

## Chatterbox #125 – Home is where the heart is

*The words and expressions that appear in **bold blue** text throughout this document are discussed in more detail in the Detailed Explanation section that follows the transcript.*

### Transcript

Maura: Hello everyone. It's Maura.

Andrew: And I'm Andrew. And we are here with another Culips episode.

Maura: So don't forget to go to our website, culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Andrew: That's right. And sign up to become a member because when you're a member, you get access to transcripts of each episode. You get explanations of some of the key expressions that we talk about in each episode. And you also get a quiz to test your comprehension.

Maura: And if you're online you can say hi to us on Facebook and Twitter. You can also listen to our episodes on iTunes and Stitcher. So, Andrew, the weather is finally getting nice. Have you been out on your bike yet?

Andrew: Not yet. But I'm really excited. It's almost that time of year when I can start riding again. So, hopefully in the next week or two I'll be a full time bike rider once again.

Maura: Yeah. It's really nice when the snow starts to melt and it gets a bit warmer 'cause it's so much easier to get places on your bike. It's so much faster and more fun of course.

Andrew: Yeah. And good exercise of course.

Maura: Yeah. It's great. Biking season is starting.

Andrew: It's here. Yay!

Maura: OK. Now let's get to our episode. And today's episode is a Chatterbox one and that is where we chat about all different kinds of topics. And today we're going to talk about something that is **near and dear to our hearts**.

Andrew: And today's topic is **home**.

Maura: Yeah. So we're going to be talking about the idea of **home**. What the word **home** means. It's kind of a special word.

Andrew: Yes. It's a very special to lots of people.

- Maura: So first we're gonna talk to you about the difference between the word **home** and **house**. Because there is a little bit of a difference and they can often get confused.
- Andrew: Yeah. This is really confusing. Even for us, we had to think about this a little bit.
- Maura: So after that, we're going to talk about expressions with the word **home** in them.
- Andrew: Yup. And then finally we're going to talk about what it means to be away from **home**. So expressions relating to being away from your **house**, being away from your **home**.
- Maura: Mmhmm. And some of our own experiences being away from **home**.
- Andrew: Yeah. That's right. We'll get personal.
- Maura: OK. So first we're going to try help clarify the difference between **house** and **home**, which actually can get quite complicated.
- Andrew: Yeah. These words are very similar, but basically we use **home** to talk about any place where you live. So it's a building, it could be an apartment, it could be a condominium. It's just place where you live. That's your **home**.
- Maura: That's right. And when you use **home** it often has the feeling of being a comfortable place, a cozy place, a place where you feel comfortable and you can be yourself and relax.
- Andrew: Exactly. There's a feeling associated with the word **home**. It's just a warm and cozy place. Your **home** is a warm and cozy place.
- Maura: And then we also have the word **house**. Now your **home** could be a **house**, but, like we said, a **home** could be an apartment or a condo or any type of other dwelling. But a **house** is a specific kind of building where people live.
- Andrew: Exactly. So a **house** is a building where people live, and it's usually big enough to **house** a family. So four or five people could potentially live in a **house**.
- Maura: You know, I was scouring the Internet before looking for a really good definition of **house**, but it gets confusing because there are so many different kinds of **houses**. And like you said, usually there is one family living in a **house**, but there are all different kinds of living situations nowadays.
- Andrew: Exactly. So to keep it simple, I think we can think of a **house** as just a place where people live.

- Maura: Yes. It's a certain kind of building where people live. For sure. OK. We hope we've made that a little bit clearer for you. And if you're a member, in our learning materials we'll go more in depth to the difference between **house** and **home**.
- Andrew: Yup. So sign up, become a member, and check out our detailed explanations.
- Maura: Do it. OK. Now let's look at expressions with **home**.
- Andrew: Right. Expressions with **home**. So our first one is **home sweet home**.
- Maura: And you see, there's even a kind of way that you say it. You stop and you take the time to say **home sweet home**.
- Andrew: Yeah. Because when you say **home sweet home** there's a certain sentiment. A certain memory that's attached to **home**, right. It's special for me so, yeah, when I use this expression I'm sort of, it's like what we were talking about earlier, how it's a warm and cozy place, your **home**. Because you think about it differently than another place. This is a special place. It's your **home**.
- Maura: Right. This expression is used when someone is talking about their **home**, and they love it, and they think it's a really great place. They might be saying this when they're away from **home** because when you're away from **home** sometimes you start to realize all the great things about it, and you really start to miss it. So someone might start to use this expression, **home sweet home**, when they're away from their **home**.
- Andrew: You know when I use this expression a lot is when I'm away from my **house**, but I've just come back to my **home**. And I'm talking here about my parents' **home**. Whenever I talk about, even now I'm an adult and I live away from my parents, I always think of my **home** as being the **home** that I grew up in, my parents' **home**, where my family is. So I say this expression, **home sweet home**, whenever I go back to my parents' **home**, and I sort of walk in the door for the first time and I can relax and be myself and I sort of go, "Ah, **home sweet home**."
- Maura: Yup. Exactly. I think that definitely another time when people use this expression, when they've been away and they get **home** and they're finally happy to be there. Maybe to sleep in their own bed. I know that that's something that I miss when I'm away from **home**.
- Andrew: Yeah. And having access to a dresser. I hate **living out of a suitcase** when you're travelling. You come **home**, you have everything arranged and organized the way that you are used to. It's **home sweet home**.

- Maura: And this expression is actually super super old. Did you know that?
- Andrew: No. This is **news to me**.
- Maura: This expression comes from a song, and the song was originally written in 1823 by Sir Henry Bishop and John Howard Payne for an opera. And since that time this song, or variations of it, have been used in TV shows and in movies, and I was so surprised because I had actually never heard the song "**Home Sweet Home**."
- Andrew: Yeah. I've never heard that song before.
- Maura: It's interesting because it's such a common expression and, like I said, it's been used in so many pop culture references. But I would say not many people know the song.
- Andrew: Yeah. I would have had no idea that that's where that expression came from. From an opera song!
- Maura: Mmhmm. **Home sweet home**. OK, let's look at another expression now to do with **home**.
- Andrew: And our next expression is **there's no place like home**.
- Maura: And this expression means that your **home** is the best place. There's no other place like your **home**. There's no other place as good as our **home** because at **home** you feel comfortable, you feel relaxed, you have everything that you need.
- Andrew: That's right. This expression can be used in the same way that **home** sweet **home** can be used. They mean the same thing. That **home** is a special place that you really treasure.
- Maura: Right. And you could use this when you're away from **home**, or you could use it when you're getting **home**. Even when you're at **home**, and you're just, maybe have your feet up on the couch, and you're just super comfortable and it's such a great place. You might say **there's no place like home**.
- Andrew: Exactly. And this expression was really made popular by the movie *The Wizard of Oz*.
- Maura: Yeah. Right. Tell everyone how it was used in that movie.
- Andrew: Yup. In *The Wizard of Oz* the main character Dorothy is far away from **home** and she's really **homesick**, she wants to go **home**. So at one point in the story, she closes her eyes and she says, "**There's no place like home**" and she wishes to go back there.

- Maura: That's right. And I recently thought that that had to be the origin of this expression too. Because when I think of it, I always think of the movie *The Wizard of Oz*, but **there's no place like home** actually originally comes from the song "**Home Sweet Home**," just like the expression **home sweet home**. So **there's no place like home was** first used in the song "**Home Sweet Home**."
- Andrew: Yeah. That came as a surprise to me as well. I thought 100% this expression is from *The Wizard of Oz*. It's the only place that I knew it to come from. But, yeah, it's from another song.
- Maura: Mmhmm. So I guess these guys who wrote the song really loved **home** and they made some really catchy expressions in their song.
- Andrew: Well, like we were saying, **home** is a very emotional term, and when you're writing a song you really want it to have some feeling, some emotions. So I could see people writing songs about **home**. Yeah, why not?
- Maura: Well speaking of emotions and feelings, let's look at another expression to do with **home** and that is **home is where the heart is**.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. **Home is where the heart is**. This is a nice one.
- Maura: Yeah. I think it's a bit cheesy.
- Andrew: It's a little cheesy, but I like it.
- Maura: So **home is where the heart is** means that your **home** is with the people or place that you love. And it has more of a relation to family and the people that you're with when you're at **home**.
- Andrew: Right. The expression is almost talking about **home** not as a physical thing, but as the people that you love. They are your **home**.
- Maura: Right. The feeling that you have when you're with the people that are close to your heart. And usually your family lives with you as well, so there's kind of a connection with family and **home** and heart and love and all that good stuff.
- Andrew: And the origins of this expression are unclear.
- Maura: Mmhmm. It will remain a mystery.
- Andrew: Very mysterious expression, yes.

- Maura: Another thing to mention about these expressions' is that **home** could also mean your **home** country or your **hometown**. It doesn't have to be just the building where you live. It could be the place where you feel comfortable and familiar.
- Andrew: And one thing that's really interesting is that we can say **home** country. Canada is my **home** country. And I can say **hometown**. Like Vancouver is my **hometown**. But we can't say **home** city, it just doesn't work.
- Maura: Yeah. Even when we're talking about the city where we're from, we would say **hometown**. Even though it's not a town.
- Andrew: Right. Yeah. A town is a small place, right? But if you're from a city you still have to say **hometown**. It's just the way it is.
- Maura: Yup. Just the way it is. You know, one more funny thing about all of these expressions, **home sweet home, there's no place like home, home is where the heart is**. I feel like at some point or another I've seen these expressions in frames hanging on people's walls.
- Andrew: Yeah. You see these expressions hanging in people's **houses** all the time. In a painting or needlework.
- Maura: Yeah. And really, they just serve as a reminder of how special **home** is.
- Andrew: Mm hmm. People like to display that they love their **home**.
- Maura: OK. Now we've talked about stuff to do with **home**, and now we're gonna talk about when you're away from **home** and experiences away from your **home**.
- Andrew: Yup. We're going to change things up a bit and talk about the opposite situation, when you're far away from your **home**.
- Maura: Now, one issue that comes up a lot for people when they're away from **home** is **homesickness**. Have you ever felt **homesick**?
- Andrew: I can honestly say that I don't think that I've ever felt **homesick**.
- Maura: Not even for a specific thing like food or maybe you just wished that you could be **home** 'cause everyone speaks the same language as you? Stuff like that?
- Andrew: Well, when I was living in Korea I did miss watching hockey. That is the one thing that I did miss a lot because there just isn't a hockey culture in Korea so people didn't really care about it, which is fine. But it made me a little sad to miss the games.

- Maura: That's a very Canadian response.
- Andrew: I know. It's very stereotypical. I'm sorry but it's the truth.
- Maura: Yeah. I have to agree with you. I don't think that when I've travelled or lived abroad that I've really felt **homesick**. And I think that's probably because we love travelling and experiencing different cultures and ways of life, so you don't really feel **homesick** when you're experiencing all of these exciting things everyday.
- Andrew: Right. I went travelling, I went abroad, to experience different culture so I knew going into it that it wasn't going to be the same as it is back **home**, and that made it easy I think.
- Maura: You know, I remember once I had a friend, who I should also say still lives in my **hometown**. She went away on vacation for one week, and she told me, oh, but at the end of the week I was so glad to come **home**. And I was like, what? That's crazy! Because after one week I would still probably want to stay another week 'cause there's still so much to learn and experience.
- Andrew: Yeah. **Different strokes for different folks**. I would definitely want to stay longer than a week I think.
- Maura: It is interesting because for some people **homesickness** is a really true thing where they can feel really anxious or depressed because they're away from **home**. Some people really feel upset when all the comforts of **home** are not surrounding them anymore. You know, I do remember once when I was **homesick**, and I wasn't visiting a foreign country, I wasn't on another continent. It was when I went to university. I moved away from **home** for the first time. I was eighteen, and I was living in residence at university. For the first few days, I felt really kind of sick. I felt really sad and depressed. It was a really strange feeling. Luckily it went away after a few days, and of course I had fun and met lots of friends, but for the first few days I really, really missed **home**. Maybe just the comfort of my family and just being comfortable.
- Andrew: Yeah. Well it's a big change at first when you're moving out of your **home** for the first time. It's a big adjustment, so that's understandable.
- Maura: You know one thing that causes **homesickness** is **culture shock**. When you go to a completely different country, usually they speak another language too, and the culture is so different that you long for **home** because it's familiar. When you're in this new culture you don't know how anything works.
- Andrew: Yeah. Exactly. So **culture shock** is just when you find yourself in a society that's totally different than the one that you grew up knowing about.



- Maura: Right. I have to say though, I think I like **culture shock**.
- Andrew: I like **culture shock** too.
- Maura: It's fun. You arrive in a new place, and everything is so interesting because almost every way of life is different from your own. So you have to learn how to go to the grocery store and how to interact with people and how to get around. It's very stimulating.
- Andrew: Yeah. You learn so much just about how the world works. It really **pushes your horizons**.
- Maura: That's right. It does make you think of your own culture as well because you're in a new place and you, think, "Oh, OK, they do it like that here. So that means that at home we do it like this and I wonder why." It really gets you thinking about your own culture.
- Andrew: Yeah. And you know, the times that I've experienced the most **culture shock** have been when I've travelled to places that are very similar to the Canadian culture that I've grown up experiencing I suppose. So when I travelled to the USA, and they do something just slightly different that we do in Canada I go, "Wow, that's really crazy." That gives me **culture shock**. When I go to a place that's totally different, it's fine. I don't get **culture shock**. But when it's just that little thing that sets me off.
- Maura: Yeah. It's funny because you're right. Canada and the US do have cultures that are very similar. But when you go to the US you can notice those little things here and there that set us apart.
- Andrew: Yeah, so for example, when I'm in The States, I always feel like a really rich person because I have a wallet full of money. But then I forget that these bills that I have, they're only one dollar bills and it's really not as good as I'd thought it was. Because in Canada, all of our money notes are for bigger denominations. So five dollars, ten dollars, but in The States they have one dollar bills, and so you feel like you have a lot of money when you travel down there.
- Maura: Yeah. That's true. I know I've had that feeling too.
- Andrew: And the opposite of **culture shock** is called **reverse culture shock**. And this is something that I've definitely experienced because when I lived in Korea for three years and I came back to Canada, everything seemed crazy to me. I just couldn't readjust, even though I was coming back to my own **home**, my own culture.



- Maura: So that's what **reverse culture shock** is. When you've spent a lot of time away from your own culture, and you come **home**, it's like you don't know your own culture anymore, and you experience it like it's foreign to you.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. One thing that was a real shock to me when I came back was that I had spent three years of riding the bus and riding the subway in Korea just comfortably in silence. Because people would all be talking around me, but I couldn't really understand enough of the language to even figure out what was happening most of the time. But when I came back to Canada all of a sudden I could understand everything that people were saying on the subway, and it started driving me crazy.
- Maura: I remember that when I came back from Japan, one thing that I noticed is that I felt like there were a lot less people around. Everything looked bare. Like there was nobody around. I was used to living in Tokyo where the population is just crazy compared the population of most big cities in Canada. So even though Montreal is one of our biggest cities, it seemed so empty even in the really busy neighbourhoods.
- Andrew: I totally agree with that. I feel like we're just living in like **no man's land** sometimes after being to some of these big cities. And especially how, in parts of Asia, they have the 24-hour culture. Where things are just open 24 hours a day, and now I'm here in Canada and I want something to eat and it's like 9:30 or 10 pm and it's not too late, but late enough for almost every restaurant to be closed and all the super markets. It's sad. That's **reverse culture shock**.
- Maura: Yup. And when you're away from **home** and you're far from all of the comforts that you're used to, one thing that's pretty cool if you can find, is a **home away from home**. A place that you do feel comfortable, and is relaxing, and you have a lot of the things that maybe that you miss, but you're not actually in your own **home**.
- Andrew: Yup. So this could be a friend's **house**, or a relative's **house**. It could even be a coffee shop. Just some place where you're not at your **home**, but it feels like **home**. So it's **a home away from home**.
- Maura: Have you ever had a **home** away from **home**?
- Andrew: I think my aunt's **house**. I felt very comfortable there growing up as a kid so I'd say that, yeah, even when I go back and visit my aunt, I feel like her **house** is a **home** away from **home** for me.
- Maura: That's super nice. Now, you know, this whole episode kind of makes me feel like I want to go **home**.
- Andrew: Yeah, let's go **home**.

- Maura: I want to go home. I want to kick back on my couch, relax. Maybe get a blanket, feel a bit cozy.
- Andrew: Yeah. Yeah. That's good.
- Maura: OK. So let's go over what we talked about today.
- Andrew: Sure. So, we started this episode by talking about the differences between the words *home* and *house*.
- Maura: Right. And then we gave you a few expressions that tell us how important the **home** is. We looked at **home sweet home**. We looked at there's **no place like home**. And **home is where the heart is**.
- Andrew: Mmhm. And then, finally, we talked about being away from *home*. So **homesickness** and **culture shock** and **reverse culture shock**.
- Maura: OK. So remember to go check out our website. That is culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com because it's only on our website where you can become a member. And when you become a member these episodes just become even more educational. And more interesting.
- Andrew: That's right. Your support helps us to produce better episodes.
- Maura: And if you're on Facebook or Twitter you can say hi to us there.
- Andrew: Yup. And thanks for listening, and we'll see you next time.
- Maura: That's right. Bye.

## Detailed Explanation

### 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**: kinda
- **wanna**: want to

### To be near and dear to our hearts

In this episode, we hear Maura introduce the topic of the chatterbox episode as something that is **near and dear to our hearts**. **To be near and dear to our hearts** is an expression that means that something is very important to you. The heart is a body organ that is often associated with love and emotion, so when something is near to it and dear to it, it means we hold it close to our emotions.

Here is another example of **to be near and dear to our hearts**:

Sidney: What are you doing for the summer break this year?

Mihori: Going back to Florida.

Sidney: Again? Do you go every year?

Mihori: Yep! We've been going since me and my sisters were kids, so it's sort of a place that's **near and dear to our hearts**.

Sidney: Oh, that's nice then. Have fun!

### House and home

A **house**, by definition, is a dwelling that is free standing. That means that it is a place where people live that is not attached to any other dwelling. It usually has a front yard and a backyard. However, people often use the word **house** as a generic word for any dwelling. Another word for a dwelling is **home**, and this word has a bit more meaning to it than **house** does. **House** and **home** can both be used to describe the same thing, but often the term home is used when people talk about a **house** that they feel cozy in and they have lived in for a while.

Here is another example using the term **house** and **home**. See if you can spot the difference in meaning.

Lao: Are you going to look for a new apartment again this weekend?

Yukie: Yeah, there's a few new **houses** that we'd like to check out.

Lao: It's sad that you have to leave your old place.

Yukie: I know. I really love our home. But Frank's new job is so far away, it doesn't make sense to stay there.

Lao: I know. I'm sure you'll find a great new **home** though.

Yukie: I hope so too! We're going to look at a **house** tonight, actually.

### To house

**To house** means to keep in your care. It implies that you care for something in your **house** and maintain it as a guest, whether for the short term or long term. When used as a verb, **house** has a slightly different pronunciation than it does when you're talking about a **house** a dwelling. **To house** has a bit more of a 'z' sound when pronouncing the s in it, whereas **a house** has more of a 's' sound. So, a dwelling is pronounced as 'houss', and to house is pronounced 'to houze'.

Here's another example of **to house**:

Yoshimasa: What are you doing this weekend?

Sonia: Cleaning. A lot of cleaning. That's in addition to organizing and rearranging furniture.

Yoshimasa: Oh what for?

Sonia: Well, Derek's hockey team has a tournament near our **house** this weekend, and we've agreed **to house** the entire team in our small apartment!

Yoshimasa: Oh my goodness. That sounds like a lot of fun but a lot of work too. All those sweaty hockey boys? Your shower is going to be a busy place!

Sonia: I know! Let's just hope they all bring their manners with them.

### Home sweet home

In this episode, we hear Maura talk about the expression home sweet home, and how this expression comes from a song and the song was originally written in 1823 by Sir Henry Bishop and John Howard Payne for an opera. And since that time this song, or variations of it, have been used in TV shows and in movies. The expression **home sweet home** means almost exactly that- that home is a sweet and cozy place to think about and to be.

Here is another example using **home sweet home**:

Jose: Where are you going for your March Break this year?

Renata: I may just stay home. I'm actually really excited about getting the garden ready for the spring, so it's sort of where I want to be even if I could go away. I'd like to be in my home all the time.

Jose: Ah, yes. **Home sweet home**. You just really like your place. It's nice. .

To live out of a suitcase

**To live out of a suitcase** is a common English way of saying that you are a constant traveler who never stays in one spot for very long. Living out of a suitcase means that you don't really unpack your belongings, because you don't plan on staying somewhere long enough to need unpacking and setting up.

The expression **to live out of a suitcase** doesn't necessarily mean that you don't actually put your clothes and shoes away that you've brought in your suitcase. It can just mean that you don't really set up a place like you would if you were staying there for a long time. It may mean that you put your clothes away, put your toothbrush in the bathroom, and maybe put a few pictures on the wall, but you don't really buy furniture or new things the way that you would if you were staying for a long time.

Here is another example of **to live out of a suitcase**:

Lou: How long have you been in Mexico now? I can't remember when you got here.

Greta: About two months.

Lou: Are you leaving for another place soon? You said you only stay in one location for a few months at a time, right?

Greta: Usually, yes. But I really love it here in Mexico. I'm actually thinking about maybe staying here for a bit, maybe renting an apartment.

Lou: Really? That would be so great.

Greta: Yeah, I'm kind of tired of **living out of a suitcase**. It would be nice to have a place I could relax in and call home.

This is news to me

**This is news to me** means that what you are hearing is something you didn't know before, or have never heard before. Variations of this expression include "**that is news to me**" or just "**news to me**". The origin of this expression comes from newspapers and news outlets, where people can get or learn new information on a daily frequency. So, if something is **news to you**, it means that it is new information to you.

Here is another example of **this is news to me**:

Roberto: So I didn't know you were in a television commercial when you were a kid!

Andrea: Oh, that? It was a long time ago.

Roberto: Well, **it's news to me!** I had no idea!

Andrea: Yeah it was really fun to do. I met a lot of really cool people.

There's no place like home

**There's no place like home** is an expression that has been made popular in English culture because it was one of the main lines in a very popular movie called *The Wizard of Oz*. The meaning is simple, just that home is so great that there's no place like it and nothing can compare to it. In the movie *The Wizard of Oz*, it's an important line because at the end of the movie, when the main character has come home from all her exciting excursions in Oz, she realizes that home is the most important place over all other places.

Here is another example of **there's no place like home**:

Daewoon: Are you going anywhere for spring break this year?

Virginia: No, Just going to visit my parents in the next town over.

Daewoon: Well, that's sort of a trip. And that's where you grew up, right? You know what they say, **there's no place like home!**

Home is where the heart is

**Home is where the heart is** is a very old expression that means that home is where love and emotion are. In English/Western culture, we tend to associate the organ in our bodies that is the heart with love and emotion and sentimentality. So, **home is where the heart is** is another way of saying that home is where all the things and people we love are. The expression is used to imply that home does not necessarily imply a precise or specific dwelling, but rather wherever your loved ones live.

The expression's origin is not really known, and it's even possible that it actually comes from the saying *home is where the hearth is*, which has nothing at all to do with the heart! A hearth is another word for fireplace, and in the days where there was no such things as electric or gas heating, every home had a 'hearth', and it was a symbol of warmth and cosiness. So while the heart is about love and emotion, the hearth is about warmth and cosiness so it's not that much of a stretch since they're sort of related!

Here's another example of **home is where the heart is**:

Costanza: Are you going anywhere for summer vacation?

Renata: Well, I was going to do a bit of travelling I know it's exciting and all of that, but I think I really miss home and my family. I'd rather go there for a visit.

Costanza: Well, **home is where the heart is**. I think that's a perfect vacation

Hometown

A **hometown** is a phrase used to describe the place you grew up for the longest amount of time. It's not necessarily where you were born, but it's definitely the place you feel the most comfortable and think about the fondest as being your home.

Here is another example of **hometown**:

Raz: Were you born in Rome?

Angela: Yeah, but Sicily is really my **hometown**. I lived there for 21 years.

Raz: Oh, wow. And now that you're an adult, do you go back and visit your **hometown**?

Angela: Yeah, any chance I can get.

To know what you were getting into

In this episode, we hear Andrew say that when he was travelling, he **knew was he was getting into**. When someone says that they **knew what they were getting into** or they **know what they've gotten into**, it means that they knew from the beginning what was going to happen but they did it anyway and were even a bit prepared for it.

Here is another example of **to know what you were getting into**:

Axel: How was your date with Sam?

Thuong: Very busy! First we met for coffee, then we went to an aquarium, then we went antiques shopping, and only after all of that did we finally get to dinner!

Axel: Wow- that's quite a lot of activities for one date! Weren't you a bit overwhelmed?

Thuong: Yeah, but I **knew what I was getting into**. Everyone warned me that Sam is energetic.

Axel: Well it sounds like you had a lot of fun!

Thuong: We certainly did!

Different strokes for different folks

**Different strokes for different folks** is an expression that means that different cultures will have a different way of doing things, and that is OK and normal. It is used when you are implying that everyone has their own way of doing things or their own perspective.

Here is another example of **different strokes for different folks**:

Lica: I can't believe that Scott and Darla want to go to an amusement park for their wedding anniversary. Don't they want to do something a little more romantic? Like dinner with candles, or a walk on the beach?

Giovanni: Well, **different strokes for different folks**. I guess they like amusement parks and maybe they find them somewhat romantic.

Lica: Yeah. Maybe you're right. I should be more open-minded.

Culture shock and reverse culture shock

**Culture shock** is an uncomfortable feeling you get when you are in a culture that is very different from the one you are used to at home. **Reverse culture shock** is an expression used for travellers coming back to their hometown who have been away from home for long periods of time, because it can be difficult to get back into the old way of doing things when you've been doing it a different way for so long.



Here is an example of **culture shock**:

Priscilla: How was your trip to Japan?

Claudia: Good, but strange!

Priscilla: Why strange?

Claudia: Their customs are so different from ours. It's hard to get used to

Priscilla: Yeah, **culture shock** can be difficult to overcome. But, it's temporary.

Claudia: Yeah, I got used to things pretty quickly. And then I had a great time.

### To push your horizons

In this episode, we hear Andrew say that travelling **pushes your horizons**. What Andrew means is that travelling gives you a new perspective and widens your view on life. If you think about a horizon, it is a view or perspective on your landscape. So, pushing it would mean to challenge or change your perception of that landscape.

Andrew actually misuses the expression. The correct expression is to **broaden your horizons**. But because pushing and broadening both mean to challenge, Andrew's mistake goes unnoticed and unremarked by Maura. This happens often in the English language, when the speaker accidentally says an expression incorrectly, but because it is so close to the correct expression, nobody really notices and everybody understands its meaning anyway.

Here is another example of **to broaden your horizons**:

Garfield: Do you like to travel, Pablo?

Pablo: I do! I find it interesting to learn about other cultures, especially about their philosophies. It really **broadens your horizons**.

Garfield: Totally. I can't wait for my next trip.

### No man's land

**No man's land** means a place or area that is uninhabited or undesirable. It comes from war terminology, most notably the First World War where it was used to describe the area of land between two enemy trench systems. This was a very undesirable area because you were open to enemy attack.

Here is another example of **no man's land**:

Eri: Did you try that new restaurant last weekend?

Ketlen: Yeah, it was a **no man's lands** though.

Eri: That's so sad. On their opening night, and they didn't have any customers?

Ketlen: It was just us and another couple. I think they didn't advertise their opening well enough. Hopefully they learn to market themselves better because the food was quite good.

Eri: Well, maybe you can help spread the word a bit.

#### A home away from home

**A home away from home** is a place you feel comfortable and welcome while you are travelling. It is as close to the emotional safety you get at your actual home as you are going to get away from your actual home.

Here is another example of a **home away from home**:

Maria: Are you going anywhere this weekend?

Hg: Yeah, I'm visiting my Aunt in the city.

Maria: Oh, do you visit her often?

Hg: All the time. She even has a bedroom set up just for me for when I come visit. It's my **home away from home**.

Maria: That sounds amazing. You're so lucky to have such an awesome Aunt!

## Quiz

**1. What is the difference between a house and a home? Can you spot the differences between a house and a home from their descriptions? Give these a try. Are they a house, or a home?**

- a) A multiple family home that you've agreed to stay in as a lodger, when you are in town for a few days visiting friends:

**House or Home?**

- b) The place where you were born, and where you've lived most your life and did all you're growing up in, but you haven't lived there for over 20 years and neither has any of your other family members. All your stuff and memories are in a different city altogether, but you still meet up at this location sometimes

**House or Home**

- c) The house you grew up in with all the original paint and furniture. Even though you live in another city, you come back and visit it because that's where all your old things are and it makes you feel safe

**House or Home**

- d) A place that you've just agreed to lease, so you haven't even slept in yet (not for another two weeks), but it feels so right and nice and cozy, and that you can't wait to move into soon.

**House or Home?**

**2. What is a hometown or home city?**

- a) A musical group
- b) The centre part of a village where they hold fairs and weddings
- c) The place where you were born.
- d) The place where you spent most of your growing years.

**3. Different \_\_\_\_\_ for different \_\_\_\_\_.****(Please fill in the blanks)**

- a) jokes blokes
- b) strokes folks
- c) customs customers
- d) ways days

**4. Which of the following would NOT be a potential culture shock?**

- a) Ordering a traditional baked clam dish from a new diner in a new country you've never been to before and expecting that the baked clam is going to taste the same as you are used to, if it's even baked at all.
- b) Going to use the ladies' room at a foreign restaurant and realizing that you have to cross a bridge away from the restaurant to get to it.
- c) Finally ready to get some sleep after hiking all day and realizing that there are no bed sheets like you have at home, only woven grasses to sleep with
- d) Going into a random store in a foreign city and finding the same chocolate bar you get back at home

**5. Which of the following is NOT a way to say that you are challenging or pushing your perspectives on things?**

- a) broaden your horizons
- b) push your boundaries
- c) stretch your horizons
- d) widen your assumptions into mountains

**6. Fill in the blank.****Home is where the \_\_\_\_\_ is.**

- a) food
- b) money
- c) love
- d) heart.

**7. Which popular movie made popular the idiom 'there's no place like home'?**

- a) Home for the Holidays
- b) Gone With the Wind
- c) Breakfast Club
- d) Wizard of Oz

**8. What does it mean if you are living out of a suitcase?**

- a) You are very small and can fit all your furniture into your suitcase.
- b) You are travelling.
- c) You need to do laundry.
- d) You really love your suitcase.

**9. Fill in the blank: Homes are near and \_\_\_\_\_ to our hearts.**

- a) far
- b) dear
- c) soon
- d) nearly

**Answers:**

1) a) house b) house c) home d) home

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