

Catch Word #252 – Do you have deep pockets?

Episode description

Do you know how to describe rich people and companies in English? In this Catch Word episode, Andrew and Kassy teach you two idiomatic English expressions that you can use to do just that. Upgrade your vocabulary and make your English sound more natural by learning with this lesson.

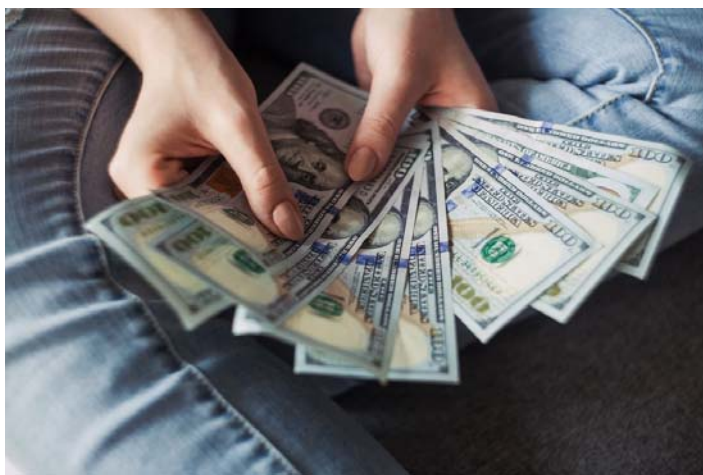
Catch Word is the Culips vocabulary series for intermediate and advanced English language learners. In each episode, you'll learn expressions, idioms, slang, phrasal verbs, and more that will help you become a better English listener and speaker.

Fun fact

With an estimated net worth of \$177 billion, Jeff Bezos is rolling in it and is the richest person on Earth. Meanwhile, his company Amazon made nearly \$400 billion in profits last year. It's safe to say that Amazon must have very deep pockets.

Expressions included in the study guide

- To be rolling in it
- To be tight with [your money]
- Crypto
- To sell off
- To have deep pockets
- Jet set



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. The transcript has been edited for clarity.

Andrew: Hello there, everyone. My name's Andrew.

Kassy: And I'm Kassy.

Andrew: And this is the Culips English Podcast.

Hello there, everyone. Welcome back to another Culips episode. Today we have a Catch Word episode prepared for you, which is the series where we teach you idioms or phrasal verbs or expressions that will help improve your English listening and speaking. And in this episode, we'll teach you two idiomatic expressions that describe people or businesses or even organizations who are rich and have a lot of money and a lot of resources. And to help me teach this lesson, I'm joined by Kassy, my cohost. Hey there, Kassy.

Kassy: Hey Andrew, and hey, everyone. That's right, Andrew. Today, we're going to learn how to use the expressions **rolling in it** and **deep pockets**. Both of them mean to have a lot of money. But there are a couple of nuances between when and how we use them. And we'll talk about that in this episode.

Andrew: Perfect. Sounds good. So we'll start that lesson in just a sec. But before we do, guys, make sure to follow along with the study guide and transcript for this episode. It's available for all Culips members on our website, Culips.com. And it's the best way to study with us here today. And if you're not a Culips member yet, then just visit the website so you can sign up and grab the guide.

Kassy: Definitely. And we also want to give a shout-out to Chill Bong Deck, one of our listeners tuning in from the Netherlands who left us a five-star rating and a great review on Apple Podcasts. They wrote, "I love the Culips podcast. They speak clearly so that English learners can understand easily. Their topics are fun, and useful for daily life, I highly recommend this podcast."

Andrew: Awesome. Fantastic. Well, thank you so much for that great review. We really do appreciate it. And listeners, if you'd like to get a shout-out in an upcoming episode, then please just leave us a five-star rating and a short review on your favourite podcast app, like Castbox or Apple Podcasts.

OK, Kassy. So without any further ado, let's get started with this episode by taking a look at the first expression, which is **rolling in it**. **Rolling in it**. Or usually when we say it quickly, we kind of drop that I-N-G sound and we just say **rollin' in it**, right? **Rollin' in it**. Could you say it at a natural speed for our listeners, Kassy, so they can hear how to pronounce it?

Kassy: Yeah. I'll talk about some guy. I'll say, wow, he's really **rollin' in it**.

Andrew: Yeah, **rollin' in it**. So let's break this one down. To roll just means to move around on the ground in a circle, right? Like you lie down on the ground and you rotate your body so that you are moving around, just like a log rolling down a hill or something. So that is what roll means. But here, what is the it, to **roll in it**. What is it?

Kassy: I'm thinking like a giant pile of money.

Andrew: Exactly. Actually, this expression reminds me of a cartoon that I used to watch when I was a kid called Duck Tales. Kassy, did you ever watch Duck Tales?

Kassy: I was thinking the exact same thing.

Andrew: Yeah, it's a little bit different. But one of the characters in Duck Tales, his name is Scrooge McDuck, he is the uncle in the show. And he's a very rich old uncle. But he's very **tight with his money**. He doesn't like to spend his money. But in the opening sequence of the show, there's a scene where Scrooge McDuck dives into this huge swimming pool of money and kind of rolls and swims in the money. And that's what I think of when I hear this expression, just to be, like, in a big swimming pool of money and you're rolling around in it. I'm not sure if there's any connection there, but at least that's where my brain goes to when I hear it.

Kassy: It's very funny that it's the exact same image that pops into my head, too.

Andrew: Yeah. So when we say it, it just means money. Now, when can you use this expression? Well, it's very casual. So you wouldn't want to use it in a formal setting. I wouldn't use it when making a presentation at work, for example. But if I'm talking with my friends, I think it's OK. And we can use it when we're talking about any person, or even a business or an organization that has a lot of money. You know, they're not just wealthy, it's a different level. It is being very, very rich, so rich that you could almost just cover your house in money and then roll around in that money without even caring about it.

Kassy: Yes. And not just using it in conversation, you will hear this expression a lot in movies and TV shows.

Andrew: Yeah, it's very, very common. So with that said, Kassy, why don't we take a listen to a couple of usage examples with this expression, **rollin' in it**.

Kassy: Sounds great.

Friend 1: I saw Jake last night and he was driving a new Porsche.

Friend 2: Yeah, not only that, but he just bought a new place downtown.

Friend 1: What, really? Where did he get all this money suddenly?

Friend 2: He told me that he **sold off** a bunch of his **crypto** and now he's **rollin' in it**.

Friend 1: Wow, that's awesome. Good for him. I might have to give him a call and ask for some investment advice.

Andrew: All right, so in this conversation example, we heard about a guy named Jake, who suddenly has a lot of money. He's driving a new Porsche. He bought a new house downtown. And he's very flush. This is another expression that we use to talk about rich people is that they're flush, they have a lot of money. And this guy, Jake, Kassy, he was able to buy all of these things because he is now **rolling in it** after **selling off** his **crypto**. And, Kassy, maybe you could tell our listeners what this means. What is **crypto**?

Kassy: **Crypto** stands for **cryptocurrency**, like Bitcoin and Ripple. There's lots of different coins out there.

Andrew: Thousands of them. But, yeah, whenever we're talking about this kind of investment, we call it **cryptocurrency**. But that's pretty difficult and long to say, so many people just shorten it to **crypto**. So he **sold off** his **crypto**, and now he's **rollin' in it**. Very good for him, must be nice.

Kassy, why don't we listen to another example with **rollin' in it**?

Kassy: Yes.

Friend 1: Sorry, I'm late. There was a big traffic jam downtown. Apparently half of Main Street is closed because of some new construction project.

Friend 2: Oh, no problem. Yeah, construction on the new arena started last week. So it's probably best to avoid driving downtown for a little while.

Friend 1: Oh, yeah, I totally forgot about that. I heard the new arena's supposed to cost over \$200 million to build.

Friend 2: Super expensive. But the owners of the basketball team can afford it. They're absolutely **rolling in it**. Do you know how much money the team generates?

Friend 1: I can only guess. But if the ownership group can afford to build a fancy new arena like that, it must be a lot.

Kassy: OK, in this example, two people are talking about a new arena that is being built downtown that is extremely large and fancy. And they say that the people who are building this arena must be **rolling in it**. They have so much money that they can build this amazing complex, extravagant new arena right downtown.

Andrew: Yeah, if you can afford to build an arena downtown that costs \$200 million, then you are **rolling in it**, absolutely.

OK, great. So let's transition into the second expression for today, Kassy, which is another one that is very visual and easy to imagine in your head. It is **deep pockets, deep pockets**. And we usually use it with the verb have or got, you **have deep pockets** or you've **got deep pockets**. So, Kassy, could you break this one down and tell our listeners what it means?

Kassy: Yeah, so **to have deep pockets** or someone's **got deep pockets**, that means a person or organization has a lot of money and resources.

Andrew: So we usually think of our pockets as being a place where we can store some money. In fact, I keep my wallet in my pocket all the time when I leave the house. And so if you **have deep pockets**, it's just another way to say that you have a lot of money in your pockets. But really, that is more like a metaphor for just having a lot of money in general. And I think when we use the previous expression to be **rollin' in it**, we use it sometimes to talk about businesses or organizations but most of the time, it's used to just describe rich people. However, with **deep pockets**, I think it's really even across the board. We use it to talk about people, we use it to talk about governments and organizations, we use it to talk about businesses. Anyone or any group with a lot of money and a lot of resources **has deep pockets**.

Kassy: Yeah, I think you'd say a lot of money, a lot of resources, and even a lot of influence. You might hear the expression **deep pockets** used a lot in politics, like news channels talking about really rich, influential politicians. Or you might hear it in, like, a mob boss movie. The mob **has deep pockets**.

Andrew: Yeah, that's a great point. It's not just money and just resources. But it's also the power and influence that comes with having money and resources, absolutely.

So I think the best way to explain this expression is actually to hear it used in a real-life context through some examples. So how about we check out conversation example #1 right now?

Kassy: Yeah, let's do it.

Friend 1: I thought Bill and Jane were coming over tonight, too?

Friend 2: I invited them, but they're off to Europe again.

Friend 1: What, really? Wow, that's like the fourth vacation they've taken this year already.

Friend 2: Must be nice **to have deep pockets** like that.

Friend 1: Yeah, I agree. **Jet setting** all over the place, it must be really nice.

Friend 2: Well, I'll plan a get-together when they get back so that we can all hang out.

Friend 1: Cool. That'd be great.

Andrew: All right, so in this example, we heard about a couple named Bill and Jane who **have very deep pockets**. They're wealthy, they're rich. And because of this, they're able to **jet set** all over the place, which means to live a very luxurious lifestyle where you can travel and enjoy life because you have the money and resources to be able to do that kind of thing. So in this example, Bill and Jane were already on their fourth vacation this year. They're off to Europe again. And the other guests at the dinner party said that must be nice. Must be nice to be able to travel like that. And I think that must be nice. Wouldn't you agree, Kassy?

Kassy: Oh, I think it'd be so nice.

Andrew: All right. Well, why don't we move on to the second and final example with this expression, **deep pockets**?

Kassy: Let's do it.

Friend 1: Hey, I'm going to Brown's Books around 3:00, want to come with?

Friend 2: Oh, you didn't hear? They closed down last week.

Friend 1: What? That's so sad.

Friend 2: Yeah, my friend Paul worked there and he said that they just couldn't compete with the big online retailers.

Friend 1: Ah, I guess that makes sense.

Friend 2: Yeah, the online bookstores **have really deep pockets**, so they can sell the books cheaper than the independent stores. It's becoming impossible for independent bookstores to stay open these days.

Friend 1: Well, I guess I'll just stay home today and shop for books online then.

Kassy: OK, in this example conversation, two friends are talking about a bookstore that recently went out of business due to competition from a big online bookstore. This bookstore **has deep pockets**. It has a lot of money and resources, which means it can sell books at extremely cheap prices, which really, you know, kills small businesses who can't afford to sell books at those cheap prices.

Andrew: I'm curious about who this big online retailer is.

Kassy: Maybe it starts with an A.

Andrew: It might, I'm not sure. Some things are better left unsaid, Kassy, and due to that, I think we can wrap up this episode here. So, everyone, thank you for making it to the end of this lesson and for learning English with us today. We really appreciate that you joined us. Just to recap what we covered, we looked at two expressions that are used to talk about people or businesses or organizations that have a lot of money. The first expression was **rolling in it, rollin' in it**. And the second one was **deep pockets**.

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If you have any questions or suggestions for an upcoming episode, then you can get in touch with us through email. Our address is contact@Culips.com.

We will be back soon with another brand-new English lesson for you and we'll talk to you then. Goodbye, everyone.

Kassy: See ya.

Detailed Explanations

To be rolling in it Idiom

The first key expression from this episode is to **be rolling in it**, which means to be very rich and have a lot of money. If someone is exceptionally wealthy and has so much money that they don't need to work, we can say that person is **rolling in it**.

The **it** in this expression refers to someone's fortune. The metaphor of a rich person rolling around in their gold and cash has a long history and has been used by English speakers since at least the 16th century.

To be rolling in it is an informal and idiomatic expression, so you should avoid using it in professional situations. Additionally, it might be rude to say it to someone directly, unless you have a close relationship with that person. For this reason, we usually use it when talking about other people rather than when talking directly to them.

Here are a couple more examples with **to be rolling in it**:

Henry: Why do you keep checking your phone?

Lara: Sorry, I bought some stocks recently and I'm addicted to seeing how they're doing.

Henry: So, have they gone up or down?

Lara: Right now they're down. If they perform like I expect them to, though, I'll **be rolling in it**!

Henry: I hope things go as planned, then. Good luck!

Walter: It was so nice to finally meet your friend. What does he do for a living?

Talia: Actually, he's retired.

Walter: Retired? But he said he was only 32. How did he retire so young?

Talia: He started a business after high school and it became super successful. He sold off the business last year and retired. So now that he's **rollin' in it**, he just spends his time travelling and doing whatever he likes.

To be tight with [your money]

Adjective

In this episode, Andrew talks about the Disney character Scrooge McDuck from the animated TV show Duck Tales. Andrew describes Scrooge McDuck as being **tight with his money**. When someone is **tight with their money**, they are cheap, hate spending money, and are not generous with their money. People who are **tight with their money** never give their money away or make donations to charity.

This is a negative expression that describes someone in a disrespectful and demeaning way. A more positive way to refer to someone who prefers to save money rather than spend it is frugal or thrifty.

Some expressions that are similar to **to be tight with [your money]** include **to be tight-fisted** (like you have a firm grip on the money you are holding in your hands) and **to be a tightwad** (a person who hates spending money).

Here are a couple more examples with **to be tight with [your money]**:

Vlad: Nice sweater! Is it new?

Wren: Thanks! Yes, I just bought it last week.

Vlad: That's surprising! You usually hate shopping.

Wren: I know that I'm usually **tight with my money**, but there was a great sale happening at the mall and I just couldn't resist.

Vlad: I think you made a good decision. It looks great on you!

Mary: Do you think Dad will give me some money? I want to get a new phone.

Quinn: There's no way Dad will buy you a new phone. To start with, **he's tight with his money** in general. And on top of that, he just bought you a new phone last year.

Mary: Well, I'm going to ask him anyways.

Quinn: Good luck!

Crypto

Noun

The words **crypto** and **cryptocurrency** refer to decentralized digital money that is mined and traded on the Internet, like Bitcoin and Ethereum. There are thousands of **crypto** coins that can be bought and sold online. Over the last several years, many investors have become interested in **crypto**, especially Bitcoin, which has made the digital currency a household name.

In this episode, we heard an example about someone who sold his **crypto** investment and, as a result, made a lot of money and is now rolling in it.

Since the word **cryptocurrency** is long and difficult to pronounce, many English speakers shorten it to **crypto** when talking about digital money. The prefix **crypto** means hidden or secret. The science of protecting digital information with strong, unhackable passwords is called cryptography. Since decentralized digital money is protected with very strong cryptographic protection, it is called **cryptocurrency**.

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

Jack: I'm thinking of buying some **crypto**. Have you ever bought any?

Brenda: No. Too scary for me. The price rises and falls so quickly, I'm afraid that I'd lose my whole investment!

Jack: Yeah, it's a bit scary, but isn't it exciting, too? I'm going to invest just a little bit of money and see how it goes.

Brenda: OK, have fun!

Siwon: Did you hear what happened to Jon?

Gil: Nope. What's up with him?

Siwon: Well, I heard that he had to file for bankruptcy and has his house and car up for sale.

Gil: No way! Why?

Siwon: Bad **crypto** investment. He thought he'd be able to double his money but instead he lost everything!

Gil: That's terrible! I should give him a call and see how he's doing.

To sell off

Phrasal verb

In this episode, we heard an example about a man who **sold off** his crypto and made a huge profit. To **sell off** means to sell something (usually stocks, an investment, property, or inventory) quickly because you need the money.

Often, when someone **sells something off**, they sell it for a low price so that they can get the money as soon as possible. However, that wasn't the case in the example from this episode. In that example, the man **sold off** his crypto quickly in order to make a profit before the price of the cryptocurrency changed.

You may be wondering what the difference between sell and **sell off** is. In fact, they are very similar. The small difference between them is that **sell off** describes sales that are made quickly and urgently. Sell doesn't have this extra level of nuance.

Here are a couple more examples with **to sell off**:

Jason: I'm going to go shopping downtown today. Want to come?

Shannon: Sure. Are you planning to buy anything?

Jason: Well, the owner of Super Comics is planning to retire soon. So, he's going to close down the store and is **selling off** all the remaining comic books and action figures at really cheap prices. I'm thinking about maybe buying some stuff there.

Shannon: It's too bad Super Comics is closing down, but, yeah, let's go check out the sale!

Lindsey: The stock market rose 500 points today.

Tim: Wild, right?

Lindsey: Yeah! I actually **sold off** some of my tech stocks this afternoon. I have a feeling the market may cool down soon.

Tim: So did you make some money?

Lindsey: I did! I made about 35% more than my original investment. Not bad, right?

Tim: Yeah, congratulations. Not bad at all!

To have deep pockets

Idiom

The second key expression from this episode is **to have deep pockets**. This is an idiom that means to be rich and have a lot of money.

The imagery behind this expression is easy to visualize. Many people keep their wallet in their pants. If you have big, deep pockets in your pants, it means you can store a big wallet in one of the pockets. If you have a big wallet, that means you can fit a lot of money inside of it. And, of course, people who have a lot of money are rich. This is the metaphorical image for this expression.

In everyday conversation, we use **to have deep pockets** when talking about rich people who have a lot of money and financial resources. It's much more common to use this expression to describe other people, rather than use it to describe ourselves or use it to address someone directly. For example, it's quite natural to say something like, "Paul must **have deep pockets** since he buys a new car each year." But it's much less common to say something like, "I **have deep pockets** so I can afford it" or "You **have deep pockets**, so buy me a beautiful birthday present, please." If we do use this expression to describe someone we're talking to, it's usually in a humorous way, since talking about money can be an uncomfortable subject for many English speakers.

Additionally, you can also describe businesses, organizations, etc. that have a lot of money by saying they **have deep pockets**.

Here are a couple more examples with **to have deep pockets**:

Sujin: I visited State University's new campus last week.

Connor: How was it? I heard it's amazing!

Sujin: It's absolutely stunning! The architecture is beautiful, the landscaping is breathtaking, and all the classrooms and facilities are modern and top of the line.

Conner: The university must **have deep pockets** since they were able to build such a world-class campus.

Trevor: You're still using that old phone? Why don't you upgrade to a new one?

Ali: Well, I don't really **have deep pockets** like you do, Trevor. This one's not broken, so why would I upgrade?

Jet set Idiom

In this episode, we heard an example about a couple who have deep pockets and **jet set** all over the place. To **jet set** means to travel around the world frequently and in luxury.

There are many different forms of this idiom. A **jet-setter** is a rich and fashionable person who travels often. **Jet-setting** is the adjective that describes rich people who travel often. The **jet set** is the class of people who are rich and can afford to travel often. Finally, the verb form, to **jet set**, is the act of travelling around the world, often in a rich and luxurious way.

Although **jet-setting** is an activity that rich people usually do, English speakers often use the expression comedically to talk about regular people who travel often or have just completed a long trip.

Here are a couple more examples with **jet set**:

Brock: How was your trip?

Aaron: It was amazing! I had the best time.

Brock: Where did you go?

Aaron: All through Europe. France, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Italy. All over the place.

Brock: Sounds like the trip of a lifetime!

Aaron: Yeah, it was awesome and I'm actually heading back next week again for a business trip.

Brock: Wow! You're quite the **jet setter**!

Rebecca: What would you do if you won the lotto?

Sam: Probably I'd just **jet set** around the world. Stay at luxury hotels, eat at the finest restaurants, that kind of thing.

Rebecca: Good choice.

Sam: What about you?

Rebecca: I'd probably travel for a bit too, but then I'd like to build a house, settle down, and start my own business.

Quiz

1. Which expression doesn't mean to be rich?

- a) to be rolling in it
- b) to have deep pockets
- c) to be tight with your money
- d) to be flush

2. What activity does a jet setter do?

- a) fly planes
- b) travel
- c) trade stocks
- d) play the lottery

3. What does sell off mean?

- a) to sell your entire supply of something
- b) to sell real estate
- c) to sell something to a friend
- d) to sell something quickly because you need money

4. What does the prefix crypto mean?

- a) opposite
- b) beyond
- c) extreme
- d) secret

5. True or false? The expression to have deep pockets can be used to describe organizations and businesses.

- a) true
- b) false

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever sold off anything? What was it? Why did you sell it off?
2. If you won the lottery and suddenly were rolling in it, what would you do?
3. Do you know anyone who has deep pockets? How do you know that they're rich? How did they make their money?
4. Are you interested in crypto? Have you ever invested in cryptocurrencies? Why or why not?
5. Describe a time when you were tight with your money. What did you do to save money? Do you think it's good to be tight with your money?

Quiz Answers

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

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