

Catch Word #199 – To die for

Episode description

In this episode, Andrew and Jeremy talk about the expressions to die for and to kill for. Don't worry, it's not all about death—it's about wants and desires! You won't want to miss this episode!

Fun fact

Food truck festivals are popular the world over. The one in Brussels claims to be the world's largest, welcoming around 150,000 people over 3 days!

Expressions included in the study guide

- To die for
- To kill for
- To make it through
- A frog in your throat
- To recap
- The end of the world
- Food truck
- I wouldn't say that



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.

Hello everybody. My name is Andrew.

Jeremy: And I'm Jeremy.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips. Hey, Jeremy, how's it going?

Jeremy: Really well, how about you?

Andrew: I'm doing pretty well, but I feel like I have a little bit of **a frog in my throat** today.

Jeremy: Oh man.

Andrew: So if my voice sounds funny on the recording, I apologize to everybody.

Jeremy: You should drink some warm water or something.

Andrew: Yeah, I got some tea here, but it's not really helping, but what can you do. I'll be OK, I'll **make it through**.

Jeremy: You should probably stop eating frogs, too.

Andrew: Oh yeah, very good idea, very good idea.

Jeremy: Do the listeners know this phrase? Have you talked about having **a frog in your throat** before?

Andrew: Well, I can't remember off the top of my head, but even if we have, it's probably a good idea **to recap**. What does it mean if you have **a frog in your throat**?

Jeremy: Well, it doesn't literally mean that there's **a frog in your throat**. How sad, right, for the frog? But frogs make this sort of ibt, ibt sound and when people say I have **a frog in my throat**, they mean that their voice sounds a little bit weird, like maybe they're sick or something.

Andrew: Yeah, you're sick or congested and your voice isn't as clear as it usually is.

Jeremy: Exactly, not clear.

Andrew: Yup, so I'm a little raspy, got **a frog in my throat**, but it's not **the end of the world**.

Jeremy: Definitely not, I hope not.

Andrew: I hope not, too. So today, Jeremy, we are going to do a Catch Word episode. And for all the listeners out there, if you're not familiar, Catch Word is the series where we take a close look at some really interesting and useful English vocabulary and slang. And, just before we get started today, I wanna let everyone know that the study guide for this episode is available for download on our website, Culips.com. And I think the study guide is the best way to follow along with these episodes. You really can make the most of your study time with the study guide because you'll get a transcript, detailed vocabulary explanations, and examples, and a quiz, as well. So it's a great resource, and you can download it at Culips.com.

OK. So, Jeremy, today's Catch Word episode theme is sort of violent.

Jeremy: I was going to say, death?

Andrew: Death, yeah.

Jeremy: Sort of, but metaphorical death. How about that?

Andrew: Metaphorical death, yeah, the two expressions that we'll look at today are **to die for** and **to kill for**. And now, of course, these sound very violent, but actually we use these expressions when we talk about something that we like or something that we really, really want. What is our first expression, Jeremy?

Jeremy: Our first expression is **to die for**. You're going to love it.

Andrew: **To die for**.

Jeremy: It's **to die for**. Our first expression is **to die for**. But something that is **to die for** is very, very desirable, right?

Andrew: So desirable, in fact, that you would die to get it. You would die for that thing.

Jeremy: Metaphorically, right?

Andrew: Metaphorically, yeah. This is an exaggeration, but it shows just how much you really like that thing.

Jeremy: It's very commonly used, definitely.

Andrew: Especially when we're talking about food.

- Jeremy: Yeah, food. Most of the time food, now that I think about it.
- Andrew: Yeah, I would say most of the time food as well. You know, like, have you been down to that new sandwich shop on the corner? It's **to die for**, their sandwiches are **to die for**. They're really delicious.
- Jeremy: But I don't think anyone would really die for one of their sandwiches, because if you're dead, you can't eat it. What's the point?
- Andrew: That's right. You're just saying that it's really, really delicious. But we can also use it to describe other things as well, right? You can say, like, maybe the new iPhone is **to die for**, or that Versace handbag is **to die for**.
- Jeremy: Yeah, you could say that. **I wouldn't say that**.
- Andrew: Yeah, **I wouldn't say that**, either. But, actually, you know when I was trying to think of examples for this episode, all of the examples that came to my head were food. But then I did a search on Twitter and I saw people using the expression to talk about things like iPhones and handbags. So, some people do think like this, for sure.
- Jeremy: It's sort of a maximum right? It's the maximum.
- Andrew: Maximum desire. Maximum want.
- Jeremy: Yeah, exactly.
- Andrew: Yeah, yeah. Let's get to some examples with this expression, **to die for**.

- Coworker 1: I'm getting hungry.
- Coworker 2: Yeah, let's grab some lunch. What do you feel like?
- Coworker 1: Wanna check out the new taco truck that's parked outside the office? Sarah said their burrito is **to die for**.
- Coworker 2: Hey, sounds good to me. Let's go.

- Andrew: In this example, two coworkers are talking about lunch and what they're going to eat for lunch. One of them suggests visiting a taco truck because he heard their burritos are **to die for**. Let's listen to that part of the example a couple more times.

- Coworker 1: Sarah said their burrito is **to die for**. Sarah said their burrito is **to die for**.

- Andrew: So here **to die for** just means the burritos are really, really delicious.
- Jeremy: Maximum delicious.
- Andrew: Maximum deliciousness, yeah. Now maybe some of our listeners don't know what a taco truck is, or a **food truck**.
- Jeremy: I was thinking that, too. They're really popular here in California, at least. They're sort of a large truck, like a van usually, so it's enclosed, right? And it's a kitchen on wheels.
- Andrew: A kitchen on wheels, exactly, yeah. And a lot of times in North America these **food trucks** will park in front of office complexes so that all the workers can come out and eat at the truck for lunch. So I think, in this example, maybe that's the situation that we heard.
- Jeremy: Yeah, I think so, too.
- Andrew: We have one more example with this expression. So let's take a listen to it now.

- Friend 1: All right, dinner is served. I hope everything tastes OK.
- Friend 2: Oh my god. This is so good; I didn't know you could cook like this.
- Friend 1: I'm glad you like it.
- Friend 2: Like it? I love it, this risotto is **to die for**.
- Friend 1: Great, well, help yourself. I made a lot.

- Jeremy: In this example, the host of a dinner party receives a compliment on his excellent cooking. His guest says that his risotto is **to die for**. Let's listen to that part of the example again.

- Friend 2: This risotto is **to die for**. This risotto is **to die for**.

- Jeremy: When a food is **to die for**, it means it's super delicious and actually **to die for** is a great way to compliment someone after they serve you some delicious food.
- Andrew: So we have a second expression to take a look at today, Jeremy. And that is **to kill for**. OK, so the first one was **to die for**, but now it's **to kill for**. So this is more of an active expression, I would say, right? You're not dying for something; you're **killing for** something. It means you really want something, right?

- Jeremy: Yeah, it sounds terrible, but it sort of means, metaphorically, that you are willing to kill somebody to get that thing as a reward for the killing. Terrible, gosh.
- Andrew: Yeah, **to kill for** something, you know you want something so bad that you would go to the extent of killing someone, again metaphorically, to get the thing that you want. So one extra thing that we should add is that we often use this expression **to kill for** with the words, right now, right? Like you want something, in the moment, really badly. Like a smoker might say I'd **kill for** a cigarette right now, right? If they're on a camping trip or something, they don't have any more cigarettes with them.
- Jeremy: Or on a really hot day, if someone says I would **kill for** an ice-cold drink right now.
- Andrew: Exactly. So that's another thing to note, is that we often use **to kill for** with right now.
- Jeremy: That's also really important to mention because, for example, normally I might not in general say I'd **kill for** a cold beer, right? If it's not very hot outside, I'm not very thirsty, then there's no reason for me to say that. But if in the situation it's very, very hot or I'm really, really thirsty, then it would make sense to use this expression. It's sort of an immediate need that you have.
- Andrew: Yeah, you want something in the moment very, very badly. And that's when we often use it, exactly. Cool, well, let's take a listen to some examples with this expression **to kill for**.

- Friend 1: Hey, man, good game.
- Friend 2: Hey, thanks, you too.
- Friend 1: All that running around really wore me out. I'd **kill for** a bottle of water right now.
- Friend 2: I've got a couple of water bottles in my bag. Let me go grab you one.
- Friend 1: Awesome, thanks.

- Andrew: In this example, two teammates just finished playing a soccer game and one of them mentions that he's really thirsty, actually so thirsty that he'd **kill for** a bottle of water.

Let's listen to that part of the example again.

Friend 1: I'd **kill for** a bottle of water right now. I'd **kill for** a bottle of water right now.

Andrew: So he'd **kill for** a bottle of water. That just means that he really wants a bottle of water. OK, Jeremy, we have one more example to listen to, are you ready for it?

Jeremy: All right.

Coworker 1: Have you seen Emily around? I'd like to get her opinion on this report before I send it off to the boss.

Coworker 2: Did you forget? She's on vacation for the next few weeks. She won't be back until next month.

Coworker 1: I totally forgot. Wow, am I ever jealous. I'd **kill for** a vacation right now.

Jeremy: In this example, two coworkers are talking about their colleague Emily. One of them forgot that Emily is on vacation and won't return to the office for a few weeks. When he heard this, he said that he would **kill to** go on a vacation right now. Let's hear him say this again a couple more times.

Coworker 1: I'd **kill for** a vacation right now. I'd **kill for** a vacation right now.

Jeremy: OK, so he'd **kill to** go on a vacation. This means that he really, really wants to take a vacation. He must really hate his job.

Andrew: Or he just really wants to take a vacation.

Jeremy: Yeah, you can love your job and still want to go sit by the pool somewhere.

Andrew: Indeed, indeed.

Jeremy: Unless you are a lifeguard or something. You work near a pool.

Andrew: Yeah, that's a good point. That's a very good point.

Well, Jeremy, I think that brings us to the end of today's episode. Just **to recap**, we looked at two expressions, two violent expressions that we used to, well, we use as metaphors to talk about something we really like or something we really want. So in the case of liking, it's **to die for**, and in the case of wanting, it's **to kill for**.

So thank you for listening, everyone, and if you have comments or questions for us, drop us a line. You can email us at contact@Culips.com, and we are also on Facebook at [Facebook.com/CulipsPodcast](https://www.facebook.com/CulipsPodcast). So come on over and say hello to us there as well.

- Jeremy: And if you'd **kill to** hear some more episodes of the show, you can go to Culips.com or wherever you get your podcasts.
- Andrew: We will be back with another episode soon, so we will talk to you then. Bye everybody.
- Jeremy: Bye everyone.
- Announcer: Have you signed up for the Culips newsletter? You can receive updates on all the latest episodes, tips about learning English, and special Culips offers delivered directly to your inbox for free. To join, just visit Culips.com and enter your email address at the bottom of the page.

Detailed Explanations

To die for Phrasal verb

To die for is an expression you can say when there's something you really, really like. That thing is so good, you are willing to risk your life to have it.

Here's one more example with **to die for**:

Kayla:	Are you going to the pot luck supper tonight?
Charles:	Indeed, I am.
Kayla:	Make sure you get there early. Word has it that Bobbie is bringing her famous cinnamon rolls.
Charles:	Really? I've never tried them. Are they good?
Kayla:	To die for.
Charles:	Then I'll have to show up early. Thanks for the tip.

To kill for

Phrasal verb

To kill for something is to want something so much you are willing to go to extremes to get it, like killing anyone who gets in your way!

Here's one more example with **to kill for**:

Vic:	So how long have you lived in Korea?
Matty:	About 7 years now.
Vic:	Wow. Is there anything you miss about Canada?
Matty:	For sure! Montreal smoked meat. I could kill for just one little slice of hot smoked meat.
Vic:	Maybe I could send you some.
Matty:	That would be awesome!

To make it through Idiom

In this episode, Jeremy is concerned about Andrew's sore throat. Andrew says that he'll **make it through**. By this he means that he will survive recording the podcast and not quit halfway through. The idiom can also be used as a form of encouragement, as in "you can **make it through** this!"

Here are a couple more examples with **to make it through**:

Dean:	And how long is this movie?
Aidan:	About 3 hours long.
Dean:	That's way too long. I don't know if I'll be able to make it through the whole movie.
Aidan:	I heard it's very interesting. You have no time to get bored. Trust me.

James:	This run is so hard! How many more laps do I have?
Kyla:	Only four more to go. You can make it through this!
James:	I can't feel my legs.
Kyla:	Just take it one step at a time. You can do it!

A frog in your throat

Idiom

A frog in your throat is a good expression to use when someone's voice is a bit different than usual, often because of a cold or a sore throat. It's the idea that there's an actual frog in your throat that's making the person sound funny.

Here are a couple more examples with **a frog in your throat**:

Greg:	(on the phone) Hello?
Patrick:	Hello? Uh, is Greg there?
Greg:	Patrick! It's me.
Patrick:	Greg? It doesn't sound like you at all.
Greg:	I know. I have a bit of a frog in my throat .
Patrick:	It sounds really bad. Have you seen a doctor about it?

Sally:	Wow, that was a great concert!
Olive:	Totally awesome! My ears are still buzzing. I screamed so much.
Sally:	Me too. I sound like I have a frog in my throat .
Olive:	You know what's good for that? Ice-cold beer!
Sally:	Good idea.

To recap

Verb, informal

To recap is to summarize or to go over information once again. It is an abbreviation of the verb to recapitulate. In this episode, Andrew isn't sure if the podcast has covered an expression. To be safe, he offers **to recap** the explanation for the expression. **Recap** can also be a noun.

Here are a couple more examples with **to recap**:

Chairwoman: It appears that two of our members will be arriving in 30 minutes. Let's postpone the rest of the meeting until then. Bryan?

Bryan: Yes?

Chairwoman: Would you mind **recapping** what was already said for those two before we start the meeting again?

Bryan: OK. I'll get that ready right away.

Chairwoman: Thank you.

Eric: Oh no, is this episode 6?

Mark: Yeah. It's starting right now.

Eric: I can't watch this. I haven't seen episode 5.

Mark: I can **recap** it for you in one sentence: Elizabeth and Patrick finally kissed. You didn't miss much, so you can sit down and watch from here, no problem.

The end of the world Idiom

When talking about his sore throat, Andrew downplays it, saying that it isn't **the end of the world**. That means it's not very serious, as opposed to the actual **end of the world**, which is a pretty big deal!

Here are a couple more examples with **the end of the world**:

Finn:	Hey! My cookies are gone! Who ate the last of my cookies?
Quaid:	Oh, yeah, that was me. I meant to buy you some more today, but I ran out of time. Sorry.
Finn:	You can't just eat my cookies like that! They're my cookies! Why would you do that?
Quaid:	Jeez, calm down. It's not the end of the world . I'll go buy you some right now, OK?

Xavier:	What's up with him? He looks so sad.
Carly:	He is. His hockey team didn't make the playoffs.
Xavier:	Who cares about hockey? It's not the end of the world .
Carly:	Have a little consideration. Maybe it feels like the end of the world to him.
Xavier:	You're right.

Food truck

Noun

Food trucks are popular throughout the world. As our hosts mention in this episode, they are normally trucks that serve food and can be found outside offices or other popular gathering spots. People tend to lump them in with street food in general.

Here are a couple more examples with **food truck**:

Jill:	There are a couple of food trucks down on 7th Street. Want to check them out?
Tara:	What kind of trucks?
Jill:	I think one of them has Mexican food. The other might be regular hot dogs and fries, but I'm not sure.
Tara:	Either way, sounds good. Let's hit them up.

Clark:	The jazz festival is going on downtown.
Viola:	I don't like jazz.
Clark:	Neither do I, but there's always a bunch of food trucks parked nearby. That's the real reason to go.
Viola:	Do they serve beer?
Clark:	Of course! It wouldn't be much of a festival without beer!

I wouldn't say that Phrase

You can use the phrase **I wouldn't say that** when you hold a contrary opinion. In this episode, Andrew offers a sample expression, saying that a Versace bag is **to die for**. Jeremy notes that it's something someone could say, but both Jeremy and Andrew agree that it's not something they would say, meaning they don't care that much for Versace bags.

Here are a couple more examples with **I wouldn't say that**:

Olivia:	I have to write a birthday card for my brother-in-law and I have no idea what to write.
Heather:	Are you friendly?
Olivia:	I wouldn't say that. I never see him and my sister. They live in Ontario.
Heather:	Just write something generic and put some money in the envelope. That'll go over well.

Interviewer:	It says here that you're fluent in spoken French.
Candidate:	Yes, I am. I went to French-language schools, and my father's side of the family in French Canadian.
Interviewer:	Would you say you're a native speaker?
Candidate:	I wouldn't say that. More like a near-native speaker.
Interviewer:	That's still a very valuable asset.

Quiz

- 1. If something isn't the end of the world, that means:**
 - a) you will do better tomorrow
 - b) it's not a big problem
 - c) climate change won't kill us
 - d) you don't need to wake up early

- 2. Which of the following should NOT be associated with the idiom a frog in the throat?**
 - a) having a cold
 - b) having a naturally deep voice
 - c) singing too much at a karaoke bar
 - d) being congested

- 3. If something is to die for, you:**
 - a) are not careful with your credit card
 - b) could kill someone for it
 - c) will only receive it in the afterlife
 - d) want it very much

- 4. True or false: to recap is to state something again.**
 - a) true
 - b) false

- 5. To make it through something is:**
 - a) to prevent something from happening
 - b) to persist
 - c) to break through a barrier
 - d) to give up

Writing or Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the foods you would say are to die for?
2. Apart from food, what would you say is to die for?
3. What could you kill for right now?
4. If you were to set up your own food truck, what kind of food would you serve?
5. What's the best street food you have ever eaten?

Quiz Answers

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

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