

## Catch Word #255 – We just clicked

### Episode description

Have you ever wished there was another way to describe how friendly you are with certain people? In this Catch Word episode, Andrew and Kassy share a couple ways native English speakers refer to their relationships with others.

The Culips Catch Word series explains idioms, phrasal verbs, and expressions used in everyday life. Listening to our Catch Word audio lessons helps improve your English listening and speaking skills while also giving you new, fun ways to talk about how well you get along with your friends.

### Fun fact

Studies show that animals, like chimpanzees, baboons, horses, hyenas, elephants, bats, turtles, and dolphins, to name a few, recognize and befriend individuals that aren't from their species. (So your pet thinks of you as a good friend, too!)

### Expressions included in the study guide

- To click
- To gel
- Working relationship
- Break in the action
- Chemistry



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## Transcript

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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. The transcript has been edited for clarity.

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**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 Culips. This is Catch Word, the series for intermediate and advanced English learners where we teach you idioms, phrasal verbs, and expressions that will help you improve your English listening and speaking. Today I'm joined by my cohost, Kassy. Hey, Kassy.

**Kassy:** Hey, Andrew, and hi, listeners. So, everyone, this episode is all about good **working relationships**. And we're going to be teaching you two wonderful expressions that you can use to talk about getting along well and working well with other people.

**Andrew:** Sounds great. And, listeners, there's a study guide and transcript for this episode that's available for all Culips members. It's an awesome way to learn with this episode. And to get it you just need to visit our website, Culips.com, sign up, and become a member.

**Kassy:** Yeah, there are even some free study guide examples on our website, too. So if you want to check them out for free, you can do that at Culips.com as well.

**Andrew:** Exactly. And to find them on our website, everyone, just select the Study Guide Samples option from the Membership menu and you'll be good to go.

**Kassy:** And before we begin our episode, we also want to give a shout-out to one of our listeners from the Philippines, Trixie Ann, who recently left us a comment and review. Trixie Ann wrote, "I usually listen to your podcast on Spotify. And I'm super thankful because I've learned a lot from you guys, and you deserve five-stars. Love from the Philippines."

**Andrew:** Thank you for that amazing review and for your support, Trixie Ann. And thanks, of course, to all of you out there who are liking and commenting, reviewing, rating, and subscribing to Culips, so much work. All of these things help us a ton and allow other English learners from around the world to find us and connect with us. And we really do appreciate it.

OK, Kassy, let's get started with this episode. As you mentioned at the top of the show, we're going to be talking today about good **working relationships**. And we're going to take a look at two verbs that have a very similar meaning. Those two verbs are **to gel** and **to click**. And we use them both when we're talking about working with other people. It could just be like a one-on-one situation. Like, Kassy, maybe I could say that you and I really **gel** well together. We get along well, we work well together. Could also be a team situation, if you're working with a team and getting along with a team really well, then we can use them there as well. So we're going to break down these two expressions and give everyone the details and some examples of how you can use them in a real-life conversational situation.

And I think we should jump right in and start with the first expression, which is **to click, to click**. And if two people **click** or if you **click** with a group of people, it just means that you immediately start to work well together. You like each other, you have a good relationship. Another expression that we use is that you're on the same page, which means you have a kind of similar viewpoint or a similar perspective or a similar goal. And this is what it means **to click**, it means just to have a good **working relationship** with other people. Kassy, what comes to mind when you think of **clicking** with someone else?

**Kassy:** If two people **click**, then that means that they don't have a lot of miscommunications. They greet each other and they can get things done. They just, they mesh well, they **gel**, they **click**.

**Andrew:** Yeah, that's exactly what I think of, too. It's almost like, you know, when you're maybe doing up your jacket or something and you have a buckle, and you have two opposite ends of the buckle and you push them together and it makes a **clicking** sound, right? It's kind of, like, snaps into place, it goes **click**. That's what I think of. It's like you have two different parts that are joining together and it produces that **clicking** sound. I think that's a good metaphor for this expression, because it's like you have two different people or multiple different people, and they're all coming together to have the same mindset, same attitude, and have a good **working relationship** with each other. They **click**.

**Kassy:** I can say also, I use this phrase a lot. Do you feel like you use this on the regular, Andrew?

**Andrew:** Yeah, it's really common. I use it all the time when I'm talking about my own life and working with other people, when I see other people that worked well together. Even, like, other couples, like not in a work situation, but if it's like a boyfriend and a girlfriend or a husband and wife or whatever, a couple that really has a great relationship. you could say, oh, they really **click**. They really get along well. I also use it when I'm talking about sports, ah, my hockey team, my favourite hockey team, they're not **clicking**. Or they are **clicking**. These days, they're not **clicking** very much. They're not playing as a unit very well together. So, yeah, I use it all the time.

**Kassy:** Well, let's take a listen to some examples, so we can hear what this phrase sounds like in an everyday conversation.

**Andrew:** Yeah, let's do it.

**Friend 1:** So how was your first day at work?

**Friend 2:** It was great. My team seems really friendly and everyone was really nice.

**Friend 1:** What about your boss, what's she like?

**Friend 2:** She's really nice, too. We **clicked** right away, and we even ate lunch together. I think I'm going to really like working at this company.

**Andrew:** So in that example, we just heard two friends talking about a first day at work. And usually this is a pretty stressful situation, starting a new job, meeting all your new coworkers, meeting your new boss, but it seems to go all right, because this friend had a good first day at work. Her team was really friendly and nice. And she even said that she **clicked** with her boss and they ate lunch together. So when you **click** with someone, you just have a very good relationship right from the start. You get along well, everything is smooth and easy and not awkward at all.

**Kassy:** Yeah, she must have gave a really good first impression.

**Andrew:** Sounds like it. Kassy, let's listen to our second example with this expression.

**Kassy:** OK.

**Friend 1:** So how did you do on the team project? I got an A+.

**Friend 2:** What? I barely passed. I got a C.

**Friend 1:** Ouch, what happened?

**Friend 2:** My partner was terrible. We never really **clicked** and he was super lazy.

**Friend 1:** That's such a bummer. Oh, how about we work together next time?

**Friend 2:** That would be way better. Let's do it.

**Kassy:** OK, in this example, we had two classmates talking about their recent team project. And one classmate was not happy with his grade because he had a terrible **working relationship** with his partner. They didn't **click**, they couldn't work well together, his partner was really lazy. And as a result, they got a bad grade.

**Andrew:** Yeah, and I like this example, Kassy, because it shows us how to use this expression in a negative way, when you don't **click** with someone. And I feel like that's just as common as saying that you **click** with someone, right? Some people we just naturally get along with and some people we just naturally don't get along with. And if we're describing that situation, then we say, oh, we don't **click**, or I don't **click** with that person. So they're both very common, the positive and the negative form of this expression.

Perfect. So I think we are ready to move on to expression #2 for today, which, to be honest, Kassy, has almost exactly the same feeling and meaning for me. I don't think there is too much difference in meaning between these two expressions, so it'll be easy for everyone to learn in that regard. The second expression for today is **to gel, to gel**. Now, personally, I spell this as G-E-L. But I saw on the internet that some people also spell it as J-E-L-L and that is acceptable as well.

**Kassy:** Really?

**Andrew:** Yeah. According to the dictionary, J-E-L-L is acceptable spelling, so, listeners, you can choose.

**Kassy:** Wow, I've never heard that.

**Andrew:** Yeah, OK. I was gonna ask you, Kassy, how you spell it, but I guess you go with G-E-L as well.

**Kassy:** I do, yeah.

**Andrew:** OK. So maybe, then, that is a good lesson for us, Kassy and I are both on the same page. We are **gelling** over the spelling of this expression. So we both spell it G-E-L. But, Kassy, could you break it down and tell us what it means? If you **gel** well with someone else, what does that mean?

**Kassy:** Yeah, it's really similar **to click**, it means if you **gel**, it means you work well together. Or if a group of people have a really good **working relationship**. I always think of, like, hair **gel** when this comes to mind. Hair **gel** is very smooth and, you know, like, flows through your hair. So if you're **gelling** together, like, your relationship is really smooth. And it brings you all together and makes your hairdo look nice, your group does well.

**Andrew:** Yeah, I have a similar image in my mind when I think of this expression. It's like if you were to have hair **gel** or some other liquid and maybe you had, you know, a little bit in one hand and a little bit in the other hand, and then if you combined your hands together, that **gel** would just go from two lumps of **gel** into one, right? It would combine really easily. It's almost like that image I was talking about with **click**, when you have two ends of a buckle and you push them together and they **click**. It's like two things becoming one, so I think that's the metaphor here. It just means when we say that, you know, a team **gels** or some people **gel**, it means that they are working well together, getting along well. And they just have a great **working relationship** or a great relationship with each other.

**Kassy:** On that note, let's take a listen to our first example conversation.

**Andrew:** Let's do it.

**Friend 1:** This game is incredible.

**Friend 2:** Right? So fun to watch.

**Friend 1:** And the team looks great out there. They're really playing well.

**Friend 2:** I think the last road trip really helped them **to gel**. They've been excellent since then. The game is going to start back up again. I'm gonna go grab a snack real quickly. Do you need anything?

**Friend 1:** No, no, I'm good.

**Andrew:** So in this example, we heard two friends hanging out at a sports game. And during a little **break in the action**—a **break in the action** is what we call a pause during the game, so maybe if it's at the end of the half or the quarter or the period, or if there's a TV time-out for a TV commercial, sometimes the games pause for a minute or two. They're having a quick conversation in that pause in the middle of the game. And they're talking about how well their favourite team is playing. They look excellent, they're really **gelling**. So it means that the team is playing very well together as a whole team, not just the individual players, but as a unit. They really have all come together to play as one.

Now, Kassy, we also heard another interesting expression in that example, which was a road trip. And in North American sports, this is a really common thing to talk about. But I'm not so sure in other countries because, you know, North America is very big, but if you come from a small country, then maybe this is not so common. What does it mean when we talk about a sports team going on a road trip?

**Kassy:** You know, just travelling by car or bus or van.

**Andrew:** Or airplane? If they're professionals.

**Kassy:** Honestly, yes, between two very long distances. So maybe from, going from one stadium to the next or one arena to the next.

**Andrew:** Yeah, exactly. In professional sports, in North America, usually teams will play five or six games at home in their city, and then they will travel and do a road trip and visit five or six other cities and play away games in opposing teams' stadiums, and that's usually how it works, at least for the sports that I watch, like hockey and basketball. Why don't we listen to one more example with this expression **to gel**?

**Friend 1:** Are you gonna come to the study group tonight?

**Friend 2:** I don't think so. You know, I think I might quit the group, actually.

**Friend 1:** Really? Why?

**Friend 2:** I just never really **gelled** with any of the other members. I think I'm just gonna study alone or look for another group.

**Friend 1:** Really? That's too bad. Well, we'll miss you, but good luck. I hope you can find a group you feel more comfortable with.

**Friend 2:** Thanks.

**Kassy:** In this example, we have two friends or classmates who talk about their study group that they used to be in together, but one friend has decided to quit. And he decides to do this because he doesn't **gel** with any of the other members. This is similar to example 2 when we talked about **to click**. We said that you can talk about people working well together, they **click**, or people not working well together, they don't **click**. Likewise, you can do the same thing with **gel**. If people **gel**, they work really well together. And if they don't **gel**, then they don't work well together, like in this example.

**Andrew:** Another way that we can talk about this kind of situation is with the word **chemistry**. Right? When we're talking about people working together or having just a good connection, we could say, oh, they have **chemistry**. We use this a lot when we're talking about romantic relationships, actually, especially if you're dating and you're in the early stages of dating, you know, maybe you go on a first date and you don't **click** or don't **gel**, and then the relationship is over. You don't go on a second date. But if there's **chemistry**, right, there's, like, a good feeling between the couple, then maybe they'll go on a second or third date.

We could also use this expression **chemistry** to talk about a situation like this, there was no **chemistry** among the study group. The one member didn't **gel** with the other members. He didn't feel any **chemistry** there so he decided to quit that group.



**Kassy:** I can say that this has happened to me personally, at least one or two times, trying to join several groups being, like, not for me.

**Andrew:** Yeah, I think that's natural. I think everybody can relate to both of these feelings of **clicking** or **gelling** with other people and also not **clicking** or not **gelling** or not feeling any **chemistry** with other people, for sure. That's a part of life, it's human nature.

Well, everyone, that brings us to the end of this episode. So thank you for listening all the way through and you can pat yourself on the back for doing a great job studying English today. Just to recap what we covered, we looked at two very similar expressions that are used to talk about good relationships with other people. They are **to click** and **to gel**. And, of course, we can also use the negative versions, to not **click** or to not **gel**, to talk about not getting along very well with other people.

If you enjoy listening to Culips and you learn a lot with us, then we would love it if you could support us. The best way to do that is to sign up and become a Culips member on our website, Culips.com. But that's not the only way that you can help us out. You could also follow us on social media, tell your friends who are learning English to check out Culips, or to leave us a five-star rating and a kind review on Apple Podcasts or your favourite podcast application.

That's it for us for now, but we'll be back soon with another brand-new episode and we'll talk to you then. Goodbye.

**Kassy:** See ya.



## Detailed Explanations

### To click Verb

**To click** with someone means to quickly become friends. **To click** with a group of people means to work or get along well with everyone in the group. **Click** implies that the relationship is good from the first meeting.

In this episode, Andrew explains that people who **click** “immediately start to work well together. You like each other, you have a good relationship.” Kassy adds that they “don’t have a lot of miscommunications ... They can get things done.”

Sometimes ideas or things **click** for people. This has a bit of a different meaning. It means to understand something or to have the meaning become clearer. For example, you could say that a math concept has **clicked** if a problem you had trouble understanding now makes sense to you and you can solve it with little effort.

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

**Courtney:** Susie said you were being cold to her yesterday. Is everything OK?

**Bruce:** Yes and no. I wasn’t trying to be cold, she just asks so many questions and I can’t focus. We just don’t **click**, you know?

**Courtney:** I think I understand. I like her questions. Sometimes they’re funny. But I can see how it might be a bit much. Want me to tell her to try to stop asking you so many questions?

**Bruce:** No, no, it’s OK. I’ll talk to her next time we work together.

**Akemi:** I can’t wait for you to meet Saburo. You’ll really like him.

**Rhonda:** I’m looking forward to it. You guys met in your first year of university, right?

**Akemi:** Yup! First class I ever took, we were sitting next to each other and just **clicked**. Been together ever since.

**Rhonda:** That’s awesome. I’m a bit jealous. I wish I could meet someone I **click** with.

**Akemi:** I think you will, one day!

## To gel Verb

**To gel**, like to click, means to work well together and have a good relationship. Groups who **gel** can also be friends, but they aren't always. Where click can be used for two people and a group, **gel** is most often used when talking about a group of people. Also, click is faster, more instantaneous, while **gel** is more about working well during specific times or situations.

Kassy used a good analogy in this episode. "I always think of, like, hair **gel** when this comes to mind. Hair **gel** is very smooth and, you know, like, flows through your hair. So if you're **gelling** together, like, your relationship is really smooth. And it brings you all together and makes your hairdo look nice, your group does well."

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

**Ismail:** How was your first band practice?

**Seo-Jun:** It was fantastic! Everyone in the band is so talented and we all **gel** together so well. By our third song, even the band leader was impressed.

**Ismail:** Oh, that's awesome. I can't wait to hear you guys play.

**Seo-Jun:** Well, if we keep playing this well together, we'll be ready for our first concert next month.

**Jia:** Did you watch that new show by Tracy Moose and Meredith Smith?

**Aaliyah:** That one set in Canada? I did!

**Jia:** I really liked it. I read about Tracy and Meredith's background. Apparently they were partnered in a scriptwriting class in school and **gelled** so well, they decided to work together for television.

**Aaliyah:** I'm glad they did. The show is really good. I can't wait for the next season.

## Working relationship

Noun

A **working relationship** is people's ability to work together with a colleague, boss, or employee. It is a level of cooperation that allows work to be done and progress to be made, and it means you have a functional or effective relationship.

When you have a good **working relationship** with someone, you're on good terms with them and can work well together. If you have a bad **working relationship**, you don't get along well.

Here are a couple more examples with **working relationship**:

**Millie:** I'm so glad to be home. Today at work was so rough.

**Nathan:** Oh, no. Still have trouble with your colleague?

**Millie:** Yeah. He keeps telling me to work on his projects instead of letting me just, you know, do my job.

**Nathan:** Have you talked to your boss about it?

**Millie:** No, I don't want to bother him with it.

**Nathan:** Well, your **working relationships** affect your ability to do your job. So I think this is worth bringing up with your boss.

**Millie:** Good point. OK, I'll talk with him tomorrow.

**Ami:** You and Osamu, you have such a beautiful friendship!

**Eugene:** Thanks! It's a **working relationship** that turned into a friendship that became as close as you see today.

**Ami:** That was at that shoe store?

**Eugene:** Yeah. It would have been a terrible place to work if it hadn't been for Osamu.

**Ami:** Sometimes good things come from bad things!

## Break in the action

### Idiom

**Break in the action** is primarily a sports term and is used to describe when action ceases temporarily. A **break in the action** is usually short. For example, a time-out is a type of **break in the action**, one that's called by the coach and lasts about 30 seconds.

**Break in the action** isn't usually used in regular, daily life. Instead, you'll hear native English speakers talk about taking a **break**. This is similar, in that it's a short pause from work or activity.

Here are a few more examples with **break in the action**:

**Chouko:** Hey, can you pause the game for a minute? I need to use the washroom.

**Neil:** I could, but it's live right now. Can you wait for a **break in the action**?

**Chouko:** Do you know when that might be?

**Neil:** Not really. The coaches call them whenever they ... Oh, here's one now. Go quickly.

**Chouko:** Great, thanks!

**Coach:** Time-out! I need to call a time-out!

**Referee:** All right, 30-second **break in the action** allowed. Teams to their benches.

**Coach:** OK, team, they're in the lead right now, but this time-out should make them lose their focus. When you go back out there, focus on defence. Aaron, you play the offence. If anyone gets the ball, make sure Aaron gets it.

**Crystal:** All right, I'm taking my afternoon **break**. Do you need anything from the coffee shop?

**Saki:** No, I'm good, thanks! Have a good break.

**Crystal:** Thanks!

## Chemistry

Noun

**Chemistry**, when used to describe a relationship, is a strong mutual attraction or attachment. The type of **chemistry** between two people determines how well they get along with each other. When people have good **chemistry**, it means they have a great relationship. They click. If two people have bad **chemistry**, they don't get along at all and might even be enemies.

Groups of people can also have **chemistry**. Andrew says, "When we're talking about people working together or having just a good connection, we could say, oh, they have **chemistry**." In this sense, it's a lot like when a group gels together.

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

**Kohaku:** Have you seen Norah and Ahmed practicing their lines for the show?

**Zack:** I did! I snuck in to watch them rehearse yesterday after school. They're so good! It's like they are the characters in the story.

**Kohaku:** I totally agree! They have such good **chemistry**; I can't imagine anyone else in school acting out either character.

**Zack:** I can't wait to see the play with them in full costume. It's going to be awesome.

**Tetsuya:** Hey, didn't you go on a date last weekend?

**Lana:** Yeah, I did.

**Tetsuya:** And? How'd it go? Was it fun? What's he like?

**Lana:** It was terrible. We have zero **chemistry**. He's loud, talks about sports all the time, and chews with his mouth open. I didn't even bother going to the movies with him after dinner. Just made an excuse and went home.

**Tetsuya:** Yikes. That sounds terrible. Well, hopefully the next date will go better.

**Lana:** I'm not going on another date with him!

**Tetsuya:** No, sorry. I mean with next person you date. Of course, I wouldn't go out with him again either!

## Quiz

- 1. Which of the following might be used when talking about how you get along with your colleague?**
  - a) working relationship
  - b) working relative
  - c) work relativity
  - d) relating work
  
- 2. If a coach calls for a break in the action, what does he or she want?**
  - a) more action from the players
  - b) for someone to break a bench
  - c) a brief pause in the game
  - d) a clear path so he can join the game
  
- 3. Which of the following verbs means to connect instantly?**
  - a) clip
  - b) click
  - c) clack
  - d) clap
  
- 4. If two people have good chemistry, what does that mean?**
  - a) they get good grades in science class
  - b) they have a chemical set
  - c) they don't get along at all
  - d) they have a strong, mutual attachment
  
- 5. Which of the following means that a group or team works well together?**
  - a) they gel
  - b) they gill
  - c) they gull
  - d) they gal

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## Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Who is someone you clicked with from the moment you met, and why do you think you clicked?
2. Describe a time when you and a group of people gelled together to accomplish a goal.
3. What are some working relationships you've had or you currently have that you cherish?
4. Have you ever witnessed a break in the action during a game? What happened?
5. Do you feel you have chemistry with someone? Describe what it feels like. If not, describe two people who you think have chemistry.



## Quiz Answers

1.a    2.c    3.b    4.d    5.a

### Episode credits

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