

Catch Word #272 – Bear with me

AD-FREE

Episode description

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you needed someone to wait patiently while you handled something? In this Catch Word episode, Andrew and Kassy teach you two expressions you can use in such situations: bear with me and hang tight.

Catch Word is a Culips series that teaches you idioms, phrasal verbs, and expressions used in everyday life. With Catch Word, you learn common phrases used by native English speakers while listening to casual, natural conversations.

Fun fact

Did you know that waiting can be quite stressful for our bodies? Studies have shown that while waiting, our heart rate can increase, stress and anxiety levels go up, muscles get tense, and our perception of time changes. On the bright side, if we're waiting for something exciting, our bodies release endorphins, which make us feel happy.

Expressions included in the study guide

- Bear with me
- Hang tight
- To line up [something]
- To come across as
- To get [something] across
- Can't bear [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. The transcript has been edited for clarity.

Andrew: Catch Word #272, **bear with me**, featuring Andrew and Kassy.

I'm joined here today by my trusty sidekick, Kassy. Hey, Kassy, how's it going?

Kassy: I'm doing good, Andrew, thanks for asking. And hello, listeners.

Andrew: So, Kassy, it's been a minute since we've released a Catch Word episode. And that's actually an interesting expression right off the bat, isn't it? It's been a minute. And when I say that, I don't actually mean that it's only been 1 minute since we've recorded and released a Catch Word episode. It actually means that it's been a long time, right? So when somebody says, "Oh, I haven't seen you in a minute." It means they haven't seen you in a long time. Kind of a funny expression, isn't it?

Kassy: It is. I didn't notice how weird it was until you just started explaining it.

Andrew: But it is great to be back. And I think that we have a **super helpful lesson lined up** for everyone here today.

Kassy: Yeah, I agree. And this episode today is perfect for this scenario, because our key expressions are all about telling someone to wait, just like you guys have been waiting so patiently for a Catch Word episode.

Andrew: And to be perfectly honest, I think this is a really important skill to know how to do in English. Kassy, I don't know if you have ever had this experience, but I know I have. And of course, I work with a lot of English learners, right? And over the years, I've had so many people tell me, "Andrew, wait, just wait. Please wait." Something like that, like, they want me to wait for whatever reason and that's what they say. They say, "Wait, please wait." And actually, that **comes across as** rather rude in English, if you just say the word wait, even if you use the word please wait. It's not something that English native speakers

would do very often, unless you're, like, really in a position of authority, I think, commanding somebody to do something. Like a parent might tell their kid wait, like, if their child was about to run across a busy street when the red light was red and they had to wait for the green light. That kind of situation, you could say wait, but in other situations, it **comes across as** a little bit rude.

Now, of course, I'm an English teacher, so I wasn't offended or anything. I know they're just learning the language and trying to communicate as best as they can. But I think this lesson will be so helpful for teaching people how to use the proper expressions to communicate very politely in English and **to get your point across**. So that's what we're going to explore how to do today.

Kassy: So what we'll do in this lesson, everyone, is introduce a very common, everyday expression that you can use when you want to tell or ask someone to wait for you, then we'll explain what that expression means, how you can use it, and we'll listen to some example conversations where you can hear how native speakers would use that phrase in a real-life situation. And then we'll move on to another expression as well, two expressions today.

Andrew: All right, let's get started with this episode in earnest, and turn our attention to the first key expression of this lesson, which is **bear with me, bear with me**. And bear is spelt B-E-A-R, just like the animal. But we're not talking about the animal in this expression, are we Kassy, it's nothing to do with the animal.

Kassy: No. That's right.

Andrew: So why don't you break it down for us? Could you explain what this expression means, **bear with me**?

Kassy: Sure. The expression **bear with me** is a polite way to ask someone for their patience, their understanding or cooperation while you're handling something or trying to explain something. There's a similar phrase, which is **I can't bear it. I can't bear the**

thought, which means I can't handle it. So this is kind of the opposite. I'm asking you, "I know it's a little inconvenient. But **bear with me**, please."

Andrew: Mmhmm. I'm glad you brought that up because the verb is the same verb in the two expressions, **bear with me** and I **can't bear it**. And of course, as a noun, bear is that cute or sometimes terrifying animal, depending on your perspective, and that everybody knows. But as a verb, it's not quite as common. And just like you said, Kassy, it can mean to handle something or to endure a hardship or a difficult situation.

So when you're telling somebody, **bear with me**, it means, oh, endure me for a moment, right? And we use this when we are asking somebody to wait, usually for us to do something, right? I've got to do something in order to assist you or to help you or to serve you. And it's going to take just a moment before I can offer that assistance or that help or that service, so I need you just to wait a moment. But like I said, you know, especially in a business kind of situation, if you're a customer, Kassy, and I'm a customer service agent, and I need you to wait while I'm on the phone or looking on the computer for something and I just say to you, "Wait," it's going **to come across as** rather rude and you'd probably think that's bad customer service. But if I said, "Oh, could you **bear with me**, please?" Well, then, that would be perfectly polite, right?

Kassy: Yeah, it kind of feels like you're putting that person on the same team as you, like, I know this sucks. I know you don't want to wait. But could you **bear with me**, work together with me to get through this situation?

Andrew: Now, the reason that we are recording an episode about this topic right now, Kassy, it's got a little bit of a background story, which I'll share with you. And it kind of is funny, because, Kassy, we've been talking recently about our recording schedule, when should we record and trying to link up our availabilities. And we were thinking about recording last week, but I had to visit the dentist last week. Do you remember? And I told you, oh, I don't know if my mouth will be frozen or fine. And I might have difficulty talking. So we decided not to record last week. While I was at the dentist, actually, the dentist had to do some kind of uncomfortable thing. He had to put some pressure on, I don't know

exactly what he was doing. I couldn't see because I can't see in my own mouth. But he had to do something where he put some pressure on one of my teeth. And in that moment, you know, it's funny, I'm in Korea here, but the dentist lived in America for a long time. So he speaks really good English, which was a pleasant surprise to me, actually. But he told me, "**Bear with me**," while he was putting that pressure on my tooth for a moment.

Kassy: A real-world example.

Andrew: A real-world example, **bear with me**, and it clicked, ah, this is a great topic for a lesson on Catch Word. So even when I was in the dentist chair, there, in that little moment of unpleasantness, I was thinking of Culips. So, there we are, that's a real-world example of how you could use this expression. And I have to say the dentist used it perfectly. And it really stood out because I haven't heard too many second-language users of English here in Korea use that kind of expression. So I was really impressed by his usage of that.

So just to summarize, everyone, **bear with me** is a very polite expression that we can use when we want to ask someone to be patient with us or wait a moment before we can help them or assist them or serve them.

So now that we know what it means, why don't we listen to a couple of example conversations, Kassy? Does that sound OK to you?

Kassy: Yeah, let's do it.

Coworker 1: Sorry, everyone. I'm just having a little trouble opening up the presentation file. **Bear with me** for a moment, OK?

Coworker 2: No worries. The computer in this meeting room has been acting really strange lately. Let me know if you need any help.

Coworker 1: Thanks. I think it's starting now. It was just a little hiccup.

Coworker 2: No problem. Take your time.

Andrew: Let's break this example conversation down. So, it sounded to me, Kassy, like this conversation took place in a meeting room at an office. And one of the workers in that office was about to give a presentation. And he had a kind of nightmare situation happen right before you have to make a presentation. You're trying to open your presentation file, and something is not working, right? I don't know exactly what the issue was. But it sounds like that computer in that meeting room probably isn't so great. So he's like kind of stressed out, you know? Everybody's standing there staring, waiting for him to get the meeting started and he's stressing out trying to open the file. And so he said to the other people that are waiting in the meeting room, please **bear with me**. **Bear with me** for a moment, meaning I've got a little issue here with a computer, please just wait while I get it fixed and ready to go.

Kassy: Yeah, there was also another cute little phrase in there that I'd like to mention, which was it was just a little hiccup, when they were talking about the computer, you know, having a quick fix. A little hiccup is when there's just a small problem happening, whether it be to a piece of technology or any situation.

Andrew: Yeah, it's a very cute word, isn't it, hiccup? And maybe some listeners don't even know what a hiccup is. What is a hiccup? It's kind of hard to define.

Kassy: I feel like when you get air in your diaphragm, and then you uncontrollably make a weird sound.

Andrew: Yeah, probably most people have had that experience, right? Kind of that uncontrollable little noise that comes out is called a hiccup. And it's also used to talk about a small problem, exactly, a hiccup.

OK, well, why don't we move on to example conversation 2 now?

Librarian: Hello, how can I help you today?

Patron: I'd like to find some books about golden retrievers. Do you know where I could find some?

Librarian: Let me just check the computer and I'll see what we have. OK, **bear with me** for just a second.

Patron: Yeah, yeah, of course. Please take your time.

Librarian: Thanks for your patience. OK, so all our pet books are on the second floor in section C. And it looks like we have several books specifically about golden retrievers.

Patron: OK, second floor, section C. I got it. Thanks so much.

Librarian: No problem.

Kassy: All right. In this example conversation, we are at a library. And one visitor at the library is interested in picking up a book on golden retrievers, but they have no idea where to look. So he goes to the librarian and asks for some help. And while he's waiting, the librarian says, "**Bear with me** for just a second. Please wait while I researched this topic on golden retrievers." And he waited patiently. And she told him where to go.

Andrew: Yeah, exactly. I could imagine that that's not the most popular topic. You know, there's probably a lot of people going into the library and asking, "Where's Harry Potter? Where are Lord of the Rings, or where are these best sellers?" But golden retrievers, maybe not as popular, books about them. So she had to look in the computer database, right? And while she was doing that, she wanted him to wait for a moment. So she just said, "Oh, please **bear with me**."

Kassy, a quick question for you before we move on to the next key expression. We've heard this expression used when telling somebody to wait for you, right? Please **bear with me**. **Bear with me**. Could you also use it as a question, like asking somebody to wait for you?

Kassy: Could you **bear with me** for a second?

Andrew: Yeah, exactly, right? We could also use it as a question, right? So that's just another way to ask somebody to wait for you is to use it as a question, right? Could you

please **bear with me**? Or could you **bear with me**? Can you **bear with me**? Right? Anything like that would be totally fine to use in these situations as well.

All right, it's time for expression #2. And this is a fun one, much, much, much more casual than the first one. So, the first one is very polite, very formal. And this one is way more casual. So although they have the same meaning, essentially, they have a difference in formality. This one is much less formal. The expression is **hang tight, hang tight**. And, Kassy, what do you want to say about this expression?

Kassy: I don't know. **Hang tight** is very slangy. It reminds me of a skateboarder being like, **hang tight**.

Andrew: Yeah, I think in my personal life, I would never ever say to my friends **bear with me**. Like, I would use it in my professional life or in a customer service role, of course. But I would never say to my friends like, "Oh, **bear with me** for just a second." That would seem a little too formal. But I've definitely used the expression **hang tight**, like a million times, probably, with my friends and family even, **hang tight**. So, it's another way to say wait or please wait. It has that exact same meaning but, yeah, just a much more casual way to express that.

And, yeah, I don't know, Kassy, I was trying to find some information about the origin of this expression, and I couldn't really find any great information. So I'm not exactly sure of why we say this. But it does sound, like you said, you were talking about a skateboarder, right? And I think it has that kind of like California feeling to it, surfer or skateboarder or something. Maybe it came out of one of those subcultures, because that's also the imagery that I get when I think of this expression is like some kind of skater dude using it.

Kassy: Exactly. I think my dad uses this expression a lot. Well, everybody does. But the person I know in my life use it most is my father.

Andrew: So I think the key thing that we should emphasize and highlight here is that, although they have the exact same meaning, you wouldn't want to use **hang tight** in a business or customer service situation. It's too casual, too informal, OK, for that kind of formal, professional situation, you should use **bear with me**. And for informal or fun

situations, very casual situations, then you can use **hang tight**. So, that's really the only difference that I wanted to clarify.

And now why don't we listen to some example conversations, and we'll hear how native speakers use this kind of expression in their everyday lives. Here we go.

Security guard: We just need to check your bag before you can go into the stadium.

Hang tight for just a sec, OK?

Concertgoer: Yeah, sure thing, no rush.

Security guard: All right. All good. Enjoy the show.

Concertgoer: Yeah, thanks. Will do.

Andrew: Let's break this example down. So in this example conversation, there is a security guard who needs to check the bag of a concertgoer who is going to a stadium to watch a concert, maybe it's a Taylor Swift concert or a Beyoncé concert, who knows. But it's like this big stadium gig. And the concertgoer is going to the stadium to watch the show. And, Kassy, often when you go to these big stadiums, you have to pass through security before you're allowed to enter the stadium, right? There are often metal detectors or bag checks. And this is what happened to that concertgoer, they had a bag check. And it's just to, you know, look in the bag and make sure that someone is not bringing in any weapons or alcohol or drugs or anything that shouldn't be brought into the stadium, right? So while the security guard was checking the bag, she said, "**Hang tight** for a sec." **Hang tight** for a sec. And this just means please wait for a moment. Of course, a sec means a second. But just like how we were talking about the expression for a minute at the start of the show, remember that? We also use for a sec to talk about obviously more than 1 second, right? There's going to be maybe a little bit of time, you have to wait until the security guard checks your bag. But it's just a phrase that we use instead of saying for a moment, just **hang tight** for a sec. And, yeah, just means please wait for a moment.

Kassy: Yeah, I agree with that, Andrew. I think for a sec or just a sec is used frequently, as well, when asking someone to wait for you. Just a second, please. Just a sec. So

adding for a sec or just a sec on to **hang tight** just makes it even more slangy, even more natural.

Andrew: Kassy, I don't know about in your house, but in my house, or at least when I'm speaking, I use this expression all the time with my wife. You know, my wife will call me like, "Andrew, it's dinner" or something. And I'm like, "Just a sec." You know?

Kassy: Exactly. Yes, me too. Same, same.

Andrew: It means, like, I'll be there as soon as I can, right? I'm coming, just wait a moment. Just a sec. And, yeah, good point, that's another very frequent expression that we use all the time when we want to, you know, ask somebody to wait for just a moment.

OK, let's listen to example conversation #2 two right now.

Barista: Hello, what can I get started for you?

Customer: I'll have an oat milk latte, please.

Barista: Yeah, you bet. We've got a couple orders ahead of you, so just **hang tight**, and we'll bring it out to you as soon as possible.

Customer: No worries. Take your time. I'm just gonna sit over there by the window.

Barista: OK, perfect. As soon as it's ready, we'll bring it over.

Customer: Thanks.

Kassy: All right, in this example dialogue, we have a barista and a customer. And the barista lets the customer know, you know, it's kind of rush hour. We have a lot of people right now, can you **hang tight**? Wait for just a bit, and I'll bring your drink as soon as possible.

Andrew: Kassy, one thing that I want to ask you about is we just clarified that in a customer service situation, you should use **bear with me**. But now here at a café we're hearing the barista say **hang tight**. So what's going on there, what's that all about?

Kassy: I think cafés are stereotypically considered as a laid-back, hipster kind of place, so usually the people working there are going to be younger, more chill, and less likely to use formal English.

Andrew: Yeah, it's actually a really good place probably to practice and use casual expressions, because, like you said, they're very laid back and just easygoing. And so, yeah, I think that's why you hear **hang tight** used in a business situation, but it's a café, so it's more relaxed. And you know, it's OK to use it in that kind of situation, especially when the staff are younger, absolutely.

Well, everybody, that is going to bring us to the end of today's episode. So, thank you for tuning in. And congratulations on completing another English lesson here with Kassy and me today. Well done.

Kassy: Just to recap, we learned two expressions you can use to ask someone to wait for you while you do something. The first, **bear with me**, is a polite way you can tell someone to wait for you while you finish something. And the second, **hang tight**, is the more casual way of asking someone to wait patiently for you.

Andrew: If you're looking to connect with like-minded English learners and dive deeper into discussions about what you hear on Culips, our Discord server is the place to be. It's an active online community where you can connect and communicate with Culips listeners from around the world who are passionate about improving their fluency. And the good news is, it's completely free. So to join, just follow the link in the description for this episode. And, guys, let's keep the conversation going about this episode on our Discord server.

Take care and we'll talk to you next time when we're back with a brand-new episode. Goodbye.

Kassy: See ya!

Andrew: That brings us to the end of this lesson. Talk to you next time. Bye!

Detailed Explanations

Bear with me Expression

The first expression featured in this episode is **bear with me**. As Andrew and Kassy explain, it's a polite way to ask someone to wait patiently while you're trying to solve a problem or explain something.

The word "bear" in this expression means to tolerate or endure. You can use the expression **bear with me** when you need someone to be patient with you or give you some time to do something, such as if you need time to find some information, remember something, or explain something complicated. Using this expression is a good way to ask for understanding and patience from a person, and to show them that you realize that it might cause them inconvenience.

You might hear different ways to use this expression, such as "Could you **bear with me** for a second?" or "Please **bear with me** for a moment." Often, this expression is followed by the words "while" or "as" and the explanation of exactly what you want the person to be patient for. For instance, if you're at the post office and the clerk is having a problem with their computer, they might say, "Please **bear with me** as I fix this issue with my computer."

As Andrew mentions in this episode, the phrase **bear with me** is commonly used in formal situations and business settings, but isn't so common in more casual and informal conversations.

Here are a couple more examples with **bear with me**:

Russel: Hi Alisson. Could you see if we can set up a conference call with our new branch later today?

Alisson: Sure, let me quickly check their availability. Just **bear with me** for a moment.

Russel: No problem, take your time.

Simon: Our new team member has prepared a presentation. Jade, over to you.

Jade: Thank you, Simon. Hi everyone, I'm Jade. I'm a little nervous, so please **bear with me** as I walk you through my presentation.

Hang tight

Idiom, informal

The other expression featured in this episode is **hang tight**. As Andrew and Kassy explain, this expression has the exact same meaning as *bear with me*: it means to wait patiently. The only difference is that it's much more casual and isn't commonly used in professional contexts.

The expression **hang tight** is similar to phrases like *hang on* or *hold on*. The word "hang" here means to stay put, to wait without moving anywhere. When you use the phrase **hang tight**, it means that you are asking someone to wait for a short period of time and that whatever you need to do won't take long. It's like saying to someone, "Please wait just a little bit, and I'll be there to assist you."

The expression **hang tight** is often used in stressful and urgent situations where someone has a problem and another person is trying to help them. For instance, if a friend calls you and tells you that their car broke down and they need your help, you might reply, "**Hang tight**, I'm on my way." By saying this, you are asking your friend to stay where they are and reassuring them that you'll be there to help them soon.

In the first dialogue example featuring this expression, you hear the phrase "**hang tight** for just a sec." As Andrew and Kassy point out, this is a common way to use this idiom, which makes it sound even more slangy and natural.

Here are a couple more examples with **hang tight**:

Jack: The guys are waiting outside. Are you ready to go?

Naomi: I just need to send a quick email. Can you **hang tight** for a sec?

Jack: Of course, take your time.

Alex: Hey Hayley! The show's about to start, where are you?

Hayley: I'm just finishing up paying for parking. **Hang tight**, I'll be there soon.

Alex: I'll be waiting for you by the entrance!

To line up [something]

Phrasal verb

At the very beginning of this episode, Andrew says, “We have a **super helpful lesson lined up** for everyone here today.” **To line up [something]** means to prepare or organize something. When you **line up things**, such as tasks or events, you plan them or arrange them in a particular order.

When used literally, this phrasal verb means putting things or people in a line or a row, one after the other. For example, someone can **line up cups** on a shelf, or **soldiers can be lined up** on a field. Similarly, when used figuratively, **to line up** means to arrange things, to get them ready.

Just like in this episode, the expression **to line up [something]** is often used in the passive voice, as in **to be lined up** or **to have [something] lined up**. Using this phrasal verb in the passive voice shifts the focus from the person performing the action to the action itself. For example, someone can **have job interviews lined up**, which means they’ve planned their job interviews.

To line up [something] is a versatile expression that is suitable for both formal and informal situations. It can be applied to various contexts that involve planning, organizing, or arranging something.

Here are a couple more examples with **to line up [something]**:

Mary: I haven’t seen you in a while! Shall we meet up for lunch? How does Wednesday sound?

Scott: I’d love to, but I **have a lot lined up** this week. I’ll probably just grab a quick lunch at work.

Mary: I see. Well, let me know when you’re less busy. We should catch up sometime!

Brenda: Any weekend plans?

Kevin: We’re celebrating our wedding anniversary on Saturday! I’ve **got a relaxing spa day and a romantic dinner reservation lined up**.

Brenda: Sounds great! Enjoy!

To come across as

Phrasal verb

When introducing the topic for this episode, Andrew shares how his students often say, “Wait, please wait” to him. He explains that in English, this can **come across as** a little bit rude.

To come across as is a phrasal verb that means to appear or seem. This expression is typically followed by an adjective and is used when describing the impression someone makes. For example, if you meet a person and see them as confident, you can say, “They **come across as** confident.” This means that you see them as confident; you make this judgement based on your impression of them. This opinion might not be accurate, as it’s your own subjective perception of a person, the way you interpret their words or actions.

This expression can be used when talking about the way you perceive things, ideas, or experiences. You can use it in both positive and negative ways. For instance, if you say that a website **comes across as** user friendly, it means that the website appears to be easy to use. If you say somebody’s comment **comes across as** offensive, it means their comment seems offensive to you.

Another common way to use **to come across as** is in phrases like “it might **come across as**” or “I don’t want to **come across as**.” When you use it this way, you’re showing that you’re aware of how your words could be perceived and you want to make sure you’re not misunderstood. It’s a great way to be cautious and considerate during conversations and to prevent any confusion.

Here are a couple more examples with **to come across as**:

Joyce: What did you think about Mike’s new business idea?

Ben: I don’t want to **come across as negative**, but I’m not sure he knows what he’s talking about. It doesn’t really sound like a good idea to me.

Cynthia: Have you met the new teacher? What do you think?

Phillip: Yes, I have. I’d say he **comes across as enthusiastic and passionate** about his subject. I really enjoyed his lecture.

To get [something] across

Phrasal verb

At the beginning of this episode, Andrew points out that the expressions they're about to teach will help you to communicate politely in English and **to get your point across**.

To get [something] across means to communicate clearly and effectively. When you **get your point across**, it means that you manage to explain it in a way that the other person understands exactly what you mean. This expression can be used with various nouns, such as idea, point, message, or concept, for example.

The expression **to get [something] across** can be applied to different modes of communication: spoken, written, or even non-verbal communication. For example, an artist can **get his feelings across** in his artwork, which means he manages to successfully express what he feels to the viewers. Or imagine not speaking a foreign language, but **getting your idea across** using gestures so that the other person understands you.

You can use this expression when you struggle to explain something complicated. In such situations you might say, "I'm not sure how **to get this across**" or "I find it very difficult **to get my message across**." It's a versatile expression that can be used in a wide range of situations where you want to express your thoughts clearly.

Here are a couple more examples with **to get [something] across**:

Nathan: What are your thoughts on our marketing campaign for the new product?

Jane: I think we need to focus more on **getting its value across** more effectively. We need our customers to see why it's better than the alternatives out there.

Nathan: I totally agree. I'll make sure to let our team know what they need to keep in mind. Thanks!

Allen: Hey Abby, how are you doing? How did your chat with your boyfriend go?

Abby: Not so great, if I'm honest. I really struggle **to get my feelings across** when it comes to relationships.

Allen: I totally get it. Sharing your feelings can be challenging. But if you want to build a strong connection with someone, being open and honest is important.

Can't bear [something]

Idiom

When breaking down the expression “bear with me,” Kassy mentions a similar phrase: **can't bear it**. She explains that it means the opposite—not being patient or able to handle something.

When we say we **can't bear [something]**, we mean it bothers us a lot and we find it difficult to put up with, both physically and emotionally. We usually use this phrase to express strong feelings of annoyance or frustration about something. For instance, if cigarette smoke bothers you a lot, you can say you **can't bear it** when people smoke around you.

Kassy uses a variation of this expression, **can't bear the thought of [something]**, which essentially means the same. For example, one might say that they **can't bear the thought of running in the heat**. This means that they find it hard to endure and won't be able to handle it.

Unbearable is a common adjective used to express the same idea. If something is **unbearable**, it means you **can't bear it** or tolerate it. For example, on a very hot day you might describe the heat as **unbearable**.

Here are a couple more examples with **can't bear [something]**:

Lauren: So, have you planned anything fun for your birthday?

George: I was thinking we could grab lunch somewhere and then check out the new roller coaster in the amusement park.

Lauren: I'm afraid I'll have to pass on that one!! I **can't bear roller coasters**. The idea alone makes me feel sick. But I'll go with you and keep an eye on your stuff while you enjoy the ride.

Evan: How is it living in New Zealand? Do you miss home?

Greta: I do sometimes. But I like it here! The nature is amazing. And I like the climate here, too.

Evan: I really admire you! I could never move to a different country. I **can't bear the thought of being far away** from my family and friends. It would be just too hard for me.

Quiz

1. **You're on the phone about your credit card and the clerk says, "Please bear with me for a moment." What does this mean?**
 - a) they're asking you to call back later
 - b) they're asking you to come to the bank
 - c) there's a bear on the other line
 - d) they're asking you to wait

2. **Which of the following is NOT commonly used in a professional context if you want to ask someone to wait?**
 - a) hang with me
 - b) hang tight
 - c) bear with me
 - d) bear tight

3. **If you have a lot of things planned this week, you can say, "_____."**
 - a) I have a lot lined up this week
 - b) I have a lot lined this week
 - c) I have a lot of lines this week
 - d) I have a lot lined across this week

4. **True or false? If a person you met comes across as a good communicator, it's your own perception of them and it might not be accurate.**
 - a) true
 - b) false

5. **If a friend of yours says they can't bear spicy food, they mean that _____.**
 - a) they really like spicy food
 - b) they can't bring dinner to your place
 - c) they can't handle spicy food
 - d) they've never tried spicy food

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. How do you usually feel if you have to wait for someone or something? Are you someone who can wait patiently?
2. Please describe a time when other people had to bear with you. What happened?
3. When you meet new people, do you think the way you come across accurately represents who you really are?
4. Have you ever found it difficult to get your point across? Could you share what happened?
5. What's something that you can't bear?

Quiz Answers

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

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