

Chatterbox #140 – Have you heard the latest slang?

Transcript

Harp: Hello everyone. This is Harp.

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

Harp: Yes! Make sure you check out the website, Culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. Because there you can sign up, become a member, and when you're a member, you get access to all sorts of exciting learning materials.

Andrew: That is right. You get access to full transcripts of every episode that we've recorded. You get detailed explanations of the key expressions that we talk about. And you also get a quiz that will help you test your comprehension of our episodes.

Harp: Yes. And remember, we're on Facebook and on Twitter, so come on over and say hi.

Andrew: Yup! We love it when you do that.

So, Harp, what's new with you?

Harp: Not much. It was a pretty boring day. How about you?

Andrew: Well, you know what? I actually started a new job today.

Harp: Oh. That's really exciting.

Andrew: Yeah. I'm working at a local college and I am working with a bunch of teenagers.

Harp: Wow! That's pretty interesting.

Andrew: Yeah. And I'm really excited about this job because, as you probably know, teenagers are the ones who really are creative with language. They really drive language change. And so, by working with teenagers, I get to hear lots of cool new slang words.

Harp: Well, that's actually perfect for this episode.

Andrew: Yeah. It's great, because today we are going to talk about some new words and new slang.

- Harp: Yup. It's a Chatterbox episode but **with a little twist**. We're just gonna throw out new slang and see if we know it and what it could possibly mean.
- Andrew: Right. This will be, maybe, a learning experience for us as well as all the listeners out there. So all languages invent new words, and English really invents tons of new words every year. And at the end of the year, a lot of the big English dictionaries, like Oxford Dictionaries, Cambridge Dictionaries, the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, also Dictionary.com, all the big dictionaries, come out with a list of some of the new words that they added to their dictionary for the year.
- Harp: Yup, exactly. And by the time they're added into these dictionaries, I usually know them, but we're gonna go to some slang words that aren't in the dictionary yet but that are becoming popular.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. So we're gonna look at some of these lists and just test each other to see if we have learned these new words yet.
- Harp: I think it's gonna be very interesting!
- Andrew: All right. So let's start. Shall we?
- Harp: Let's do it!
- Andrew: OK. So the first word I'm gonna test you on, Harp, is **raptivist**.
- Harp: **Raptivist**.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. **Raptivist**.
- Harp: Well, I have to be honest; I've definitely never heard this word before. But if I take a guess... **raptivist**. So *activist*. *Rap*, like a rapper?
- Andrew: Exactly. So **a raptivist** is a type of activist who tries to create social change. And they do this by making rap music. So through their music, they lobby for social changes to happen.
- Harp: It's kind of a fun word: **a raptivist**.
- Andrew: Yeah. It's kind of a combination of the two terms, right? *Rapper* and *activist*.
- Harp: Yeah. Pretty cool!
- Andrew: Mmhmm. So that's our first expression: **raptivist**. And I have to tell you, I haven't heard this one being used too much.
- Harp: I'm intrigued if it's really new and we're gonna start hearing it more and more.

- Andrew: Mmhmm. So let's keep our ears open for **raptivist** and see if this becomes popular this year.
- Harp: And we would love to hear if you've heard of the words that we're testing each other on.
- Andrew: Yeah, absolutely. So if these are words that you've heard, please let us know. We're very interested to see if these have really **taken off**.
- Harp: OK. So now it's my turn to test you.
- Andrew: OK. So quiz me!
- Harp: OK, so this is a slang expression. I'm not sure if you're gonna know, but it is **Cinderella surgery**.
- Andrew: **A Cinderella surgery**. Hmm. OK, I've never heard this one before. This is new to me as well, but I'm gonna take a guess that maybe it's a type of plastic surgery that someone would get to look more like a princess?
- Harp: It's actually kind of close, but it's plastic surgery for your feet.
- Andrew: OK, now it makes sense! Because Cinderella, if I remember the story correctly, she needed to fit into the certain shoe that Prince Charming was carrying, correct?
- Harp: Exactly.
- Andrew: The type... The glass slipper, was it?
- Harp: Exactly. And I've actually heard of this slang, **Cinderella surgery**, and I remember shaking my head when I was reading the article. Because I have to be honest. I have really big, ugly feet but I can't imagine ever caring enough to have plastic surgery to change the way my feet look or maybe to make them smaller. Like, this seems just crazy.
- Andrew: Yeah. I've never actually heard of somebody doing this type of surgery, but I guess it's 2015; there's a surgery for everything these days. So it doesn't really surprise me.
- Harp: No. I'm just shaking my head at it still because when my sister was younger, she had to get bunion surgery, which was a medical operation on her foot. And she couldn't, basically, walk for almost 6 weeks. So I can't imagine someone putting themselves through that just so their feet are prettier.
- Andrew: Yeah. It doesn't seem like something I would do. But yeah, it's not for me. To put it bluntly, it's not for me.

- Harp: I'm really hoping this is a slang expression that doesn't stay around and that these surgeries don't become popular.
- Andrew: Yeah. And once again, if you've heard of this **Cinderella surgery** before, if it's popular in your country, let us know. I haven't heard about it in Canada, though.
- Harp: Yeah. The story I heard was from somewhere else, but I've definitely heard about it before.
- Andrew: OK, cool. So I guess you have one point and I have zero points. So let's move on to the second round and I'll quiz you again.
- Harp: OK.
- Andrew: All right. So, the next expression that I'm gonna quiz you on, Harp, is **life tracking**.
- Harp: **Life tracking**.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. **Life tracking**. You know both of these words, *life* and *tracking*, but what does it mean when they're put together?
- Harp: I am **drawing a complete blank** right now. I actually have no idea. I'm thinking of the game. Like, the game of *Life*. You know that board game? But... Or some sort of plan that people make for their life? But I have no idea.
- Andrew: You're close. You're in the right direction. So, **life tracking** is the name for the current trend of people monitoring what their body does. So, you know nowadays, how some people use smart phone applications to track how many steps they take or how many hours they sleep a night? I even know some of my friends have little bracelets that they wear that monitor their heartbeat. This is **life tracking**. So it's when you're using technology to monitor your own body.
- Harp: That's really interesting. This word is definitely gonna become really popular and I'm shocked that I haven't heard it before. 'Cause yes, I definitely have some friends who have those little bracelets and they're tracking everything, like their heartrate, their pulse, their... how much they're breathing, how they're sleeping, how much they're eating, their steps, everything! So, yeah. It's **life tracking**. That makes sense. It's a good expression!

- Andrew: Mmhmm. I actually use one of these **life-tracking** applications when I ride my bicycle. And I guess I don't do that in the winter months, but in the summer, definitely. I track how far I go and how many calories I burn and all of that sort of fun stuff. And what I really like about this **life-tracking** software is when you load it up onto your computer, it gives you a really cool graph and a bunch of really cool numbers. So if you're into statistics and like to be geeky like that, it's a really cool thing to do.
- Harp: Yup. That sounds really cool, actually. Is it an anklet so it can track how much you're pumping the pedals?
- Andrew: No. It actually uses the GPS in my phone. So it tracks me from space, I guess, on a satellite. And it measures your distance and then you have to put in your body statistics, like how much you weigh and your height, and it sort of just makes an estimate about how many calories you burn based on your body type.
- Harp: Oh, OK. Because I have something like that for running and it's actually a little chip in my shoe so it can tell how fast I'm going and when I slow down and how far and if there's an incline or something.
- Andrew: Cool, yeah. What I really like about this application that I use is that it tells you the statistics of other people who are riding the same route. So I can see that I'm, maybe, the 20th fastest rider for this block in this city. But I think it actually gets dangerous because there's a little competition between riders. Everybody wants to be in the number-one spot. So people **burn through traffic lights** and stuff to try to get a faster score. So maybe **life tracking** is dangerous as well. I don't know.
- Harp: That's what I was thinking. That's gonna be even crazier with **life tracking**. About... People are gonna get competitive about their heart rates?
- Andrew: So maybe, like with every technology, there are good and bad aspects, right?
- Harp: Exactly. So I don't think I get it for this slang.
- Andrew: OK. No point for you.
- Harp: No point.
- Andrew: My turn.
- Harp: All right. This next one I've never heard of, but I really like it, so I'm gonna ask if you've heard of it.
- Andrew: Mokay.

Harp: **Spim.**

Andrew: **Spim?**

Harp: Mmhmm.

Andrew: What came to mind immediately is spam. It sounds like the word *spam*. So I'm trying to think of **spim**. It might be some sort of unwanted email or instant message. Maybe an unwanted instant message?

Harp: Very close! It's an unwanted text.

Andrew: Ah. An unwanted text. OK, well that makes sense. **Spim** and *spam*. Almost the same thing.

Harp: I think they'll probably end up being used together. 'Cause it kind of sounds fun: **spim** and *spam*.

Andrew: You know what? Do you get any **spim**?

Harp: I do, actually, get quite a bit of **spim**.

Andrew: Yeah. I get **spim**. And it's always telling me that I have won concert tickets or plane tickets for a vacation.

Harp: Oh, that's kind of exciting. Mine is always about discounts for tickets or something but not that I've won something.

Andrew: Yeah. I guess they just are trying to get me to call them up but I haven't **fallen for it** yet.

Harp: So far we're not doing very good with this test.

Andrew: No. This is hard, but they do make sense once I hear them in context. Then I'm like, "Ah ha. I know this word!" But, yeah, **spim**. That took me by surprise.

Harp: Yup.

Andrew: OK. Should we do one more round?

Harp: I think we should.

Andrew: OK.

OK, so, this is an expression that I have heard before and used before and became really popular with my circle of friends to joke about some of my other friends. So let's see if you know this one. It's **normcore**.

- Harp: **Normcore?**
- Andrew: **Normcore.** Like, I could describe my friend as being so **normcore**.
- Harp: **Normcore.** Normal? Like they're so normal they're normal to the core of them?
- Andrew: Exactly. So this is really close. You know how we can use a word like *hardcore* to describe somebody that's really intense? Like, I could say, "Oh, he's a hardcore student. He's a really intense student. He takes it seriously." This suffix, *-core*, can be used to describe other things too. Like, we could say "He's **normcore**." He's a person that is so normal in the way that you dress.
- Harp: Wow. That's really interesting. **Normcore.**
- Andrew: So somebody who is **normcore** is somebody who is trying not to be trendy or trying not to be fashionable and just being normal. And as a result of that effort to be normal, they're trendy. Does that make sense?
- Harp: I think it does. It's really interesting. It's a really interesting word, but I find that it's kind of, like, a tongue twister a little bit. It's not an easy word to say. **Normcore.** It's not something that I can say gracefully or easily.
- Andrew: This word actually became popular on Facebook. I think a popular magazine sort of introduced the term and then all my friends started talking about it and describing some of our friends that we think of as **normcore**, saying, "Oh, you're not trying to be cool, you're trying to be normal. But now all of a sudden, you're cool." Because of that effort to try to not be cool.
- Harp: Wow. That's... That's fascinating, yup. I've not heard it yet. I'm wondering if I'm just really behind the trend and maybe eventually I'll hear it.
- Andrew: Well, I'll have to forward you the **normcore** article so you can give it a read.
- Harp: Yup. I'm very fascinated by this. **Normcore. Normcore.**
- Andrew: That's right. Just like *hardcore*, it's **normcore**.
- Harp: It's really a mouthful for me. I don't feel comfortable saying it.
- Andrew: Yeah, well *norm* is difficult to say. *Norm*, short for *normal*.
- Harp: **Normcore.** OK.
- Andrew: Cool! All right, let's do the final one, where you will test me with one more new expression.

- Harp: OK. I have one for you.
- Andrew: OK. Go for it.
- Harp: **A *couplie*.**
- Andrew: **A *couplie*.** Hmm. So it's, like, a noun? It's a thing?
- Harp: Yes.
- Andrew: OK. ***Couplie*.** Um... Maybe it's something to do with a cup that you drink out of?
- Harp: It's like a selfie, but for couples.
- Andrew: Ah, OK. So a couple selfie is **a *couplie*.**
- Harp: It would be pronounced ***couplie***, right?
- Andrew: Yeah, yeah. For sure. That's uh... That's cute.
- Harp: It is cute. I've never actually heard anyone say it. I've read it and I've never thought of the pronunciation, so I'm gonna say that it's **a *couplie*.**
- Andrew: ***Couplie*.** Aw. This is nice. Have you ever taken **a *couplie*** before?
- Harp: Yes. I'm kind of obsessed with ***couplies***, so that's pretty funny!
- Andrew: This is a good word for you.
- Harp: It is! It's funny! It's so funny that I had no idea how to pronounce it, though.
- Andrew: Yeah. Well, it's weird because the word *couple*... *couple*... and then, yeah, you sort of have to change the way that the word is pronounced when you stick it with *selfie*, right?
- Harp: Yup. It's a fun one though. We'll see if that becomes kind of trendy.
- Andrew: You know what else is becoming trendy? Is the selfie stick. Some of my friends have these selfie sticks. Do you have one for taking your ***couplie*** shots?
- Harp: No. I don't have a selfie stick and I think they're ridiculous and awesome at exactly the same time.
- Andrew: I agree. I kind of want one just because it would be funny but also secretly because I think it's a really good idea.

- Harp: I think that they're about to become banned in New York City, though, because there have been people that are so obsessed with taking selfies with the selfie stick that they're kind of causing a traffic hazard on the sidewalk where people are walking into them and getting hurt.
- Andrew: Right, because you're not paying attention to what's around you. You're just looking at your screen and trying to line up the perfect shot. So yeah, I can see them being banned, for sure.
- Harp: Yeah, the selfie stick. That's funny. Maybe they'll make a **couplie** stick.
- Andrew: One with two handles.
- Harp: Exactly. So you could put two phones on it and maybe take two pictures? I don't know.
- Andrew: All right, so, **couplie**. Well, I guess you win. You did better at the quiz than me. I don't think I got any of them. But that was fun.
- Harp: It was fun. And it's funny to hear some of the new words that are coming out and I'm really curious to see if any of these actually **stick**.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. So maybe our listeners... We asked you to let us know if you've heard any of these words, but I'd also be interested in learning if you have similar words in your language for these ideas. Are these universally new words or are they just English expressions?
- Harp: Yup. Or I would also be interested to hear of some new words that you're hearing in social media.
- Andrew: Yeah. That would also be interesting. And we'll see if these are truly worldwide trends or if they're just located in English-speaking countries. Who knows?
- Harp: Yup. It'll be interesting to hear. So remember, you can go see us on Facebook or on Twitter, where you can leave us a comment.
- Andrew: Yup. And let us know what you're hearing.
- Harp: Yes. And remember, always check out the website, Culips.com. C-U-L-I-P-S.com.
- Andrew: Exactly. Thanks for listening, everybody, and we will talk to you next time.
- Harp: Bye everyone.

Detailed Explanations

With a twist

At the start of this episode, Harp says that this isn't a regular Chatterbox episode. Rather, it's a Chatterbox episode **with a twist**. When something is **with a twist**, it is different than normal and is unusual. In other words, this Chatterbox episode is different than most Chatterbox episodes and is not what you would usually expect.

This expression is also used in one different way. In restaurant and bar lingo, a drink **with a twist** means that a squeeze of lemon or lime is added to the drink. So next time you're ordering a drink, if you want a little citrus garnish, make sure to tell the bartender you'd like your drink **with a twist**.

A related expression is a *plot twist*. Movies or books that feature a sudden story change have plot twists. Mysteries and thrillers often have a plot twist at the end to surprise the viewers/readers and keep them entertained.

In summary, a thing **with a twist** is a thing that varies from the norm. It defies our expectations and is extraordinary.

Here are a couple more examples with **with a twist** used to mean different than usual:

Damon: I've started taking a new yoga class and I really love it!

Agnes: That's awesome. Where are you taking the class?

Damon: At a studio downtown. The cool thing is it isn't regular yoga. It's like yoga **with a twist**. It's yoga combined with other kinds of aerobic exercise. It's a real workout and I can't get enough!

Agnes: Sounds great. Maybe I'll have to join you sometime.

Damon: For sure. You're welcome to come along.

Ron: I'm thinking about going to that new restaurant that opened up on my block. Would you like to come with me on Friday?

Peter: What type of food do they serve?

Ron: Apparently they serve French food **with a twist**. They've modified traditional French cuisine to make it more modern and accessible.

Peter: Sounds interesting. Sure, let's go. It'll be fun.

Ron: Perfect. I'm looking forward to it.

A raptivist

A **raptivist** is someone who tries to achieve social or political change through rap music. It is a combination of the words *rapper* and *activist*. This is a newly coined expression in English and is mainly used in the rap and hip-hop community when talking about the subgenre of political rap music.

Famous **raptivists** include KRS-One, Tupac Shakur, Public Enemy, Mos Def, and Common. Anyone who uses rap music as a medium to express a desire for social or political change can be called **a raptivist**.

Here's one more example with this expression:

Sammy: Last weekend I went to see Dr. Will perform at the campus cafe.

Jess: Who's that? I've never heard of him.

Sammy: He's a poet, beat maker, artist, and **raptivist**. His performance was amazing and beautiful.

Jess: Sounds cool. So did he sing or something?

Sammy: He recited some of his poems and also performed some rap songs. All of his lyrics were about equality and justice.

Jess: Very cool!

To take off

When something like a business, someone's career, or an expression becomes very popular and successful, we can say that it **takes off**.

We use this same phrasal verb when a plane departs from the ground and begins to fly in the sky. Like a plane, when something else **takes off**, it heads upwards towards popularity and success.



In this episode, Andrew and Harp wonder if the new expressions they talk about have already **taken off**. In other words, they are curious whether these new expressions are popular.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Teresa: How's your daughter doing these days?

Ruth: She's doing great. Thanks for asking. She recently got a promotion and is now a manager for her company.

Teresa: That's fantastic.

Ruth: Yes. Her career is really **taking off**. We're so proud of her.

Jenn: What's your favorite movie?

Tomas: That's such a hard question to answer! A movie I like a lot is *Risky Business*.

Jenn: Oh, really? I've never seen it.

Tomas: It's a movie from 1983 starring Tom Cruise. After this movie, Tom Cruise's popularity **took off** and he became a mega star.

Jenn: Cool. I'll have to check it out!

Cinderella surgery

The term **Cinderella surgery** refers to a range of different surgical procedures that change the look of people's feet. **Cinderella surgery** is cosmetic surgery. It is done because patients want to change the way their feet look, not because it is a medical necessity.

According to recent articles in *Elle* and *the New York Times*, **Cinderella surgery** is on the rise and is becoming popular in North America. The majority of patients are women. They decide to get this surgery, which may include shortening their toes or reshaping their feet, to make their feet more attractive or to be able to wear fashionable shoes more comfortably.

These surgeries are called **Cinderella surgery** because they allow you to wear shoes that didn't fit before. In the fairy tale *Cinderella*, the prince vows to marry whoever fits into the glass slipper that was left at his ball. The woman who fit the slipper perfectly was Cinderella.

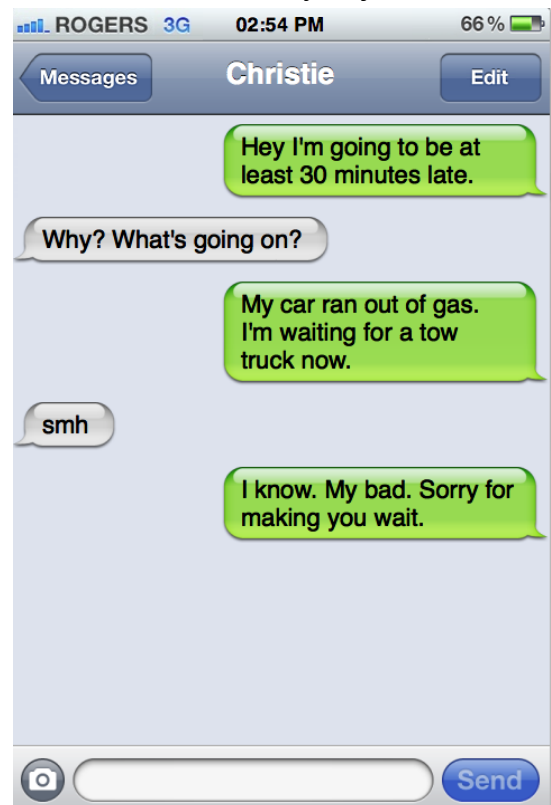
To shake your head

In this episode, Harp says she is **shaking her head** while talking about Cinderella surgery. When something is unbelievable, stupid, or difficult to imagine and you just can't find the right words to express your feelings, you can say that you are **shaking your head**. This expression can be said without actually **shaking your head** from side to side, or you could really be **shaking your head**. This is the perfect expression to use when you just can't find the right words to express your emotions.

This expression is frequently used on the Internet and in text messages. However, it's usually abbreviated to **smh** (**shaking my head**). It's a handy expression to use in chatting and texting contexts because it communicates a lot with just three little letters.

Here are a couple more examples with **to shake your head**. The example below is in a conversational setting and the image to the right shows a text message using the shortened form, **smh**.

Helen: What's your reaction to today's bad news?
Peter: I'm just **shaking my head**. I can't believe it.
Helen: Me neither. I don't understand why they are going to demolish the old library downtown.
Peter: That library is a part of the city's history.



Life tracking

Another one of the new English expressions that is talked about in this episode is **life tracking**. **Life tracking** is the trend of using smartphone apps to monitor and record statistics about your body, health, and fitness.

For example, you can use a sleep-tracking app to see how long and how well you sleep each night. Or you can use a diet app to count and record how many calories you eat each day.

Andrew says that he uses an app to monitor his body while he rides his bike. He can see information about how far he travels, his heart rate, and how many calories he burns. Harp also mentions that she uses a similar app when she goes running.

So, using a smartphone to monitor your body is called **life tracking**. Sometimes, **life-tracking** apps are paired with a device like a special bracelet or microchip.

Here's one more example with **life tracking**:

Claire: You look great! I hope you don't mind me asking, but have you lost some weight?

Lindsay: I don't mind at all. And, yeah, I've been working out recently and have lost a few pounds.

Claire: That's awesome. Good for you.

Lindsay: Thanks. I've been using my smartphone and a few **life-tracking** apps to help me stay motivated.

Claire: That's great. I use an app to help me track my sleep at night. I love it!

To draw a blank

When you can't think of something or can't remember something, you **draw a blank**. For example, in this episode Harp says she is **drawing a blank** when she tries to guess the definition of the term *life tracking*. In other words, she can't guess what life tracking is. She doesn't know the answer, so she is **drawing a blank**.

We can also use this expression when we try to search for information but are unsuccessful. So if you try to search for some information on Google but don't find what you are looking for, you can say that your search **drew a blank**.

This expression has a very interesting origin. It was first used in 16th-century England and was originally used to describe an action associated with the lottery.

Back in those days, the lottery operated by drawing tickets from two boxes. One box contained tickets that had the names of all the lottery players written on them. The other box contained prize tickets that had the names of the prizes written on them. When it was time to choose a winner, the lottery operator selected a name ticket and then a prize ticket and the winner got to collect the prize that was written on the prize ticket.

However, some of the prize tickets were blank, and if this prize ticket was selected, then the “winner” actually walked away with nothing. Eventually, this action of **drawing a blank** became associated with failure. Nowadays, we use this expression to talk about a failure to remember something, produce an answer, or search for information.

Here are a couple more examples with **to draw a blank**:

Paul: Hey. Check out that guy over there. He looks so familiar. Have you seen him before?

Sam: Yeah, I have! Wasn't he our grade 9 science teacher?

Paul: Oh yeah! He totally was. What was his name again?

Sam: Good question. I have no idea. I'm **drawing a blank**.

Paul: Mr. Smith? Mr. Shore? Something with an S, I think.

Sam: Mr. Stevenson!

Paul: Oh yeah! That's it. I'm going to go say hi and see if he remembers me.

Emily: Did the police ever find out who stole your car?

Nadia: No. Their investigation totally **drew a blank**. They suspect that the thief either drove my car to another city or stripped it for parts.

Emily: That's so frustrating. Will you be able to buy a new car?

Nadia: I had theft insurance, so my insurance company will replace my car for me.

Emily: That's good to hear.

To burn through a traffic light

When you **burn through a traffic light**, you don't stop at an intersection when the light is red. This is very illegal and dangerous! Before **burning through a traffic light**, most people at least slow down to make sure no other traffic is coming.

It's not very common for cars **to burn through traffic lights**, but cyclists do it all the time. They also **burn through stop signs** by not coming to a full stop before they continue through the intersection.

In this episode, Andrew says that life tracking could be dangerous. Cyclists use the social networking features of life-tracking apps to compete against each other. Everyone wants to have faster speeds and shorter commute times. This can lead cyclists **to burn through traffic lights and stop signs** in order to get better statistics on their life-tracking apps.

So whenever someone has continued through an intersection without stopping for a traffic light or stop sign, they have **burned through the traffic light / stop sign**.

A related expression is *to run a red light / stop sign*. This means the same thing: to go through an intersection without obeying the traffic signal that tells you to stop.

Here are a couple more examples with ***to burn through a traffic light***:

George: How was your day today?

Fae: Not too good. On my way home from work I got a \$200 traffic ticket.

George: Whoa! What happened? Were you speeding?

Fae: Nope. I was running late for an appointment so I **burned through a stop sign** and a cop saw me.

George: Yikes.

Fae: Yeah. I'm not proud of myself, but no one was coming, so I thought it would be OK. That's the last time I do that.

Marshall: OK, I'm going to work now. See you later!

Ruth: Drive safe. And make sure to watch out for cyclists. Now that it's spring there are a lot more of them on the road. Be especially careful around traffic lights; they tend **to burn right through them**.

Marshall: OK, will do. See ya!

Ruth: Bye.

Spim

Spim is a new Internet slang expression that means spam over instant messaging. Any kind of unwanted messages that are sent over an instant messaging app (like KakaoTalk, Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp, etc.) are **spim**.

Usually, **spim** is not sent by real people but by computer programs called bots. These bots send out tons of **spim** messages to many different users at the same time. **Spim** messages often contain an advertisement and a link to a website where you can purchase a product or service.

Most people find **spim** very annoying and ignore it. In this episode, Harp and Andrew talk about receiving **spim** that is sent to their cell phones. The **spim** they've received in the past advertised free or discounted event tickets.

Here's one more example with **spim**:

Bobby: Hey, your phone just made a beep. I think you got a message or something.

Ralph: Oh, let me go check.

Bobby: Sure.

Ralph: Ah. Looks like it's just a **spim** message.

Bobby: I hate that. It's so annoying.

Ralph: I know, right? Does anyone actually purchase anything that's marketed using **spim**?

Bobby: I don't know. I doubt it!

Ralph: Yeah, me too.

To fall for something

When you **fall for something**, you are tricked into believing or buying something that is not real. For example, in this episode Andrew says that he has received spam messages before but he has never **fallen for them**. In other words, he didn't believe that these advertisements were legitimate and didn't buy any products from the spammers.

If you believed that something is real but it turns out to be untrue or not as advertised, then you **fell for it**.

A similar expression is *to fall for someone*. Be careful here because this expression has a very different meaning. When you fall for someone, you fall in love with that person.

It is important not **to fall for** bad investment advice or false advertising. Remember to keep in mind the old saying: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Here are a couple more examples with **to fall for something**:

Sunny: I just signed up for an online dating website. Have you ever tried it?

Sara: Yeah, actually.

Sunny: How did it go for you?

Sara: Well, I went out on a few dates with this one guy but it wasn't a positive experience.

Sunny: Why? What happened?

Sara: Well, this guy said he was a lawyer and owned a house and I totally **fell for it**. Turns out he was lying the whole time and was actually unemployed and still lived at home.

Sunny: Oh my!

Sara: Yeah. So that relationship didn't go anywhere. But hopefully you'll have better luck!

Sunny: Yeah. I sure hope so!

Nick: Hey. Can I borrow your car?

Gerry: Sure. What's wrong with yours?

Nick: I took it in for a checkup and my mechanic told me I needed to have some major repairs done. So my car is in the shop for a few days.

Gerry: And you just **fell for it** without getting a second opinion?

Nick: He's the expert. I just trusted what he said.

Gerry: Believe me; you should always shop around when you need to get your car fixed. Mechanics are notorious for doing work that isn't necessary.

Nick: Yikes. I totally should have done that. Next time I'll make sure to get a second opinion.

Gerry: Yeah. Make sure to do that.

Normcore

Normcore is an ironic fashion trend where people wear very plain and normal-looking clothes. In **normcore** style, the unfashionable becomes fashionable. So by wearing normal clothes, you can look cool.

Normcore is a unisex style, which means it can be followed by all genders. Typical **normcore** fashion includes plain khaki pants and a shirt or T-shirt that is one plain colour, with no writing or logos. A plain pair of white or light-coloured sneakers are usually worn by **normcore** fashionistas.

Clothes from shops like the Gap, Esprit, and Marc O'Polo are loved by the **normcore** movement because of their plain and simple appearance.

In this episode, Andrew tells Harp that he first heard about **normcore** from an article that went viral on Facebook. If you're interested in reading that article, you can check it out here: http://www.vice.com/en_ca/read/normcore-is-the-first-brilliant-meme-of-2014

Here's one more example with **normcore**:

Bill: Did you see the shirt Jane was wearing today?

Lily: Yeah. I loved it. Super **normcore**.

Bill: Absolutely. It's a very fresh look for her.

Lily: I agree!



A couplie

A couplie is a selfie taken by a couple who are in a relationship together. Of course, a selfie is the slang expression for a self-picture: a picture taken by the person who is in the picture.

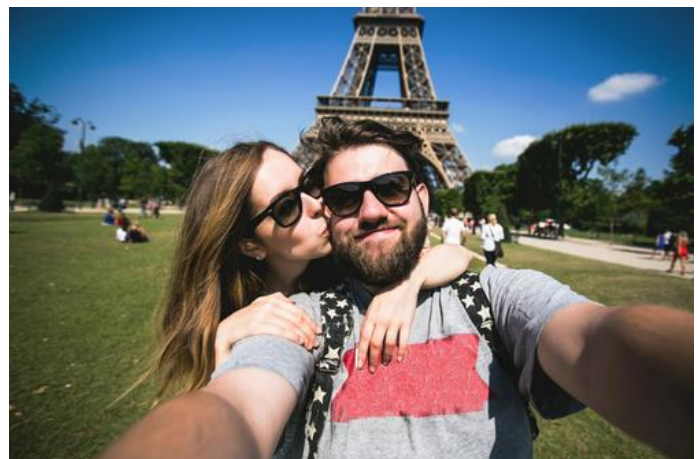
Here's one more example with **a couplie**:

Rose: Did you see that cute picture Brad and Kim posted on Instagram?

Lenny: Yeah. Another **couplie**. They post one every day!

Rose: But they're always cute!

Lenny: I guess. But to be honest, I don't need to see all their lovey-dovey pictures.



To stick

When something new **sticks**, it has lasting power and will not disappear anytime soon. At the end of this episode, Harp and Andrew wonder whether the new expressions they talked about will **stick**. In other words, they wonder if the expressions will stay in the English language for a long time. Or will they disappear quickly?

When a new way of doing things, a new word, or a new nickname **sticks**, it means that it becomes accepted and used by many people.

A related expression is the phrasal verb **to stick around**. If a person or thing **sticks** around, then it stays somewhere for an extended period of time. In many cases, **to stick** and **to stick around** are interchangeable; however, this is not always the case so be careful when using these two expressions.

Here are a couple more examples with **to stick**:

Owen: Do you have a nickname?

Tommy: Yeah. People sometimes call me T-bone.

Owen: That's hilarious!

Tommy: Yeah. It's pretty funny.

Owen: How did you get that nickname?

Tommy: I don't remember exactly. Someone just started calling me T-bone at school one day and it **stuck**. All through high school I was called that.

Owen: Amazing!

Manager: I've come up with a new way of organizing our files and I hope it **sticks**.

Employee: OK, no problem. How would you like me to do things?

Manager: From now on, please organize all your invoices according to the date they're received.

Employee: That's a great idea, actually. It'll make things more efficient.

Manager: That's the plan, yup.

Quiz

1. What happens when you draw a blank?

- a) Your pen runs out of ink.
- b) Your sketch book is empty.
- c) You can't remember something.
- d) Your car runs out of gas.

2. Which communication medium does spim use to target its audience?

- a) instant messaging
- b) television
- c) email
- d) radio

3. What expression means the same as *to burn a traffic light*?

- a) to whip a red light
- b) to run a red light
- c) to dash a red light
- d) to wiled a red light

4. If a new thing catches on and doesn't disappear after a short time, what has it done?

- a) skied
- b) stopped
- c) stuck
- d) sank

5. How many people are in a couple?

- a) 4
- b) 1
- c) 3
- d) 2

6. What does the acronym *smh* mean?

- a) something must've happened
- b) simple might help
- c) silence means happiness
- d) shaking my head

7. What body part is operated on during a Cinderella surgery?

- a) the forehead
- b) the hands
- c) the eyes
- d) the feet

8. What does a bartender do when you ask him for a drink with a twist?

- a) adds syrup
- b) adds a citrus garnish
- c) adds an olive
- d) adds a straw

Answers:

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