

Catch Word #185 – Stat!

Episode description

We're all in a hurry sometimes! In this Catch Word episode, Andrew and Morag explain three terms that you can use when you are in a rush: pronto, stat, and ASAP. Don't delay and listen today!

Fun fact

ASAP, which stands for as soon as possible, was coined by the United States Army. Its first recorded use was in 1955, making it a recent addition to English dictionaries.

Expressions included in the learning materials

- Pronto
- Stat
- ASAP
- A segue
- To strike fear into [someone's] heart



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: Hey everybody. My name is Andrew.

Morag: And my name is Morag.

Andrew: And we're back with another Culips episode. Hi Morag.

Morag: Hey Andrew.

Andrew: How are you? What's new?

Morag: I'm doing all right. Pretty busy lately. It's not all bad though. Um, I'm really getting excited for a little work trip with some co-workers from the bar. We are going up to a *cabane à sucre*.

Andrew: Ooh, a sugar shack.

Morag: Yes. In English, a sugar shack. I've never been.

Andrew: Ah, you know, I lived in Quebec for 4 years, but unfortunately, I never went to one either. It's really a shame, but I'll have to do that sometime, sooner or later.

Morag: You just have to come visit at the right time.

Andrew: Maybe you could tell all our listeners what a sugar shack is.

Morag: It's a place where people go to eat and drink things that involve maple syrup because it's the season when the syrup starts to flow, I believe.

Andrew: That sounds about right.

Morag: Mmhmm.

Andrew: Well, I hope you have a good time, and your blood sugar doesn't rise too much. But we should record an episode about the sugar shack when you get back. You can tell us all the details.

Morag: Sounds great.

Andrew: Cool, Morag. Well, let's get started with today's episode **stat!**

Morag: Hmm!

Andrew: Today, we're going to do a Catch Word episode. And in a Catch Word episode, we teach you some informal or slang expressions that are connected. And today, we actually have three expressions for you.

Morag: Ooh.

Andrew: This is a bonus because usually we only do two, but today, three informal adverbs that can be used to talk about doing something immediately, or doing something very quickly. This is our theme for today.

And so first, we'll introduce you to all three expressions. Then we'll examine them closely one by one. So, Morag, what are those three adverbs that we're looking at today? Could you just introduce them to everybody?

Morag: Absolutely. They are **pronto**, **stat**, and **ASAP**.

Andrew: Yes.

Morag: Yeah.

Andrew: **Pronto**, **stat**, and **ASAP**. Very good. So let's look at that first one, **pronto**. **Pronto, P-R-O-N-T-O**—I really think this is a fun expression. Our Spanish listeners will already know the meaning of this word because **pronto** actually entered English via Spanish. But when you do something **pronto**, you do it right now. You do it quickly, without any delay, without waiting at all.

Morag: I needed a cup of coffee this morning **pronto**.

Andrew: As soon as you woke up?

Morag: After the shower, yes. Just wake up, shower, coffee. Good, yeah.

Andrew: So exactly. We can use this expression just like Morag did right now, to say that we need to do something immediately.

Morag: Mmhmm.

Andrew: Hey Morag, this expression really doesn't need too much more explanation. I think we can hop right into some examples.

Morag: Great.

Employee 1: Can I see the sales report you worked on? I want to brief myself before the clients arrive for the meeting.

Employee 2: Sure, one second. I'm almost done.

Employee 1: You're not done yet? Hurry up! I need that report **pronto**. The clients will be here any minute.

Andrew: In this example, a boss is disappointed in one of her employees because he hasn't finished a report yet. She tells the employee to finish the report **pronto**. In other words, she wants him to finish it immediately. That report's gotta be done. Those clients are coming.

Morag: Right now, yeah.

Andrew: Let's listen to example number two.

Friend 1: Can you send me the photos from the party last weekend?

Friend 2: Sure, no problem. I'll email them to you **pronto**.

Friend 1: Awesome. Thanks.

Morag: In this example, a guy asks his friend to send him the photos she took at last weekend's party. She promises to send them **pronto**. Let's listen to that part of the example again.

Friend 2: Sure, no problem. I'll email them to you **pronto**. Sure, no problem. I'll email them to you **pronto**.

Morag: So here, **pronto** means very quickly or right away. She will send the photos to him immediately.

Andrew: What a good friend.

Morag: I know. I often say I'm going to do it right away and then forget.

Andrew: You sound like me.

Morag: Great! At least we're not alone.

Andrew: At least we're not alone, eh Morag?

Morag: Yeah.

- Andrew: Let's get to our second expression for today. And it has almost exactly the same meaning as **pronto**.
- Morag: Mmhmm.
- Andrew: This word is **stat**.
- Morag: It even comes from the same language family, from Latin this time.
- Andrew: **Stat** is spelled **S-T-A-T**, **stat**. And if you watch a lot of hospital dramas on TV, you've almost definitely heard this expression before because the word was originally used only in medical contexts. But I think because it was so popular on TV in these medical TV shows, that now we can really use it in many different kinds of contexts, can't we?
- Morag: Yeah. I've definitely used **stat** in other contexts, although usually I think I'm referencing medical dramas, or I'm being silly.
- Andrew: Of course, **stat** means, just like **pronto**, it means doing something right away, doing something immediately without waiting. Just getting right to it. Now there is one difference between **pronto** and **stat** that I feel is important to mention. And that is, most of the time when we use the expression **stat**, we are giving a command. We are telling somebody else to do something very quickly. We are telling somebody else to hurry up.
- And you can use this expression to talk about yourself, but I would say maybe 98% of the time it's a command.
- Morag: Yeah, or it's just saying that something is necessary. I think it comes from the medical context, right, where it would be writing down, "Somebody needs this procedure immediately!" So it's either giving a command or stating a fact or an urgent need. You're not so much saying that something will be done or that you're ... You are going to do it.
- Andrew: Let's listen to some examples using this expression, **stat**.

- Nurse: This patient was just in an accident at work. He's conscious, but he's lost a lot of blood.
- Doctor: We'll need to perform emergency surgery right away. Take him to the OR **stat!** I'll meet you there in a moment.
- Nurse: Got it.

Andrew: In this example, a doctor tells a nurse that a patient needs emergency surgery and asks her to take the patient to the OR, to the operating room, the OR, **stat**! Of course, here **stat** means immediately. So the doctor asks the nurse to hurry up and take the patient to the OR right away.

Morag: This is a classic example.

Andrew: Let's take a listen to our second example with **stat**.

Employee 1: Wow, what a long day.

Employee 2: I know, right? I'm starving and exhausted.

Employee 1: Me too. I need some food **stat**!

Employee 2: There's a nice Japanese restaurant right around the corner. Do you want some sushi?

Employee 1: Yeah. Let's do it.

Morag: In this example, two co-workers complain about being tired and hungry after a long day of work. One of them says he needs food **stat**. Let's listen to that part one more time.

Employee 1: I need some food **stat**! I need some food **stat**!

Morag: So he needs to eat right away. He's very hungry and needs to eat immediately. I know that feeling.

Andrew: Yeah, I feel a kinship with this character because he sounds like me.

Morag: I do the same thing, Andrew. When you're really busy ...

Andrew: Mmhmm.

Morag: It's sometimes hard to make sure you get enough food. And then all of a sudden, you need something **ASAP**.

Andrew: Ooh, nice **segue**, nice **segue**.

Morag: Thanks.

Andrew: I have the feeling that this next expression, **ASAP**, will be the one that our listeners are most familiar with. And this is because it's very common in speaking and in writing. The full expression is as soon as possible. But we can cut that down, and we have two pronunciations: one is **ASAP**, or the more common one, I think, is **ASAP**.

Morag: **ASAP** is more common.

Andrew: Yeah. We use this all the time when we want to express that we need something done immediately. We need it done as soon as possible.

Morag: Yeah. So whenever you need something done immediately, or you're going to do something immediately, you can use **ASAP** or **ASAP** to show that it needs to get done right now, or as soon as possible.

Andrew: Mhmm. It's a priority and it is urgent. All right, Morag, let's listen to some examples with this third expression today, **ASAP**.

Employee 1: Hello? Sandy's office.

Employee 2: Hi. Could I speak to Sandy?

Employee 1: I'm sorry. She's busy at the moment. Can I get your name and number, and I'll get her to call you right back?

Employee 2: Yeah, this is Pam from the marketing department. I need to talk to Sandy about an upcoming meeting. If you could get her to call me back **ASAP**, that would be great.

Employee 1: Sure thing. I'll make sure to pass the message right along to her.

Andrew: In this example, Pam from the marketing department tries to call her co-worker, Sandy, but Sandy isn't available. Pam asks the secretary to get Sandy to call her back **ASAP**. She needs to talk to Sandy as soon as possible. The sooner, the better.

So here we can see that **ASAP** means immediately. There's no time to lose.

Morag: There's nothing like **ASAP** in a work email that can **strike fear into your heart**.

Andrew: This is a fantastic email expression.

Morag: Very useful.

Andrew: Yes. Very, very useful. So use it in your next email, guys. It's a fun one. Morag, let's get to that last example.

Morag: Sounds good.

Friend 1: Oh man, the weather today is amazing.

Friend 2: Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

Friend 1: That we should get to the beach **ASAP**?

Friend 2: Oh yeah!

Friend 1: Perfect. I'm ready to go any time.

Friend 2: Cool. Let me just pack a few things, and we can take off.

Morag: In this example, two friends decided that they should go to the beach **ASAP**. That's because the weather is beautiful, and they want to spend as much time as they can outside. So again here, **ASAP** or **ASAP** means immediately. The two friends want to leave for the beach **ASAP**. They want to leave for the beach right away.

Andrew: Morag, that brings us to the end of today's episode. And as always, I want to thank everybody for tuning in. We really do appreciate it, and we hope that you learned a lot with us here today.

If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions for us, please drop us a line. You can get in touch with us through our Facebook page, which is facebook.com/culipspodcast, or you can email me directly. My address is andrew@culips.com.

Morag: You can also find more episodes of the show at Culips.com or wherever you get your podcasts.

Andrew: We will be back soon with another episode, everyone, so please stay tuned.

Morag: Talk to you soon. Goodbye.

Andrew: Goodbye.

Announcer: The best way to study with Culips is by becoming a Culips member. When you become a Culips member, you will get full transcripts, detailed vocabulary explanations, and quizzes for each episode. Visit Culips.com—that's C-U-L-I-P-S.com—to sign up and become a member.

Detailed Explanations

Pronto

The first key expression from this episode is the adverb **pronto**. **Pronto** means immediately and without delay. For example, if someone says that they're expecting their friend to arrive **pronto**, they mean that they're expecting their friend to show up right away.

Here's one more example with **pronto**:

Jackie: Hey, do you think you can give me a ride to work? They asked me to come in **pronto**.

Harold: Yeah, I can give you a ride right away.

Stat

Stat, our second key expression from this episode, was originally just a medical term. It comes from *statim*, which is Latin for immediately. Like **pronto**, **stat** means quickly and without delay. As Andrew and Morag mention, **stat** is often used as an order or a command.

Here's one more example with **stat**:

Ben: I have a nosebleed. Get me a Kleenex **stat**!

Susan: OK.

ASAP

ASAP, our third key expression from this episode, stands for as soon as possible. So, like **pronto** and **stat**, **ASAP** means straightaway. For example, if someone tells you that they need something from you **ASAP**, they mean that they need something from you at once!

Here's one more example with **ASAP**:

Hannah: Hey, do you have the report that I asked you for yesterday?

Joel: No, but I'll get it to you **ASAP**.

Hannah: Good, because I need it right away!

A segue

A **segue** is a noun that means a quick, smooth change from one thing to another. It's important to note that the pronunciation of **segue** is nothing like it's spelled. **Segue** is pronounced seg-way.

Segue is often used in relation to music or conversation. In music, a **segue** is a direction to continue without pausing or is a transition from one song to another without pausing. In conversation, a **segue** is a smooth and natural change in topics.

In this episode, Andrew compliments Morag's transition from one key term to another by saying "nice **segue**." In other words, Andrew is saying that Morag provided a seamless and quick transition between the two topics.

So when you want to talk about a smooth transition from one thing to another, you can use the term **segue**.

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

Liam:	Did you go to that show last weekend?
Shannon:	The DJ set? Yeah, I went.
Liam:	How was it? I was too busy to make it.
Shannon:	It wasn't that great, honestly. The DJ's segues between songs weren't good at all! Sometimes there was a couple of seconds of silence between tracks.
Liam:	That sucks!

Greg:	Apartment hunting is hard!
Carol:	Oh, you're moving?
Greg:	Yeah, and I can't find a single apartment that I want to live in. For some reason, all the apartments that I look at have really tiny kitchens. I can't live like that.
Carol:	Speaking of kitchens, do you think you could do me a favour and grab me some lunch? I'm super busy, and don't have time to go get lunch.
Greg:	Wow! That segue wasn't very subtle, but I guess I can get you lunch.

To strike fear into [someone's] heart

To strike fear into [someone's] heart is an idiom that means to cause someone to be extremely frightened. This idiom is used more often in literature than in casual conversation.

The expression **to strike fear into [someone's] heart** is best understood if you picture it. Although medically inaccurate, in English literature and conversation, the heart is the place in your body where emotions come from. To strike is a verb that means to hit forcefully or violently. So if someone or something **strikes fear into your heart**, they are forcefully putting fear into your heart.

In this episode, Morag uses **to strike fear into [someone's] heart** in a joking manner. She says that there's nothing like seeing **ASAP** in a work email to **strike fear into your heart**. In other words, she's jokingly saying that it can be nerve-wracking and scary to be told that you need to do something right away.

Here are a couple more examples with **to strike fear into [someone's] heart**:

Nina:	I heard that you're moving away. Where are you planning to move to?
Vern:	I was originally thinking of moving to Toronto, but I'm not so sure now. I was doing some research on how much apartments cost, and it really struck fear into my heart .
Nina:	You got frightened by how much you'd have to pay for rent?
Vern:	Rent there is astronomical! It's scary not knowing if I will be able to pay my bills.

Ava:	Hey Hugh, I haven't seen you in a while. How's it going at university?
Hugh:	OK, I guess.
Ava:	You don't sound very sure. What's the matter?
Hugh:	I've been working towards a degree in environmental studies, but learning all about climate change is depressing. All my classes strike fear into my heart about the future.
Ava:	Hmm, sounds like environmental studies might not be the right area of study for you.

Quiz

1. True or false: Stat is often used as a command.

- a) true
- b) false

2. When something strikes fear into your heart, it makes you feel _____.

- a) uncomfortable
- b) forcefully
- c) happy
- d) extremely afraid

3. Pronto is another word for _____.

- a) suddenly
- b) immediately
- c) forcefully
- d) slowly

4. What does ASAP stand for?

- a) as soon as practicable
- b) as soon as possible
- c) as soon as practical
- d) as soon as possimpible

5. Which of the following terms means a smooth transition from one thing to another?

- a) a shift
- b) a direction
- c) a segue
- d) a position

Quiz Answers

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

Episode credits

Hosts: Andrew Bates and Morag St. Clair

Music: *Something Elated* by Broke For Free

Episode preparation/research: Andrew Bates

Audio editor: Andrew Bates

Transcription: Transcript Heroes Transcription Services

Learning materials writer: Morag St. Clair

English editor: Stephanie Minelga

Business manager: Tsuyoshi Kaneshima

Project manager: Jessica Cox

Sponsor: [Spoken](#)