

Catch Word #190 – All the fixings

Episode description

Learning English can be a blast! Laugh along with Andrew and Morag as they share three fun expressions that you can use when talking about condiments or toppings: all the fixings, all dressed, and the works. Join them to learn all about these three expressions.

Fun fact

Ketchup is one of North America's most popular condiments. This sweet, bright red, tomato-based sauce is well loved and goes on all kinds of food. Interestingly, ketchup originally wasn't even red! It was a vinegar-based sauce, and didn't contain any tomatoes until the 19th century.

Expressions included in the study guide

- All the fixings
- All dressed
- The works
- To turn [something] down
- To be down with/for [something]



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.

Hey Morag. How are you?

Morag: Hey Andrew. I'm doin' all right. How about you?

Andrew: You know, Morag, I'm doing really well, and I'm excited because summer is finally here. And one of my favourite things about summer is having a barbeque outside.

Morag: I've definitely been looking forward to barbeques myself, and barbeque season is right around the corner.

Andrew: Morag, when you barbeque, do you call yourself the Grill Master?

Morag: No, do you?

Andrew: No, but I think secretly I would really like it if somebody called me the Grill Master, I think. I wouldn't be offended by that.

Morag: Somebody should get you either a shirt or an apron—Grill Master.

Andrew: Yeah. And if any listener wants to send me a present with an apron that says Grill Master Andrew on it, I would be delighted.

Morag: That's great.

Andrew: Morag, today, we are talking about barbeques because we're doing a Catch Word episode to talk about three expressions that we can use to describe food that has a lot of condiments or sauces or vegetables on them.

Morag: Oh my God, you mean the good kind?

Andrew: The good kind of food.

Morag: Yeah, sauces and vegetables—oh, delicious!

Andrew: And these are typically foods that you would cook at a barbeque, so I think there's a connection there.

Morag: Mmhmm.

Andrew: So yeah, we'll get right to it. In this Catch Word episode, what we'll do is introduce the expressions to you, and then define them and give you a usage example. So that you'll know how to use them. And these are kind of slangy expressions that you might not find in the dictionary. But if you use them in your everyday life, will really help your English to sound more natural and more like a native speaker's.

So without any more waiting or any more listening to me talk, I think we should get to the first expression. Maybe you could let us know what it is, Morag.

Morag: Absolutely. This is a ... It's a good one. The first expression is **all the fixin's, all the fixin's**.

Andrew: **All the fixings**, OK? And fixings is F-I-X-I-N-G-S, **all the fixings**. But a lot of times when we use this expression in natural conversation, especially if you want to sound very casual, we'll drop the G sound. We'll say, "**All the fixin's, all the fixin's**."

Morag: Yeah, I'll do that too if I'm feeling funny, or if you're joking with somebody. I'll be like, "Oh, I want **all the fixin's**."

Andrew: And there ya go.

Morag: Yeah.

Andrew: So what are fixin's? What does this word mean? Hmm, fixin's.

Morag: Fixings are great. They're condiments and sauces that go on something. So something without its proper fixings would be plain. So a cheeseburger with no cheese.

Andrew: It's just not right. It's not right.

Morag: It's ... It ain't right, no.

Andrew: So in this case, cheese is a fixin'. On a cheeseburger, the cheese is a fixin'.

Morag: Mmhmm.

- Andrew: So if you get **all the fixin's**, that means you have all the vegetables, the sauces, the condiments that are available. You put them on your food. So maybe it's a hamburger. Maybe it's a hotdog. Could be a sandwich. All of the options are in your sandwich. It's fully loaded.
- Morag: Hmm. Yeah, if you ever go to order food and they say, "What would you like? We have mayo, mustard, ranch dressing." And you say, "All of them, please. **All the fixin's**."
- Andrew: That's **all the fixin's**.
- Morag: Mmhmm, you want everything possible.
- Andrew: I'm one of those people that usually goes for **all the fixin's**, I gotta say.
- Morag: I am not.
- Andrew: You're not?
- Morag: No.
- Andrew: Well, what I mean by that, especially when it comes to the vegetables, if there's a lot of sauces, especially competing sauces, like ones that are very similar, then I don't want all the sauce. But vegetables, give me everything for sure.
- Morag: Hmm, because they're delicious. It's true.
- Andrew: That's right.
- Morag: Yeah.
- Andrew: I think we can go ahead and give an example using this expression, **all the fixin's**.
- Morag: Let's go.

- Friend 1: We're having a barbeque on Friday evening. Wanna come?
- Friend 2: I'd love to! Can I bring anything?
- Friend 1: Nah, don't worry about a thing. We'll provide the burgers, hotdogs, and **all the fixin's**.
- Friend 2: Awesome! OK, we'll see you on Friday.

Andrew: So in this example, a woman gets invited to a barbeque party at her friend's house. She asks if she can bring anything to the party, but her friend tells her not to worry because he'll provide burgers, hotdogs, and **all the fixin's**. The fixin's are the condiments and vegetables that you put onto a burger or a hotdog, things like ketchup, mustard, and onions, for example.

Morag: Andrew, I think it's important to note, at this point, that **all the fixin's** doesn't mean every conceivable or every possible condiment or vegetable. It just means the ones that are ... Or if we're talking about the fixin's, as in this example, it's the ones that are common to put on that food.

So for me, for example, I don't eat dairy, so I usually have to bring my own mayonnaise. But I wouldn't expect someone to have a special sort of fixing just for me.

Andrew: Right. Yeah, that's a very good point. Also it refers to the fixin's that are on hand, right?

Morag: Mmhmm.

Andrew: If we go back to this example again, let's say the guy has ketchup, mustard, and onions that he's offering. It would be unreasonable of you to look at your hamburger and be like, "Where's the hot sauce? I said **all the fixin's**."

Morag: Yeah, exactly.

Andrew: Well, **all the fixin's** refers to all the things that are there at the party that are offered. It doesn't mean every conceivable topping. You're right.

Morag: Or even every topping you might want.

Andrew: That's true. It's just what is available. All the options available at that point and at that place.

Morag: Yup.

Andrew: Cool! Well, that being said, I think we can transition into our second expression for today, which is **all dressed, all dressed**.

Morag: **All dressed**. I like this one, but mostly because of the potato chips. Here in ... I think it's just in Canada ...

Andrew: Yeah!

Morag: We have an **all-dressed** potato chip, which means it's like all of the flavours together—delicious!

- Andrew: Mmhmm. You know, this expression makes me a little nostalgic for Canada because, like you said, this specific flavour of potato chip, **all dressed**, I really love it too. And you can't find it anywhere else. Maybe in the USA, I'm not sure. But definitely not here in Korea. So even just saying the words, **all dressed** ...
- Morag: Oh.
- Andrew: Thinking of that sweet, sweet flavour.
- Morag: Somebody should send you that apron and **all-dressed** chips.
- Andrew: That's right! You guys have work to do.
- Morag: Yeah, ah. Well, as you guys might have been able to guess from what I said about **all-dressed** chips, **all dressed** also means, like **all the fixin's**, all the condiments and sauces and tastes and vegetables, etc on one of the foods that we're talking about, so pizza, hamburger, hotdog. You'll hear **all dressed** spoken quite a lot around the topic of a baked potato.
- Andrew: Oh, that's right! I forgot about that.
- Morag: Mmhmm.
- Andrew: But it can also refer to a baked potato that has a lot of toppings on it.
- Morag: Yup.
- Andrew: This is something that our listeners might not be familiar with, but it's a kind of traditional North American food, I would say. A baked potato, it's a potato that you wrap in tinfoil, put in the oven, and bake it, and then you put toppings on it.
- Morag: Mmhmm.
- Andrew: What are the traditional toppings that people put on a baked potato?
- Morag: I think that if you're getting an **all-dressed** baked potato, which you should, it would be cheese, baked on the top, and there would be green onions, bacon bits, and sour cream, I think. That's ...
- Andrew: I think that is everything, yeah.
- Morag: Yeah, yeah.
- Andrew: Yeah, it's been a really, really long time since I've had an **all-dressed** baked potato, but I'd like one right now. I wouldn't **turn it down**.

Morag: And it would be about a decade for me, but yeah, they are pretty tasty.

Andrew: Yeah. Morag, I think we can go to our example with this expression, **all dressed**.

Morag: All right.

Server: Can I take your order?

Customer: Um, yeah. I'll have the double cheeseburger.

Server: **All dressed?**

Customer: Uh, hold the onions, please.

Server: Anything to drink?

Customer: Just water is OK.

Server: That sounds good, thank you.

Morag: In this example, a customer orders a double cheeseburger at a restaurant. The server asks if the customer wants the burger served **all dressed**. This means with all the toppings and condiments that go on a burger. So when the customer says, "Hold the onions," he wants the burger to have everything, **all the fixin's**, except for onions.

Andrew: Exactly. So the server just asks, "**All dressed?**" to see what toppings the customer wants on the burger. And it's usually easier to ask if you want everything and just subtract the couple of toppings you don't want than to start from the bottom and build your way to the top, I think, when you're taking an order at least.

Morag: Yeah, unless you have one of those crazy, crazy menus where there's 30 different types of topping. And it's like, "Whaddya want?" you know? Yeah.

Andrew: Good point, very good point.

Morag: It'll depend on the restaurant or the food service location. It's ... I don't know, a strange term, but I don't know what to call burger joint counters sometimes, yeah.

Andrew: OK, Morag, we have one more expression today. And it actually means the same as **all the fixings** and **all dressed**. It is **the works**.

Morag: **The works**.

- Andrew: **The works**, W-O-R-K-S, works.
- Morag: Hmm, now this one's pretty interesting as well because sometimes it'll have a definition on a menu, or this one you'll find quite a lot as a menu item.
- Andrew: Hmm.
- Morag: Something with **the works**.
- Andrew: Yeah, like maybe nachos with **the works**.
- Morag: Yeah, that'll ... You'll see that on a menu.
- Andrew: Yeah, that will be the name of the item, and that just means nachos with every possible topping that you can get, right? So maybe some meat and some cheese—well, I would hope some cheese—some vegetables and, yeah, everything that's possible.
- Morag: Yup, I've definitely seen some burgers called **the works** that have like bacon, two types of cheese, an extra patty, and all the lettuce, tomato, and you know, that sort of thing. They're usually abundant in toppings and condiments.
- Andrew: Yeah, when you ask for something with **the works**, it's kind of over the top, isn't it? It's like a lot of toppings, a lot of condiments, a lot of vegetables.
- Morag: Yeah, because I think you can use **the works** ... If you say like, "Gimme **the works**," it can also mean give me everything.
- Andrew: Yeah, so maybe, for example, you're getting your car washed. You take your car to the car wash, and then they're like, "Would you also like the detailed waxing and the vacuuming?"
- Morag: Oh yeah!
- Andrew: Like, "Yeah, gimme **the works**. Gimme everything."
- Morag: Yeah, yeah.
- Andrew: So you're right, Morag, that we can use this expression outside of food too to talk about when you're getting every option possible. Not just on a food, but also for a service as well.
- Morag: Mmhmm.
- Andrew: Let's get to our example with **the works**.

Friend 1: Hmm, what do you think about ordering a pizza tonight?

Friend 2: You know I'm always **down for pizza**.

Friend 1: Cool! Well, whaddya want? **The works**?

Friend 2: Yup, let's do it.

Andrew: In this example, two friends talk about what they're going to eat for dinner. They eventually decide to get a pizza with **the works**. So this means all of the toppings available will be on the pizza. We can imagine there'll be a lot of veggies, meat, and cheese on this pizza that the friends will order.

Morag: I worked at a pizza place, and oh, when people ordered all the toppings, when they ordered **the works**, it would be sky-high that pizza.

Andrew: It's a big meal, pizza with **the works**.

Morag: Yeah, yeah.

Andrew: Well, Morag, that wraps it up for us today. Just to recap, we looked at three expressions that we can use to describe foods with all of the toppings available on them. The first expression was **all the fixin's**. Then we looked at **all dressed**, and finally **the works**.

So I wanna thank everyone for listening. To get the learning materials for this episode, which includes a transcript, the detailed vocabulary explanations, and also a quiz to check your comprehension, visit our website, Culips.com.

Morag: And if you have any comments, questions, or suggestions for future episodes, feel free to drop us a line. Send us a message via our Facebook page, [Facebook.com/CulipsPodcast](https://www.facebook.com/CulipsPodcast), or you can email us directly at contact@Culips.com.

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

Morag: We'll be back soon with another episode, so stay tuned.

Andrew: Talk to you soon, everybody. Bye.

Morag: Bye!

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Detailed Explanations

All the fixings

The first key expression in this episode is **all the fixings**. The term fixings means the customary sides or condiments that go with a meal. **All the fixings** is an expression that means all the expected sides, accoutrements, or condiments available.

As Andrew and Morag discuss, fixin's is a contraction, a shortened form of a word, of fixings. In natural conversation, fixin's is often used over fixings. However, both terms mean the same thing. You can use either **all the fixings** or **all the fixin's**!

All the fixings is generally used to talk about food that typically has toppings, like hamburgers and hotdogs. So if you're at a barbeque or a burger joint and want to have all the available toppings on your burger, you can say, "I want **all the fixin's**!"

Here's one more example with **all the fixings**:

Employee:	What would you like on your hamburger? Ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, or relish?
Joe:	All the fixin's , please!
Employee:	One all-dressed burger coming up.

All dressed

The second key expression in this episode is **all dressed**. As Andrew and Morag mention, **all dressed** has the same meaning as **all the fixin's**. Both expressions mean all the sides or toppings available or customary for a dish.

Unlike **all the fixin's**, you might see **all dressed** listed next to a menu item, like nachos or baked potatoes, in a restaurant. If you see this, it means that the menu item has a lot of toppings!

Don't forget to add a hyphen if **all dressed** comes before a noun (eg, **all-dressed** chips)!

Here's one more example with **all dressed**:

Henry:	I really want an all-dressed baked potato for supper. What do you think?
Leah:	Sour cream, cheese, bacon, and chives—I think it doesn't get better than a fully loaded potato! Let's do it!

The works

The final key expression in this episode is **the works**. As Morag and Andrew explain, **the works** can mean the same thing as **all the fixings** and **all dressed**: all the toppings or sides.

However, unlike **all the fixings** and **all dressed**, **the works** can also be used to talk about non-food items. When used to refer to non-food items, **the works** means the extras or customarily available items. For example, if you went to a spa and asked for **the works**, you would receive every possible service and treatment, like a facial, massage, baths, etc.

So you can use **the works** to refer to all the available toppings or sides with a meal, or everything available in a situation.

Here are a couple more examples with **the works**:

Josie:	What do you want to do on this lovely sunny afternoon?
Malcolm:	Hmm. It might be nice to take a bike ride.
Josie:	No can do! My bike is broken. I need to take it to the bike repair shop.
Malcolm:	That's too bad. Any idea what's wrong with your bike?
Josie:	I think a lot of things are wrong with it. When I take it in, I'm going to ask them to give it the works and fix everything!

Anna:	You're home late!
Justin:	Yeah, I went out for dinner with some co-workers.
Anna:	Was it a good meal?
Justin:	It was amazing! I ordered a steak with the works . It came with a bunch of side dishes, and there was even a lobster tail on top of the steak!
Anna:	Wow, sounds fancy.

To turn [something] down

To turn [something] down is a phrasal verb construction that has two meanings.

First, **to turn [something] down** means to reject or to refuse an offer. This is the meaning used in this episode. While talking about **all-dressed** baked potatoes, Andrew says, “I wouldn’t **turn it down**.” That is, Andrew is saying that he would not reject or refuse a baked potato. If he were offered an **all-dressed** potato, Andrew would accept the potato.

Second, **to turn [something] down** means to lower or reduce the intensity of something. It’s very common to refer to lowering the volume of something, such as music or TV. So if you’re listening to music and someone asks you **to turn it down**, they’re asking you to lower the volume.

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

Ian:	Are you going to Joe’s for dinner tomorrow?
Katie:	No, I had to turn dinner down .
Ian:	Oh, why?
Katie:	My brother is coming to town tomorrow evening, and I promised that I would take him to see the sights.
Ian:	I guess that’s fair. It’s a shame you can’t come, though. Joe is an amazing cook. It’s going to be a great dinner.
Katie:	Don’t tempt me!

Adam:	Are you going to be watching TV for much longer? I want to go to bed.
Penelope:	I didn’t realize you were ready to sleep. I was planning on watching TV for a while longer. Are you OK if I just turn the volume down ?
Adam:	Yeah, that’s cool.

To be down with/for [something]

To be down with/for [something] is a very informal, slangy expression that means to accept or be cool with a situation, person, or idea. In other words, **to be down with/for [something]** means you are OK with something.

In one of the sample dialogues, a friend agrees to order a pizza for dinner by saying, “**I’m down for pizza.**” That is, they use the expression **to be down with/for [something]** to show their agreement.

The next time someone asks if you want to do something, try using the expression **to be down with/for [something]**. Just replace the word something with the thing that you are agreeing to do. For example, if a friend asks if you want to go see a movie and you would like to see a movie, just say, “**I’m down with a movie.**” If this seems tricky, you can use the shortened version of this expression, and just respond by saying, “**I’m down.**” Both “**I’m down with a move,**” and “**I’m down**” will have the same impact and communicate the same thing—your interest and agreement.

So when you want to express acceptance or agreement in an informal context, you can use **to be down with/for [something]**.

Here are a couple more examples with **to be down with/for [something]**:

Norah:	I was thinking about taking a trip to the cottage this weekend. Do you want to come?
Mike:	I’m not sure. I was supposed to hang out with Aaron this weekend.
Norah:	Feel free to invite him too.
Mike:	In that case, I’m down! It’s going to be great to get out of the city and hang out at your cottage.

Cate:	It’s getting really messy in here.
Tim:	I know. Do you have time to do some cleaning?
Cate:	I’m down for cleaning. I have a few hours to spare, and we’ll both feel better once the place is clean.
Tim:	Let’s do it!

Quiz

1. Turning something down is the same as _____ an offer.
 - a) rejecting
 - b) accepting
 - c) considering
 - d) enjoying

2. Which of the following can be used to refer to non-food extras?
 - a) all the fixings
 - b) all dressed
 - c) the works

3. Which of the following can be used to express acceptance or interest in an idea?
 - a) to feel down
 - b) to strike down
 - c) to be down
 - d) to hold down

4. Johnny wants to order a pizza. What should he say to make sure he gets a lot of toppings?
 - a) "I'll have a pizza with the works."
 - b) "I have to turn down all the fixings."
 - c) "I want the pizza to be dressed."

5. Mary wants ketchup, mustard, relish, and onions on her hamburger. In other words, she wants a hamburger with _____.
 - a) fixin's
 - b) dresses
 - c) work

Quiz Answers

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

Episode credits

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