

## Chatterbox #104 – Getting educated in Canada

### Informal Contractions in this Episode

Informal contractions are unofficial short forms of other words, and they're usually only used in casual conversation. For example, when a native English speaker talks casually, they might say *gonna* instead of *going to*, or *whaddya* instead of *what do you*. Even though informal contractions are usually only used in spoken English, we include them in the Culips written transcripts to help you get used to how they're used and what they sound like.

These are the informal contractions used in today's episode, along with their meanings:

- **'cause**: because
- **gonna**: going to
- **kinda**: kind of
- **lotta**: lot of
- **wanna**: want to

### Transcript

Harp: Hello everyone. This is Harp.

Maura: And Maura.

Harp: And we're here at Culips English Learning Podcast.

Maura: That's right. We've got another episode for you. But first, don't forget to also visit our website, Culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. Because on our website, you can become a member. And when you're a member, it makes these episodes that much more educational for you. You have transcripts, you have more detailed explanations of the expressions we use, and you have quizzes.

Harp: Yes. And if you're on Facebook, check us out there, because we're always responding to English questions and we love to see suggestions for upcoming episodes.

Maura: That's right. Just today, actually, I was on our Facebook page, and I found one. Today's episode was suggested by Carlos Galvan, who wanted us to talk about education.

Harp: What else did you do today, Maura?

- Maura: Actually, I was very lucky because, I stayed inside all day. It was a really rainy day in Montreal and I didn't have to go out, so I **took advantage of that**, stayed in sweatpants all day, and just felt cozy around my place.
- Harp: **Lucky duck!** You didn't have to go out in the rain?
- Maura: Nope. I just got to stay all warm and dry inside.
- Harp: Lucky.
- Maura: Now, today's episode is a Chatterbox episode, and that is where we chat about all different kinds of topics. And sometimes, like today, topics suggested by our listeners.
- Harp: Yeah. Thanks again, Carlos, for the very interesting topic of education in North America.
- Maura: That's right. Today we're gonna be talking about education. First, we're going to talk about primary and secondary education.
- Harp: And then we're gonna talk about **post**-secondary education.
- Maura: And the last thing we're going to do is tell you a little bit about our own experiences going to school and becoming educated people.
- Harp: That's what we're going to do, so let's get started.
- Maura: OK, let's start at the beginning, with school. When you are about four, or five, or six years old, depending where you live in Canada, you begin school.
- Harp: Yes. You start school in kindergarten.
- Maura: That's right. And, you know, I love the word *kindergarten*. It's actually a German word and English kind of stole it. But it's the word that we use for your very first year of school.
- Harp: It's the best year of school, I think.
- Maura: Probably the most fun and most exciting.
- Harp: So after you finish kindergarten, you move to grade 1.
- Maura: And then you just start counting up from there: grade 2, grade 3, grade 4...
- Harp: Yeah. And it depends on where you went to school, but elementary school can go from kindergarten to grade 5 or 6, or even 7 or 8. It really depends where you are in Canada.

- Maura: That's right. Then you go to a junior high school, which could be grade 6, grade 7, grade 8, grade 9. Again, it's really hard to say because depending where you are, the elementary school and junior schools are a little bit different.
- Harp: Yeah. You always start elementary school with kindergarten and then you move up the grades.
- Maura: That's right. Now, after elementary school, or grade school, and if you go to junior high school, then you have high school, which, again, is different everywhere, but usually starts around grade 9 or 10 and goes up to grade 12.
- Harp: Yes. Some people go directly from elementary school to high school. And then they would start at grade 9, maybe even grade 8.
- Maura: Yeah. And this is a little bit different, because in high school, you have to get particular credits in particular subjects to qualify for a high school diploma. In elementary school, you just complete your grade every year. So high school is a little bit different because you have specific classes that you have to pass.
- Harp: Yeah. And usually when you're in elementary school, and most of the time in junior high school, you stay with one class and you do all your subjects together. Your science, your math, English; it's all together with the same people, with the same students. But in high school, usually you're switching to different classes every subject.
- Maura: Right. And different teachers. So, when you're in elementary school, for example, in grade 3, you probably have one teacher. You might have a special teacher for music, and you definitely have a special teacher for learning another language, but you basically have one teacher. In high school, every subject is taught by a different teacher.
- Harp: And things are a little bit different in Quebec, but that'll get even more confusing, so we'll explain that in the Learning Materials.
- Maura: Right. Quebec, which is the province that we're in right now, has a little bit of a different school system. So become a member if you're curious, and we will talk about how Quebec is different. Now something else that is maybe interesting and special about Canada is that... Well, first of all, we're a bilingual country. So we have English and French schools all across the country. Even in parts of Canada where English is the majority language, there are French schools. And in the parts of Canada where French is mostly spoken, we have English schools.

- Harp: Yeah. And even in English schools in English parts of Canada, you can learn French, and **vice versa**.
- Maura: That's right. Now, another issue about schools we wanted to bring up is public versus private. And... And something that I found quite interesting is that we have only a very small portion of Canadians that go to private school. Most people educated in Canada attend public school. Less than 10 percent of people go to private school.
- Harp: Yeah. People in Canada are very proud of the free public system that exists all across Canada, and they like to support it. There are very few people I know who have been to private school.
- Maura: Yeah, me too. There have been a lot of laws and regulations and politicians who have worked to keep the public system good and to encourage people to send their children there.
- Harp: Yeah. That's true. Because private school is very expensive and we really love our public school system here.
- Maura: Yeah. It is usually the upper class, or the very rich Canadians, who go to private school.
- Harp: Yeah. Now let's talk about our next topic, which is **post**-secondary education.
- Maura: Right. And this is just a fancy way of saying education after high school, which is also called secondary school. And **post**- means something that happens after. So when we talk about university or college or any other kind of degree that happens after high school, we can say **post-secondary education**.
- Harp: Yes, exactly. In Canada, the **post**-secondary school year starts in September and ends in April.
- Maura: That's right. So whether you go to college or university, this is your new school year. But first, let's talk about university, because college and university in Canada are not the same thing. They're different from each other.
- Harp: OK. Let's start with university.
- Maura: So in Canada, we have a bunch of public universities. We also have a very small **handful** of private universities, but these are usually much smaller, and specialized.
- Harp: Yeah. Most people go to the public universities.

- Maura: And at university, you can get an undergraduate degree or a graduate degree, and even a **post-graduate** degree.
- Harp: Yes. An undergraduate degree is also called a bachelor's degree and it's usually a 3 to 4 year program. It's the first degree that you'll get in university.
- Maura: That's right. And when you do a bachelor's degree, you can also do one with honours. And that means that you do the additional year and you have to **maintain a certain average**.
- Harp: And after you're finished your undergrad degree, you can do a graduate degree, which is also known as either a master's or **a PhD**. And you start with the master's degree, which is usually 2 years long. And then you do **a PhD**, and that can be 3 years to 6 years long. It can range for anyone.
- Maura: It's true, because I know people that have done a master's, and even when the program is 2 years, sometimes it takes them 2 and a half or 3 years. Or some people work on their **PhD** for 8 years.
- Harp: Yeah. Because when you're doing a graduate degree, you're doing a lot more research. It's theoretical.
- Maura: Yeah. It's more independent, so it can take longer. Oh, and **a PhD** can also be called a doctorate. I think that's what makes talking about education kind of confusing. We have so many names for things. And sometimes we have two or three names for the same thing.
- Harp: Yes. We hope we're making it clear for you now, though.
- Maura: So, what's important to know is that university is a more theoretical kind of education, and is more research based. So at universities, you often find yourself in courses where you're possibly discussing ideas or theories about how things work and you're doing a lot of reading and research.
- Harp: Now, Carlos, our listener who asked us to discuss education asked us to talk about different majors in university. But there are so many! So we'll you a couple of them.
- Maura: Yeah. There are so many, and it's hard to choose which ones to talk about. And depending on which university you're interested in, there might even be more options.
- Harp: Now, before we can even talk about majors, we have to talk about different programs in university. Because in university, you can get a bachelor of science, a bachelor of arts, a bachelor of education, a bachelor of engineering, a bachelor of nursing. Even more!

- Maura: There are lots of bachelor's degrees; that's for sure. So, for example, if you're doing a bachelor's of science, then you're in the science program and then you can specialize or have a major in one of the sciences, like biology, or chemistry, or physics.
- Harp: Yeah. And if you're in the bachelor of commerce program, you can do a major of accounting, or finance, or marketing.
- Maura: That's right. But you know, even that is just a general description, because when you get into a university degree program, you can become even more specialized. You can combine different programs. Some universities even allow you to create your own combination of courses and you have a special major just for yourself.
- Harp: It can get quite complex. We'll explain a little bit more in the Learning Materials. So when you do a program in university, you have a major and you can often have a minor, so it's a second topic that you're studying. So if you do a bachelor of commerce in accounting as your major, you could do marketing as your minor.
- Maura: That's right. And, actually, you can also have a double major if you want. So, as we said, it can get quite complicated. And really, you don't learn about all of these technicalities until you're in university and in a program, and then you find out more and more, and often you kind of change and specialize as you go along.
- Harp: Yes. Let's move on to colleges now.
- Maura: OK. So, college in Canada is not the same as university. They're a different kind of **post**-secondary institution.
- Harp: Yes. They're very practical, related to the trades. They're more **hands-on** education.
- Maura: That's right. When you go to college, you are doing some specific training for a profession. You are gaining practical skills that you can use, usually in a specific position, once you've finished.
- Harp: And, like in university, there are so many different programs in college. You can take a variety of different topics. You could do something in broadcasting or journalism.
- Maura: That's right. You could also study child development at college. Or if you wanna become a pilot, you study aviation in college.
- Harp: There are so many other programs, but we can't list them all here.

- Maura: And hopefully, you can see the difference between university programs and college programs. The college programs we listed, like broadcasting or child development, are more focused to a job. If you're in the broadcasting program, you're going to be working in broadcasting. And if you're in the child development program, you're going to be working with kids after. But in university, for example, if you do a bachelor of arts degree and English is your major, it's pretty open. You don't really know what specifically you could do with that degree.
- Harp: Yes, exactly. And something important to note is that these words are used a little bit differently by Americans. In the US, they say *college* when they mean university. *I'm going to college this year.*
- Maura: Yeah. Americans say *college* when they're talking about a bachelor's degree, that 3- or 4-year first degree from university. But Canadians say *university* for everything. We use *university* to talk about a bachelor's degree, an undergrad degree, and a graduate degree. College and university in Canada are not the same thing. You can't get exactly the same kind of education at both of these places.
- Harp: Yeah. Let's move on to the next topic.
- Maura: Now that we've given you a lot of information about how the school system works in Canada, we're just gonna tell you about our own experiences in that system.
- Harp: OK. Well, I'm gonna with my very first day of school.
- Maura: That's a good place to start.
- Harp: It was my first day of kindergarten. And I have an older sister, so she walked me to my kindergarten class, and I was so terrified. I started crying and crying. And she was trying to be cool, so she told me, "Just stop **being a baby** and go to class."
- Maura: Aw. Did that help or make you feel worse?
- Harp: I was so scared I kept crying. But by about 5 minutes of being in class, I was in love with my teacher and having so much fun.
- Maura: You know, I like imagining a little kindergarten Harp. I bet you were so cute.
- Harp: I think I was.
- Maura: Did you like going to school? Did you do well in school?
- Harp: I loved going to school and, yeah, I always did well in school.



- Maura: Hey, that's good. I liked going to school as well, and I had a great experience. I had good teachers throughout elementary school. And then, of course, comes high school. Now, my own theory here, Harp, is that people either loved high school or they hated high school. I rarely meet someone who says that high school was OK. People seem to have strong feelings about this experience.
- Harp: I agree with you, Maura. So now, did you like high school?
- Maura: I have to say that I did. I had a good group of friends, and I guess I could say that most of my classes were interesting. Or at least I didn't mind going. But actually, what I really liked about high school was just the social part of it.
- Harp: That's funny, 'cause I'm the complete opposite. I hated high school. I had some interesting teachers, but I just didn't like the social aspect. People were gossiping too much. It was not fun for me at all.
- Maura: That's funny that we had such different experiences, and the thing that I loved about it, you hated.
- Harp: Exactly.
- Maura: Although I didn't like gossiping. I didn't like that part of it. But I liked chatting with my friends all the time and hanging out at lunch and stuff like that. It's funny how even though we're talking about education, a lot of the memories you have from school aren't about what you learned or the tests that you took. It's about all that other stuff.
- Harp: Yeah, I agree with you.
- Maura: So, if you hated high school so much, were you very happy when it finished?
- Harp: Extremely happy when it finished. I was so excited to go to university.
- Maura: OK. So, did you know what you wanted to do? Or how did you decide what program to go into after school?
- Harp: I had a general idea of what I wanted to do. When I was young, I thought I wanted to be a lawyer, so I decided to go into political science. That seemed like **a good route** to me.
- Maura: Oh, I see. And you stuck with that all the way through?
- Harp: Well, I finished my political science degree, but I decided not to go to law school.
- Maura: Why did you change your mind?



- Harp: I just realized that it didn't seem like the right path for me.
- Maura: Now something I remember that you've already told me is that when you were in university, you were a part of a lot of clubs and student organizations.
- Harp: Yeah. I was more social in university, and I was involved in a lot of groups and clubs in the political science department. And I did model UN, I was part of the political science student association. I loved university.
- Maura: Oh. It's funny, because I wasn't involved in any groups in university.
- Harp: Oh no. Did you have fun?
- Maura: I had some fun. I **went away to school**, so in my first year, I lived in residence and met a lotta people. But I found it a really big change and I had to work a lot harder in university. To be honest, I had more fun in high school. And when I went into university, I didn't know what I wanted to do. So I kinda changed my mind a lot.
- Harp: What did you end up taking?
- Maura: I ended up doing a major in English literature, and I pretty much just decided on that because I knew that I was in humanities and I liked reading. That's about the only reason why. And you know, school doesn't have to stop there. More and more, people go back to school later on. And I know that we both did that. So, tell us about going back to school after you finished your degree, Harp.
- Harp: A couple of years after I finished my degree, I decided to go back and do a certificate program, and it was very different going back as a more mature adult.
- Maura: How's that?
- Harp: I felt more focused on the studying. I didn't join any clubs. I was just about getting the certificate done.
- Maura: OK. And where did you do your certificate? And what did you do it in?
- Harp: I went to McGill here in Montreal, and I did a certificate in human resources.
- Maura: I see. Which makes sense, because if you've been a Culips listener for a while, you've probably listened to episodes where Harp has given advice about getting work.
- Harp: Yeah. I work in human resources now, and specifically in recruitment.

- Maura: Cool.
- Harp: What about you? What did you take and where?
- Maura: Well, not long after I finished my university degree, I did a certificate for teaching English as a second language, and I started teaching English for a while. And then, when I came back from Japan, I decided that I was going to go back to school again, so I did a certificate in communications. And it was very general, so I studied about TV, and radio, and writing for print. That was a really fun little certificate I did. But then I realized that I really love teaching, and so I went to the University of Ottawa and I did a bachelor's degree in education.
- Harp: Do you think you'll go back to school again?
- Maura: You know, it gets harder and harder, financially, to do that because you don't want to stop earning money at your job. But I really loved going back to school and I really love learning about new things that I'm passionate about. So, I'll **never say never**. What about you?
- Harp: I would 100% agree with you. I think I would like to go back to do something, but I can't imagine doing it full time, and I don't know exactly what I would study.
- Maura: Well, **only time will tell**.
- Harp: All right, let's do a quick recap of the episode.
- Maura: Now, we first started talking to you about elementary and secondary education in Canada, and we did our best to explain all of the intricacies of that system. So, there are some generalizations we made, but depending on where you are, there are a lot of special circumstances and special names for things.
- Harp: And then we talked about **post**-secondary education, and talked about university and some different programs and majors. And we also talked about colleges.
- Maura: That's right. And it's important to remember that in Canada, university and college are different.
- Harp: And then we finished with talking about our own educational experiences.
- Maura: And if you couldn't tell, Harp and I like learning.
- Harp: We definitely do.

- Maura: And I guess all of you like learning too, because even though you're not in school, you're taking the time to listen to this podcast and you're learning more about how to speak English and also about Canadian culture.
- Harp: And if you wanna improve even more, go to the Culips.com website and become a member.
- Maura: That's right. And when you become a member, your money goes to help make this podcast possible. So, that's it for us today. See you on Facebook.
- Harp: Bye everyone.
- Maura: Bye.

## Detailed Explanation

To take advantage of something

**To take advantage of something** means to take an opportunity that provides you with additional benefits. If you are offered something positive, you accept because of the advantages that come with it.

In this episode, Maura says that she **took advantage of** a rainy day when she didn't have to go outside. This means that she had an opportunity to stay inside on a rainy day and she benefited from this because she didn't have to get wet. She also stayed in comfortable clothing and felt cozy.

Here's another example with **to take advantage of something**:

Jonah: My boss suggested I work with him on the Miller project, so I **took advantage of** his offer.

Sonya: That's wonderful. That'll be great experience for you!

It's very important to note that this expression can also be very negative if used to talk about a person instead of a thing. **To take advantage of someone** is not positive. It means that you used them for your own benefit without thinking about their feelings. One person interacts with the other only to gain personal benefits.

Here's an example with **to take advantage of someone**:

Ken: I was really surprised that after he got the information from me he cut off all contact.

Fiona: It sounds like he really **took advantage of you**. He didn't actually want to friends at all, he just wanted the information.

### A lucky duck

This is a funny little term for someone who is lucky, or who recently experienced something lucky. Harp calls Maura **a lucky duck** because Maura was able to stay home on a rainy day.

The origin of this silly name is unclear. *Duck* was used in the past to refer to a person. *An odd duck* is an expression used to describe an odd or strange person. One reason why this expression continues to be used, is because of the similar sounds in the words *luck* and *duck*. Sometimes an expression just has a nice catchy sound to it.

Here's an example with **a lucky duck**:

Sophia: You **lucky duck**! You actually won tickets to the concert tonight!

Janis: I told you I would! I bought so many tickets for the raffle!

### The Canadian education system and the Quebec education system

The education system in Canada is a bit different from place to place. Generally speaking, school begins in kindergarten and continues until grade 12. When elementary school ends, whether there is middle school or junior high school, and when high school begins is difference depending on where you are.

The province of Quebec, where we record Culips, is probably the most different area of all. The biggest difference is that what we call grades 7 to 11 in other parts of Canada are called secondary 1 to 5 in Quebec. There is no grade 12. After Secondary 5, students go on to another type of school called CEGEP, which is an acronym for the French name *Collège d'enseignement général et professionnel*. In English, the official name for these types of school is *General and Vocational College*, but English-speakers usually use the French acronym too, or just call it *college*. Students go to CEGEP for an average of 2 years and receive a diploma. This is similar to other colleges in Canada where students are trained for specific careers.

Another big difference between Quebec and the rest of Canada is that students who plan to go to university must first attend CEGEP. They complete a pre-university program in a specialized subject area that usually lasts 2 years. This system is similar to the education system in France.

### Vice versa

**Vice versa** is a popular expression in English, but these are not even truly English words! These words are Latin and mean *when the position is reversed*. This expression is said after one example is stated to say that the reverse of the example is also true

For example, in this episode, Harp says that in English schools in English parts of Canada, students often learn French. She then says that the opposite is also true by saying *and vice versa*. So in this case, **vice versa** means that in French parts of Canada in French schools, students also learn English.

Here are a couple more examples with **vice versa**:

Ben: Lucy really hates the new manager and **vice versa**. I don't think they'll ever get along  
Greg: Doesn't sound like it.

Eric: Sometimes you Americans just don't understand British slang.

Irene: You're right! And **vice versa**. Sometimes you Brits don't understand American slang either.

### Post-

In this episode, Harp and Maura talk about **post**-secondary education. *Secondary education*, or *secondary school*, is another way to say *high school*. As we say in this episode, there are so many names for the same parts of the education system that it can sometimes get confusing!

The prefix **post-** is used to mean *after*. So **post**-secondary education is the education that happens after high school. (For some reason, we never say **post**-high school education.)

This episode also includes mentions of **post**-graduate education, which means further education that you get after you graduate from university or college. In this episode, Harp and Maura talk about studying after graduating with a bachelor's degree, so this would mean continuing with a master's or **PhD**.

You can also continue studying after you've completed a **PhD** (or doctorate), and this is called doing a **post**-doctorate, or a **post**-doc.

In some cases, **post-** is written with a hyphen, as it is in these Learning Materials, but you might also see it without one, like **post**secondary, **post**graduate, and **post**doctorate.

### The difference between university and college in Canada

In Canada, university and college are not the same thing. A college is a technical school, where students are trained for specific employment. The programs offered in college include things like automotive repair, software engineering, and massage therapy. A quick search online can give you a very long list! From colleges, students earn certificates and diplomas.

Canadian universities are schools where the programs are usually based more on theory, and earning a university degree does not necessarily prepare you for a specific type of career. University programs include biology, English literature, and sociology. In Canada, it's usually more difficult to get accepted to a university than to a college, and university is more expensive to attend. In university, you can earn a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, or a doctorate degree.

### A handful

When we say that there is a **handful** of something, this means that there is an amount that fits in your hand, which is usually small. But this expression is not only used to talk about items that can actually fit in your hand. For example, someone could say that they have a **handful** of old bikes in their backyard, and even one bike can definitely not fit in someone's hand. But we can also use this expression to talk about ideas or concepts that you can't physically place in a hand.

When Maura uses this expression in this episode, she says, a small **handful**, which means the amount is very small. She adds the word *small* to emphasize that it's a very small amount. She uses this expression to talk about private universities, and obviously universities cannot fit in her hand.

Here's another example with **a handful**:

Nathan: Have you thought of any new ideas for how we can organize the meeting?

Olivia: Yeah. I've got **a handful** of ideas that we can discuss tomorrow. But I think we should still keep trying to think of more.

A person can also be described as a handful, and this has a very different meaning. This means that a person, usually a child, is difficult to manage.

### To maintain a certain average

In this episode, Harp and Maura talk about **maintaining a certain average** in school. An average is a general representation of your marks, the measure of your academic achievement. Your average is attained by adding all your marks together and then dividing by the number of marks. In order to get accepted to university or college, you must earn a certain average. This usually ranges from 65% to 85%.

Once you've been accepted into a program, you also usually have **to maintain a certain average** to stay in the program. This means that while you are studying in the program, you must get good enough marks. If a student's average is below what is required, they may have to leave the program.

### A PhD

**A PhD** is a doctorate degree from a university. It is the highest degree that someone can obtain. **PhD** stands for *Doctor of Philosophy*. But strangely, this does not mean that someone has studied philosophy. **A PhD** can be obtained in many different areas of study. The number of years it takes to complete this kind of degree varies. The abbreviation **PhD** is pronounced just by saying the three letters: *P-H-D*.

### Specialized university degrees

In this episode, Harp and Maura talk about different types of university programs and degrees, and they also mention that there are further specializations that some people decide to do.

Within a post-secondary program, you can have a major. A major is the area you focus on within the program. You can also have a minor. A minor is another area that you focus on, but less than your major. You can also have a double major, which means that you have two areas of equal focus. The requirements for majors and minors are different for every program.



There are also further specializations available in some programs, so your degree can become increasingly focused on one area. In some universities, you can even get special permission to create your own type of degree, if there are enough courses to support that specialization.

Students can also get a bachelor's degree with honours, sometimes just called an honours degree. The requirements for an honours degree also differ depending on the university and the program. In most cases, they include some or all of the following: completing certain honours-level courses, completing an extra year of university, writing a research paper, and maintaining a certain average.

### Hands-on

When something is described as **hands-on**, this means that it is interactive and people can participate. If an academic course is not **hands-on**, then it probably just involves a lot of listening or reading, but you don't get the chance to actually do the thing you're learning about. When something is **hands-on**, you actively get to do something and gain practical experience.

This expression comes from the idea that you can put your hands on whatever you're doing. If a person is described as **hands-on**, it means that they are the kind of person who is actively involved in what they are doing.

In this episode, Harp uses this expression when she talks about college. She says that college provides people with a **hands-on** education. College students are often trained to actually use the equipment they will be using in their future careers, or they might also actually start doing the kind of work that they will be required to do when they get a job.

Here are a couple more examples with **hands-on**:

Gwen: My new manager at work is really **hands-on**. Whenever he trains new employees he stays with them until they feel completely comfortable with the job.

Michael: It sounds like he's a great manager.

Tyler: I haven't been able to get a job since I graduated. I don't know what to do.

Melissa: Maybe you just need more **hands-on** experience. You could try volunteering somewhere.

### To be a baby

When someone who is not actually a baby is called **a baby**, this means that they are acting immature, likely because they are whining or complaining about something they don't like.

When babies (real babies) are sad or upset, they cry and scream, but as we get older we're supposed to control our feelings more. So when a person is not controlling their feelings and is not accepting a certain unfortunate situation, people might say that person is **being a baby**.

We can call someone **a baby** directly, or we can also say that they are **acting like a baby** or **being a baby**. On Harp's first day of kindergarten, her sister told her to stop **being a baby**. This is because Harp was crying because she was scared on her first day of school. This expression is often used in this way; one person tells another person not to **be a baby**.

Of course, calling someone **a baby** like this is not a compliment, and it could be considered to be quite rude. This expression should only be used with very close friends and family members, as the person who is **acting like a baby** is likely to be offended by this comment. It is most commonly said to younger people by older people.

It's also interesting to note that the word **baby** can also be a term of endearment or a cute name for someone, in which case it's a nice thing to say. But in this case, the person would usually just say **baby** or **my baby**, not **a baby**.

Here are a couple more examples with **to be a baby** and then one with **baby** used as a term of endearment:

Vicky: I can't believe I didn't get into university. I might as well just forget about school altogether. I'm stupid and I'll never get accepted anywhere.

Vicky's mom: Stop **being a baby**. You're a smart girl and you will definitely get into school. You just have to try again next year.

Heather: Dustin is sick again. He's such **a baby** when he gets sick. He lies in bed all day and moans.

Brent: Yeah. That sounds like him!

Doug: Hey **baby**, what do you want for dinner tonight? How about pasta?

Tina: That would be great. I'm such a lucky woman to have a boyfriend who cooks for me so often!

Doug: You're **my baby**, that's why! I love doing nice things for you.

### A good route

In the literal sense, **a good route** means a good way to travel, a good path to take. But when Harp uses this expression in this episode, the meaning is a little bit different. Words like **route**, **road**, and **path** are often used to talk about plans in life. When we have a plan or a goal, we might talk about the **route** we are taking to reach that goal. In this case, **the route** refers to the actions we take to reach a goal, which is kind of like a destination.

In this episode, Harp says that taking political science in university seemed like **a good route** to becoming a lawyer. Studying political science is a good choice for someone who eventually wants to become a lawyer. Harp eventually changed her mind about becoming a lawyer, because she realized that it wasn't the right path for her. This means that she realized that these plans were not really what she wanted.

Here's another example with **a good route**:

Yasmine: I'm not sure how to get into the program I want. It's so competitive.

Cal: I think **a good route** would be to get as much experience as you can and then apply to a few different school.

### To go away to school

**To go away to school** means that to move away from your home and live in another city or country to study. This expression is most often used to talk about students who have been living with their family and it is the first time that they are away from home.

When students **go away to school**, they might live in residence at their university or rent a room or apartment in the same city. Some people who live close to a university are able to continue living with their parents while they attend college or university, so they don't have **to go away to school**.

### Never say never

**Never say never** means that we should not say that something will never happen. The reason for this is that sometimes things we think will never happen actually do!

This expression just reminds people that we should not say that something will never happen. Instead, we should leave all possibilities open. When **never say never** is used in response to a particular situation, it means that even though at the moment something is not happening, in the future it could.

In this episode, Maura uses this expression when Harp asks her whether she'll go back to school. Maura says that she will **never say never**. This means that Maura does not currently have plans to go back to school, but it would be a possibility for her in the future. So she will not say that she will never return to school. She will leave the possibility of going back open.

Here are a couple more examples with **never say never**:

Maggie: I would never date Pete. We're so close. It would ruin the friendship.

Oliver: **Never say never**. My parents were best friends, and that just made their romance even better.

Jack: Do you think you would ever move abroad permanently?

Luke: I can't see it happening, but I **never say never**. If the right opportunity came up, maybe I'd do it.

### Only time will tell

The expression **only time will tell** is used when something is not known in the moment, but we hope that we will know in the future. The expression is used in cases where something will become clear as time passes and there is no way to know right now. It is used to talk about something unknown about the future and the only way to know if it will happen is to wait and see!

In this episode, Maura uses this expression when she and Harp talk about going back to school. Maura says that **only time will tell**. Neither Maura nor Harp currently has plans to go back to school, but it is a future possibility for them. In the present, they do not know whether they will ever return to school, but as time passes, they will find out whether they will actually go back.

Here are a couple more examples with **only time will tell**:

Rita: I wonder if that guy I met over the weekend will call me. I really hope he will!

Sasha: I hope so too, but **only time will tell**.

Samuel: I'm dying to know whether I won the art competition I entered last week. I guess **only time will tell**.

Christine: I'm sure they must have decided the winner by now. You'll probably find out soon.

## Quiz

1. Which of the following is important to know about the expression *to take advantage of someone*.
  - a) It is very formal.
  - b) It is negative.
  - c) It should only be used with family.
  - d) It cannot be used in the future tense.
  
2. Which of the following is a fun thing to call someone to say that they are lucky?
  - a) a lucky duck
  - b) an odd duck
  - c) a lucky bird
  - d) unlucky Lucy
  
3. Which expression means that the opposite of something is also true?
  - a) an odd duck
  - b) vice versa
  - c) versus
  - d) post-secondary
  
4. What is the meaning of the prefix *post*-?
  - a) school
  - b) before
  - c) after
  - d) middle
  
5. What is the main difference between college and university in Canada?
  - a) College is more theoretical and university is more practical.
  - b) It is more difficult to get into college than university.
  - c) University is more hands-on than college.
  - d) College is more hands-on than university.

6. Yoshi: I've already got \_\_\_\_\_ of people who want to join our new club.

Please fill in the blank with the expression that means *a small amount*.

- a) a ton
- b) a handful
- c) a mouthful
- d) a fingertip

7. If someone is acting like a baby, what are they doing?

- a) singing lullabies
- b) playing with baby toys
- c) complaining or crying
- d) dancing

8. Never say \_\_\_\_\_.

Please fill in the blank to complete the expression.

- a) no way
- b) no
- c) ever
- d) never

9. Hannah: I hope I travel to India one day. It's my dream.  
Steve: I hope you'll get the chance. Only \_\_\_\_\_ will tell.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) the future
- b) time
- c) sometime
- d) you

**Answers:**

1.b    2.a    3.b    4.c    5.d    6.b    7.c    8.d    9.b