

Chatterbox #141 – Predicting the future

Transcript

Harp: Hello everyone. This is Harp.

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

Harp: Yes. Check out our website, Culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. Because there, you can sign up and become a member.

Andrew: And membership gets you a lot of exciting benefits, like transcripts to each and every one of our episodes, along with detailed explanations of all the key expressions that come up in our shows, and you get quizzes to test your comprehension.

Harp: Yes! And remember that we're on Facebook and on Twitter so come on over and say hi. And if you're on iTunes, I think you should leave us a rating and tell us what you think.

Andrew: Yeah. Help us get to number one.

Harp: Exactly!

Andrew: So, Harp, what's new with you? How was your day today?

Harp: I had a pretty good day. I got a surprise in the office.

Andrew: A surprise?

Harp: Yeah.

Andrew: What kind of surprise?

Harp: Well, I had a done a favour for my friend and she sent me flowers today.

Andrew: Flowers. That's super nice!

Harp: Yeah. I was really surprised. I didn't think they were for me, so I opened the front door and there was a delivery guy and he had a big bouquet of flowers so I thought it was for someone else in the office and then I saw my name.

- Andrew: Right on. It's always nice when somebody thanks you by giving you a nice little present like that.
- Harp: Yup. It was pretty cool and **it made my day**.
- Andrew: Right on.
- Harp: All right. So should we get started with today's episode?
- Andrew: I think that's a great idea. Can you predict what we're gonna talk about today?
- Harp: Nice **segue**. So today, we're gonna do a Chatterbox episode, and that's where we chat and today we're gonna talk about predictions.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. We're gonna look into the future and try and predict what we think will occur.
- Harp: Yes. Why don't we start with talking about what a prediction is?
- Andrew: A prediction is simply a statement of what you think will happen in the future.
- Harp: Yes. But a prediction is different than a guess because with a guess you're not taking into consideration any information and a prediction you take into consideration whatever information you have or some intuition you might feel.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. You're right. So, a guess is just **a stab in the dark**. You are not using your intuition or you're not using information to inform your opinion. But a prediction, on the other hand, uses some sort of information to help you make a decision or to form your opinion. So, for example, if we're making a prediction about the weather, like a weather reporter does, they are not just wildly guessing about how the weather will be. They look at some scientific data to inform their prediction.
- Harp: Yup. And if we think about the intuition side, if you think about a fortune teller, they're gonna make a prediction about the future, but they're gonna base it on some intuition, how they're feeling about the person or the situation, and then they're gonna make a prediction.

- Andrew: Yup. So, in this episode, Harp and I are gonna share our predictions about the future with you.
- Harp: Hmm. I'm so intrigued.
- Andrew: So this will be an interesting episode to listen back on in a couple of years and see if our predictions became true.
- Harp: Yes. We'll see how right we were.
- Andrew: So our first prediction is all about the Stanley Cup. And Harp, maybe you could explain what the Stanley Cup is.
- Harp: Yes. The Stanley Cup is basically the championship that the winning team wins in the National Hockey League. First there's a regular season and they play and then the best teams go into the playoffs. And then they play each other and then the final winner wins the Stanley Cup.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. It's the big trophy that the best team gets to win.
- Harp: Yes. Now, who do you predict is gonna win the Stanley Cup?
- Andrew: Hmm. This is a good question, and I have a feeling that we're gonna have the same answer on this one. But maybe I'm wrong. But I think the Montreal Canadiens actually stand a really good chance to win this year.
- Harp: See, that's really interesting, 'cause I'm gonna predict that the Montreal Canadiens don't win.
- Andrew: Really? OK.
- Harp: Yup. And you know, I'm gonna go based on my previous knowledge, because the Montreal Canadiens are doing really well and I find whenever a team is doing super well in the regular season, they always do badly in the playoffs and they always get kicked out in the first round. So people get so excited they're gonna win and then they just choke and so I think that might happen with the Canadiens.
- Andrew: Yup. Well, history would tell us that's true.
- Harp: Yup. So I can't predict who's gonna win, but I think the Montreal Canadiens aren't going to win, which... I know a lot of people in Montreal would be very upset to hear me say that.

- Andrew: Yeah. Well, I can tell you for sure that the Edmonton Oilers aren't gonna win.
- Harp: I know, I know. They didn't do well this year but I don't think they're even in the playoffs, are they?
- Andrew: The playoffs haven't started yet but they are doing very poorly so they won't make it.
- Harp: Ah, kay. But again, based on my previous information, every time the Edmonton Oilers do really well in the season, in the regular season, they always do horribly in the playoffs. So that's where I'm gonna take my information from and make a guess about the Montreal Canadiens.
- Andrew: Cool. I like how we're both using some information to make our opinion, but we're using different sets of information. So I'm making my prediction based on the Montreal Canadiens' current performance. And you're basing it on their historical performance.
- Harp: Yes. Or just a team's historical performance, not even just them.
- Andrew: Exactly. So this is really cool.
- Harp: Yes. But we don't know who will win. We'll have to come back and listen after.
- Andrew: That's right. We'll revisit this. It's kind of like **a time capsule**.
- Harp: Exactly.
- Andrew: OK, so let's move on to our second prediction. So this is about another type of victory. But this time it's not do with sports but with politics.
- Harp: OK. So the question is: Who will win the national elections in Canada that are gonna be happening in October this year?
- Andrew: Mmhmm. So maybe we should briefly describe the political parties and the candidates that will be running in this election. We have five main political parties and they'll all be running.
- Harp: We have the current party that is in power, with Stephen Harper, the Conservatives.
- Andrew: And then we have the Liberal Party, which is led by Justin Trudeau.

- Harp: Then the third party in power right now is the NDP, with Thomas Mulcair.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. We have the Green Party and Elizabeth May.
- Harp: Yes. But I can't think of the fifth person that you're talking about.
- Andrew: The Bloc Quebecois.
- Harp: Oh! How could I have forgotten about them? We're in Quebec! They got destroyed in the last election and I think they were left with maybe four seats rather than 60 seats, so no one really talks about them anymore, so I wonder if they're gonna make any sort of comeback in the next election.
- Andrew: Yeah. It's true. They are not in the news as often as they used to be. But really, it's the three parties: the Conservatives, the Liberals, and the New Democratic Party, the NDP. These are the three big parties we have and the race will go down to one of them, I think.
- Harp: Yes. So, who do you think will win the election?
- Andrew: Well, this is a difficult prediction to make because, on one hand, I have somebody who I want to win, and on the other hand, I have somebody who I think is going to win. Maybe I'm revealing my **political stripes** too much by saying that, but I actually think that the Conservatives might win again.
- Harp: Hmm. That's interesting. So my prediction is actually that the Liberal Party is gonna win. And the reason why I think this is because the Conservative Party won the last couple of elections, either as minority or now as majority party, because of their strong economic platform. And they were good for the economy of Canada. But right now the economy is not doing well, and especially with oil prices going down. So I think that's gonna give the Liberal Party a jump. And I think a lot of people are gonna... who would normally vote for NDP are gonna support the Liberals because they want someone other than the Conservatives in power. That's why I'm predicting that the Liberal Party will win.
- Andrew: It's a very good prediction and it might just be true. I think the difficulties the Liberals will face is that the vote may be split between the NDP and the Liberals. Because those two parties, while there are some differences between them, they are pretty similar. They agree on a lot of issues. So if the vote gets split, then I think it might benefit the Conservatives.

- Harp: Hmm. Yup. So, we will have to see. We'll have to check back after October to see if our predictions were correct.
- Andrew: Yeah. Let's do that. And now let's move on to a third prediction and this prediction's all about technology. So the question is: Will cars someday become self-driving?
- Harp: Hmm. I have to say, I wish they would become self-driving, because I hate driving. I think... I'm gonna have to say that, yes, I predict that one day they will be self-driving. Because of all the different technological advances and discoveries that have been made, it seems like a logical next step. Even if you think about the cars that now can park themselves, that they can parallel park themselves so you basically drive up to the spot and then you take your hands off the wheel and push a button and they just park themselves. So I think it might happen.
- Andrew: Yup. I agree with you. For me, this one's **a no-brainer**. It's gonna happen for sure, 100%. I predict that cars will be self-driving one day. The way that technology grows and develops at such a fast rate, I think some companies like Google already have prototypes of this type of technology. So it's just **a matter of time**. I'm gonna say 20 years and we'll see self-driving cars.
- Harp: Hmm. You're even putting a timeline on this question. Very interesting. Very interesting prediction.
- Andrew: I'm **going all the way**.
- Harp: All right. Let's look at another question. Hmm. An interesting question for you, Andrew.
- Andrew: Mmhmm?
- Harp: Do you think that people will live to be 200 years old ever?
- Andrew: This is a very interesting question and I think there have been some pretty big scientists that have come out and talked about this prediction and said, yes, it's true that people one day will be able to live for a super long time, like, maybe a couple hundred years old or so. So, I think at some point we will be able to live this long. But I don't know if people will choose to live this long. That's still a big question for me.

- Harp: Hmm. I'm gonna have to disagree with you. I'm gonna predict that we won't be able to live this long. It seems, like, 100 or 110 years old... It seems kind of like we're pushing ourselves for that already. So, I don't know. I haven't seen enough in science to make me think that we can live to be 200 years old. So I'm gonna say nope. I think this is wrong.
- Andrew: OK, well that's an interesting opinion. To me, it really **boils down to** quality of life. If we're talking 200 years where from age 80 to 200 you spend 120 years of being an old person that isn't really mobile or maybe doesn't have the brain capacity that they used to have, that doesn't interest me at all. I don't think I'd wanna live that type of life. But if you could live for 200 years as, you know, a healthy person, that's pretty interesting.
- Harp: Yeah. I wonder if people would choose to live that long. I think most people would, but I'm not sure.
- Andrew: I guess it depends on the quality of life that you live now, right? If you have to work every day and you're thinking about doing that for another 150 years or so, that might be **a tough pill to swallow**.
- Harp: Yeah. That would be a bit depressing, actually.
- Andrew: But if you got to retire still at age 65, it could be good.
- Harp: Yeah, and then spend the next 100 years just travelling around and being relaxed.
- Andrew: Could you imagine all the things you could do, with an extra 100 years to travel?
- Harp: Yeah. That would be crazy. I think we would have to travel to Mars or something and set up a colony there because we would get bored.
- Andrew: Yeah. You would do everything possible on Earth. It would be boring.
- Harp: Yup.
- Andrew: Anyways, that's an interesting prediction to think about. How long we will live in the future. Should we do another one?
- Harp: Yeah. Let's do one more, at least.

- Andrew: OK. So this is another technology-related prediction and I'm wondering if you think that people will ever be able to time travel.
- Harp: I really don't think so. I don't think it's gonna be possible to time travel. I think it's just... It's beyond my brain's capacity to understand how we would be able to do that. Would you be in one place? Would you still be here and there at the same time? Would you be just there? What happens if you met your future self? I just... I don't have enough information to be able to even process it.
- Andrew: Yeah, it's true. I think I agree with you on this one. There are a lot of paradoxes that come up when you start to think about time travel, and I don't see how we could do this. I really don't think the technology will ever exist.
- Harp: No, exactly. I wish that we could **teleport**.
- Andrew: **Teleporting!** Yeah, that'd be awesome.
- Harp: Yeah. Sometimes when it's really cold outside and I have to walk somewhere, I'm always thinking, "Why doesn't **teleportation** exist?"
- Andrew: I agree with you totally.
- Harp: But again, I don't think that will ever happen either.
- Andrew: If you were to live in an ancient society and be looking on the future right now, you'd probably be thinking, "Whoa. Those are some things that I never could have even imagined." Like the Internet. It'd have been hard to envision a long time ago. But I don't know if we'll ever get to the point where, in 1000 years or something, we're looking back and being like, "Oh, time travel? Of course it happens."
- Harp: Yeah, I know. But if we could time travel, where would you go?
- Andrew: Aw. This is a good question. I'm a lover of history, so I'd probably have to go back in time as opposed to forward in time. Um... I don't know. I'd maybe go back to North America just to see what it was like before the Europeans came over. I'd want to see it, you know, originally.

- Harp: Hmm. That's really interesting, yup. That would be interesting to see. But it's always a question of who do you become when you travel back in time? And do you wear the clothes that you're wearing now? And do you stand out and they think that you're a crazy person and they put you in jail? Or do you take the clothes of the time? I don't know. It's **boggling my mind**.
- Andrew: You'd have to put a disguise on or something.
- Harp: Yeah, exactly.
- Andrew: What about you? Where would you go?
- Harp: I think I would go in the future. I would like to know, kinda, where we end up in maybe 30 or 40 years. I think that would be cool, to see where technology has taken us.
- Andrew: Yeah. That would be neat, too. Actually, I'd probably do both, you know? I'd zip around all over the place.
- Harp: Yup.
- Andrew: All right. So I think we should do one last prediction.
- Harp: OK. Let's do it.
- Andrew: So this is a health-related prediction. And I want to know if you think that scientists will one day cure cancer.
- Harp: I think yes. I'm gonna predict that one day scientists will be able to cure cancer. Just if I think about the advances in science and health that have been made in the last 100 years, I think in the next 100 years they might be able to solve it. And I'm not saying that there won't be other diseases that come up that we won't be able to solve, and cure, but I think with cancer, they're gonna figure it out.
- Andrew: Yeah. I agree with you. I think if you look at how far we've come with fighting cancer already... Not every cancer is manageable, obviously, but we've **made a lot of strides** to be able to control certain types of cancers. So I think, in the future, we're gonna figure this out. I trust the scientists and doctors that are working on this.
- Harp: Yup. OK, so I think that we should wrap it up here. I'd be really curious to hear about your predictions on these questions. So let us know what you think and leave us a comment on Facebook or Twitter.

- Andrew: Or if you have a really interesting prediction about the future that we didn't talk about today, let us know. Because I'd be interested to hear what your thoughts on the future are.
- Harp: Yes, I agree. I would love to hear that. So, remember to check out the website, Culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. Because that's where you can sign up and become a member and get access to lots of cool stuff.
- Andrew: Exactly. So we hope that you will do that. But for now we want to thank you for listening and we'll talk to you next time.
- Harp: Bye everyone!

Detailed Explanation

To make someone's day

When you **make someone's day**, you transform their ordinary day into one that's really great. Doing something special for someone can make them feel happy and **make their day**.

In this episode, Harp talks about being given flowers. She really enjoyed receiving this gift and said that it **made her day**. In other words, it made her regular day into something unique and special.

In the 1983 film *Sudden Impact*, the actor Clint Eastwood utters the iconic line "Go ahead. **Make my day**" while threatening a robber who has taken a waitress hostage. What he means here is that he would be very happy to shoot the robber if he even tries to hurt the woman. If you haven't seen this movie but would like to see this scene unfold, just search for "go ahead **make my day**" on YouTube.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Patrick: Did you remember that it's grandma's birthday today?

Anthony: Oh yeah. That's right!

Patrick: You should give her a call. It would really **make her day**.

Anthony: For sure. I'll make sure to do that.

Sally: Guess what?

Trish: What?

Sally: I just got a new puppy!

Trish: Are you serious?

Sally: Yeah!

Trish: That news seriously just **made my day**. Can I come over and play with him?

Sally: Yeah, absolutely. He's so cute. You're going to love him!

A segue

A segue is a smooth transition from one topic to another. Be careful with the pronunciation of this word. It is an Italian loan word, so the pronunciation is a little bit strange in English. It is pronounced like *seg-way*.

This expression can be used as both a noun and a verb.

In this episode, Harp compliments Andrew on his **segue** at the start of the show. Andrew transitions from the opening greetings at the top of the episode to the main topic of the episode, predictions. This clear and smooth transition is called **a segue**.

This word is most often used by broadcasters, talk show hosts, and newscasters to talk about smooth transitions between topics and stories. It is also used to describe seamless transitions in music and film, from one scene to another or one mood to another.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Martin: Have you finished your presentation outline?

Farah: Yes. Can I run it by you?

Martin: Yeah. Please do.

Farah: Well, I am going to start by talking about our company's history, then I will talk about our financial record, then I'll **segue** into introducing our new product line up, and I'll end by discussing our projected sales for the next year.

Martin: Perfect. Sounds excellent to me.

Farah: Great. Thanks!

Jean: I love this song!

Rich: Yeah, me too!

Jean: My favorite part is when it **segues** from mellow and ambient to fast and heavy.

Rich: Totally! That part is the best.

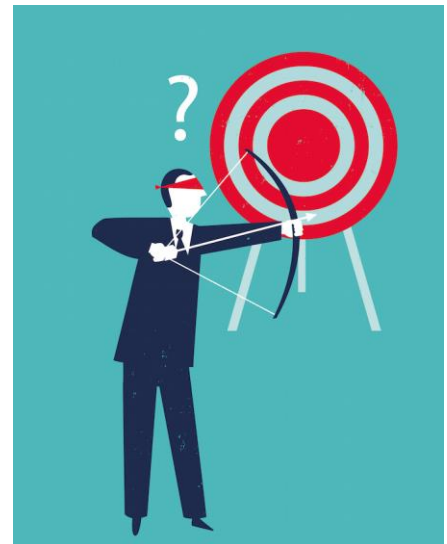
A stab in the dark

Whenever you make a wild guess about something, you take **a stab in the dark**. This slang expression is used when someone makes a guess without any information to inform their decision.

You can imagine someone trying to shoot or stab a target with a blindfold on. They would have no idea where to aim and would just have to guess where the target is located. This imagery is the basis of this expression.

An alternative expression is **a shot in the dark**. This means the exact same thing and the two expressions can be used interchangeably.

In this episode, Andrew says that a guess is different than a prediction because a guess is just **a stab in the dark**. On the other hand, when you make a prediction, you use information or intuition to help you envision what will happen in the future.



So, a stab or shot in the dark is simply a wild guess.
Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Jake: Thanks for coming over to help me fix my kitchen sink. It's been leaking all day.
Katie: No problem. The first thing we need to do is measure the width of the pipe and then go by some new washers so we can stop the leak.
Jake: I actually went by the hardware store earlier and picked up some washers.
Katie: Oh really? Did you measure first to make sure they are the right size?
Jake: No, I didn't.
Katie: Then they're probably not going to fit. Can you show them to me?
Jake: Sure, no problem.
Katie: Wow. They're actually going to be a perfect fit. How did you know to choose these?
Jake: Wow. That's lucky. I just took **a stab in the dark** and chose them randomly.
Katie: Well, it's our lucky day. Let me just put these on and your leak should be fixed.
Jake: Awesome. Thanks so much!

Diana: I went out on a blind date last night.
Sara: Oh really? How'd it go?
Diana: Horribly!
Sara: Why?
Diana: Guess how old the guy was?
Sara: Umm, 55?
Diana: Oh my gosh! How did you know?
Sara: Just **a shot in the dark**. Was he seriously 55?
Diana: Yeah!
Sara: Wow, that's like 30 years older than you.
Diana: I know! He was nice and all but I could never date someone that much older.
Sara: Yeah, me neither! Gross!

A time capsule

A time capsule is a box or container that is filled up with objects that people think represent the time they are currently living in. It is then sealed and buried in the ground. The idea is that in the future, historians or archaeologists will be able to dig up and open the **time capsule**. The objects that were placed in the **time capsule** will give these academics insights into how people used to live.

So, **time capsules** document the past and share information with future generations about how the past used to be.

In 1900, **a time capsule** was buried in Detroit, USA. The instructions stated that the **capsule** should be dug up in 100 years. So, in 2000 the **capsule** was opened and inside there were letters and pictures from local residents that documented how life in Detroit was in the year 1900. The residents also made some predictions about what they thought the future would be like. One resident believed that in the year 2000, the Canadian province of Ontario would be a state of the USA. A very interesting but inaccurate prediction indeed!

In this episode, Andrew says that this Chatterbox episode is like **a time capsule**. This is because in the future, people will be able to listen back to this episode and learn about how people thought in the year 2015.

This year (2015), a satellite is going to be launched into space that will act as **a time capsule**. Hundreds of people recorded stories of their present-day life and their predictions about the future. These recordings will be attached to the satellite and launched into space. The satellite will fly around space until the year 52,000, when the satellite is scheduled to return to earth. The citizens of earth in 52,000 will be lucky to have such insights into the past!

So, in sum, **a time capsule** is a container that documents the past for future generations. The **capsule** is filled with letters, pictures, objects, and audio/video recordings that describe the present. At some time in the future, the **capsule** is opened and people of the future learn about the past through the documents and objects that were left for them.



Usually, a plaque displays information about where **a time capsule** is buried and when it will be opened. Just like in this picture:

Here's one more example with **a time capsule**:

Randy: In elementary school, one of my teachers made us write a letter to our future self. She then took all the letters and buried them in **a time capsule**.

Cam: Really? Are they still buried?

Randy: Nope. She opened the **capsule** when we graduated from high school and then sent the letters to us.

Cam: That's so interesting.

Randy: Yeah! It was hilarious to read the letter I wrote to myself. I said that I wanted to be a policeman and that my favorite food was lasagna.

Cam: What a cool teacher you had. I love this idea!

Political stripes

In this episode, Andrew mentions that he may have accidentally revealed his political stripes. This is an expression that is used to talk about someone's political affiliations or beliefs. In other words, Andrew gives us a little bit of information about what political parties and ideologies he supports.

This expression originated in America in the 1820s. In those days, soldiers wore strips of coloured cloth on their uniform to indicate their rank and position. By looking at these stripes, you could easily tell what a soldier's status was. Soon, the word evolved and was used to talk about someone's political beliefs.

So, whenever we discuss a person's political stripes, we are talking about what kind of political ideology that person supports.

Here's one more example with this expression:

Julia: Recently, Prince William and Duchess Kate had a baby and this got me thinking about William's mother, Princess Diana.

Alex: I remember her. Everyone loved her.

Julia: Yeah. She died when I was only a child but I do remember liking her a lot. I even remember watching her funeral on TV.

Alex: It was a remarkable ceremony. People from all different religions, cultures, and political stripes were in attendance.

Julia: Yes. I remember that. William and Kate even named their new baby after Diana.

Alex: That's true!

A no-brainer

When a decision is **a no-brainer**, it means the decision is very easy to make. It's so easy that you don't have to use your brain to think about what you will decide because the choice is obvious.

In this episode, Andrew says that it's **a no-brainer** that cars will soon be able to drive by themselves. He feels like this is definitely going to happen and because this is so obvious to him, it's **a no-brainer**.

This is a very informal expression and should be avoided in professional situations.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Jandy: I can't believe it!

Bill: What?

Jandy: I just got accepted to Harvard!

Bill: Congrats! That's amazing!

Jandy: Thanks! I'm worried about the tuition fees, though. How will I ever be able to afford it? Maybe I should consider going to a less prestigious school.

Bill: Nope. This one's **a no-brainer**. When you get accepted to the best school in the world, you definitely have to go.

Jandy: Yeah, I think you're right. I'll make it work somehow.

Khalid: The cinema downtown is screening all three original *Star Wars* movies on Saturday. It's going to be a 7-hour marathon. Wanna go?

Craig: Uh, yeah! That's **a no-brainer**, dude. I'm the biggest *Star Wars* geek around.

Khalid: Cool. I'll pick us up some tickets and see you at the theater on Saturday.

Craig: Perfect.

A matter of time

If something is **a matter of time**, it means that that thing will happen, but you don't know when. In this episode, Andrew says that it's **a matter of time** until cars are self-driving. He predicts that this will happen, but he doesn't know the exact time it will take until cars can drive by themselves.

Often, this expression is used with the intensifying word *only* or *just* as in **it's just/only a matter of time**. This strengthens the expression and makes the speaker sound even more confident that something will occur in the future.

Similarly, the preposition *before* or *until* usually follows this expression. So **it's just/only a matter of time before/until something happens**.

So when something is **a matter of time**, it means that it will happen in the future but you just don't know when.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Zach: I can't believe today's news.

Heather: I know. I never thought the mayor would be caught up in a scandal like this.

Zach: I know, right? Apparently he took millions of dollars in bribes from a construction company in return for political favours.

Heather: This is the death of his career as a politician.

Zach: Yup. It's just **a matter of time** before he resigns.

Jenna: Wouldn't it be cool if we could wear contact lenses that could take pictures? Like a new sort of digital camera. We could capture exactly what we see.

Mark: Yeah. That would be awesome. I mean, it's only **a matter of time** before these cameras come out. The technology is almost there.

Jenna: Yeah, totally. The future is going to have so many exciting things in store for us.

To go all the way

If you do something and you **go all the way**, it means that you finish that action to the maximum extent possible. For example, in this episode, Andrew says that he's **going all the way** with his prediction about self-driving cars. He says this because not only does he make the prediction that these cars will come into existence, he also says that they will appear within 20 years. This is a very complete prediction and because of this, we can say that Andrew **went all the way** with his self-driving car prediction.

So when you **go all the way** when you're doing something, you do it completely and to the maximum extent possible.

When we use this expression to talk about sports, it means winning a championship. For example, a soccer team that **goes all the way** in the World Cup is the team who wins the World Cup.

Here are a couple more examples with the expression **to go all the way**:

Mechanic: Your car needs several repairs. I recommend replacing the brake pads, getting an oil change, and installing new spark plugs.

Customer: Seems like there's a lot wrong with the car.

Mechanic: Not a lot, but you should get these problems taken care of as soon as possible.

Customer: OK, let's **go all the way** then. Can you fix all of them please?

Mechanic: Sure. The car should be ready by Tuesday.

Customer: Perfect. Thanks.

Lynn: The Los Angeles Lakers are looking pretty good this year. Do you think they can **go all the way**?

Trevor: Yeah. I think they're going to win this year. Their line-up is just so good!

Lynn: Yeah. They are definitely the team to beat.

To boil down to something

In this episode, Andrew says that he thinks wanting to live to 200 years old **boils down to** quality of life. In other words, the essential or most important element of this issue is quality of life.

We use **to boil down to something** to talk about the most important factor or important element of an issue.

This expression is borrowed from cooking terminology. When you cook and you boil something down (like a sauce, for example) you concentrate the flavour by boiling away the excess water. By reducing the water, you end up with the desired flavour of the sauce. So when you simplify an issue by reducing it to its most important factor, then you can use the expression **to boil down to something**.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Jarrett: I really hope that our company is able to relocate to a new office soon. Our current office is too small now that we've hired some new employees.

Mel: I think they want to relocate too. Everyone is aware that the current office is inadequate but it **boils down to cost**. Moving is very expensive. I think when the company can afford it, we'll move.

Jarrett: Yeah, you're probably right.

A tough pill to swallow

When something is difficult to accept, then we can say it is **a tough pill to swallow**. For example, in this episode Andrew says that living for 200 years old would be **a tough pill to swallow** if you had to work for 150 of those 200 years. In other words, it would be difficult to accept working for such a long time.

An alternative expression is **a hard pill to swallow**. It means the same thing as **a tough pill to swallow** and can be used interchangeably with no difference in meaning. In the UK, they often use the expression **a bitter pill to swallow**. This also carries the exact same meaning.

So whenever something (like a fact, a situation, or a piece of news) is **a tough/hard/bitter pill to swallow**, it is difficult to accept.



Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Lisa: How is John doing?

Camilla: He's OK. He has been looking for a job ever since he was laid off though.

Lisa: It's an unfortunate situation.

Camilla: In fact, I think he may be a little depressed. The layoff was **a tough pill to swallow**.

Lisa: If there is anything I can do to help, please let me know.

Camilla: Thanks. We appreciate that.

Mom: So your dad and I have been talking this over and we know it will be **a tough pill for you to swallow**, but we can't allow you to go on the hiking trip with your friend.

Teenage son: What? That's not fair. You can't do this. We've been planning this for months and now a week before we're going to leave you tell me I can't go?

Mom: It's just too dangerous. You're only 15. You can't go on a week-long trek through the mountains with only one other friend. If this is a trip you're really interested in taking, it can wait a couple of years.

Teleportation

Teleportation is the theoretical technology that allows you to transport a person or thing from one location to another instantly. Unfortunately, **teleportation** is not a real technology and is only seen in science fiction books and movies.

In this episode, Harp mentions that she wishes that **teleportation** actually existed so she wouldn't have to walk outside in cold weather.

This term was coined in 1931 by the American writer Charles Fort. He combined the Greek prefix *tele-* (which means distance) with the Latin verb *portare* (which means to carry) to create the word.

Although **teleportation** technology would make life super convenient, it doesn't look like it will be invented any time soon.

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

Greg: I'm going to a party tonight. Wanna come along?

Steven: Where is it?

Greg: On the east side of town.

Steven: The east side? No, way that's too far.

Greg: Really?

Steven: If **teleportation** existed and I could zap myself back and forth, then I'd be down.

Greg: Yeah, that would be awesome!

Steven: Anyway, have a good time at the party.

Greg: OK cool. Thanks.

To boggle someone's mind

When something is very difficult to understand or imagine because it is complex and complicated, then it **boggles your mind**. In this episode, Harp says that time travel **boggles her mind**. In other words, thinking about how time travel would work is difficult for her to understand.

A related expression is **mind-boggling**. This is the adjective form of the same expression. When something is **mind-boggling**, it is difficult to understand, accept, or imagine.

This expression is relatively new and was first used in 1955. The verb **to boggle**, however, is more than 400 years old. It was originally used to mean to scare and confuse horses. These days, the verb **to boggle** is rarely used on its own. It is usually used as a part of the expression **to boggle someone's mind**.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Rachel: I can't believe all the dumb stuff that is on the Internet.

Tony: Me neither. Last weekend my sister sent me a link to a YouTube video of a cat sleeping. It had over 10 million views!

Rachel: Yeah. It just **boggles my mind**.

Tony: Yeah. Mine too!

Jessica: The other day I almost got hit while crossing the road because some guy forgot to stop at a stop sign.

Barb: He just drove right through the stop sign?

Jessica: Yeah. Isn't that unbelievable?

Barb: It's **mind-boggling** how many bad drivers there are out on the roads.

Jessica: It's super scary!

To make strides

A stride is a word related to walking. When you take a stride, you take a big step. The expression **to make strides** is related to this concept of making a big advance forward. When you **make strides** it means that you progress or advance. In this episode, Andrew says that scientists have **made strides** in finding a cure for cancer. In other words, they have progressed greatly in their search for a cancer cure.

So when someone is working on a project, task, or job, and they start to make good progress toward completing their work, we can say that they have **made strides** towards finishing.

When using this expression, make sure that the word *strides* is always used in its plural form. If you say *making a stride* it will be incorrect and sound funny.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Kain: You've been working on renovating your house. How's that coming along?

Robert: It was slow at first but lately we've been **making strides** and are almost finished.

Kain: You'll have to invite me over when you're done so I can check it out.

Robert: Absolutely!

Caitlyn: How's school going?

Amy: It's going well, but I'm pretty busy these days.

Caitlyn: Lots of papers?

Amy: Yeah. I'm working on a paper right now about the space race.

Caitlyn: Oh, that's a super interesting topic! It's amazing how both the USA and Russia **made huge strides** toward space exploration in such a short period of time.

Amy: Yeah. It really is fascinating!

Quiz

- 1. What can we call an easy decision to make?**
 - a) a no-thinker
 - b) a no-doubter
 - c) a no-brainer
 - d) a no-duh-er

- 2. Which of the following is NOT an acceptable expression?**
 - a) a scared pill to swallow
 - b) a hard pill to swallow
 - c) a tough pill to swallow
 - d) a bitter pill to swallow

- 3. In this episode, why does Harp predict the Liberal Party will win the next Canadian election?**
 - a) because of the poor economy
 - b) because of the Conservative's bad poll numbers
 - c) because the Liberal party candidate is young and charismatic
 - d) because the Liberal party has good pool numbers

- 4. If it is a matter of time before something happens, when will it happen?**
 - a) in 2 weeks
 - b) in a few months
 - c) never
 - d) at an unknown time in the future

- 5. What are political stripes?**
 - a) political parties
 - b) one's political affiliations
 - c) a kind of political humour
 - d) political commentary on the news

6. Which actor uttered the famous line “Go ahead. Make my day” from the movie *Sudden Impact*?
 - a) Clint Eastwood
 - b) Tom Cruise
 - c) Harrison Ford
 - d) Mathew McConaughey

7. What is a stab in the dark?
 - a) a violent crime
 - b) a guess
 - c) a cocktail
 - d) an informed opinion

8. In this episode, Harp compliments Andrew on a segue. What is a segue?
 - a) a joke
 - b) a smooth transition between two conversation topics
 - c) a clear explanation of a difficult concept
 - d) a story

9. What is NOT likely to be put into a time capsule?
 - a) letters
 - b) photographs
 - c) objects that represent the present time
 - d) antiques

Answers:

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