

## Chatterbox #109 – The environment

### 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:

- **gonna**: going to
- **kinda**: kind of
- **wanna**: want to

### Transcript

Andrew: Hello everybody. It's Andrew.

Maura: And Maura.

Andrew: And we're here with another Culips episode.

Maura: That's right. And don't forget to go to our website, Culips.com, that's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. Because it's only on our website where you can become a member.

Andrew: And becoming a member is awesome, because when you're a member, you get detailed explanations of everything that we talk about during our episodes. You also get access to the transcripts, so you can see everything that we've said, and you get to test yourself with a quiz.

Maura: That's right. And when you become a member, your money helps go to supporting us here at Culips, which means we can keep making these excellent episodes for you.

Andrew: And we're other places on the Internet as well. We're on Facebook and we're on Twitter. So if you're feeling friendly, come and drop us a line.

Maura: And if you wanna listen to some of our other episodes, you can do that on our website or also on iTunes and recently on Stitcher.

Andrew: Yeah. On Stitcher.

- Maura: And so Andrew, what have you been up to lately?
- Andrew: Well, one of my hobbies actually is gardening. And so I'm a little disappointed. What happened was I started a bunch of tomato plants this spring, I guess, inside my house. I took the seeds and planted them and waited till they grew up to be three or four inches tall, and I transplanted them outside. And yesterday I went to go look and see how my plants were doing and give them some water. And an animal—I don't know if it was a cat or a squirrel—some sort of little animal went and dug up all my tomatoes and they are all gone. So that's my tomato harvest for the summer ruined.
- Maura: You know, it's a sad story, but I have to say I'm not surprised, because I've heard that from many friends, and it's also happened to me. We put a tomato plant outside one year and it was completely eaten up. And I would say the culprit is a squirrel.
- Andrew: Yeah. Those sneaky squirrels. I kinda think they're the guilty ones here.
- Maura: Mmhmm. Well, maybe next year. I don't know.
- Andrew: I don't know if I wanna try again. But we'll see how I feel next year.
- Maura: All right. Well let's get started on our episode today. Today we are going to do a Chatterbox episode. And that is where we get to chat about all different kinds of topics of interest. And today we're actually gonna talk about something that's a little bit related to gardening.
- Andrew: Yeah. Today we're gonna talk about the environment.
- Maura: Yes. And there's so much to say about it. Especially nowadays, because it's really a topic that you hear from time to time on the news, and it's something that is more and more on people's minds.
- Andrew: Yeah. I would say the topic of the environment is very, very popular. People are talking about it all the time. Yeah, you do hear it on the news almost every day.
- Maura: So in this episode we're first gonna start by talking to you about some environmental terms. Because this is such a **hot** topic, there are a lot of new terms that people are using to talk about environmental issues.
- Andrew: And then we'll transition to talking about what's happening with the environment in Canada. We'll talk about some issues that are happening here.

- Maura: And then we're also gonna talk about what the individual person can do to help the environment. And also, Andrew and I will talk about what we personally do to help out the environment and make sure that it's in good condition, and we're not destroying the planet too much.
- Andrew: That's right. We'll talk about what we do to do our part in saving the planet.
- Maura: All right. So first we're gonna talk about some new terms that are used to talk about the environment. And the first one is a word you already know. It's a colour. It is the word **green**.
- Andrew: **Green**. And what **green** really means in an environmental sense is to be good for the planet, to be good for the environment.
- Maura: Right. So we can use the word **green** to talk about a specific company that's trying to do good things for the environment. Or we could talk about a product, and say that it's **green** because it was made in a way that was trying to have a low impact on the environment. Or maybe they recycle, or they reuse something in their product.
- Andrew: Yeah, and we can even say, maybe when somebody is a polluter, like a company is a big polluter and they try to change to be more environmentally friendly, we can say they've gone **green**.
- Maura: Yeah. That's right. And if you think about it, the colour choice does make sense; because grass is **green**, leaves on trees are often **green**. So when you think of the colour **green**, you think about the natural world. And I'm guessing that's how this word came to be associated with the environment.
- Andrew: Yeah. I definitely think that's right.
- Maura: Right. So if you wanna talk about a person or a company or a product or pretty much anything, you can use the word **green** to describe it.
- Andrew: Yeah. You can even talk about something that's not necessarily 100% good for the environment. You can still call it **green**. Like we could say there's a **green** car, and that just means that the people who have manufactured that car have made an effort to reduce the amount of pollution that the car puts out.
- Maura: So what you're saying is a car is not really something that's good for the environment. When you think of a car, you think of something that uses gas and pollutes, but there are cars that are better for the environment, that a company is trying to make better for the environment, and that's when you might call a car **green**.

- Andrew: Yeah. Maybe the car manufacturer has put in a special battery in the car, so it reduces the amount of pollution that it emits, and in that circumstance we could say that's a **green** car.
- Maura: All right. Let's look at another term that is being used to talk about the environment. And really, it comes from the word **ecological**.
- Andrew: Yeah. **Ecological**.
- Maura: And we could also say **ecological**, so we wanted to point out that there are two possible ways to pronounce this word.
- Andrew: Yeah. Sometimes some people will say **ecological**; other times, you may hear **ecological**. And... yeah. You should just be aware that there is that variation in the pronunciation. And even myself, I switch between the two.
- Maura: Right. Sometimes you might say **ecological**, and then 5 minutes later you say **ecological**. Everyone understands, and probably no one notices.
- Andrew: Yeah. I don't think anybody pays that much attention to it. But basically, what **ecological** means is it just relates to the environment and nature and the animals and plants that inhabit those spaces.
- Maura: Right. And kind of the interaction between the animals and plants and how everybody gets along.
- Andrew: Right. It's to do with the whole system of nature, really.
- Maura: Now, what's happened with this word is we've taken the first three letters and we've used them as a kind of prefix to create a whole bunch of other words.
- Andrew: Yeah. So maybe one of the most popular examples is **eco-friendly**.
- Maura: Right. So that would mean that it's **green**. It means that it's good for the environment, that it's **ecological**, that it's not going to harm the environment or it's not going to cause that much harm.
- Andrew: Yeah. And I see this term a lot, actually, on bottles of cleaning products. If I buy, maybe, some window cleaner, it will say on the bottom of the bottle **eco-friendly**. And what that means is that if I happen to spill some of that window cleaner down the drain, and it goes into the water system, it's not going to be harmful for the environment. It's OK to do that.
- Maura: yeah. I think that's definitely true. You do see this word on a lot of different

products. But there are actually too many to list. We'll tell you a few more. You might also have heard of something called **eco-tourism**. And that is something very new. It's where you can travel and you can volunteer and do something good for the environment. So you're a tourist, but you're also helping out the environment at the same time.

Andrew: Yeah. And actually, **eco-tourism** is really popular in British Columbia, where I'm originally from. In that province, we have lots and lots of outdoor, sort of natural spaces, lots of forests and mountains and rivers. And **eco-tourism** is really becoming popular in British Columbia.

Maura: You know, it was quite a few years ago now, but I volunteered when I was travelling in BC. And I did some work on an organic farm, so I guess that was a kind of **eco-tourism**, wouldn't you say?

Andrew: Yeah. I think that's exactly what that was.

Maura: Yeah. And it definitely is popular in BC. I think people in BC maybe tend to be a bit **more green**, or environmentally friendly.

Andrew: Yeah. I think it has that reputation, yeah.

Maura: Not everybody.

Andrew: Not everybody, but some people.

Maura: Yeah. And we'll give you one more example with this little word, **eco** or **eco**, and that is with **eco-terrorism**.

Andrew: Right. This is another term that's fairly recent. And **eco-terrorism** really is demonstrated when people have some very extreme views regarding the environment. Maybe they... Well, maybe there's a forest and there's going to be some **logging** in that forest, and some people feel very strongly that that logging shouldn't occur. So what they will do is actual acts of terrorism to protest the logging. And these acts of terrorism might include things like blocking a road to the forest or chaining themselves up to a tree so that the loggers are unable to cut the trees down. And this is what we really mean with the term **eco-tourism**.

Maura: Yeah. Sometimes, it can get even violent and dangerous. People feel so strongly and they want to protect the environment so much that they even commit violent acts. And people can go to prison for **eco-terrorism**.

Andrew: Yeah. When I think of **eco-terrorism**, I especially think of fishing, and some people, maybe, trying to fish whales, and some environmental organizations protesting the whaling. And, yeah, that happens in Canada. And the seals. too.

- Maura: Yeah. There's definitely some cases in Canada, and all over the world. Maybe just mentioning **eco-terrorism** has got you thinking about some situations in your own country.
- Andrew: Yeah. OK, so the next term that we're gonna talk about is **carbon footprint**.
- Maura: Yeah. This is a relatively new term like a lot of the environmental terms. And this term has only really been around for the last ten years. The measurement of the **greenhouse gas** emissions that have been caused by a person, an organization, or even by an event or a product. Now this exact scientific definition is quite complicated, and if you're really curious about it, you can become a member and we'll explain more about in our learning materials.
- Andrew: Yup. Basically, in the simple definition of the term, **carbon footprint** is just the impact that an individual has on the environment.
- Maura: Right. To actually calculate an individual's **carbon footprint** is very, very difficult and very mathematical, but the term is often used in a very general way, so you're just generally speaking about what your impact on the environment might be.
- Andrew: Yeah. Your negative impact.
- Maura: Yeah, that's right. Your **carbon footprint** is not usually positive. Although if you do some good things for the environment that can make your **carbon footprint** less, but a **carbon footprint** is always negative, because we're always using the environment, aren't we?
- Andrew: Yeah. There are definitely some things that you can do to reduce your **carbon footprint**, but whenever we say, or whenever we talk about a **carbon footprint** it has a negative meaning.
- Maura: So even the word **footprint** has been used in many different ways to talk about the lasting effects that a person has on something. And to talk about your carbon footprint is just specifically environmental effects. And it makes sense because if you think about walking somewhere for example on a beach in the sand, you might leave **footprints** when you're walking. And even though you're not walking on the beach anymore when you look back, you can see the lasting effects, you can see your **footprints**, and how it has changed where you were.
- Andrew: Right. So when we're talking about a **carbon footprint**, we're talking about what you've left behind environmentally, the impact you've had on the planet through your actions.

- Maura: You know when I think of this term, I think about airplanes because that's one thing that comes to mind that I know people say leaves a really big carbon footprint because I guess there's a lot of **greenhouse gas** emission when planes fly.
- Andrew: Yeah. Definitely I agree with you there. So now we're gonna talk about environmental issues in Canada and what is currently happening in this country.
- Maura: Now the first thing that comes to my mind when I think about environmental issues in Canada is the **tar sands** or the **oil sands**.
- Andrew: Right. And basically what the **tar sands** are, is just a huge area in the northern part of Canada where there is lots of oil. But this oil isn't in perfect liquid condition like in other parts of the world, like the Middle East. It is in a very sort thick muddy type. The **oil** that comes out of the **tar sands** is very thick and sludgy and it's just not in a very ideal condition, so they have to do a lot of processing to this **oil** to get it into the state where we can use it for fuel. And that has a huge environmental impact.
- Maura: Yeah. It's known as a kind of dirty way to extract oil because it's such a long process. And also because it is very destructive to the environment where the oil is being taken from.
- Andrew: And because the **tar sands** are in the northern part of Canada, it's super cold there, almost all the year so the window that they have to extract the **oil** from the ground is very small. So you have a huge amount of work going on during the summer time, which is pretty much really heightening the problem.
- Maura: So there are a lot of people, a lot of Canadians who do not like what is happening up there, they would like the production of **oil** to stop and there are also people who are taking advantage of the situation and going to work. Maybe these people couldn't normally find work in the parts of Canada where they're from, and they're lucky to find a high paying job working on the tar sands.
- Andrew: And in reaction to all the environmental damage that the **tar sands** is doing, there has been a new political party that is active in the Canadian political scene.
- Maura: Yes. And they are called the **Green Party**, and if you listened to the first part of this episode you know that **green** means environmental so this political party, relatively new political party, actually has taken on that term. And so when we hear about the **Green Party**, we think about a political party that is concerned with the environment.



- Andrew: And the **Green Party** is still a pretty small political party, but the point is that they have enough people that support them now that they have one representative in the Canadian House of Parliament.
- Maura: And we have **green** political parties at the federal level, and we also have them at the provincial level. And you know, every city even in Canada has their own way of dealing with the environment and different structures for recycling and composting. Some cities are far ahead of others, and they have completely different policies.
- Andrew: Yeah. Every city is different. Some cities do lots and lots of recycling and some people are lucky enough to have composting as well. And other cities I've heard that they don't even offer recycling services. So it just different for everybody depending on where you live.
- Maura: You know, in Montreal, there are some neighbourhoods where you can compost. And I've heard that they're **pilot projects** to see how well it goes. But I think some of the neighbourhoods have been composting for more than a year, and there are other neighbourhoods like mine where there is no composting. So **who knows?**
- Andrew: It's a little bit of a controversial issue I think in Montreal, the whole composting thing. But yeah, I've seen, I know in my neighbourhood we don't have composting services that the city offers, but there are businesses that have started that offer composting pick up. So if you feel very inclined to compost, you can collect all your compost and once a week just as you put your garbage **out on the curb**, you can put your compost out and instead of the city picking it up, a private business will pick it up and dispose of it for you.
- Maura: In that case do you have to pay?
- Andrew: Yeah. I think you have to pay for that service.
- Maura: But that really **goes to show** that some people feel so strongly about the environment that they're willing to pay to do their part. They're willing to pay to help out.
- Andrew: Yeah, even when they have to pay extra to compost, they believe in it. So they want to pay the money; they're happy to do that.
- Maura: Speaking of what some individuals are doing, let's move on to the last part of this episode, where we can talk about what individual people can do and also what we personally are doing.
- Andrew: So Maura, what do you do to help the environment?



- Maura: Well, I do try to do what I can. When I'm at home, and I'm using the water, for example to brush my teeth, I try to turn it off when I'm not using it. And of course, I do recycle because that's offered, and I take advantage of that. I have a car, but I try not to drive as much as possible. If I can bike or take the bus instead, I'd much rather do that.
- Andrew: It's almost a necessity to have a car in Montreal during the winter because it's so cold during the winter that almost everyone needs to drive at some point. But me personally I like to right my bike, especially when the weather is nice, I try to ride my bike everywhere and help the environment in that way.
- Maura: Yup. There are really simple things that you can do, and, to be honest, it doesn't even feel like you're going out of your way. Because, for example, if you like riding your bike, then it's just another form of transportation.
- Andrew: Yeah. You get to do something that you enjoy and get around the exact same time.
- Maura: Something else that I try to do is buy environmentally friendly or green products. I don't do this all the time, but I do like to **keep my eye out** for things like that especially when I'm buying cleaning products or shampoo and conditioner or things that will maybe have a bigger impact on the environment.
- Andrew: Oh yeah, me too. And I especially try to buy organic food if I can. I really try to make an effort to buy food that I know has been raised in a way that is healthy for me to eat, but it's also healthy for the earth in the way that farmers farmed the vegetables.
- Maura: Yeah. That is a big trend that we have seen, organic food. A lot of people are interested in buying especially organic fruits and vegetables. And we've also seen a trend in people wanting to buy local produce. And part of the reason is because the food, the fruits and vegetables don't have to travel a very far distance. And really we're talking about their **carbon footprint**. If I buy an apple that was grown just outside of Montreal vs. an apple that was grown in California, the apple from California will have a bigger **carbon footprint**.
- Andrew: That's one of the reasons why I wanted to grow my own tomatoes because I would reduce my **carbon footprint** and it would be organic and local and I would know exactly how it was raised, but unfortunately the squirrels didn't want to cooperate.
- Maura: Maybe it was an environmentally friendly squirrel, and they wanted to eat local.
- Andrew: I think that's exactly what that squirrel was thinking.

- Maura: So there's a lot of little things that people can do to help the environment. Another thing that not many people think of is to buy things second hand, like clothing and furniture. And the reason that it's environmentally friendly to buy things second hand is because there are less materials being used, and the item that you're buying doesn't have to be shipped across the country, it's already in your community.
- Andrew: That's right. So a lot of people try to buy, clothing especially from thrift stores or from garage sales or even they just get it from friends when their friends are done wearing it. Yeah, so we see a lot of people these days using second hand items instead of buying new ones as a way to reduce the environmental impact.
- Maura: And I'm wondering if any of you listening have some additional ideas of how people can do their part to protect the environment. Maybe in your part of the world there's something different that people do that we don't do or we can't do in Canada. That would be really interesting to hear about what people are doing in other parts of the world.
- Andrew: Yeah. And we're really open-minded and love to hear new ideas about things that we can do to help the earth, so if you have any good tips please let us know.
- Maura: So I think that about does it for today's episode. And, you know, with all this talk about the environment I'm looking outside and I'm seeing that it's a sunny day, I kinda want to get out there.
- Andrew: Yeah. We should go outside.
- Maura: Definitely. But unfortunately we don't record our podcast from outside, so we do have to end it.
- Andrew: That's right.
- Maura: So today we first told you some environmental terms that are being used to talk about saving the planet.
- Andrew: Yeah. And then we discussed some environmental issues that are happening right now in Canada.
- Maura: And we also shared with you some of our personal tips for helping to save the environment and we told you what we try to do.
- Andrew: Yeah. So thanks for listening to this episode and before you go, make sure to check us out on Culips.com, that's our website, C-U-L-I-P-S.com

- Maura: And while you're there, become a member because it's environmentally friendly.
- Andrew: And like us on Facebook and tweet us at Twitter.
- Maura: That's right. And don't forget you can always listen to our past episodes on iTunes and Stitcher as well. So we will talk to you next time. See you later.
- Andrew: See you later.

## **Detailed Explanation**

### Hot

**Hot** means to have a high temperature but there are many additional ways this word is used. There isn't enough space to provide an explanation for every meaning, but we'll outline some of the most important definitions.

In this episode, Andrew mentions that the environment is really **hot** these days. What he means is that environmental issues are a popular topic of conversation. When something is talked about all the time by lots of people, we can say that it is **hot** or a **hot topic**. In fact, in this episode Maura calls the environment a **hot topic**.

Here are two of examples that demonstrate how **hot** can be used to mean popular.

Tina: Hey Pam, check out this new dress I bought yesterday.

Pam: Wow! It looks great on you. That style of dress is really **hot** this season.

Jim: Have you seen the TV show Breaking Bad? It's the **hottest** thing on TV right now. Everyone's talking about it.

Dan: Yeah I love that show!

Additionally, **hot** can mean new, fresh, and exciting. When something is brand new, we can use the word hot to describe it. Here are a few examples that illustrate this sense of the word.

Jack: Hey did you hear Tom bought a new car? He got the **hottest** model, a 2013.

Paula: Wow! What a lucky guy!

Rob: I talked to Lisa last night and she told me some **hot** gossip about her ex boyfriend.

Jan: No way! What happened?

### Green

When talking about the environment, **green** means to be concerned with protecting the earth from pollution. We can use **green** to describe products and services that are designed to be good for the environment. There is even a political party in Canada called the Green Party. Their main goal is to keep the environment clean. Here are some examples that demonstrate how this meaning of **green** can be used:

Dave: I recently switched to using only **green** cleaning products.

Steve: Oh wow. Isn't that really expensive?

Dave: It is more expensive but I feel good knowing that I'm not hurting the planet so I'm OK with it.

Amy: I'm considering making a switch to an electric car. You know, they're totally **green** and energy efficient.

Tom: That sounds like a really cool plan, you'd save a lot of money by not having to fill up your tank every week too!

### Ecological

The word **ecological** can be pronounced in two ways. It is acceptable to start the word with either a long or a short vowel. Here are the IPA representations of the two pronunciations: /iː-kəˈlɒdʒɪ-kəl/ and /ɛk-əˈlɒdʒɪ-kəl/. The word ecology means the study of the relationship between plants, animals, and the environment. We can use the word **ecological** to describe products, governmental policies, and practices that benefit or cause little damage to the environment. Here are two dialogue examples that demonstrate how the word **ecological** can be used:

Jim: The president's **ecological** policy is really progressive. I'm happy to see that she cares so much about our planet.

Sam: I don't know. I guess she is taking a step in the right direction but I think there is more she could do.

Jon: Our city just instituted a new recycling program. I'm happy to see the city become so **ecologically** friendly.

Sara: That sounds great! Recycling is really important.

### More green

Technically, the phrase "**more green**" is incorrect and instead the word "greener" should have been used. However, it is common for people to use the expression "**more XXX**" when speaking. As a general rule when using the comparative form, one syllable adjectives (like **green**) take the ending -er. However, when adjectives have two or more syllables, we need to add the word "more" before the adjective. Here are some examples that demonstrate this rule:

Rita: This math homework is hard!

Rob: Yeah but it is **easier** than last week's homework-- that was super tough!

Ben: Can you change the channel now so I can watch the hockey game on TV?

Lara: You know, the more time I spend with you the **more annoying** you become!

### Logging

**Logging** is the practice of cutting down trees for their wood. A person who does this work is called a logger or a lumberjack. Canada is home to nearly 10% of the world's forest and as a result the **logging** industry is a major part of Canada's economy. It employs nearly 200,000 Canadians (mostly in Quebec, British Columbia, and Ontario). The most popular product that is produced with Canadian timber is newsprint (the paper used in a newspaper), and Canada is the world leader in newsprint production. Thankfully, less than 1% of Canada's forests are logged annually, and once a section of the forest is harvested, new trees are planted to replace the old ones. Here is an example that shows you how the word **logging** can be used:

Pete: I read in the newspaper that the **logging** industry is suffering these days because some beetles are living in the trees and destroying the wood.

Tom: I heard the same thing. I hope no one gets laid off because of this.

### Carbon footprint

A **carbon footprint** is a measurement of the amount of carbon dioxide that is produced by the daily activities of a person, organization, company, or government. The main areas that determine the size of a carbon footprint are using electricity, using natural gas, driving a car, and flying in an airplane. Here are two examples demonstrating how you can use **carbon footprint**:

Jen: I'm concerned with the size of my **carbon footprint**. Do you know how I can make it smaller?

Herb: How about taking the bus to work instead of driving?

Bill: What do you think about growing a vegetable garden this spring? If we buy less produce from the supermarket we can reduce our **carbon footprint**. Plus, it will be fun!

Lisa: Sure, sounds like a great idea!

### Greenhouse gases

**Greenhouse gasses** are the gasses (carbon dioxide especially) that stop heat from leaving earth and escaping into space, which causes the greenhouse effect and leads to climate change. Without the **greenhouse gasses**, the temperature of the earth would be much colder. However, having too many gasses in the environment isn't good. Many governments around the world are trying to limit the amount of **greenhouse gasses** they produce because they have a huge impact on the environment. Here is an example sentence that demonstrates how to use **greenhouse gasses**:

Molly: So the prime minister promised to reduce **greenhouse gas** emissions by 5% in 15 years. Do you think he'll be able to do it?

Randy: I'm not so sure. His track record with the environment isn't great, so I'm not going to cross my fingers.

### Canada's oil sands

**Oil sands** are areas of ground composed of sand, clay, and water that contain a very thick and dense form of petroleum called bitumen (but many people call it tar). Another name for the **oil sands** is the tar sands. The bitumen that is collected from the oil sands can be refined to produce oil. Canada has a massive **oil sands** region in the province of Alberta. It covers 140,200 square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>). The supply of oil in Alberta is so big that it is estimated to be the third largest oil reserve in the world after Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

Many Canadians feel split over the **oil sands**. On one hand, they are great for the economy and employ thousands of Canadians. On the other hand, they are awful for the environment and create much pollution. Turning the sandy bitumen into liquid oil is a complicated process and generates 12% more greenhouse gasses per barrel than conventional extraction methods.

### Pilot projects

A **pilot project** is a type of experiment that tests out how well something will work before it goes into full-scale production. In this episode, Maura tells us that there is a composting **pilot project** currently operating in some Montreal neighbourhoods. This means that the city is running a temporary compost pick-up service. After a short period of time, (usually 6 months to a year), the city will stop the service and reflect on the success of the program. They will determine if it is cost efficient, if citizens utilized the service, and if it is possible to solve any problems that popped up. If the city decides that the composting **pilot project** was effective, they will start it up again and institute it citywide. However, if it was not a success, the program will be scrapped.

The term **pilot** can be used to describe TV shows, academic studies, and governmental programs that are being trialed to see if they will be successful before a lot of money is spent to go into full production.

Here are two examples of how the word **pilot** can be used:

Lee: Did you catch the **pilot** episode for the new TV series about zombies?

Rex: Oh yeah I did! What a cool concept for a show. I hope they make it into an actual series.

Nat: I'm **piloting** a study for my PhD thesis right now and the preliminary results look really promising. I can't wait to get the approval to go full speed ahead with my research.

Bea: That's fantastic! Congratulations.



Who knows

**Who knows** is an expression that is used when someone wants to emphasize that they do not understand something or have no knowledge of something. It almost always takes the form of a rhetorical question. In this episode, Maura uses the expression to underscore that she doesn't know if a composting pick-up program will ever be offered in her neighbourhood. When you want to highlight that you do not know or understand something, you can use the expression **who knows**. Here are a couple example sentences that demonstrate how to use **who knows**:

Pat: When does the grocery store close?

Sam: **Who knows?** Why don't you look it up on the Internet?

Luc: Do you think I'll pass my exam tomorrow?

Tia: **Who knows?** Did you study?

The expression can also be used to indicate that anything is possible. Here are a couple examples that demonstrate this meaning:

Kay: Do you think Rodger will ever ask me out on a date?

Kim: **Who knows?** I guess it's possible, but I wouldn't get your hopes up.

Ben: I wonder if Danny will ever be able to get it together and find a decent job?

Yan: **Who knows?** He's a talented guy, if he applied himself he'd be successful.

To put on the curb

**To put on the curb** means to throw something away. In Canada, when we throw out our garbage and recycling, we place it on the curb, (the raised area of the sidewalk that separates the sidewalk from the road), where a truck will come and pick it up and bring it to a processing facility. Here is an example sentence that shows you how to use this expression:

Kat: Do you take your empty bottles back to the store for a refund?

Joe: No, we just put them **on the curb** with the other recycling.

That goes to show

The expression **that goes to show** means “it demonstrates” or “it proves.” The expression can be used when you want to say that something proves something. In this episode, Maura tells us that some people are willing to pay for a private compost removal company to haul their compost to a processing plant. She uses the expression **goes to show** to demonstrate that this fact proves that there are people who really care about the environment. Here are two more examples using **goes to show**:

Ian: I got an A+ on my essay!

Eva: Congratulations! That **goes to show** that hard work pays off.

Roy: Someone stole my car last night.

Ron: That’s awful, I’m sorry to hear that. I guess that **goes to show** that there are a lot of evil people in the world.

To keep my eye out

**To keep my eye out**, (also sometimes said as **to keep an eye out**), is an expression that means to watch carefully for something to appear while going about your day-to-day activities. If you’re keeping an eye out, you’re looking for someone or something while doing other things. In this episode, Maura mentioned that she likes to keep an eye out for environmentally friendly shampoo. This means that she doesn’t specifically shop for this special shampoo, but if she comes across it while shopping she will buy it. Here are two additional dialogue examples that show you how to **keep my eye out** can be used.

Sid: I’ve been **keeping my eye** out for a new job. I’m not happy where I’m working and I could use a change.

Mac: You should apply at the post office, I heard they’re hiring right now.

Brad: I want to by a new stereo. Any idea where I can buy a good one?

Sally: No, not really. I’ll make sure to **keep an eye out** for you though.

## **Quiz**

**1. What expression means to throw something away?**

- a) To have a sidewalk sale
- b) To put on the curb
- c) To have a dumpster day
- d) To collect on the curb

**2. Canada's oil sands are the \_\_\_\_\_ largest reserve of oil in the world.**

**Fill in the blank.**

- a) Fourth
- b) Tenth
- c) Second
- d) Third

**3. What can't the term *pilot* describe?**

**Choose the answer that CANNOT be used with the word *pilot*.**

- a) A photograph
- b) A TV show
- c) An academic study
- d) A governmental project

**4. How much of the world's forests is located in Canada?**

- a) 8%
- b) 9%
- c) 10%
- d) 11%

**5. What expression means to look for something while going about your daily business?**

- a) To keep an eye in
- b) To keep an eye out
- c) To stay my eyes around
- d) To have eyes in the back of my head

6. **When someone wants to emphasize that they don't know something, they can ask which rhetorical question?**
  - a) Say what?
  - b) Why me?
  - c) Who cares?
  - d) Who knows?
  
7. **What colour is used to symbolize the environmental movement?**
  - a) Blue
  - b) Yellow
  - c) Green
  - d) Red
  
8. **What word describes practices, policies, and products that benefit the environment?**
  - a) Economical
  - b) Exxon
  - c) Echo
  - d) Ecological
  
9. **What does a carbon footprint measure?**
  - a) The average shoe size worn by most Canadians
  - b) The amount of oil produced yearly by the Canadian oil sands
  - c) The amount of greenhouse gasses a person produces
  - d) The amount of carbon dioxide that a person or organization produces

**Answers:**

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