

## Chatterbox #134 – Andrew’s band trip: Part 1

### 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:

- **'bout**: about
- **'cause**: because
- **gonna**: going to
- **kinda**: kind of
- **wanna**: want to

### Transcript

Harp: Hello everyone. This is Harp.

Andrew: And I’m Andrew and we’re back with another Culips episode.

Harp: Yes. And make sure you check out the website, Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com, because that’s the place you can sign up and become a member.

Andrew: Absolutely. And when you become a member you get access to our learning materials. And these include transcripts so you can read along while you listen to our podcast. You get detailed explanations of all the key expressions that are maybe difficult or hard to understand, and you also get a quiz that will test your comprehension.

Harp: Exactly! And if you’re on Facebook or on Twitter, come on over and say hi to us or leave a comment or a suggestion for an upcoming episode idea if you have one.

Andrew: That is right. We always enjoy reading your episode suggestions and lately, we’ve been getting a lot of good ones, so keep them coming!

Harp: Yup, exactly. So, how are you?

Andrew: I’m doing pretty well, how 'bout yourself?

Harp: I’m pretty good. How was your day?

- Andrew: You know what? I had a really weird day today.
- Harp: Oh yeah? Why?
- Andrew: Well, I woke up in the morning and I started doing some work on my computer. And about 10 minutes into my work, my computer shut down. And then I noticed that my lights were off too and I realized I had no electricity in my house.
- Harp: Really? Just like that?
- Andrew: All of a sudden the electricity went out. So immediately, **I was like**, “Did I pay my electricity bill? Did the power company turn my electricity off?” And **I was like**, “No, I’m pretty sure I paid it.” So then I went and checked my breaker, where all your electronics for your house are handled, and I noticed that was working fine.
- Harp: Did you check the street? Were all the other lights on?
- Andrew: That’s the next thing I did. I went out onto my balcony and there were a bunch of people on the street and we were all wondering what happened to our electricity.
- Harp: Ah, so it affected the whole street!
- Andrew: Everybody had no power. And it was really strange. I don’t know exactly what happened but I had no electricity all day.
- Harp: Oh, it lasted the whole day?
- Andrew: Yeah! For probably about 8 hours, and it was super boring.
- Harp: You just stayed at home the whole time waiting for the electricity to come back on.
- Andrew: That’s right. Actually, I took it as a good excuse to clean my house.
- Harp: OK, well at least you were productive still.
- Andrew: Yeah. I was very productive but I couldn’t vacuum or I couldn’t do laundry, but it was still strange.
- Harp: It’s so bizarre that there was no reason for it.

Andrew: Mmhmm, yeah. I'm not exactly sure. I did notice that at the end of my street, there was a police blockade. So I'm not sure if that had something to do with it. I really don't know what happened because I couldn't get on the Internet. I couldn't turn on the radio or the TV to see what was happening, so I had no way of knowing.

Harp: You were fully isolated.

Andrew: That's right. And it really made me realize how thankful I am to have electricity, because there's just not a whole lot you can do, except read or clean your house, without power.

Harp: Yup. And it's pretty rare that it goes out for that long. I've had problems for maybe an hour if, like, a tree falls on an electrical line or if there's a big storm or something. But for the whole day? That's bizarre.

Andrew: You're right. If it was stormy or something, maybe I'd understand, but today the weather was really nice. Very strange. Very bizarre!

Harp: At least it's back for now, 'cause it's going to be dark soon. So you're good now.

All right, well, let's get started with today's episode. Today we're going to do a Chatterbox episode, and that's where we chat. We talk about current events, we interview people, or we talk about things that are going on in our lives.

Andrew: That is right, and today we are going to talk about my big band road trip that I did last month.

Harp: Yes, because some of you may not know, but Andrew is in a band.

Andrew: That's right. I am a musician, **kind of** as a hobby, just something I do. And this last month, we went on tour. We toured all the way across Canada.

Harp: And this is such an interesting topic that this is a two-part episode. So here is part one.

OK, so, we're going to split this episode into three sections like we normally do and we're going to start talking about your band a little bit and talking about the prep for the road trip, and then being on the road. And then our third section will be looking back on your trip. Were there any things that you would've changed? Or was it perfect?

Andrew: That's right. A critical evaluation of the trip.

- Harp: Exactly! So let's get started with your band name and what kind of music and stuff you play.
- Andrew: Sure. So I play in a rock band, and we're called No Aloha. That's our name, No Aloha.
- Harp: *Aloha*, like the Hawaiian word?
- Andrew: Exactly, yeah. This is actually the name of a song by a band called the Breeders. They have a song called *No Aloha*. And all of the members in my band, we really enjoy this song and we thought, "Hmm. Maybe we'll take this as our band name, this song."
- Harp: OK, interesting. And so you guys play rock music. And how long have you been together?
- Andrew: We've been playing together for almost 2 years.
- Harp: And do you sing? Do you play an instrument? What do you do?
- Andrew: Mmhmm. I do a bit of both. I play guitar and sometimes bass, as well, and I do sing. We... It's **kind of** a unique situation. All of our members sing together so we have all of us singing at the same time.
- Harp: Interesting. How many of you are there?
- Andrew: There're four of us.
- Harp: Four. OK.
- Andrew: And the reason that we do this is because we're all bad singers.
- Harp: Stop it. Really?
- Andrew: Yeah. So if we **pool our voices together**, it sounds better than just if one of us were to sing solo.
- Harp: That's so funny. So you're all, **kind of**, covering each other's bad voices up.
- Andrew: That's right. Where one person is weak, the others are strong.
- Harp: I want to join your band, because I'm a horrible singer but I would love to be a musician.
- Andrew: Yeah, and it takes some of the pressure off, **you know?** You don't have to worry about being in the spotlight by yourself. You're singing as a team, **kind of**.

- Harp: OK, that's funny! OK, so you guys decided to do this road trip. Talk to me about some of the prep that you had to do for it.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. So, really one of the main reasons why we decided to do this tour was because three of the members in my band, me included, were from British Columbia. So we thought if we toured to British Columbia, on the west coast of Canada, then that would be a good excuse for us to go back and see our families, and to see our friends, and to not have to pay for it, because the band would pay for it. So we'd get a free trip home, essentially.
- Harp: Very clever!
- Andrew: Right. So, planning the tour was a lot of work because we're a relatively new band and we have played outside of Montreal a little bit, in towns like Ottawa and Toronto, but we haven't really played far, far away from home. So we had to make a lot of **cold calls**. We had to talk to bar managers that we had never met before and, sort of, beg them to let us play in their city.
- Harp: OK, so you had to find the places that you were going to play your music. Like, you had to find a bar, or a concert hall? Or was it always bars?
- Andrew: Usually, yeah, mostly bars. Actually, in Winnipeg, we played in a bike shop, and that was interesting. In Victoria, British Columbia, we played in an art gallery, too. But everywhere else was in bar, yup.
- Harp: So you would just, pick up the phone directory and call different bars and ask them if you could play music there one night?
- Andrew: Mmhmm. Well, pretty much. We have a lot of friends who also play in bands, and it's a pretty common thing for people to tour. So, we just used our connections, talked to our friends, asked about their experiences, asked them what the good places to play are, and, sort of, **hounded** the people who they recommended that we talk to.
- Harp: OK. So you had it all set up, each of the places you were gonna stop and play before you left Montreal.
- Andrew: That's right. I think we had about 20 stops total, all the way across the country.
- Harp: Wow! Twenty stops! That's a lot!
- Andrew: Yeah. So we were on the road for just over a month.
- Harp: Wow. And now, I have a sort of stupid question, but you each have your own instrument?

- Andrew: Yeah. Actually, we had to buy a minivan for this tour because we needed to carry our instruments. So there were five guys, 'cause we took a friend along as well, five of us in a minivan, including all of our instruments. So we have big guitar amps, we brought five guitars, a bass guitar, a bass amp, and a drum kit. So it was a very crowded minivan.
- Harp: Because your clothes and all of that stuff as well.
- Andrew: That's right.
- Harp: So, you've booked all the venues, you've got your van, you got all your instruments in, you're getting on the road. So, let's go to the second part of the... this interview. What did you do?
- Andrew: Well, the first day in the van was an interesting experience. Our first show was in Toronto so we had to drive from Montreal to Toronto, which is about 6 to 7 hours, **if I remember correctly**. And once we got in the van, we quickly realized that there was not enough space. With all of our gear, and all of our luggage, and clothes and everything, it was just way too crowded.
- Harp: I imagine. Because growing up, we were five in my family and we had a minivan and doing a road trip with just our clothes was intense. I can't imagine with all the instruments.
- Andrew: Yes. So after our first concert, the next day, we had to go to the hardware store and buy a big roof rack for the roof, to store all of our luggage and some extra instrument stuff.
- Harp: That's what I was thinking, that you must've had to strap stuff onto the top.
- Andrew: That's right. So the second day was actually stressful, because we had to... We had another **gig** in a city about... It's called Sudbury, about another 5 or 6 hours away from Toronto, so we had to make it there, but we also had to install this roof rack. And none of us are very **handy**, so we don't know what we're doing, so it took us quite a long time to figure out how to install this roof rack on the van.
- Harp: Oh no. This is why you need to become famous and have some **roadies** with you who do all the hard labour.
- Andrew: Exactly. So, one of our friends, who is not actually in the band, but he was just riding along with us, his parents live just outside of Toronto. And his dad is a carpenter by trade, so he's very good with tools and he's very **handy**, he knows how to fix things, so we stopped at his house and he helped us to install the roof rack. So in a way, he was our **roadie** for the day.

- Harp: OK, and I have a feeling he did more than help and he probably did most of the work, but I'm not going to make any assumptions.
- Andrew: He was great. He hooked us up with some tools, because without the tools it would have been pretty much impossible.
- Harp: Yeah. OK, so then second day you go to Sudbury, which is in northern Ontario, **if I remember correctly**.
- Andrew: Yeah. It's not super, super north, but it is more north than Toronto, yup.
- Harp: OK. And then you played Sudbury, and where after that?
- Andrew: After Sudbury we had, actually, a couple-day break. Because the problem with touring Canada is it's such a huge country and there're not actually a lot of places to play. A lot of the cities in Canada are small and they are not very supportive of the type of music that we make. So, after Sudbury, our next show was in Thunder Bay. But that's actually a 16- or 17-hour drive across what's called **the Canadian Shield**, which is not the greatest place to drive. The roads are very windy, there's nothing, it's very empty. There's a lot of, I don't know, forests and lakes and it's very beautiful, but there's no place to play. So we planned to have two days off, so that we wouldn't have to drive for 17 hours straight. And so also we could camp and enjoy the nature and the beautiful surroundings.
- Harp: So you took camping gear with you, too?
- Andrew: Yeah. We all had sleeping bags and tents and a camp stove. It was very crowded.
- Harp: Oh my goodness. Do you have a picture of all of this stuff you put in this minivan and on top of the minivan?
- Andrew: I'm gonna... I'm gonna check and see if we have a picture and I can upload it when we post this episode because it's quite something how much stuff there was in this van.
- Harp: Wow. That is spectacular. So then you went to Thunder Bay and you played there?

- Andrew: Mmhmm. We played in Thunder Bay. And, you know what? I really wasn't expecting much for the Thunder Bay show, because it's a very small town and it's **kinda** in the middle of nowhere. And it was also a Monday night. We were playing on a Monday night, which is not the greatest night for live music. Most people are working and they don't want to stay out late. But oddly enough, somebody got married that night and they decided to bring their wedding party to the bar that we were playing at. So the whole venue was full of people who had been to this wedding, and then wanted to go, and I guess, party that night. And so they came to see our band play and it was actually a lot of fun.
- Harp: That's amazing!
- Andrew: Yeah, it was really strange. First, I thought that it was odd to get married on a Monday. But I'm thankful that they did.
- Harp: Wow. And they must have been in such a good mood because they're partying for the wedding and they're coming to see you guys so they must've brought great energy.
- Andrew: Yeah. It was really fun, actually.
- Harp: Did they ask you to play **covers**, or...?
- Andrew: No. They didn't ask us to play any **covers**. They asked us **to give a shout-out** to the married couple, which we were happy to do. But yeah, they just enjoyed our original tunes.
- Harp: That's actually an interesting question that I didn't ask you before. You write all your own music?
- Andrew: Yup. We write all of our own songs. We have three songwriters in the band, so I think everybody has a bit of a different style, which gives us a little bit of variety. But yeah, we all write our own stuff.
- Harp: OK, cool. So after Thunder Bay, where did you go next?
- Andrew: From Thunder Bay we went to Winnipeg, Manitoba. And that's where we played in the bike store.
- Harp: That's a long drive, too, as well though, no?
- Andrew: Yeah. That was probably about eight hours.
- Harp: OK. So Winnipeg, in a bike shop. Do you mean, like, bicycles or, like, motorcycles?
- Andrew: Exactly, a bicycle shop. So, this is **kind of** an interesting venue, but I really



enjoyed it. It was sort of this, sort of, hip, cool, bike shop in downtown Winnipeg. And they just recently started allowing people to do concerts in their bike store. So once the store closes, some of the staff members, sort of, clear out some of the stuff, and then they let people come and there's performances there.

Harp: OK, so I was thinking and imagining in my head that it was during the day or during some hours when the business was open, but it was after it was closed.

Andrew: Mmhmm. That's right.

Harp: So, how many people came to the show, would you say? Like, is it a big shop?

Andrew: It wasn't a huge shop. There were probably, maybe 50 people there, so it was pretty full.

Harp: Wow, still, 50 people in a bike shop, that's cool!

Andrew: Mmhmm. One of the major concerns in the music community is accessibility and letting your music be heard and seen by people who are underage. So there's this all-ages movement. And when you play at a place like a bike store or an art gallery, that lets kids who are under 19 come and watch your music. Because usually, the legal age to drink in Canada, it varies province to province, but it's around 19 most times. And if you're 18 or 17 years old, that means you can't go and see a concert.

Harp: Ah. I've never even thought about that, but yeah, that is interesting. So this is a way to make it more accessible to younger people.

Andrew: Exactly. And as a band, you like to have young fans because they have lots of money and they buy your CDs and your T-shirts and that sort of thing. So it's nice to be able to play to teenagers, really.

Harp: That's so funny. I wouldn't think that intuitively, that a younger fan has more money. But it's because they're staying at home with their parents, so they probably have an allowance and they probably have a part-time job, and nothing really to pay. Except to buy CDs from you guys!

Andrew: And they're more passionate, too. I remember when I was a teenager, and you know, really into music. And now that I'm older, I still like music a lot but I never buy records or T-shirts or anything like that. I just don't care to have that sort of thing anymore, but when I was younger, definitely.

Harp: Were you selling T-shirts?

- Andrew: Yeah. We made T-shirts and we sold them all. We sold 50 T-shirts, which was exciting.
- Harp: Wow! Fifty T-shirts in the van as well!
- Andrew: Yeah.
- Harp: I'm just **blown away by this**! So you had, like, the **swag** table with all your band merchandise. You had CDs. Did you have stickers?
- Andrew: No stickers, just CDs and T-shirts. That's it.
- Harp: OK. Wow, that's cool.
- Andrew: Yeah. It's actually a great way, because there's not a lot of money in music, but if you have T-shirts and CDs to sell, that can help to pay for some of the gas money that you need to make a trip like this.
- Harp: That brings up another question. Do you get paid to play in these places?
- Andrew: Mmhmm. Yeah. We made... Actually, we made... I was really surprised. I thought we would either lose money or just barely break even, but we managed to actually come back with some money in our bank account still.
- Harp: Fantastic!
- Andrew: It was successful in that regard, yeah.
- Harp: OK. Great! So then Winnipeg, and you played in the bike shop. And then where did you go after that?
- Andrew: After that we went to Saskatchewan and we played two cities in Saskatchewan. We did Regina and Saskatoon.
- Harp: OK, their two biggest cities. Big is a maybe a different word, but...
- Andrew: Right. In Canada we would consider, probably, a town like Regina to be **kind of** a big city, but in reality it's still under 200,000 people, so it's pretty small.
- Harp: Yeah. I think the whole population of the whole province of Saskatchewan is around a million, so....
- Andrew: Exactly. So those places were **kinda** strange. I've never really hung out in Saskatchewan before, so was interesting to see, but I don't know if I could spend some serious time there. A couple of days was good enough for me.
- Harp: Yeah, but the people are so friendly, I find, in Saskatchewan.

- Andrew: In Regina, especially, people were very, very nice. It was an interesting experience when we were playing in Regina, actually. The show was not very well promoted and there were not very many people at the bar when we were playing. But oddly enough, everybody that was at the show was very, very generous to us. I don't know if they just took pity on us or if they....
- Harp: They felt bad for you guys.
- Andrew: Yeah, **second-hand embarrassment**, or what. But while we were playing, two people actually came up to me and just gave me money, put money on the stage, which was really strange.
- Harp: Wow. That's really nice.
- Andrew: And then after we finished playing, some guy gave us \$100 and bought us all drinks and I was super surprised. I have no idea why he decided to do that, but it was...
- Harp: That's really nice. He really just appreciated you guys.
- Andrew: Yeah. I think he thought that we were hardworking and actually one of my friends who is at that show, afterwards (who is from Regina), she said that Saskatchewan people really like to take care of other people. And especially now that there're oil and gas industries in that province that are really taking off, people are making a lot of money. And so, she said it's not uncommon for, if you're a waitress or somebody who receives tips often, to get very generous tips in that city, so...
- Harp: OK, that's interesting. Yeah, I've been to Saskatoon a couple of times and Regina once. And I just remember the people being super, super, super nice and friendly. And in general, Canadians are, so when they're even more and you notice it, that's a pretty cool place.
- Andrew: Yeah. The generosity was just amazing there.
- Harp: OK, so now, Culips listeners, we're gonna do something a bit special this time and this is actually part one of Andrew's road trip. So we're gonna stop here but keep tuned and we'll play the rest of this episode next week.
- Andrew: Yeah. Stay tuned for part two. You'll get to hear the fascinating and super interesting conclusion to my road trip.
- Harp: Yes. Remember to check out the website, Culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. And sign up and become a member.
- Andrew: See you next week!

## Detailed Explanation

### I was like

***I was like*** is an informal expression that means I said or I asked. ***I was like*** is used when telling a story to someone else. In this episode, Andrew uses this expression twice when he tells the story about his power going out.

***I was like*** is a relatively new slang expression that originated in California, probably in the early 1980s. It is mostly used by younger people and because it is very casual, it should never be used in formal situations.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Satomi: I got a parking ticket last night. I'm so angry.

Jeff: Oh no. Sorry to hear that!

Satomi: Yeah. When I went out to my car, the officer was in the process of giving me a ticket. So ***I was like***, "Are you actually going to give me a ticket? The parking meter only expired 2 minutes ago."

Jeff: And what did he say?

Satomi: He didn't care, and gave me the ticket anyway.

Jeff: What a jerk!

Flora: When I was at the grocery store yesterday, the lady in front of me forgot her purse at the checkout.

Able: Really?

Flora: Yeah. So I ran after her and gave it back to her.

Able: That's so nice of you.

Flora: She offered me \$20 as a reward, but ***I was like***, "No, you don't have to do that."

Able: You're so kind!

### Kind of

***Kind of*** (often contracted to ***kinda***) is an informal expression that can be used in two different ways. If you listen carefully to this episode, you'll notice that Andrew uses this expression a lot.

The first way this expression can be used is to minimize the accuracy of a description. For example, in this episode, Andrew says, "We would consider, probably, a town like Regina to be ***kind of*** a big city." This means that Regina is only somewhat of a big city or only partially a big city. When we add ***kind of*** in front of an adjective, we warn our listener that our description is not exact.

Here's another example with **kind of** used this way:

Brent: Have you been to the Mill yet? That new coffee shop downtown?

Talia: Yeah. I was there last week. actually.

Brent: How was it?

Talia: It's **kind of** cool, but nothing really special in my opinion.

Brent: Oh really? That's disappointing.

Talia: Yeah. I was underwhelmed.

The second way we can use **kind of** is as filler words. Filler words have no real meaning. They are just inserted into speech and used almost unconsciously by speakers.

Andrew uses **kind of** in this second way when he talks about the concert venue he played at in Winnipeg. He describes it as being "**kind of** and interesting venue." Here, he really means that it is an interesting venue. The **kind of** in this statement can be considered a filler word that has no real meaning.

In some formal situations, like a sales meeting or during a speech, it's important to try to avoid using too many filler words. If used incorrectly, they can make a speaker sound unconfident.

Here's an example with **kind of** used as filler words.

Tim: Hey Dale, how was your weekend?

Dale: It was **kind of** great, actually. We went to the beach and the weather was perfect.

Tim: Oh yeah. It was so nice out this weekend.

Dale: You should come with us next time.

### To pool things together

When you **pool things together**, you combine things that belong to different people so that everything can be shared by the group. In this episode, Andrew says that the members in his band **pool their voices together**. In other words, while they are playing a concert, all the members sing and combine their voices together. They do this because they believe the **pooled** voices create a more natural sound.

When many people share things (usually ideas, money, or resources) so that it makes the possessions of the group bigger, they are **pooling those things**.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Talia: I like renting this place with you, but we could really use a TV for our living room.

Jan: I agree.

Talia: I can't really afford one right now, but if we **pool our money together** we could each contribute a bit. That way we'd be able to buy one.

Jan: Cool. Let's do it.

Arnold: OK, team. The boss says we have to have a new design for the company website ready by next month. This is going to take a lot of work. How should we tackle this project?

Rosie: Let's work on it individually for two days. Then have a meeting where we can **pool all of our ideas together**.

Arnold: Excellent plan!

### You know?

**You know?** is a tag question that can be added to the end of a statement when you want to draw your listener into the conversation. It is a way of checking that your listener understands what you are saying and is following your meaning.

In this episode, Andrew says that all the members of his band sing because it makes it less stressful for everyone. He says, "It takes some of the pressure off, **you know?**"

By adding **you know?** to the end of this sentence, Andrew is trying to get Harp to reply to his statement. He is doing two things at once. First, he's double-checking that Harp has been listening to him. Second, he's making sure that Harp understands what he's talking about.

When a speaker adds **you know?** to the end of a statement, they want to draw their listener into the conversation and/or make sure they understand the conversation topic.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Greta: If I can get an A on my exam, I think I'll be able to pass my economics class. I really need to pass this class, **you know?**

Silas: Yeah, definitely. If you fail, it will look really bad on your transcript.

Katrina: What should I wear tonight? I can't wear my blue shoes because I wore those to the party last week, **you know?**

Jerry: Why don't you wear your black shoes?

Katrina: That's not a bad idea, actually.

### A cold call

**A cold call** is when you call or visit someone who you do not know in order to sell them something. In this episode, Andrew says that he booked his band's tour by making **cold calls** to different bars. This means he contacted bar managers who he did not know to ask if his band could perform. In other words, Andrew sold the bar managers on the idea of letting his band play.

Here are a couple more examples with **a cold call**:

Simon: When my grandfather was younger, he was a door-to-door vacuum salesman.

Alex: So he would just walk around the neighbourhood and make **cold calls**?

Simon: Yup. He would just knock on people's doors and ask them if they wanted to buy a vacuum cleaner.

Alex: That's really neat. It's hard to imagine anyone doing that these days.

Tina: How was your day today?

Philip: Very interesting.

Tina: Why? What happened?

Philip: I received **a cold call** from a salesman whose company sells a product that's very similar to the product we sell. He proposed that we merge our two companies together.

Tina: Wow!

Philip: Yes. I wasn't expecting a proposition like this at all. We're going to meet later this week so he can pitch his idea to me.

Tina: Sounds good!

### To hound someone

When you **hound someone**, you consistently ask questions or talk to them in order to get something that you want. You do not leave the person alone and you might even follow them around everywhere that they go.

In this episode, Andrew says that he **hounded** bar managers in order to book concerts for his band. This means that he emailed the managers often in order to make sure he could get a venue for his band to play.

In order to remember this expression, it is useful to think of a hound dog. Hound dogs are used by hunters because they have a great sense of smell and can chase down animals like ducks or foxes. Just like a hound dog follows animals, someone who **hounds** a person follows them around or bothers them.

Here's another example with this expression:

Jasper: I'd hate to be a celebrity.

Katie: Really? Why? You'd be rich and famous!

Jasper: Yeah, but if the paparazzi **hounded** you all the time, it would be awful!

Katie: That's true. I guess you'd have to sacrifice privacy for wealth.

Jasper: Yeah, and I wouldn't want to do that.

### A gig

**A gig** is a concert or performance. In this episode, Andrew talks about some of the **gigs** he played while touring with his band. The word **gig** only refers to performances of popular music (pop, jazz, rock, etc.) or comedy performances.

**A gig** can also be a short-term or temporary job. So, **a gig** can mean two things: either a pop music or comedy performance or a temporary job.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Henry: What are you doing later tonight?

Wanda: My friend's band is playing **a gig** downtown. Wanna come check it out with me?

Henry: OK, sure. That sounds fun.

Brian: Are you still looking for work?

Tim: Yes, actually.

Brian: Well, this isn't the greatest job in the world, but I heard the swimming pool is hiring a lifeguard.

Tim: Oh, really?

Brian: Yeah. It would just be **a gig** for the summer, but at least it would give you something to do.

Tim: Totally. I'll go down there tomorrow and apply.

### Handy

A person who is **handy** is good at building or repairing things and knows how to use tools. In this episode, Andrew mentions that he is not **handy**. But he says that his friend's father is a carpenter and is very **handy**. In fact, Andrew needed his help when he tried to install a roof rack on a minivan.

Someone who is **handy** knows how to use tools and can build or repair things easily. An easy way to remember this expression is to remember that someone who is **handy** is skilled at using their hands to manipulate tools and build or fix things.



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

Emmanuelle: My sink is clogged again.

Lee: I thought you fixed it.

Emmanuelle: I thought I did too, but I guess it's still broken.

Lee: I'll come over and give you some help. I'm **handy**.

Emmanuelle: That would be great. Thanks!

Ryan: How'd you learn to be so **handy**?

Samantha: I used to spend a lot of time with my grandfather. He was a carpenter and he taught me a lot about woodworking.

Ryan: That's so nice!

Samantha: Yeah. It's a great skill to have.

### A roadie

**A roadie** is someone who works with touring musicians or performers and is responsible for moving their gear and equipment. **A roadie's** job is to ensure that the musical instruments make it from one venue to another without getting damaged. For large shows, **roadies** also help set up the stage and lights for the concert or performance.

**A roadie** is a person who does a lot of the physical work that's necessary for a concert or performance to happen. **Roadies** are part of a tour's entourage, and travel with bands or performance groups when they are on tour.

In this episode, Harp tells Andrew that he needs to become famous so he can bring some **roadies** on tour, so the **roadies** can do all the hard work for him, like lifting amps and installing roof racks!

Here's one more example with **a roadie**:

Saul: When I was younger, I worked with the Rolling Stones for a couple of tours.

Aileen: No way! What did you do?

Saul: I was just **a roadie**. I helped pack up all the gear after each concert.

Aileen: Did you get to meet the band?

Saul: Oh yeah, of course. It was a wild time.

Aileen: I bet!

### If I remember correctly

**If I remember correctly** is a fixed expression we can use when we are not positive that what we are about to say is 100% accurate or true. In this episode, both Andrew and Harp say **if I remember correctly** before they make a statement that may be inaccurate.

Andrew says ***if I remember correctly*** before stating that the drive from Montreal to Toronto take 6 to 7 hours. This is just an estimate, so it may be inaccurate. Harp says ***if I recall correctly*** after she states that Sudbury is in Northern Ontario. Harp is not totally confident that this statement is true, so she uses the expression to warn Andrew that the information may not be correct.

On the Internet, a common abbreviation used in emails and on social media is **IIRC**. This stands for ***if I recall correctly***, which has the same meaning as ***if I remember correctly***. When speaking, the two expressions can be used interchangeably.

Here are a couple more examples with ***if I remember correctly***:

Farah: We should invite Taylor to our lunch date next Sunday.

Jill: ***If I remember correctly***, she works on Sundays, but I'll give her a call anyway to double-check.

Farah: Yeah, do that. It would be so much fun if the three of us could hang out.

Antonio: Do you know where I can go to get my computer repaired?

Leah: ***If I remember correctly***, there's a computer repair shop downtown on Fifth Street.

Antonio: Oh yeah. I think you're right. I'll stop by there after work. Thanks!

Leah: No problem.

### The Canadian Shield

**The Canadian Shield** is a large area of Canada that is very rocky and is only covered with thin soil. It covers a very large part of central Canada, and stretches from the Great Lakes north to the Arctic Ocean.

Not very many people live on **the Canadian Shield**, but mining is common there, and because of that there are some small towns and cities. There are also thousands of small lakes on **the Canadian Shield**. Here's a picture of what the landscape looks like.



In this episode, Andrew mentions that driving through **the Canadian Shield** is dangerous. This is because the roads are curvy and there are a lot of animals that wander onto the road, like moose and deer.

### A cover song

**A cover song** is a song that is performed by someone who did not originally write it. Andrew mentions in this episode that his band does not play **cover songs**. Instead, they write their own original songs.

Very often, people just call **cover songs covers**. In the UK, it is also common to call **a cover song a cover** version. A band that exclusively plays songs written by other people is called **a cover** band.

Whenever a band or a musician plays a song that was originally written or recorded by someone else, they are playing **a cover song**.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Beth: I love this song!

Richard: Me too. It's so cool.

Beth: Did you know it's **a cover**?

Richard: Really?

Beth: Yup. It was originally recorded by some group in the '50s.

Richard: Very cool. I didn't know that.

Amir: I'm just starting to learn how to play the guitar. Do you have any tips for a beginner?

Sherry: The most important thing is to practise a lot. When I first started, I learned a bunch of **cover songs**. Learning those songs really helped me understand the basics.

Amir: That's great advice. Thanks!

Sherry: No problem! Good luck!

### To give a shout-out to someone

When you **give a shout-out to someone**, you publicly mention someone or thank someone. In this episode, Andrew says that he **gave a shout-out** to a recently married couple who came to one of his concerts. This means that he congratulated the couple and welcomed them to the concert on stage while he was performing, so that everyone could give a cheer for the newlyweds.

This is an informal expression, but it's used often by celebrities and it may even be heard in a formal setting, like at an awards show after a celebrity has won an award and wants to thank their family or manager. **A shout-out** is any public expression of thanks or respect.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Nora: Before I end this speech, I just want **to give a shout-out** to all the teachers at our school who have dedicated so much time and attention to us. We wouldn't have been able to do it without you.

Reporter: Your team played really hard out there today. What's the key to your success?

Athlete: I have **to give a shout-out** to all our fans who cheer us on night after night. We wouldn't be able to keep winning without their support.

### To be blown away by something

When you are **blown away by something**, you are very surprised or impressed by that thing. In this episode, Harp says that she is **blown away** by all the equipment and supplies that Andrew and his band were able to pack in their minivan. In other words, Harp is very surprised and impressed that they were able to carry so much stuff in the van.

When something is impressive or surprising, you can say that you are **blown away** by that thing. This is a very casual expression and should be avoided in formal settings.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Candace: Guess what?

Sheryl: What?

Candace: Jeremy proposed last night. I'm engaged!

Sheryl: Wow! That's so great. Congrats!

Candace: Thanks! I didn't even see it coming. I was totally **blown away by it**.

Sheryl: So when's the wedding date?

Candace: We haven't decided yet, but probably sometime next summer.

Marcel: Did you hear what happened to Mr. Johnston?

Isaac: I did. I was **blown away by the news**. It's so sad to hear that he passed away.

Marcel: I know. I think I'm in shock.

Isaac: He was so young, too.

Marcel: Yeah. He was only in his 40s.

Isaac: I'm going to stop by his family's house later this evening to pass on my condolences.

Marcel: If you don't mind, I think I'll come with you.

Isaac: Sure. No problem.

### Swag

In this episode, Harp asks Andrew if his band sets up a **swag** table at their concerts so they can sell band merchandise. **Swag** is a slang expression that is used to refer to promotional items (like T-shirts, pens, coffee mugs, etc.). The **swag** that Andrew's band sells is T-shirts and CDs. Harp is curious if Andrew has a table at concerts where his band sells their merchandise.

Usually, **swag** is used to describe promotional items that are given away for free. But as we hear in this episode, it can also be used to talk about promotional items that are sold.

At conventions, conferences, and other events (like sporting events and concerts) companies often give away **swag** that promotes their brand. So **swag** is usually covered with the logo of the company that gives the product away.

The Academy Awards are famous for distributing **swag** bags to all the movie stars who attend the event. These bags are full of luxury items that are given to the stars for free.

Here are a couple more examples with the expression **swag**:

Wendy: Check out all this **swag** I picked up the other day. I got a T-shirt, a notebook, and a coffee mug! And it was all free!

Mitch: Wow, cool. Where did you get that?

Wendy: There's a new radio station in town, and they were just giving all this stuff away at the mall.

Mitch: Awesome. That's great.

Dallas: I'm so excited for this year's comics conference.

Sally: Me too! Last year's was so fun and I managed to collect a ton of cool **swag**.

Dallas: Yeah! I can't wait to see what they're giving away this year!

### Second-hand embarrassment

You feel **second-hand embarrassment** when you feel embarrassed by watching or hearing someone else make a fool of themselves. In this episode, Andrew jokes that some people who saw his band may have experienced **second-hand embarrassment** while watching the concert. When you watch a performance, and the performer is not doing a good job, you might empathize with the performer and feel embarrassed to even watch the show.

When you put yourself in someone else's shoes and feel embarrassed when you see someone make a fool of themselves, you can say that you feel **second-hand embarrassment**.

Here are a couple more with this expression:

Toni: Did you hear the mayor's speech last night?

Rob: Yeah. I sure did. I can't believe he made another offensive comment about the city's homeless people. How did that guy ever get elected?

Toni: I have no idea. He really seems like he doesn't know what he's doing.

Rob: I agree. I feel **second-hand embarrassment** every time he opens his mouth.

Toni: Oh yes, me too. I can't wait for the next election so we can vote him out of office.

Richard: What did you do last night?

Lauren: I went to a karaoke bar with my colleagues after work.

Richard: Sounds fun!

Lauren: It was pretty fun! One thing was really awkward though.

Richard: What was that?

Lauren: Well, my boss had a little too much to drink and then decided that it was a good idea to go up on stage and sing a song.

Richard: Oh no!

Lauren: Yup. It was really bad.

Richard: I can imagine. Just thinking about it is making me feel **second-hand embarrassment**.

## **Quiz**

**1. What does *IIRC* stand for?**

- a) if I remember calling
- b) if I recall caring
- c) if I recall correctly
- d) if I remember carefully

**2. Hal: I managed to generate two sales today.**

**Quinn: How did you do that?**

**Hal: Just by making some random \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Fill in the blank.**

- a) cold calls
- b) cold cuts
- c) cold sales
- d) cold customers

**3. What's another way to say *to combine*?**

- a) to pluck together
- b) to pup together
- c) to pool together
- d) to pump together

**4. What do the paparazzi do?**

- a) hush celebrities
- b) hound celebrities
- c) help celebrities
- d) hint celebrities

**5. What's it called when a speaker publicly thanks or acknowledges someone?**

- a) a role call
- b) a shout-out
- c) a get-down
- d) a yell-up

**6. When do you feel second-hand embarrassment?**

- a) when you see someone publicly embarrass themselves
- b) when you wear second-hand clothing
- c) when you shake hands with someone
- d) when you make a fool of yourself

**7. A band that only plays songs that other people wrote is called \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Fill in the blank.**

- a) an original band
- b) an oldies band
- c) a covering band
- d) a cover band

**8. What is the job title of a person who helps bands move their equipment while they are on tour?**

- a) a roadie
- b) a homie
- c) a roadster
- d) a roader

**9. What is swag?**

- a) a brand of clothing
- b) an item that promotes the brand of a company
- c) a type of perfume
- d) the name of a technology conference



**Answers:**

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