.

Andrew: Always **take your face off**. OK, well, next time I actually **put a face on**, I'll remember this.

Morag: Take it off.

Andrew: And make sure **to take my face off** before I go to bed.

Morag: Yeah, I guess there's similar morals for both of these expressions. Always **take your eyes out**, and **always take your face off**.

Andrew: Mmhmm, exactly. Exactly.

Good. Well, I think that's all we have time for today. I again wanna thank everybody for listening. And please remember to check out our Facebook page, and our homepage, Culips.com. It's the place where you can learn about becoming a Culips member, and find all of our back episodes. So check out those two sites on the internet, and take care. We'll talk to you soon. Bye!

Morag: Bye, everyone.

Detailed Explanations

To put your eyes in/to take your eyes out

To put your eyes in and **to take your eyes out** are key expressions discussed in this episode. In these idioms, the eyes are a metaphor for contact lenses. So **to put your eyes in** means to insert your contact lenses, and **to take your eyes out** means to remove your contact lenses.

To put your eyes in and **to take your eyes out** are a fun and casual way of talking about the mundane daily activity of putting in and taking out contact lenses.

Here's one more example with **to put your eyes in**:

Yves:	Do you think it's gonna be sunny today?
Greta:	Hmm, let me check the weather forecast. Yes, it looks like it's going to be a beautiful sunny day!
Yves:	That's annoying. My prescription sunglasses broke the other day. If I wear my regular glasses, I'll be blinded by the sun!
Greta:	How dramatic! Why don't you just put your eyes in ? This situation is exactly what contact lenses were made for.
Yves:	You're right! I forgot about them. Good thinking, Greta.

To put your face on/to take your face off

To put your face on and **to take your face off** are the second set of key expressions in this episode. Like **to put your eyes in** and **to take your eyes out**, in these idioms, face is a metaphor for makeup. In other words, **to put your face on** means to apply makeup, and **to take your face off** means to remove makeup.

Here's one more example with **to take your face off**:

Carmen:	Do you still want to go to the gym soon?
Jim:	Yeah. I'm ready to go at any time.
Carmen:	OK. Give me a minute. I need to take my face off and get changed.
Jim:	No problem.

In the end

In the end has two meanings: after a long series of events and after everything has been considered.

In this episode, Morag talks about having trouble understanding other people learning to speak French, and Andrew says that learning how to understand different accents will make her better ***in the end***. In other words, Andrew is saying that after a long period of learning, Morag will eventually overcome her current difficulties and be a stronger French speaker.

In the end can also mean after all factors have been considered. For example, when shopping for new pants, you might say, “***In the end***, I chose to buy the grey jeans.” This use of ***in the end*** means that you’ve considered all your options thoroughly and chosen the one that is right for you.

Here are a couple more examples with ***in the end***:

Susan:	Hey Mark. How did apartment hunting go? Did you find a good place?
Mark:	It didn't go well, Susan. I'm pretty sure looking for apartments is one of the worst activities.
Susan:	Oh no! Where are you going to live?
Mark:	Well, <i>in the end</i> , I decided to keep my current place! I wasn't finding anything decent, and the hunt was getting me down.
Susan:	That's a shame.

Isla:	Do you remember Jason?
Henry:	Jason from high school?
Isla:	Yeah, that's the one. I ran into him on the street the other day.
Henry:	Last time I saw that guy, he was set on becoming the next big YouTube personality. What did he decide to do <i>in the end</i> ?
Isla:	He said he was studying weaving. Of all things! He was always such a strange dude.

To take your time

When someone **takes their time**, they are slowly and carefully working on a task. So when someone **takes their time** to do something, they are moving at a leisurely and laid-back pace.

In one of the examples in this episode, one person is really **taking their time** getting ready, which means they are not in a hurry to get ready for the evening.

Taking your time on something often means that it gets done to a high standard, but not at all quickly. Thus, **taking your time** can be either positive or negative, depending on the context and who you ask!

Here are a couple more examples with **to take your time**:

Robert: My sister is coming tomorrow evening for a visit. Can we clean the house tomorrow morning?

Lindsey: Will we have enough time to get everything done?

Robert: Good question. You might have a point. I don't think we have time to make everything sparkle. I think it would be best **to take our time** with the kitchen and bathrooms—that's what people notice the most!

Lindsey: I agree. Let's clean them thoroughly, and just do a quick sweep in the living room.

Robert: Sounds like a plan!

Dave: I really want to watch "30 Rock." Do you still have my DVDs?

Samantha: No, I lent them to Laura. Remember?

Dave: That was months ago!

Samantha: Yeah, she's really **taking her time** getting them back to me.

Dave: Well, can you ask her for them? I need my Liz Lemon fix!

To be squeamish

To be squeamish means to be easily upset or disgusted by unpleasant things.

In this episode, Andrew says he feels squeamish when Morag mentions her friend's eye ulcer. An eye ulcer is gross and unpleasant, and if you feel sick or physically ill just from the idea, then you are **squeamish** too!

The most common thing **to be squeamish** about is blood. The sight of blood physically upsets many people, even though it isn't a danger to them. Some people may even become sick or faint at the sight of it. If someone has this type of reaction—easily shocked and upset by something unpleasant but harmless—they are being **squeamish**.

Here are a couple more examples with **to be squeamish**:

Shelly:	How was your trip back home?
Karl:	It was great to see my family again. I especially enjoyed catching up with my sister. I'm so proud of her.
Shelly:	Oh yeah? What's she doing these days?
Karl:	She's nearly done her PhD. She wants to be a cardiac surgeon!
Shelly:	Wow! I could never do that. I'm so squeamish . I can't even talk about blood without feeling sick to my stomach.
Karl:	I couldn't do it either! I'm glad there are people who can though. Someone has to save our lives!

Emily:	Do you like horror movies?
Mike:	I love horror movies! My older brother was a huge fan, so I grew up watching tons of them. Why?
Emily:	I love going to see horror movies in theatres, but I can't do it alone. My boyfriend is too squeamish to come with me.
Mike:	I understand your troubles. I don't know a lot of other people who like watching them either. Want to be horror movie buddies?
Emily:	That sounds great!

Quiz

1. In the expression *to take your eyes out*, what are the eyes?
 - a) glasses
 - b) eyeballs
 - c) contact lenses
 - d) sunglasses

2. Which of the following idioms can be used to talk about removing makeup?
 - a) to put on a brave face
 - b) to be in your face
 - c) to put your face on
 - d) to take your face off

3. What does the expression *in the end* mean?
 - a) after everything has been considered
 - b) after a short period of learning
 - c) after a snap decision
 - d) none of the above

4. If you are taking your time, what are you doing?
 - a) rushing
 - b) going slowly
 - c) working
 - d) walking

5. Which of these things would likely make someone squeamish?
 - a) a kitten
 - b) a dirty glass
 - c) a test
 - d) a broken limb

Quiz Answers

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

Episode Credits

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