

## Chatterbox #131 – Dancing at different ages

### 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
- **gotta:** got to
- **wanna:** wanna

### Transcript

Maura: Hello everyone.

Harp: Hi everyone. It's Harp.

Maura: And Maura.

Harp: And we're here at Culips, bringing you another great episode.

Maura: That's right. And we also have a great website. Have you been to it? It is Culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Harp: Yes. And make sure, when you're there, to sign up and become a member, because that's how you can support us. When you're a member, you get access to a lot of really cool things, such as...

Maura: You get transcripts for all of our episodes, every single one. You also get detailed explanations of the expressions that we use. And you get quizzes to help test yourself. So check that out, because it will only enhance your English learning.

Harp: And remember: we love to hear from you, so go to Facebook or Twitter to leave us some comments or suggestions.

Maura: That's right. And you can listen right on our website or also on Stitcher or iTunes. And if you really love us, tell us and leave us a good comment or rating.

- Harp: Yes. You should definitely do that.
- Maura: So Harp. How's it going? What did you get up to this weekend now that the nice weather has finally **rolled around**?
- Harp: I had a great weekend. One of my friends, it was her birthday, so I took her a Dairy Queen ice cream cake.
- Maura: My **mouth is watering** just hearing about it.
- Harp: They're just such amazing cakes. They're so delicious with their chocolate, and then their cookie layer, and then the fudge layer, and then the vanilla. Ah. It's just deliciousness.
- Maura: I love ice cream season.
- Harp: I know. I just love Dairy Queen ice cream cakes. They're amazing.
- Maura: You know, it's been quite a while since I've had one, but I think I wanna buy one now, Harp.
- Harp: I think you should buy one for the next friend's birthday. 'Cause you know, our birthdays are in October, so I always feel kind of bad having it at my birthday party 'cause it's getting cold and an ice cream cake is cold, but if I can find a Dairy Queen store that's open, I definitely buy myself an ice cream cake for my birthday.
- Maura: Yup. Just gotta turn up the heat inside.
- Harp: Exactly.
- Maura: OK. Let's get to today's episode now.
- Harp: All right. So, today's episode is a Chatterbox episode, and that's where we chat. We talk about cultural topics, we interview people, we chat.
- Maura: Yes. And today, we're doing one that I'm especially excited about. We're doing an episode about **cutting a rug**.
- Harp: Yes. We're doing an episode all about dancing.
- Maura: That's right. An episode about dancing.
- Harp: And we're gonna **break it down**. We're gonna talk about dancing when you're a child and when you're young.
- Maura: And then we're gonna talk about when you get a little bit older and when you're in high school. So, dancing when you're a teenager.

- Harp: And then dancing when you're an adult.
- Maura: Mmhmm. So dancing all through your life.
- Harp: Let's get started.
- Maura: So, Harp, when you were young, when you were a kid, did you take any dance lessons?
- Harp: I never did, but I really always wanted to.
- Maura: Oh yeah? Well, what kind of dance lessons did you want to take?
- Harp: Well one of my friends took tap dance, and I always wanted to try that because it just looked fun. 'Cause you're doing very little motion. 'Cause she did very little in terms of movements, but she made so much noise. It was just such a cool dance to do.
- Maura: Yeah. It is fun to hear the clickity-clack of your feet when they're moving around with the steps.
- Harp: Yup. I would always try to do it with just normal shoes and pretend I was being a tap dancer.
- Maura: Yeah. It is quite popular for a lot of kids, especially young girls, to take dance lessons. It's some of the first lessons that they might take. Some people even start when they're, like, four or five years old.
- Harp: Yup. Did you take dance lessons as a kid?
- Maura: Yup. I did. I think I probably was one of those people who started when she was, like, five years old, and I think I took it for about eight years.
- Harp: Wow! Cool. What kind of dance?
- Maura: Well, I started with ballet, and I think I only took about one year of tap. And then I moved on to jazz dancing, which is, I guess, a more modern style.
- Harp: Wow! That's really cool. I just used to love when I would watch a ballet and they were so graceful, or jazz, and they just seemed like they were having so much fun. I really wish I had taken dance lessons.
- Maura: Yeah. It was fun. I don't think I'm very graceful, but whenever we had recitals to put on, it was a lot of fun to put on makeup and wear really fun, bright-coloured costumes, and it was kind of cool to have a performance, but in a group, so there wasn't as much pressure on you. And, like I said, it was just really fun.

- Harp: Did you do dance competitions when you were a kid?
- Maura: No. I wasn't that **hardcore**. A lot of people do. I think it's more popular nowadays to get into competitions and travel, but I just took regular classes, and once a year, we would have a big recital.
- Harp: Did you do any other dancing as a kid?
- Maura: Actually, I did. I think I was about 10, and at school, it was the cool thing to do. And that was to do folk dancing, which was not in class, but **an extracurricular activity**. So we stayed after school and maybe did things on our own time. And it was kind of like line dancing, a traditional kind of dancing where it was often male and female dancing together and doing easy steps and kind of twirling around and changing partners and that kind of thing.
- Harp: That sounds like fun.
- Maura: It was actually really fun. Even when I think back now, I think, "That's fun." Of course, I would never take folk dancing now, but it's a nice memory.
- Harp: Very nice.
- Maura: OK. Do you want to talk about dancing in high school now?
- Harp: Yes. Let's do that.
- Maura: So, did you take any classes when you were in high school?
- Harp: Well, when I was in high school, you had to take PE, which was physical education. And every year, we had a small portion about dance, and it was always really awkward. And one year they taught us line dancing, because I grew up in Alberta. So, it was, like, basically how you dance to a country song. It's quite fun. Everyone lines up all facing in one direction, and then there are very coordinated dance steps to a song. It's quite interesting to see everyone all together dancing in a line, and you can even go to clubs now, in Alberta, where they do this line dancing.
- Maura: Yeah. We should say that Alberta is kind of known for having a lot of cowboys and liking country music, so that's why it would be more fitting that you would learn line dancing out there.
- Harp: Yup. And we also did ballroom dancing one year for PE. I think I was in grade 11. And it was really awkward, because I didn't talk to boys that much, I was really shy, and I had to dance with them. And because I didn't take any dance classes when I was a kid, I was just a horrible dancer.

- Maura: So, the dancing was just a portion of your regular class. Is that right?
- Harp: Yup. Exactly. So, in PE, we would do soccer for a couple of weeks, and then we would play basketball for a couple of weeks, and so for a couple of weeks we would do dance.
- Maura: You know, I never did that. I also took gym class in high school, and I don't have any memory of doing dancing. That would have been fun, I think.
- Harp: The line dancing was super fun. The ballroom dancing was just a disaster. The boys just didn't want to do it and it was just not fun.
- Maura: Yeah. I could see that. When I think about high school and dancing, I think about the school dances that we had. And at my school, for some reason, it wasn't that cool to go to school dances. So I think I only went my very first year.
- Harp: Oh, really? That's funny, 'cause at my school it was super popular to go to the dances, and people would talk about it for weeks and talk about what they were going to wear and then, again, it was super awkward because the boys didn't really want to dance and so we would just kind of stand around the outside and wait for someone else to start dancing, and then once at least a couple of people started dancing, we would all go in and dance together.
- Maura: Yeah. It's funny, because what you were just describing sounds like the typical teenage dance scene. And I've seen it in movies, on TV shows, where there are all these teenagers standing around the outside. No one's dancing, and so many people are feeling awkward.
- Harp: Yup. And I remember when the slow songs would come on, and you would wait for a boy to come ask you. Or, if you were brave, you would go ask a boy. And then you would dance, again, in this really awkward fashion, where you had your hands on their shoulders but you were standing, like, arm's length away. And it was just really awkward.
- Maura: Yup. It must be funny to be a teacher there watching that all happen. All of the awkwardness, like you said, and people dancing really far apart. But, if they liked each other, then they would slowly move closer together. It's such a funny space.
- Harp: Yup. **One hundred percent.** I'm sure the teachers laughed a lot. And I remember one year, my school had the MuchMusic Dance Party, and that was really fun. Because MuchMusic is the music channel in Canada. And they would come, and their **VJs**, which are people on the show, would come and they would be the **DJs** for the night. And they would have these big screens with the music videos, the popular music videos, and it was fun.

- Maura: Aw. Now I feel all nostalgic, Harp.
- Harp: Me too. Did you do any other dancing as a teenager?
- Maura: Actually, I did start to go out to a certain club in my hometown. Every once in a while, they would have all-ages events. Because most of the time, clubs are for people who are over the legal drinking age, which, in my province, was 19, so I couldn't go. But, like I said, this club had special events where anyone could go, and so I used to go out actually dancing with my friends. And it seems crazy that I would show up and dance for three or four hours straight, but I really do love dancing, and I have some great memories of doing that, too.
- Harp: Yup. I remember going to one of those in Edmonton, and it was super fun and you'd just dance all night with your friends. It was great. All right, let's move on to our third topic, which is dancing as an adult.
- Maura: Mmhmm. So by now, in my life, I've stopped taking dance lessons, I haven't folk danced in years, I haven't been to a, kind of, organized dance like in high school anymore. So when you're an adult, the world of dancing often changes.
- Harp: Yes. For me, what changed was that I started taking dance lessons.
- Maura: Oh! Finally.
- Harp: Yeah. Exactly. I've taken quite a few different types of dance lessons. I've done hip-hop dance classes. I've done belly dancing. I've done um...
- Maura: Salsa?
- Harp: Salsa's my favourite. I still take salsa classes now, and I just love it.
- Maura: I have to say, I'm most intrigued by the hip-hop dancing. When did you do that and what was it like?
- Harp: I think I was 25 when I did it, and it was really cool. It was almost like an exercise class, but they were really teaching you **choreographed** hip-hop dance sequences to, like, popular songs. And you would start by learning little pieces of the **choreography**, and it was just fun. At the end you were able to dance fully to one song.
- Maura: That does sound like fun.
- Harp: Yeah. I was a horrible dancer, but it was really fun.

- Maura: And you said salsa dancing is your favourite. So how long have you been doing that?
- Harp: It's just been a year so far, but I really love it and it's a dance that I feel I'm not horrible at.
- Maura: Good. You know, I think that this type of dancing has become more and more popular for adults. To learn some kind of ballroom dancing: salsa, tango, something like that. I see more and more little studios **popping up** around Montreal.
- Harp: Yup. I agree with you. And I have quite a few friends who take some sort of dance lessons. Ballroom dancing seems quite popular.
- Maura: You know, I guess that for a lot of couples, it's something that you can do together. There aren't very many classes that you really need a partner for, so this is kind of a fun way to be with your partner and dance. And what's your story about belly dancing?
- Harp: I took one class, and it was about 12 weeks long, and it was really, really fun. But it's so difficult, because you're basically moving your hips and your belly, and when you dance in a club you don't move like that, so it was really hard but really fun to do it. And, actually, at the end, we did a little dance performance at a Mediterranean restaurant in Edmonton. So, they normally have belly dances, professionals, who come on the weekends. But during the weekday, we did a little performance there.
- Maura: That's fun. Yeah. I've never tried belly dancing, but to me, it looks really, really difficult. I don't know how you get your belly to jiggle around like that. It seems complicated.
- Harp: Yeah. It was very complicated. But you can get the hang of it after a couple of classes. What about you? You said you didn't take dance lessons anymore, you weren't going to school dances, but I know you love dancing.
- Maura: Yeah, you're right. Well, sometimes, as an adult, we'd just go out dancing to different clubs with my friends. That's really how I got my dance **fix**. I would just go out every once in a while with friends to a club where I liked the music, and I would just go for it. But other than that, yeah, I don't really dance. I probably have more experience watching dance performances.
- Harp: What kind of dance performances do you watch?
- Maura: Mostly modern dance. There are different performers and different groups that pass through Montreal, so there's always something new happening. But, yeah, I prefer something more modern.



- Harp: I prefer going to the ballet.
- Maura: Oh, really? More traditional.
- Harp: Mmhmm. I like both, but I really love watching the ballet. They're just such pure artists when they dance.
- Maura: You know, I bet there are a lot people out there who have most of their contact with dance through the television.
- Harp: Yup. And it seems like it's really popular right now to watch a dance show or to have a dance show.
- Maura: Yeah. I think it started with the show *Dancing with the Stars*. And that's an American show where they take one celebrity and they pair them up with a professional dancer, and then they practice, practice, practice in pairs. And every week, one pair is eliminated and then at the end, you have a winner of the best celebrity dancer.
- Harp: It's a pretty cool show, and very popular.
- Maura: You know, I have to say, I've never really watched that show. But another dancing show that I have watched is *So You Think You Can Dance*.
- Harp: Yes. That's a fun show.
- Maura: Yeah. I actually really do like that show. It's a wide variety of people with lots of different backgrounds and different kinds of dance, and that's it. They audition, they come on the show, they learn different routines, they perform, and some of the dancing is really, really amazing.
- Harp: Yup. That's really true. It's fun to see all the different types of dance they have on that show.
- Maura: Yeah. And they always have funky themes and costumes. It's fun.
- Harp: Yeah. All right. So let's just do a quick recap for this episode. We started with talking about dancing as a child.
- Maura: And then we talked about our experiences dancing in high school.
- Harp: Yup. And we finished with talking about dancing as an adult.
- Maura: Mmhmm.
- Harp: And I just wanted to say thank you to Luana for giving us this idea to do an episode about dancing.



- Maura: That's right. It was a fun episode to do. And I wonder if Luana is a dancer herself.
- Harp: And what her favourite type of dancing is.
- Maura: That's right. So, thanks again for that. And if you're listening and you have an idea for an episode, don't be afraid to send it our way. You never know; we just might record an episode on that topic.
- Harp: Yup. You can leave us an idea... You can leave us your ideas on Facebook or on Twitter.
- Maura: That sounds good. I look forward to hearing what ideas you have.
- Harp: And I think after all this talk about dancing, we need to plan a date to go to a club and **dance up a storm**.
- Maura: **I'm game**.
- Harp: All right. Remember everyone: check out our website, Culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. We'll talk to you later.
- Maura: Bye everyone.

## Detailed Explanation

### To roll around

When a time or event **rolls around**, it appears, happens, or occurs. In this episode, Maura asks Harp what she did on the weekend now that the nice weather has **rolled around**, or in other words, now that the nice weather has finally arrived.

We can use the phrasal verb **to roll around** whenever we want to describe the action of a time or event occurring.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Winnie: Once the winter **rolls around**, I think I'm going to take a trip to Cuba to avoid the snow. Want to come along?

Judd: That sounds like a really cool plan. Let me think about it a bit and I'll get back to you.

Winnie: Sure, no problem.

Ivan: Will you be in town when my birthday **rolls around**? I'd really like it if you could come to my party.

Blaire: When is it, again?

Ivan: August 29th.

Blaire: Aww, too bad. I'll be away on a business trip at that time. We'll have to celebrate before I leave.

Ivan: OK. We can do that.

### Mouth-watering

When food looks, smells, or sounds delicious and you really want to eat it, it is **mouth-watering**. In this episode, Harp talks about ice cream cake, and the description of the cake makes Maura's **mouth water**. The cake sounds so delicious that Maura really wants to eat a slice.

This expression describes a scientific process. When people eat, they produce saliva to assist in digestion. Sometimes even looking at or thinking about a food can stimulate saliva production, which is where the word *water* in this expression comes from.

The adjective **mouth-watering** has been in use since the early 19th century, and can be used to describe any food that is delicious.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Louie: What did you do last night?

Diana: I had a lovely evening. I came home from work to find that my husband had prepared a **mouth-watering** meal for me. And then after dinner, we went to the theatre to watch a movie.

Louie: Wow. Very nice!

Diana: Yeah. It was a great night!

Xavier: Let's have a BBQ on Friday evening.

Skylar: Yeah. You want to?

Xavier: Sure, why not? I'll drop by the butcher shop and pick up some steaks.

Skylar: Wow. That sounds great. Just thinking about it is making my **mouth water**.

### To cut a rug

**To cut a rug** is a slang expression that means to dance. It was a popular expression in the 1920s, and was commonly used until the early 1940s. These days, it isn't used very often, except in a nostalgic or funny way. This is because the expression now brings to mind images of people dancing while dressed in 1920s fashion, like in the illustration below.



In this episode, Maura tells us that the episode is all about **cutting a rug**, or dancing.

As is the case with most slang, the original meaning of this term is difficult to determine. But the most likely explanation is this: In the 1920s, drinking alcohol was illegal in the USA. So people would have parties in their houses, instead of going out to bars or clubs. During

these parties, people often danced, and as a result, the rugs and carpets on the floors would get worn out and holes would be cut into them from the dancer's feet. An alternative theory is that people had to cut the rugs and carpets off the floors in their houses so that they could create a suitable hardwood surface that could be used to dance on. No matter what the real origin of this expression is, just remember that whenever someone is **cutting a rug**, they are dancing.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Amanda: Did you see John out on the dance floor last night? He really **cut a rug**!

Einar: I sure did. It looked like he was having a great time!

Levi: It's been so long since we've gone dancing. How do you feel about hitting the club Friday night so we can **cut a rug**?

Kinsley: I'm sorry, but I don't want to do that. Last time we went dancing, you ended up driving everyone else off the dance floor with your crazy moves. I think our dancing days are done!

### To break something down

When you **break something down** (like a lesson, a story, some information, etc.), you explain it in small parts so that it is easy for your listener to understand. In this episode, Harp says that she will talk about dancing and **break it down**. In other words, she will explain dancing in a way that is easy to understand. Harp and Maura **break the topic of dancing down** by explaining it in several small chunks. First they talk about dancing as children, then they talk about dancing in their teenage years, and finally they talk about dancing as adults.

Interestingly, the fixed expression **to break it down** can also mean to dance. So when Harp says, *we're gonna break it down*, she means two things at once. The first is that they will explain the topic of dancing in a simple way, and the second is that they will jokingly "dance" during the episode.

Whenever someone explains something in a way that is easy to understand, by breaking the explanation into smaller parts, they **break it down**. And the expression **to break it down** it can also mean to dance.

Here are a few more examples with this expression. The first two deal with explanations, and the last one deals with dancing:

Joelle: Can you give me a hand with my math homework? I really don't get it.

Charley: Sure. It's really not too hard. Let me **break it down** for you.

Joelle: OK, great. Thanks!

Nick: How did you ever manage to pass Economics 200? It's such a difficult class!

Gale: The economy as a whole is complex, but when you **break it down**, it becomes much easier understand.

Gordon: Let's go dancing next weekend.

Pam: Awesome idea. I can't wait to see you **break it down**!

### Hardcore

When something (or someone) is **hardcore**, it is very serious. In this episode, Maura says that she was not a **hardcore** dancer. This means that although she enjoyed dancing as a child, she was not too serious about it, and didn't enter into dance competitions.

This expression was originally used to describe a genre of aggressive punk music that emerged in the USA in the early 1980s. These days, the adjective **hardcore** can be used to describe any person or activity that is serious, extreme, or aggressive.

Whenever someone is **hardcore**, they are very determined, serious, and extreme.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Aden: When I was younger, I used to be a **hardcore** vegetarian.

Harriet: Oh, really?

Aden: Yeah. I used to preach to everyone about vegetarianism, and try to get them to adopt vegetarian diets too.

Harriet: Wow. You really were serious. Do you eat meat now?

Aden: Not really, although I do eat fish occasionally.

Suzanne: Jane asked me to go to yoga class with her again! That is the fourth time this week. She goes all the time. I just can't keep up.

Serina: Yeah, she is so **hardcore**. She would do yoga every day if she could.

Suzanne: Yeah. She is too extreme for me. I think I'm going to have to find a new yoga partner.

### An extracurricular activity

**An extracurricular activity** is a type of special class that happens at school but is not part of the regular curriculum. **An extracurricular activity** occurs outside of normal school hours, and does not count for credit. In this episode, Maura tells us that she took **extracurricular** dance classes at school when she was 10 years old.

Students who are enrolled in **extracurricular activities** usually have to either show up to school early and do the class before the regular school day starts, or stay at the school late, after the normal school day is finished. **Extracurricular activities** are available to students at all levels of education, from primary school to university.

Many **extracurricular activities** are not free. If parents want to enrol their children in these special classes, they may have to pay a fee. Some popular **extracurricular activities** include swimming lessons, chess club, dancing lessons, debate club, and science club.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Katelynn: Did you enrol your son in any **extracurricular activities** this semester?

Ron: Yeah, I did. He is going to take jazz guitar lessons every day at 7am before school starts.

Katelynn: Oh wow. That's amazing.

Ron: He's pretty excited, but I think he'll be tired. It'll be a big task for him to wake up early every morning.

Cecil: Have you heard that the school will be cutting back the number of **extracurricular activities** they are offering this year?

Noel: No I didn't. Why are they doing that?

Cecil: The education budget was cut this year. After regular expenses are covered, there just isn't enough money left over to put towards any **extracurricular activities**.

Noel: That's really a shame. The kids love those classes.

### One hundred percent

When you completely agree with a statement that someone else has made, you can say **one hundred percent**. This expression is a shortened version of **I agree one hundred percent**. In this episode, Harp says **one hundred percent** to agree with a statement Maura makes about the awkwardness of school dances.

Whenever you totally agree with something that someone else has said, you can show your full support by saying **I agree one hundred percent**, or just **one hundred percent**. Some people say **a hundred percent** instead of **one hundred percent**, both mean the same thing.

Here are a couple more examples with **one hundred percent**:

Blake: The mall is having a sale this weekend. We should go.

Tina: Yes! I agree **one hundred percent**.

Lisa: My bank charged me almost 50 dollars last week because I had to cancel a cheque. These fees are out of hand. Something needs to change or the bank will start losing customers.

Reggie: **One hundred percent**. The banks really seem to be out of touch with what their customers' actual needs are.

### VJs and DJs

**A VJ** (video jockey) is a TV announcer who introduces and plays music videos on TV. All the hosts on the Canadian music channel MuchMusic are called **VJs**. Just like **a DJ** (disc jockey) is in charge of playing music on the radio or at an event, **a VJ's** job is to play music videos on TV.

In the United States, **VJs** work for music channels like MTV and VH1.

These days, most music TV channels do not actually play many music videos anymore, so **VJs** are becoming rare. However, in the 90s and 2000s, **VJs** were celebrities among young people. Some of Canada's most famous **VJs** worked for MuchMusic, and include Rick "The Temp" Campanelli, Sook-Yin Lee, and George Stroumboulopoulos. All of these people continue to work in the entertainment industry today.

Here's another example with **a VJ**.

Francis: What was your college major?

Holly: Broadcasting.

Francis: Really? That's interesting. But now you're a computer programmer. What made you switch career paths?

Holly: When I was younger, I really wanted to be **a VJ** on TV. I tried that out for a bit and didn't like it, though, so I switched to programming.

### Choreography

**Choreography** is the art of creating a dance routine or plan. When you **choreograph** a dance routine, you design and organize all the steps and movements in the dance. A person who creates this "dance blueprint" is called **a choreographer**.

In this episode, Harp mentions that she learned **choreographed** dance sequences when she took a hip-hop dance class. This means that she learned planned and arranged dance steps in her hip-hop class, which had been designed by her instructor.



Here are a couple more examples with **choreography**:

Björn: The Imperial Russian Ballet Company is doing a performance in town later this month. We should go!

Scotty: I agree one hundred percent. I saw them perform once before and the **choreography** is absolutely beautiful.

Eda: When I was younger, my sister and I used to make up funny little dance routines and then perform them for the rest of my family.

Ben: That's so cute! I used to do the same thing with my cousins. We came up with some pretty great **choreography** back then!

### To pop up

**To pop up** means to suddenly come into existence or appear. In this episode, Maura mentions that she has noticed that many dance studios are **popping up** in Montreal. What she means is that these studios opened very quickly and unexpectedly.

Whenever something **pops up**, it appears all of a sudden, when you're not expecting it.

To read more about this expression, check out the learning materials for Chatterbox episode #124, on the topic of high school cliques.

Here are a couple more examples with **to pop up**:

Talia: I just checked out that new café that **popped up** down the street.

Todd: How was it?

Talia: Super great! The barista was really friendly and the espresso I had was delicious.

Todd: Nice! I'll have to check it out too.

Esther: Can you help me fix my computer?

James: I can try. What's wrong with it?

Esther: I don't know. I was just using it normally and then this blue screen **popped up** and now everything is frozen.

James: Oh, yeah. OK, I can help you. That's a pretty common problem. How about I come over later tonight to take a look at it?

Esther: Perfect. Thanks!

### A fix

**A fix** is an amount of something that you really want or need. **A fix** usually describes a dosage of an addictive substance like drugs or coffee, but we can also use it to talk about addictive activities. For instance, in this episode Maura talks about going to night clubs to get her dance **fix**. By going out to a club, Maura was able to satisfy her craving to dance.

A **fix** is a quantity, amount, or supply of something that is addicting or that you really desire.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Bruce: How many cups of coffee do you usually drink per day?

Willow: A lot. Probably between 8 and 10.

Bruce: Wow. That's crazy.

Willow: Yeah. But if I don't get my coffee **fix**, then I'm really grumpy all day.

Fraser: Want to go out for dinner tonight?

Gina: Sorry, nope. Tonight is Sunday, and that means Game of Thrones is on TV. I'm addicted to that show. I need to get my **fix**!

Fraser: OK then. Maybe another night.

### To dance up a storm

When you **dance up a storm**, you dance with a lot of passion, enthusiasm, and energy. At the end of this episode, Harp suggests to Maura that they go out to a club and **dance up a storm**. In other words, Harp thinks they should go to a club and dance energetically and for a long time.

You can use this expression, **to... up a storm** to describe many activities that people can do energetically. It is most often used with the verbs *to talk*, *to cook*, *to bake*, and *to dance*.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Carol: My family is coming to visit me this Christmas.

Debbie: That's fantastic.

Carol: Yup. I'll be **cooking up a storm** while they're here. I'll have 10 mouths to feed for a whole week.

Debbie: Oh my! You sure will be busy!

Salvador: Did you watch the MTV Video Music Awards last night?

Alice: I sure did. I loved Beyoncé's performance. She really **danced up a storm**.

Salvador: Yeah. It was awesome!

### To be game

When you are willing to do an activity that has been suggested by someone else, you **are game**. At the end of this episode, Harp suggests to Maura that they make a date to go dancing. Maura replies by saying **I'm game**. This means that she agrees with Harp's suggestion and wants to go dancing with her.

We also talked about the expression ***I'm game*** recently in Chatterbox episode #126. Be sure to listen to that episode again and check out the learning materials if you want to refresh your knowledge about how to use this expression.

Here's another example with ***to be game***:

Eddie: How do you feel about ordering a pizza for dinner tonight?

Matt: Sure. ***I'm game***. I love pizza.

## **Quiz**

- 1. Which expression can be used to describe delicious food?**
  - a) mouth-expecting
  - b) mouth-watering
  - c) mouth-dripping
  - d) mouth-getting
  
- 2. What are you doing when you're dancing up a storm?**
  - a) choreographing a dance routine
  - b) performing a traditional rain dance
  - c) dancing slowly in the rain
  - d) dancing energetically
  
- 3. Which of the expressions in this episode was popular 1920s slang?**
  - a) to dance up a storm
  - b) to break it down
  - c) to cut a rug
  - d) hardcore
  
- 4. What does a VJ do?**
  - a) introduce music videos on TV
  - b) play music on the radio
  - c) cook vegetarian food
  - d) repair cars
  
- 5. I can't go a day without reading my horoscope. I must get my daily \_\_\_\_\_.  
Fill in the blank.**
  - a) mend
  - b) fix
  - c) patch
  - d) repair

6. What does the verb *to pop up* mean?
- a) to not appear
  - b) to reappear
  - c) to disappear
  - d) to appear
7. What is a person who creates a dance routine called?
- a) a dance designer
  - b) a choreographer
  - c) a danceographer
  - d) a choreodancer
8. Where do extracurricular activities usually take place?
- a) at school
  - b) at work
  - c) at home
  - d) at city hall
9. Peter: I used to be a \_\_\_\_\_ athlete. I ran five or six marathons every year.  
Lucy: Wow. That's very impressive!

**Fill in the blank.**

- a) metalcore
- b) softcore
- c) slowcore
- d) hardcore

**Answers:**

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