

Chatterbox #113 – Travel 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
- **wanna**: want to

Transcript

Harp: Hello everyone. This is Harp.

Andrew: Hi. And I'm Andrew and we're here with another Culips episode.

Harp: Yes. Make sure you go to our website, Culips.com, that's C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Andrew: Yeah. And at the website you should sign up and become a member because when you're a member you get lots of great bonuses. You get access to transcripts of every episode. You get detailed explanations of some of the most important things that we talk about in every episode, and also get access to quizzes.

Harp: Yeah. So sign up and become a member. And remember to always check us out on Facebook. We like to comment and post pictures and tell you about what we're doing in life.

Andrew: Yeah. And we love to hear from you. And you can also get in touch with us through Twitter.

Harp: So, Andrew, how are you doing?

Andrew: I'm pretty good, but I'm a little bit sad 'cause summer's ending and it's back to school for me.

- Harp: I know. And it means that winter is coming soon.
- Andrew: Yeah, I know. I love summer and it's just so free and fun, and now I'm back in the classroom. But other than that I'm doing pretty well.
- Harp: Great. So today we're going to do a Chatterbox episode and that's where we chat. We talk about cultural things, we interview people, and today we're going to talk about something quite interesting and **close to our hearts**.
- Andrew: Today's topic was a request from a listener, and she asked us to talk about travelling in Canada. She is planning to come to Canada for a visit, and she was just wondering what places she should check out, how she should travel around the country. And we thought that was a great topic for an episode so that's what we're gonna talk about today.
- Harp: Yup. So we'll start with talking about ways to get around Canada. Different modes of transportation.
- Andrew: And then we'll talk about places to stay.
- Harp: Yep. And then we'll **finish it off** with some of our favourite places in Canada that we think you should go checkout.
- Andrew: Yeah. They'll be our recommendations for cool places to go visit.
- Harp: All right. So let's get started.
- Andrew: Yeah. So first we're gonna talk about ways to travel in Canada.
- Harp: Yes. So what's your favourite way to travel around and see Canada?
- Andrew: Well Canada is a huge country and that means it's difficult to travel in Canada, unfortunately. So, usually, I would say the most popular way and my favourite way is to fly.
- Harp: I agree with you one hundred percent. I often and usually fly places because it's so far and you can't drive there.
- Andrew: Yeah. Flying is great. It's fast, it's convenient, you can get anywhere in the country within a day.
- Harp: Yup. The problem though with flying in Canada compared to Europe or even the United States is that it's very expensive.

- Andrew: Yeah. That's the sad part. It's super expensive. I know, like you said, in Europe they have budget airlines, Ryan Air, and that's awesome 'cause you can fly around for fairly cheap. But unfortunately in Canada we don't really have a budget airline.
- Harp: Nope. And I guess it does make sense 'cause usually you're flying such far distances that I can understand why the flight is more expensive here. But still I wish there was more competition.
- Andrew: Yeah. It always makes me sad when I have to travel back to BC when I realize how far I have to go. If I was going in the other direction, east, I could go to Europe instead. It's almost the same distance.
- Harp: And sometimes it's even cheaper to go to Europe.
- Andrew: Yeah. That's depressing too when you look at the seat sales and you see, oh, to go to London it's \$500, but to go to Vancouver it's \$800. It doesn't really make sense to me.
- Harp: I agree with you completely.
- Andrew: Airline travel we can say is fast, it's convenient, but on the **downside**, it's expensive, so just keep that in mind.
- Harp: Yeah. Another way you can get around in Canada is, obviously, by driving.
- Andrew: Yeah. Driving is a really great way to see the countryside. To get to see all the small towns and really to interact with some of the other people that you wouldn't get to meet if you were just flying from one city to the next.
- Harp: Yeah. Exactly. And I said before that you can't drive everywhere in Canada, which is not true because you can still drive places. But, for example if you go up north some of the roads are frozen during the winter, so you can't even get there.
- Andrew: Yeah. Absolutely. I think there's a lot of remote towns and stuff that are not accessible by car.
- Harp: Yup. Some you have to take a canoe in or you have to fly in.
- Andrew: Yeah. And driving really depends I think on the season. In the summer it's great to drive pretty much everywhere, but in the winter, it can be a bit dangerous, so you always want to keep that in mind.
- Harp: Yeah. Driving in the snow is not easy and something I don't recommend for someone who's not very comfortable driving.

- Andrew: Yeah. Super stressful to drive in the snow. Especially if you're going through the mountains; if you're in Alberta or British Columbia, it can get really dangerous.
- Harp: Yeah. I remember driving through big snowstorms, and it is scary. And the thing is when you're driving in the snow, it's different when you're breaking and it gets slippery. I personally don't like driving in the winter and wouldn't do it.
- Andrew: Yeah. I would never do a cross country trip in the winter ever I don't think.
- Harp: Yeah. I think you'd have to be crazy to wanna do that.
- Andrew: Yeah. OK. So another alternative maybe if you still want to be on the road, you want to see the small towns, you want to see Canada's scenery from the road, but you don't like driving, then maybe the bus is for you.
- Harp: It's cheap and, you're right, you get to see a lot of small towns.
- Andrew: But a lot of people hate riding on the bus. Especially for long distances because it's kind of cramped. They're kind of smelly and **stuffy** inside.
- Harp: I agree. That's definitely the images that people have of buses, and it's kind of true.
- Andrew: Yeah. It's a stereotype kind of, but it's also true. Usually, sometimes when you're riding on the bus you get to sit beside some people that you're not exactly excited to sit beside. They're kind of gross. I don't know, I don't like the bus.
- Harp: I used to take the bus a lot when I was younger. You know, I would go to Calgary or Vancouver on the bus, and I didn't mind it back then 'cause it's mainly students who take the bus. But now I don't think I would ever take the bus.
- Andrew: Yeah. I try to avoid the bus **at all costs**. I think if it's a short trip - maybe three or four hours - then I can ride the bus. For example, I had a friend that took the bus when he moved to Montreal from Victoria to Montreal all the way on the bus. And it was awesome in terms of the price 'cause it cost him only a hundred and thirty dollars. But it also took five days.
- Harp: Five days! Wow. He probably literally stopped at every small town on the way.
- Andrew: Yeah. If you don't have a place to live for a week maybe it's great 'cause you can just stay on the bus, but otherwise I think I would definitely avoid taking the bus.

- Harp: Yes. Cause if you drive from Victoria to Montreal it would normally only take you about 3 days, I think.
- Andrew: Yeah. Maybe. It depends how fast you drive. But, yeah, at least three days.
- Harp: Yeah. So imagine two extra days on the bus.
- Andrew: So long!
- Harp: Crazy. I actually prefer to take the train and that's something I've done recently.
- Andrew: Yeah. And I think train travel is becoming more popular in Canada. We don't have trains everywhere like they do in Europe, for example, but there are quite a few train tracks still.
- Harp: Yup. Especially in this part of Canada. Montreal to Quebec City to Halifax or to Toronto. Kind of in the eastern part of Canada there are more trains and they come more frequently.
- Andrew: Yeah. That's right. And they connect with the United States as well so let's say you wanted to go down the east coast of the states to New York or Boston I think that you can get there by train as well.
- Harp: Yup. And if you book far enough in advance you can usually get some good deals on the train.
- Andrew: Yeah. That's what I've heard, that the train can be very convenient.
- Harp: Except if you want to take it for kind of those more touristy routes, for example going across Canada or from Edmonton to Vancouver through the Rocky Mountains. Then it's quite expensive.
- Andrew: Yeah. No, there's that really classy train line that goes from Vancouver through the Rocky Mountains and you get to see all the beautiful scenery, and I think they have nice dining cars and you can have fabulous dinners while you ride the train, but it will cost you.
- Harp: Yup. It's supposed to be quite expensive, but it's beautiful, and I've seen that some of the trains have like a glass top?
- Andrew: Oh yeah. That's right. You can go up and look out the train and see all the mountains and the nature scenes and all that fun stuff.
- Harp: Yeah. I know some people that have done it, and they really recommend it.

- Andrew: And one more feature that I think is an important feature when you're on a long train or a long bus ride is that a lot of people prefer the train over the bus because the trains have nice washrooms.
- Harp: Yup.
- Andrew: And when you're on a very long journey for multiple hours it's important to have access to a clean washroom.
- Harp: Yeah. And on the train you can stand up and walk around a little bit. It's not so constrained as a bus.
- Andrew: Yeah. The bus is pretty dangerous to be **up and about**, so you're supposed to sit down all the time. The train is roomier and you can move around.
- Harp: Yup. Exactly. And like you said, the long distance ones, the touristy ones have a dining car so you can get out of your seat and they have sleeping cars as well.
- Andrew: Yeah. So if you have to take a really long journey then you can just sleep in the train. You don't have to sleep in you seat in a very uncomfortable position.
- Harp: Yeah. I've only ever taken short train rides in Canada, so I've never seen the sleeping cars, but apparently they're quote nice.
- Andrew: Yeah. I know that they are around, and they are nice.
- Harp: What's another way you can travel around Canada?
- Andrew: Well. Let me think. If you're very adventurous maybe you'd like to try **hitchhiking**.
- Harp: That's quite adventurous and could be dangerous, so personally I don't recommend it. I've never done it.
- Andrew: I've never **hitchhiked** in Canada either. I think it's a little bit too dangerous. But I know there are people that do it. I've seen people on the side of the road hitchhiking, so it's an option.
- Harp: Yup. But like we said, be careful. Maybe try the other options instead.
- Andrew: Yeah. And if you do want to **hitchhike**, I would recommend always being with a friend.
- Harp: Yes! One hundred percent.
- Andrew: Yeah. Never do it alone because that's just **asking for trouble** I think.

- Harp: Yup. And another way that people get around in Canada is actually, it's driving, but they do **car shares** or **ride shares**.
- Andrew: Yeah. And this is becoming more and more popular I think. What you would do is go onto a website, and say where you want to go. For example maybe I want to go to Toronto, so I say, "Oh next weekend I need a ride to Toronto is anybody driving there? If you're driving I can give you some money to help pay for gas, and I'll just ride with you."
- Harp: And it's quite good because you save money. It's usually much cheaper than driving alone or taking any of the other modes of transportation, and it's good for the environment. More people in one car.
- Andrew: Yeah. It's maybe not as boring. You have somebody to talk to the whole way down, and I guess the most important thing is it's just a lot cheaper than flying.
- Harp: Yeah. I've gone couple of times to go to Toronto, and it was fantastic: not expensive, you got to talk to people the whole way. It was pretty cool.
- Andrew: Yeah. I even see not, I was actually looking to go to Toronto at the end of the month, and I was looking for **ride shares**, and I think there's these guys who have started doing it for a business because they have a van that the will drive down. And they offer air conditioning and wireless internet and a lot of cool features in their van, and it's still the same cheap price.
- Harp: Wow. That's great. My one recommendation though if you do ride sharing you can go online and find it, but ask the person what kind of car it is. Because I had to take one time and the car was really old, it was really cramped, and I didn't feel very safe.
- Andrew: Yeah. You definitely would like to find that out and maybe also get to know the person a little bit 'cause I guess **ride share** could potentially be dangerous as well. Just make sure that you have a good feeling about it before you leave for your journey.
- Harp: Yeah. And let someone knows where you're going and whom you're going with.
- Andrew: Totally.
- Harp: OK. Let's move on to our next topic of places to stay.
- Andrew: Yeah. Places to stay. So while you're travelling, you're going to need somewhere to stay, and I guess the obvious thing that comes to mind is

staying at a hotel.

Harp: Yeah. That's the first idea that comes to most people's minds.

Andrew: So you have lots of options when it comes to hotels. There are some extremely expensive and beautiful hotels in this country, and there are some cheaper not so nice places.

Harp: Yup. Exactly. And if you go online I'm sure there are a million websites where you can find hotels, and I usually recommend reading the reviews to see how people liked the hotel.

Andrew: Yeah. That's one of the great things about the Internet is you can find the cheapest deal online, and you can read all of the reviews.

Harp: Yeah. And I recommend going to one of the smaller hotels. You get to meet the people who own it and rather than the big chains.

Andrew: Yeah. Bed and breakfasts can be cool too. You get to stay in a little smaller place. Sometimes you can meet other travellers, and usually you get a free breakfast as well which is great.

Harp: I love staying in bed and breakfasts. That's what I try to do all the time.

Andrew: So maybe if you're a student traveller or if you're **on a budget** a really cool place that you could stay is in a hostel.

Harp: Yup. Hostels are great when you're **on a budget** and you usually get to meet a lot of people who are staying there. It's a great option for when you're young and travelling.

Andrew: Yeah. And since I'm young and I've travelled in Canada, I've stayed in hostels before. And usually you have a lot of different options. If you're really **on a budget**, you can stay in just a room with a bunch of other travellers and everybody gets their own bunk and a locker, or if you want a little bit more privacy, you can pay a little bit more and get a private room and that's a great option as well.

Harp: Yeah. No, that's true though. You have the different options of whether you're going to stay in a big room with lots of people or a more private room.

Andrew: Yeah. I think it really depends on your travelling goals. Since I'm a Canadian and I usually have friends in almost every city that I visit, I don't really need

to meet other travellers. I'm not interested in doing that as much, but I could easily imagine if you were coming from another country you'd probably want to meet other travellers so you could, well, travel together and hostels are a great place to meet other travellers.

Harp: Yeah. They definitely are. So if you're travelling alone it's a great option to meet some friends so you can tour the city together. Another cool place that seems to have become more and more popular. Or another way of staying somewhere is **Airbnb**.

Andrew: Yeah. **Airbnb** is a very interesting service. And essentially what people do is if they have an apartment or a house or even an extra room in their house that's not being used, they advertise that on the internet and what you can do is rent it online and then stay there while you're travelling in that city.

Harp: It gives you a more authentic visit because you're staying in a real neighbourhood and usually with someone.

Andrew: Yeah. And they're usually not that expensive either. They're very comparable to the price of a hotel room. So you get access to a kitchen and a nice bathroom and you get to be in an authentic situation for the exact same price as a hotel.

Harp: Yeah. And it's just easy to use. It's a website and you can just go there and find lots of different options.

Andrew: Yeah. There are tons of options. You get to see nice pictures, and I think that they scan all of the people on their website, so you can trust that you're not going to get **ripped off**.

Harp: Yeah. And they always have reviews. Now, when everyone thinks of Canada they think about the outdoors. So another way to travel around Canada and stay in a unique place is camping.

Andrew: Yeah. Camping. I love camping.

Harp: I have to be honest. I've only camped once in my life, and I didn't love it.

Andrew: Only one time?

Harp: Only one time. You're in a tent. I felt claustrophobic. The ground wasn't comfortable, and it started raining.

Andrew: Oh no. Yeah. Rain's bad news when you're camping. But I love camping. You get to be outside. You get all the fresh air. It's really cheap. It's great for

your pocket book. Yeah. It's fun. It's something that you can go in the summer. Obviously if you probably travel in the winter or fall, probably the spring a well, you can't do it in Canada. But if you're travelling in summer, I recommend camping.

Harp: Yes, I guess. And usually you're paying for just a little campground. A little space in a campground. So, like you said, it's not expensive. You would just have to have equipment, and I think a lot of places you can rent it.

Andrew: Yeah. I think so.

Harp: OK. Let's move on to our last topic.

Andrew: Yeah. So now we're going to talk about places that we like to visit in Canada, and our recommendations for you, places that we think you might like.

Harp: Well I'm gonna start with the obvious one. I'm gonna say that you should come check out Montreal, because it's a very cool city.

Andrew: Yeah. Montreal's great. I've been here now for almost a year, and I love it here.

Harp: That's a great option. And if you come to Montreal you should definitely check out Quebec City.

Andrew: Yeah. While you're in Montreal, it's just a couple hours to Quebec City, and you could get there via any of the ways that we mentioned earlier. You could take the bus, or you could take the train.

Harp: Yeah. Exactly. And Quebec City is just beautiful. It's really quaint. I would recommend at least you stay basically in the old area, and you feel like you're back in medieval time. It's beautiful.

Andrew: Yeah. Unfortunately, I've still never been to Quebec City, so hopefully pretty soon. I really would like to go.

Harp: It's so close you have to go soon!

Andrew: I know, I know.

Harp: Quebec is actually a place I'd recommend going in the winter because it's beautiful with all of the snow.

Andrew: Oh yeah. I've heard that it's really beautiful in the winter.

Harp: What's another place that you like going in Canada?

Andrew: Well, I'm from British Columbia, and I guess you are too. We're from British

Columbia, and so I guess I'm a little bit biased to western Canada. I would recommend probably the Rocky Mountains: Banff and Lake Louise, and right on the boarder with British Columbia and Alberta is just some really beautiful classic Canadian scenery.

Harp: I agree with you one hundred percent. And when people ask me where they should go and what they should see in Canada, I always recommend going from either Edmonton or Calgary and driving down the Rocky Mountains all the way to Vancouver, because there you just get to see the beauty of the mountains, and it's one of the best drives I've ever taken, and I've done it many times. Or you could take the train, but either way, go through the Rocky Mountains because it's beautiful.

Andrew: Yeah. And I know there are a lot of tourists that like to visit the Rocky Mountains, so getting there, even though it seems like the kind of place that might be difficult to get to, it's pretty accessible. There are lots of bus tours that you can take, and I'd recommend it a hundred percent. It's just gorgeous.

Harp: It is. And the funny thing is every time that I drive through, or almost every time that I drive through the Rocky Mountains, you see some sort of wild life on the side. You could see some elk or some goats. And you'll see a long line-up of cars parked because they all want to take pictures because they're all tourists.

Andrew: Yeah. That's when you know that there's some wildlife around. When you see all of a sudden there's a bunch of cars pulled over on the side of the road then you know that there's some wildlife in the area.

Harp: Yeah. But you have to be careful 'cause they're wild. This isn't a zoo and they're not used to people, so make sure you stay in your car if you want to see them.

Andrew: Yeah. Don't get out of your car. One time I was driving past and we saw some bears, and there were people out of their cars taking pictures of the bears, and that is just a really ridiculous thing to do because those guys are dangerous.

Harp: Yeah. It's a really bad idea. I guess people think like they've only seen them on TV so it doesn't seem real to them, but these animals are huge and can be very dangerous if they feel threatened.

Andrew: Yeah. They're super cute, but super dangerous. So stay inside.

Harp: Yup. You know another place I actually recommend if someone has some

extra time is to go see the Canadian prairies. I think they're beautiful.

Andrew: You're a fan of the prairies? I like the prairies as well, but here's my problem with the prairies: they're just so much of the same thing. There's not much variation there.

Harp: That's true. But if you have the chance try to see a sunset on the prairies 'cause it's just beautiful, you can see for miles. It's spectacular.

Andrew: Yeah. The skies. They call it big sky country I think. Is that correct? That prairies are.

Harp: Yeah. They do.

Andrew: Because the sky is just amazing. It goes on and on and on and, yeah, it's really pretty.

Harp: Yup. And even going up to northern Canada so you can see the northern lights. If you go up really north you can maybe see some polar bears.

Andrew: Oh yeah. If you go way up north. I would love to do that, but unfortunately I've never gone that far north to see some polar bears. But, yeah, Harp's right. If you go fairly north, maybe ten hours or so away from the American boarder, you can often see the northern lights at night and that is something to see for sure.

Harp: Yeah. The northern lights are spectacular.

Andrew: Totally. And one of Canada's most favourite tourist attractions is Niagara Falls.

Harp: Yup. That's true. It's very popular, and a lot of tourists go there.

Andrew: Yeah. And Harp and I have both been there and, to tell you the truth, we weren't too impressed.

Harp: Nope. I think there are much more beautiful things and more interesting things that I would recommend that you go see.

Andrew: Yeah. That waterfall itself is, of course, amazing. It is huge, but the actual city of Niagara Falls is a little bit cheesy.

Harp: Yup. I would recommend going out to Atlantic Canada or seeing something cooler than just Niagara Falls.

Andrew: Yeah. And there are so many people all over the place just looking at the falls that it kind of ruins the experience for me.

- Harp: Yeah. The only thing is if you go to Niagara Falls definitely take that little boat, The Maid of the Mist I think it's called.
- Andrew: Yeah. That's right.
- Harp: Yeah. That's super cool 'cause you get to go kind of behind the falls.
- Andrew: Yeah. I never did get to do that. I went there when I was maybe 12. My parents didn't take me on The Maid of the Mist.
- Harp: Oh no! That's a cool experience.
- Andrew: Yeah. I'd like to do that sometime.
- Harp: Now my last recommendation is to go to Atlantic Canada, but I've never actually been. I've just heard it's amazing.
- Andrew: And I've never been either, but all of my friends that are from eastern Canada have really great things to say about it, and from the pictures I've seen and the stories I've heard it just looks like a great place to visit.
- Harp: Yeah. Exactly. Halifax seems like a super cool city. Saint Johns in Newfoundland as well. Prince Edward Island seems really cute, and just the scenery of the Atlantic Ocean.
- Andrew: Yeah, the scenery looks amazing, and the people are, well, very nice of course, and you get to experience kind of a different lifestyle I think than in the rest of Canada. Especially the farther east you go.
- Harp: Yeah. I think you're definitely right. You know, I'm just thinking, I need to plan a trip out east.
- Andrew: Yeah. Maybe I'll have to get out there next summer.
- Harp: All right, so let's do a quick recap and finish this episode.
- Andrew: Sure. So first of all we talked about ways you can travel in Canada and our favourite, of course, was flying.
- Harp: Yup. And then we talked about all of the different places that you can stay and we both like B&B's or using **Airbnb**, a cool site.
- Andrew: And camping if you're Andrew.
- Harp: Not me.
- Andrew: And finally we talked about some of the places that we have loved to visit while we've travelled in Canada.

- Harp: Yup. And so remember check out our website, Culips.com. C-U-L-I-P-S.com. And sign up and become a member.
- Andrew: Yeah. And make sure to check us out on iTunes and Stitcher. Those are great ways to listen to the podcast.
- Harp: Yup. And leave us a rating if you're there.
- Andrew: Yeah. And I think that about does it.
- Harp: That is it. Bye everyone.
- Andrew: Bye-bye!

Detailed Explanation

To be close to our hearts

When something is **close to someone's heart** it means that something is really significant, important, or interesting to that person. In this episode, Harp says that the subject of traveling in Canada is **close to our hearts**. She says this because Harp and Andrew are both Canadians and the topic of traveling in their own country is something that they have a lot experience with. This episode's subject matter is more personal than other Culips episodes, and because of that, it is **close to Andrew and Harp's hearts**. Whenever something is important to you, you can use the expression **close to your heart** to demonstrate its significance. Here some example sentences that demonstrate how to use **close to our hearts**:

Brenda: This is a great photograph. Who is the man in the picture?

Tom: That was my grandfather. He was a really nice man and was very **close to my heart**.

Jan: What do you like to do in your free time?

May: I like to golf, go for walks, and spend time with my friends. Travelling and meeting new people is also very **close to my heart**.

To finish off

To finish off is a phrasal verb that means to do the last part of something in order to complete it. In this episode, Harp uses **to finish off** to describe how the episode will end --

with a chat about Andrew and Harp's favourite places in Canada. When you are working on the last part of something, and you have almost completed it, you are in the process of **finishing off**. **To finish off** functions like many phrasal verbs and it is common for the two parts of the verb, *finish* and *off*, to be separated in a sentence. Check out the examples below to see how this works:

Tim: Have you done your homework yet?

Carl: I'm just **finishing it off** right now. I'll be done in ten minutes.

--

Ben: Do you want to go for a walk?

Sally: Sure! I'm just going to **finish off** this email I'm writing and then let's go.

Seat sales

A **seat sale** is a promotional event run by airlines where they offer big discounts on plane tickets. It is called a **seat sale** because the prices of tickets to sit in airline seats are on sale. **Seat sales** happen a couple of times every year and are often announced via email. If you want to find out about upcoming **seat sales**, it is a good idea to subscribe the mailing lists of the airlines you're interested in flying with so that you don't miss out on the cheap fares.

The downside

A **downside** is a disadvantage or bad point about a certain situation. The less positive aspects of something can be called the **downsides**. As you might expect, the positive aspects of something can be called the upsides. In this episode, Andrew says that the **downside** to flying is that it is expensive. This means that the high cost of air travel is one of the disadvantages of flying. Here are a few example sentences that use **downside**:

Julie: I'm thinking of leaving the city and moving to the country.

Dan: Oh wow, that's a big decision to make.

Julie: Yeah I think it'll be great but the only **downside** will be that I'll be far away from my friends.

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Fred: Are there any **downsides** to using an iPhone?

Tom: Well they are only current for about a year before a new model comes out and replaces the old one. Other than that, they seem pretty great.

Stuffy

Stuffy is used to describe a room, car, or space that is too warm and lacks fresh air. When a space feels hot and stale, we can use the word **stuffy** to describe it. **Stuffy** spaces are

uncomfortable and it is frustrating to spend a long time in a **stuffy** place. Here are two example sentences that use **stuffy**:

George: It's way too **stuffy** in this room. Wanna go outside and get some fresh air?

Aaron: Yeah, let's go.

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Sam: How was your trip to New York City?

Kera: I had a good time once I got there but the trip down was awful. 12 hours on a cramped, **stuffy** bus. It was no fun at all.

At all costs

When someone does something **at all costs**, that means that they will do whatever is necessary to do that thing. For example, in this episode, Andrew says that he avoids taking the bus **at all costs**. This means that he will do whatever is needed to make sure that he doesn't need to travel on the bus. When someone does whatever needs to be done to make sure something happens, we can say that they did so **at all costs**. Here are a few example sentences that demonstrate how to use **at all costs**:

George: I really hate my boss. I try to avoid him **at all costs**.

Even: I feel the same way about my boss too.

--

Carmen: I don't care what it takes, I'm going to make sure I travel home this Christmas **at all costs**. I haven't seen my family for a few years and I really miss them.

Steph: Yeah being with your family during the holidays is important.

To be up and about

In this episode, Andrew says that it is dangerous **to be up and about** on the bus. What this means is that being up out of your bus seat moving around in the bus is unsafe. Since the bus moves quickly and shakes around often, **being up and about** on the bus is a bad idea. Anytime someone has left a situation that has confined that person, (such as a bus seat or even an illness), we can say that the person **is up and about**. Here are two example sentences that use **to be up and about**:

Chris: Hey Danny, sit down! You're not allowed **to be up and about** when the plane takes off!

Danny: Sorry Dad!

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Jenny: How's Bill doing? I heard he was sick.

Tina: He's doing much better now. He's been **up and about** for the last two days.

Hitchhiking

Hitchhiking is the act of travelling for free by standing on the side of a road and trying to get passing cars to stop and pick you up. **Hitchhikers** indicate that they are looking for a ride by making a special gesture where they hold out their arm towards the road and stick their thumb up. **Hitchhiking** used to be a popular way of travelling in North America in the 60s and 70s but is less common these days. However, it is still possible to see **hitchhikers** on the sides of highways occasionally.

To be just asking for trouble

When someone acts in a way that is likely bring about a bad situation, we can say that that person is **just asking for trouble**. This is a fixed expression that is always used in the progressive tense. If someone behaves in a way that causes future problems for him or herself, then they are **just asking for trouble**. In this episode, Andrew says that people that hitchhike alone are **just asking for trouble**. This is because **hitchhiking** is an activity that can be dangerous and becomes even more dangerous when you travel alone. Here are two example sentences that demonstrate how to use the expression **to be just asking for trouble**:

Jeff: I'm thinking about investing in this new company I heard about on the Internet. The risk is high but it might pay off nicely.

Paula: You're just **asking for trouble** if you think that's a good idea. High-risk investments are nothing but bad news.

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Eric: My van isn't running too well lately but I don't have enough time to get it serviced before I leave for my cross-country road trip.

Jess: If I were you, I'd delay your trip. You're just **asking for trouble** if you leave without having a mechanic take a look at it.

Car shares or ride shares

A **ride share** happens when someone who has empty seats in his car offers them to other travelers. Everyone shares the cost of gas, and the trip becomes cheaper for everyone.

Almost all **ride shares** are negotiated over the Internet. Some of the best sites for looking for **ride shares** are Craigslist and Kijiji. At some universities have **ride share** bulletin boards. These spots can also be good places to look for or offer a ride.

To be on a budget

To be on a budget means to have a limited amount of money that you can dedicate toward an activity. When someone is **on a budget**, they have to carefully plan how they will spend their money so that they do not go broke. If someone has a small amount of money that they can put towards doing something, then they are **on a budget**. Here are some example sentences that use **to be on a budget**:

Jim: Wow your kitchen looks amazing. Did you remodel recently?

Tina: Thanks! Yeah we fixed it up last month. We were **on a budget**, so we couldn't make all the changes we wanted, but we're happy with how it turned out.

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Rob: I'm going travelling through Europe next month for the next six weeks. I've been saving my money for the last year but I'll still be **on a budget**.

Hanna: That's ok. I'm sure you'll still have a great time even if you're **on a budget**.

Airbnb

Airbnb is a website that allows people to rent out their unoccupied living space to travellers that are looking for a short-term place to stay. **Airbnb** offers over half a million listings in 33,000 cities worldwide. **Airbnb** is quickly becoming a popular alternative to hotels. For around the same price as a hotel room, (and sometimes less), it is possible to rent an entire apartment through the website. **Airbnb's** review system helps to assure that both hosts and travellers have a safe experience.

To get ripped off

To get ripped off is another phrasal verb. When someone has been **ripped off**, they have been cheated or taken advantage of by paying too much for something. It is also possible for people to **get ripped off** when they buy something that they thought was a quality product but turns out to be poorly made. Whenever someone buys something but gets cheated by either paying too much or not getting what they expected, they have been **ripped off**. Additionally, anything that is overpriced or poorly manufactured can be called a **rip off**. Here are a few examples that demonstrate how **to get ripped off** can be used:

Luke: How much did you pay for your new laptop?

Lexi: \$2,500. Why?

Luke: Whoa you really **got ripped off**. I just saw the same model for sale online for only

\$2,000.

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Beth: I feel like I **got ripped off** last night. I took a taxi home and it ended up costing me \$30 dollars. It was only a 15-minute ride. Is that normal?

Jean: Oh no way. You definitely **got ripped off**. I never pay more than \$15 for a ride home.

Quiz

1. What expression describes trying to do something with a limited amount of money?

- a) on a budgie
- b) on a budget
- c) in a budget
- d) without a budget

2. Which way of travelling is usually free?

- a) bus
- b) train
- c) rideshare
- d) hitchhiking

3. Fill in the blank with the correct expression.

I just need to ____ ____ reading this article and then I can go to the supermarket with you.

- a) finish off
- b) finish on
- c) finish down
- d) set down

4. Which expression can be used when someone has been cheated by paying too much for something?

- a) to regret
- b) to rip
- c) to get ripped off
- d) to get ripped up

5. Fill in the blank with the correct word.

The only _____ to living in this apartment is that it is a little noisy.

- a) upside
- b) downside
- c) outside
- d) inside

6. Choose the appropriate expression to complete the definition.

When someone is willing to do anything to accomplish something, they will do that thing _____.

- a) whatever it takes
- b) however it can
- c) no matter
- d) at all costs

7. Where are rideshare ads usually NOT advertised?

- a) Craigslist
- b) Kijiji
- c) telephone pole posters
- d) university bulletin boards

8. What word best describes a space that is uncomfortably warm and lacks fresh air?

- a) stucky
- b) puffy
- c) stuffed
- d) stuffy

9. Choose the appropriate expression to complete the definition.

When someone acts in a way that will probably cause them problems in the future, that person is _____.

- a) just wanting a bad time

- b) just looking for it
- c) just thinking about it
- d) just asking for trouble

Answers:

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