

Chatterbox #134 – Checking out flicks

Transcript

Harp: Hello everyone. This is Harp.

Maura: And I'm Maura.

Harp: And we're here at Culips, bringing you another exciting episode!

Maura: We're going to remind you to go to our website, Culips.com, because it's on our website where you can become a member. And when you're a Culips member, you have access to all of our pretty cool past episodes, with transcripts, more detailed explanations of the expressions we use in those episodes, and quizzes.

Harp: Yup. And remember, we're on Facebook and Twitter, so come on over, say hi, and maybe leave us an idea for an upcoming episode that you want to hear about.

Maura: Definitely. We love, love, love to hear from you!

Harp: Now, Maura, where have you been?

Maura: Well, Harp, you've seen me, but it's true that some of our listeners, our long-time listeners, might have wondered that. I've just been **a busy bee** and still been working behind the scenes on Culips, but I took a bit of a hiatus from recording. So, my voice box is all rested and now I'm back to start recording again.

Harp: Well, welcome back. I know our listeners are gonna be very, very excited to hear from you. And I think we should get started with today's episode.

Maura: **I'm totally pumped** to get started.

Harp: All right. So today we're gonna bring you a Chatterbox episode, and that's where we chat. We're gonna talk about something pretty fun. We're gonna talk about the movies.

Maura: Yeah, the movies. And it's pretty rare to meet someone who doesn't like going to see a movie. Pretty much everybody likes the movies — maybe different styles, but it's something that everyone enjoys from time to time.

Harp: Yup. So we're gonna break it down today. We're gonna talk about going to watch a movie.

Maura: Right, like in the theatres. And then also, watching movies at home.

- Harp: Yes. And then we're gonna finish with talking about some of our favorite movies of all time.
- Maura: I can't wait for that part.
- Harp: Super excited!
- Maura: So, Harp, have you been to the movies lately?
- Harp: I actually haven't been to the movies in probably a year.
- Maura: I actually haven't been lately either, although I've been wanting to go. I really love going to see a movie.
- Harp: See, **I'm kind of torn**. I love things like popcorn at the movies. And I love **trailers**. But I find the seats kind of uncomfortable and I prefer to be on my couch.
- Maura: That's really funny, because I remember that I was a bit uncomfortable in the movie seats, too. But if the movie is really good, then I find it can distract you if you're a bit uncomfortable.
- Harp: Yeah. And it's always nice to watch movies that have, kind of, some action, or the cinematography is really nice, on that big screen. That's when I find going to the movies is really enjoyable.
- Maura: It's also funny. I don't know if we're both picky, but the movie seats nowadays are pretty big and spacious. I remember when I was a kid the seats were much smaller and much more basic.
- Harp: Yup, I agree. And I think when I was a teenager, I only ever went to the dollar theatre and those were very, very uncomfortable seats.
- Maura: Oh yeah. There's a dollar cinema in Montreal and the seats are super uncomfortable.
- Harp: Yup. I remember we went there once together. Almost 8 years ago.
- Maura: Yeah. It's been awhile, eh?
- Harp: Yup.
- Maura: But this subject gives me the chance to talk about an amazing movie theatre experience I had, especially talking about seats.
- Harp: Oh, tell me!

- Maura: When I was in Thailand, or before I even got to Thailand, some friends told me that you can go to see a movie and sit in, like, a big reclining chair and you could lean back. You could even have a blanket. And I was so, so excited to try it out!
- Harp: Wow. That sounds super comfortable. So, was it as good as you were hoping it would be?
- Maura: Yes. It was so great. It was just amazing. I don't know what more to say about it. You're comfortable. You're relaxed. And sometimes when it's hot outside and the movie theatres are air conditioned, you can get cold. But not in Bangkok where I went. I got to have a nice cover and I was cozy. It was great!
- Harp: So nice. That sounds great. They need to bring that idea here to Canada.
- Maura: Yeah. You know, I've also recently seen online different places in the world have different kinds of movie theatres and I've seen places where they have, like, a bed. So you can actually really relax and take it easy.
- Harp: Wow. That sounds amazing!
- Maura: Yeah. I wish that the listeners could have just seen your face, Harp, when I said that you could go to the movie theatre and sit in a bed. Her eyes just lit up because she was so excited by that idea.
- Harp: It's true because I love going to the movies but I find the seats are uncomfortable. So if there was a bed or even a reclining chair like you're talking about. That... That sounds amazing.
- Maura: Yeah. We just have to figure out how to get that to Canada now.
- Harp: Yup. It's quite expensive to go to the movies now. It's, like, almost \$15 per person.
- Maura: Yup. I remember when all the movie theatres were kind of revamped with newer, bigger seats and all of the prices went up. Fifteen dollars, for me, maybe because I remember **the good ol' days** when it was cheaper, does seem a little expensive.
- Harp: Yup. So when I do go to the movies, I always go on Tuesday. Because it's cheap Tuesdays and you get a discount. And it's usually half price.
- Maura: Yeah. That's a pretty standard practice across the country. If you wanna go to a movie, Tuesdays are half price so it's a pretty sweet deal. The only thing to keep in mind is that a lot of people go for this deal, so the movie theatres are really, really busy on Tuesdays.

- Harp: Yup, but for me it's worth it because I don't like to watch a movie at the movie theatre and not have popcorn. So, with cheap Tuesdays and getting half price on my ticket, I can get the popcorn, which is also really expensive, but so worth it because it's so delicious.
- Maura: Yeah. I was just thinking that. Normally when I go to the movie I don't buy any snacks. Because they're **super-duper** expensive.
- Harp: Yup, I agree. They're super expensive, but for me, going to the movies is kind of something I do for a date night or it's a special occasion, so I'll splurge and get some popcorn, which can be, like, something like seven or ten dollars. So it's super expensive, but like I said, that popcorn at the movie theatre is just so delicious.
- Maura: Yup, and so salty and buttery, but so good! I do agree. All right, so now let's talk about watching movies at home. And I guess we both just said we haven't been to the theatre recently. So we're probably watching movies at home.
- Harp: Definitely. I watch a lot of movies at home.
- Maura: Mmhmm. How many times a week would you say you're watching a movie?
- Harp: At least once a week I watch a movie at home, I would say.
- Maura: Yeah, nice. I really love to watch a movie too. Especially, like, on a Friday when the week is done and you're tired and you just want to take it easy. You don't wanna have to do much. You can really relax and get comfortable and watch a movie.
- Harp: And pop some popcorn at home, which is delicious but not as good as movie theatre popcorn.
- Maura: Not as salty and not as buttery.
- Harp: Yeah. But still good and it's comfortable because you can wear your pyjamas and just hang out on your couch and watch a movie.
- Maura: It's interesting, because the experience of watching movies at home recently has changed a lot. When we first had VCRs, video cassette recorders, people would have to go to a movie store to rent a movie. They had to go to a store, look at the shelves, choose a movie, and then come home. But now there are so many even faster ways to rent a movie.

- Harp: I know. That's true. And I'm actually sure that some of our... well, many of our younger listeners won't even know what a VCR is, but it's true. Now it's easy to go online and find movies in iTunes or some people illegally download them. But it's easy to do. You don't have to leave your house and go to the movie store and pick a movie, and pay for it, and bring it home.
- Maura: Yeah, but like you said, Harp, a lot of people are either buying movies online or downloading them illegally. It's so popular that so many places where you could go and rent a DVD are closing down. It's very rare to see a place now where you can go and rent movies.
- Harp: Yup. I don't even actually know where to go and rent a movie now in Montreal because the place I used to go to closed down. About 6 months ago.
- Maura: Yeah. I know that here in Canada some rules changed in the New Year and they're really trying **to crack down on that** because so many people are illegally watching movies. It's a problem here and it's a problem, I would say, across the world. Anyone who's got Internet.
- Harp: Yup. It's definitely a problem. But there are many ways to find movies online that are not illegal.
- Maura: Yeah. You can go to the iTunes store and you can buy movies or rent them for a certain amount of time.
- Harp: It's super easy to watch movies at home, but I do remember that I enjoyed going to the movie store and, kind of, walking around and it would make me think about movies that I forgot that I wanted to watch and then I would pick them and watch them and enjoy them. And well, when I'm at home, I feel like I have to know what I want to watch. It's harder to come up with something new and think of a new movie to watch that I haven't thought of.
- Maura: Yeah, I agree it kind of was fun to go and **shop around** and discuss about what movie you felt like watching. Except when you're with a bigger group of people. Then it was so frustrating and almost impossible to all agree on a movie.
- Harp: Definitely. That was quite annoying. I love watching movies at home because it's more comfortable, I find. But the one thing I do miss is watching **trailers**.
- Maura: I totally relate to that. I really like **movie trailers** too. I loved sitting down to a movie in the theatre or at home and watching a few **trailers** before the movie started. It, like, got you in the mood for a movie.
- Harp: Yup. So sometimes what I do is go to YouTube at home and just watch a couple of **movie trailers**. Just to kinda give me that same feeling of being in a movie theatre.

- Maura: Do you watch the **trailers** before you watch a movie?
- Harp: I usually do.
- Maura: That's so funny! I love that.
- Harp: Yeah! I really love **movie trailers**. Sometimes I think they're better than the actual movie.
- Maura: You know, I thought that what you did was really cute. But I watch **movie trailers** online too. Just randomly though. Not before I watch a movie. Like, if I just wanna watch a little bit of something, a few videos, I go online and I just find some new **movie trailers** and watch a few of them. I really like that too.
- Harp: Yeah. They're... I find they're really well done and they get you into the spirit of the movie and they make you really wanna watch them.
- Maura: Yeah, and for that reason, I'm always really up to date on upcoming movies. Because I've probably watched the **trailer** online.
- Harp: Yeah. I find I'm usually watching older **movie trailers**. So you're gonna have to give me some tips on where to find the new ones.
- Maura: Oh, interesting! That's true, that if I really like a movie, I kinda wanna watch the **trailer** to remind me of it.
- Harp: Yup.
- Maura: But we're not at that part yet. We should save it and talk about our favorite movies in a few more minutes.
- Harp: Yes. Let's continue with this topic.
- Maura: Oh yeah! And we also forgot another really popular way that people watch movies. I can't believe that we forgot this way.
- Harp: Which way?
- Maura: Netflix!
- Harp: Oh, how could we have forgotten that?
- Maura: I don't know, because I have a Netflix account and I definitely watch movies there.
- Harp: So silly of us. Why don't you explain what Netflix is?

- Maura: Well, it's a way to watch as many movies or TV shows as you want. You pay a monthly fee and you have access to streaming videos. Most of the time they're not brand new, but you have tons of movies and the selection changes over time. It's a pretty widely used service.
- Harp: Yup. I don't have Netflix, but a couple of my friends do, and it's awesome because they have a lot of older movies but really good movies, and like you said, not brand-new releases but some very good movies on there.
- Maura: Yeah, it's pretty cool. I'm happy with it. You should think about it.
- Harp: Yeah, I have thought about it and maybe I will get it. OK, so I think we should move to the topic we've been waiting for this whole episode. Our favorite movies of all time.
- Maura: I just love my really favorite movies. I think they're so great and probably after talking about them I'm going to wanna watch them again.
- Harp: I'm gonna feel the same way. So, start. Tell me one of your favorite movies of all time.
- Maura: One of my favorite movies of all time is *Reality Bites*.
- Harp: Ah, that's interesting. Yeah, it was a good movie!
- Maura: Yeah. It came out in the early '90s, and if you don't know this movie, it stars Winona Ryder and Ethan Hawke, and they're part of a group of friends who are, like, in their early 20s and they're trying to figure out the rest of their lives. So it's about dating and trying to find your career and where you fit into society. And it's just a really great movie and it has a good soundtrack, too.
- Harp: Cool! When was the last time you saw it? Was it recent?
- Maura: I would say that I did rewatch it in the past couple of years. Actually, it was on Netflix, so I thought, why not?
- Harp: See, that's fun! I like how they have old movies.
- Maura: Yeah. And one thing about it is even though it was filmed in the early '90s, it's still so modern, I find. And so current. Like, the same movie, really, almost could've been made today.
- Harp: So interesting. I haven't watched it recently at all. I think I watched it when it first came out but I might watch it again.
- Maura: I know you'll at least go watch the **movie trailer**.
- Harp: I will for sure.

- Maura: OK, now, of course I have more than one favorite movie but **I'm dying to know** one of yours.
- Harp: OK, I don't know if this is going to be one of your favorite movies of all time but I know a lot of people who have the same favorite movie as me.
- Maura: Oh wait! I think I do know it.
- Harp: *The Princess Bride.*
- Maura: Yes, I do. You've told me before. I think maybe even we've mentioned it on a past episode at some time.
- Harp: I'm sure, because I love this movie so much. *The Princess Bride* is an amazing movie and I think it's actually more than 30 years old now.
- Maura: I have definitely seen that movie but not in a long, long time. Like, when I was a kid.
- Harp: You have to rewatch it. It's amazing. I watched it, I think, last year and it was... It's just great. It's just lighthearted but it's just amazing. I can't say enough good things about it.
- Maura: Yeah, I remember it was really quirky and there were a lot of pretty funny bits with names or physical things. Yeah, I remember it being a good movie, and popular.
- Harp: It is so good. I love that movie. It's... I've watched it so many times in my life. It just brings a smile to my face every time I think about it.
- Maura: Hmm. Yeah, I'm having a lot of movie nostalgia right now too.
- Harp: So what's another one of your favorite movies?
- Maura: Well, I really have a lot of favorite movies but another one of my favorites that's definitely at the top of the list is *The Truman Show*.
- Harp: Ah, that was a really good movie.
- Maura: Yeah. I'll explain a little bit about it, in case you don't know. Jim Carrey's character has been filmed his whole life. It's a reality show and he doesn't know that he's being filmed and all the people in his life are actors. And when the movie starts, he's an adult and he starts questioning a lot of the things that are going on and gets suspicious of a lot of the people that he knows. And I just find it a really great movie and I think it does a really good job at commenting on society and reality shows and how much we make entertainment out of people's lives. I think it's really interesting.

- Harp: Yeah. And, actually, the movie came out before a lot of these reality shows started coming out. And now people reference *The Truman Show* a lot. I find that a lot of people talk about it.
- Maura: I definitely talk about it.
- Harp: Yeah, it was a very good movie.
- Maura: So you must have another favorite movie too.
- Harp: Yes. One of my other favorite movies, and this one is a little bit **cheesy**, but it's *The Bodyguard*.
- Maura: Oh my gosh! That's so funny!
- Harp: Yup. So it's with Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner and I think it was in the '90s that it was filmed. And it's about, basically, a famous singer and her bodyguard. And I will completely admit that it was super **cheesy**, but I've just seen it so many times that it's just really a part of my youth.
- Maura: You know, I think that some of our favorite movies really have a lot to do with the time we watched it and the feelings we had. Because even though I laughed at you, and I will forever laugh at you, I remember when that movie came out, when I was a teenager, and I loved it and all my friends loved it and the song *I Will Always Love You*, sung by Whitney Houston, was so popular. So, I can understand, and if I by chance come across that movie on TV one day, I would probably be really happy to watch it.
- Harp: Yeah, it was a really good movie.
- Maura: But you're right, in that it's kind of a classic man and woman, tense relationship, love develops, but then there's the thriller side.
- Harp: Yup, and I love Kevin Costner, so it was great.
- Maura: Oh my gosh. I'm learning so much about Harp today.
- Harp: Yup, I like most of his movies and I saw him recently in a movie. A baseball movie, I think? And he's just great still. I like him.
- Maura: Wow, interesting!
- Harp: All right, so let's do a quick recap of what we talked about today. We started with talking about going to the movies.
- Maura: And then we talked about watching movies at home, comfy cozy on the couch.

- Harp: Yup, and we talked about some of our favorite movies of all time.
- Maura: And you know, like always, when we have a really fun episode and we talk about something it always gets me in the mood to go do it. So now I wanna go watch some of these older movies that I haven't seen in a while.
- Harp: That's exactly what I was thinking.
- Maura: Well, I guess everyone knows what we're doing tonight!
- Harp: Yup! So remember, check out the website, Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com, and go to Facebook and Twitter and tell us what your favorite movie of all time is.
- Maura: Yeah, that would be great to know. So, we'll say goodbye for now but we'll be back soon with another Culips episode.
- Harp: Bye everyone.
- Maura: Goodbye.

Detailed Explanation

A busy bee

In this episode, Maura says that she hasn't been on Culips episodes recently because she's been **a busy bee**. The expression **a busy bee** is a cute way to refer to a busy person. When we call someone **a busy bee**, we are comparing them to a bee. Bees always work hard and stay busy. They fly from flower to flower in search of pollen that they can use to make honey.

So, **a busy bee** is simply a busy person.

A similar expression that has the same meaning is **as busy as a bee**. Saying that someone is as busy as a bee means that they are a very active and busy person.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Jack: Hey man. What's new? I haven't seen you around for a while.

Tony: I know. Sorry about that. I've just been **a busy bee** these past few weeks. Work has been crazy recently.

Jack: Yeah. I understand. I'm happy to see you anyway.

Tony: Absolutely!

Katie: I invited Jan and Mark for dinner next Saturday but they said they couldn't make it.

Bob: Oh, that's too bad. Why?

Katie: Jan is going on a business trip to Europe the following Monday, so she said she'll be **a busy bee** that weekend preparing for her trip.

Bob: Fair enough. We'll have to get together with them some other time.

To be totally pumped

At the beginning of this episode, Maura says that **she is totally pumped** to start the show. When **you are totally pumped**, you are very excited and enthusiastic.

The origin of this expression is unclear. One theory is that it was first used by bodybuilders. When you pump iron (which means lifting weights), the blood starts flowing through your body and you feel excited, or **pumped**.

So, when you are excited or enthusiastic, you can say **you're totally pumped**. This is a very casual expression and should be avoided in formal situations.

Here are a couple more examples with **to be totally pumped**:

Tim: Are you ready for the big game today?

Polly: You bet. **I'm totally pumped**. Who do you think will win?

Tim: The New York Giants, for sure.

Polly: Yeah. I think so too.

Hannah: I can't wait for exams to be over.

Bill: Me too. **I'm totally pumped** for summer vacation.

Hannah: Yes! It feels like it will never come.

Bill: All we have to do is study for 2 more weeks and then we're free!

Hannah: I can't wait!

To be torn

When **you are torn**, you like something and don't like something at the same time. In this episode, Harp says **she is torn** because she likes watching movies at the theatre (because of the popcorn) but also doesn't like watching movies at the theatre because the seats are uncomfortable.

When **someone is torn**, we can think of them being split into two parts. One half of them wants to do something or likes something and the other half doesn't want to do that thing or doesn't like that thing.

So, when **someone feels torn**, they have two opposite opinions about the same thing. Their emotions are conflicted and they have mixed feelings about one thing.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Randy: It's time to make a decision about the U2 concert. Do you want to go or not?

Lauren: **I'm torn**. They're my favorite band and I really want to go, but tickets are \$200 and that is way more than I can afford.

Randy: I understand, but if you want to go, we need to buy tickets now before they sell out.

Lauren: Yeah, you're right. OK, let's do it. Let's go. You only live once, right?

Randy: Cool. I'll buy the tickets this afternoon.

Dean: Have you decided what you're going to order? You've been studying that menu for the past 10 minutes!

Valerie: I'm still not sure. **I'm torn** between the salmon and the Greek salad.

Dean: I'm going to have the lasagna.

Valerie: Oh. You know what? That actually sounds pretty tasty. I think I'll have that too.

Dean: Perfect. I'll get the waiter's attention so we can put in the order. I'm starving!

A movie trailer

A movie trailer is a short preview of a movie. They are around 1–2 minutes long and are shown at the cinema before the main attraction. Essentially, they are commercials for upcoming movies that will be released soon.

In this episode, Harp and Maura talk about how much they love **movie trailers**. Harp loves them so much that she says she might like **trailers** more than movies! And Maura says that she watches **trailers** on YouTube to learn about new movies that will be coming out soon or to get her into the mood to watch a movie.

So, **a movie trailer** is a short 1- or 2-minute advertisement for an upcoming film. They are screened at movie theatres before the main movie is played.

Here are a couple more examples with **a movie trailer**:

Ralph: I'm going to go see the new Jurassic Park movie tonight. Wanna come with?

Ahmed: Yeah! I saw the **trailer** last week and it looks amazing!

Ralph: Cool. The show starts at 7:00. Let's meet outside the theatre at 6:30.

Ahmed: Right on. See you then.

Jane: I don't understand why I'm forced to watch **movie trailers** before I see a movie. Why am I paying to watch advertisements? I don't get it.

Maria: It's not that big of a deal, is it? Sure you have to sit through 10 minutes of advertising but you get to preview all the cool new movies that are coming out soon.

Jane: Yeah, but I feel like if I watch the **trailer**, I can't watch the actual movie. It gives away too much of the story.

Maria: Really?

Jane: Yeah. So what I do is just show up at the theatre 10 minutes after show time to skip the **trailers** and get right to the main attraction.

Maria: Oh, that's a good idea.

The good ol' days

In this episode, Maura talks about **the good ol' days** when movies tickets were cheaper than they are now. When we talk about **the good ol' days**, we get nostalgic for a time in the past where things seemed easier, better, or simpler.

When you remember the past as being better than the present, then you are remembering **the good ol' days**.

When most people say this expression, they drop the final "d" sound from the word **old**. However, it is possible to say and write this expression including the "d" too. It's up to you!

So, **the good ol' days** refer to a time in the past that you miss because some aspect of it was better than the present.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Robert: Man, remember back in **the good ol' days** when you could fill your gas tank \$15?

Gary: Yeah. I wish we could do that now. I'd sure have a lot of extra cash around.

Robert: That's totally true!

Eve: Remember when we were in high school and we skipped class to go to the mall?

Cathy: Yeah! Wow, those sure were **the good ol' days**, hey?

Eve: Absolutely! I had so much fun back then!

Cathy: Yeah, me too.

Super-duper

Super-duper means *very* or *to a great extent* when we use it to modify adjectives.

In this episode, Maura says that she doesn't buy snacks when she goes to the movie theatre because they are **super-duper** expensive. In other words, they are very, very expensive.

When **super-duper** is used as an adjective to modify a noun, it means *great* or *awesome*. For example, a **super-duper** bicycle is a great bike.

This is a cute and informal expression that sounds very innocent. It is the type of expression that a child would say.

On its own, *duper* isn't a word. It is only used in the expression **super-duper**.

This type of expression is called a rhyming compound. In a rhyming compound, the second part of the expression is changed slightly so that it rhymes with the first element. Usually only a single letter is added or changed. Some other rhyming compounds in English are *okeydokey*, *helter-skelter*, and *holy-moly*.

The expression **super-duper** was first used in the 1940s in the USA. It is a very casual expression and isn't used in formal situations.

Here are a couple more examples with **super-duper**:

George: How was your weekend?

Travis: It was **super-duper**!

George: Oh yeah? What did you do?

Travis: I took a quick trip to New York City and saw a show on Broadway. It was great!

Jeannie: Hey, you're back! How was your vacation?

Melody: It was **super-duper** great! I had so much fun!

Jeanie: You were in Mexico, right? I visited Mexico a few years ago. I love it there.

Melody: Yeah, me too!

To crack down on something

When someone **cracks down on something**, they try very hard to stop that thing from happening. For example, if the police **crack down on drunk driving**, then they try their best to stop people from driving while they are drunk.

In this episode, Maura says that the Canadian authorities are **cracking down on illegal movie downloads**. In other words, the authorities are putting a lot of effort into stopping people from illegally downloading movies.

When we use the phrasal verb **to crack down on something**, we talk about putting more effort into stopping something. To use our earlier example, if the police are **cracking down on drunk driving** then they are putting more effort than usual into catching drunk drivers.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Barb: OK, I'm taking off now. It was nice to see you again!

Philip: Yeah. Thanks so much for coming over. Drive carefully and make sure you don't use your cell phone while you're driving. The police are **really cracking down on drivers** who text and drive.

Barb: Thanks for the tip. I'll make sure to stay off my phone. See you later!

Philip: Bye!

Martha: How was your flight?

Harvey: The flight was OK, but I ended up having to check my carry-on bag because it was too big.

Martha: I heard the airlines are **cracking down on oversized carry-on bags** these days. Is that what happened to you?

Harvey: Yeah. They said my bag was too big. I had to pay \$25 to check it in.

Martha: That's too bad. I'll have to remember to stay within the size limits next time I fly.

Harvey: Yeah. You really should, otherwise you'll end up having to pay the fee.

To shop around

When you **shop around** for something, you look at and compare the price, quality, design, etc. of many different items to see which one is the best to buy.

In this episode, Harp and Maura say that they miss renting movies. This is because it was fun to visit video rental stores and **shop around** for the best movie to watch. You could browse through the large selection of movies and decide which one looked the best to watch.

The difference between the verb *to shop* and the phrasal verb **to shop around** is the aspect of comparing different goods or services before purchasing. When you shop, you simply go out to buy something. However, when you **shop around**, you look at many items before choosing the best one to buy.

So, when you **shop around** for something, you make comparisons before you decide to buy an item. You might look at various stores for the best price before deciding which store gets your business. Or you might compare several different movies at a rental store before choosing one to watch.

If you like studying English through music, you should check out the classic song *Shop Around* by Smokey Robinson and the Miracles. The expression **shop around** is repeated throughout the song.

Here are a couple more examples with **to shop around**:

Pia: I'm **shopping around** right now for a new car. I've test-driven a few but haven't found anything I like. Do you have any recommendations for me? I know you're a car guy.

Jeff: Have you tried the new 2016 Toyotas? I've been hearing nothing but good things about them.

Pia: No. I haven't checked them out yet.

Jeff: Well then I suggest you take one for a test-drive.

Pia: Cool. I'll do that. Thanks for your help!

Jeff: No problem.

Omar: When are you going to get a new phone, man? Yours is so old! No one uses a flip phone any more.

Markus: It's funny you mention it. I've been **shopping around** for a new phone recently.

Omar: Oh, yeah?

Markus: Yeah. I just can't decide if I want to go with an Android or an iPhone.

Omar: Yeah, it's a tough decision. They both have advantages and disadvantages.

Markus: But you're right. I really do need a new phone. I'll make a decision soon and then upgrade to something better.

To bite

In this episode, Maura says that one of her all-time favorite movies is *Reality Bites*. The slang expression **to bite** was very popular in the 1990s. When something **bites**, it means that it is really bad. In other words, the title of this movie could be phrased as *Reality is Really Bad*.

This expression is not used very commonly these days. However, you will still encounter it in movies, books, and TV shows from the '80s and '90s. It was a very informal expression used mainly by teenagers and young adults.

So, when something is bad or unfortunate, it **bites**.

Here's one more example with this expression:

Ashley: How did you do on your exam?

Frank: I failed!

Ashley: Wow. That **bites**.

Frank: I know. I can't believe it. I'm pretty upset. How did you do?

To be dying to do something

When **you are dying to do something**, you really, really want to do it. In this episode, Maura tells Harp **she is dying to know** Harp's favourite movies. This means that Maura really, really wants to know what Harp's favourite movies are.

When we use this expression, we exaggerate how much we want to do something. Essentially, we say that we want to do something so much that we would be willing to die in order to do that thing. In reality, however, this expression just means that we want to do something very much.

So, when **you are dying to do something**, you really want to do it.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Taylor: Have you ever been to Europe?

Alex: No, but **I'm dying to go!**

Taylor: Me too. We should go together! We could backpack around for a couple months in the summer.

Alex: That's actually a really cool idea. Let's do it.

Taylor: Yeah!

Valerie: Did you see Marc and Lisa talking outside the boardroom yesterday?

Wonda: I did!

Valerie: Do you have any idea what they were talking about?

Wonda: No, but **I'm dying to find out**.

Valerie: I wonder if they were talking about hiring a new office assistant.

Wonda: I sure hope so. We could really use some extra help around here.

Cheesy

In this episode, Harp says that one of her favorite movies is *The Bodyguard*. She admits that even though this movie is completely **cheesy**, she still likes it.

When something (like a movie, a book, or a song) is **cheesy**, it is embarrassing to like because it is too emotional or romantic, or because it is very badly produced and is unoriginal.

Harp thinks *The Bodyguard* is **cheesy** because it is too romantic. The love story is over the top and unrealistic. Because the emotional content is exaggerated, we can say that the movie is **cheesy**.

We can also use **cheesy** to describe movies, books, songs, etc. that are very bad but that still enjoyed by many people. For example, there are many **cheesy** horror movies that are very poorly produced but are liked by many people exactly for this reason.

So, when something is **cheesy**, it is either too emotional or very bad. However, even though it has these negative qualities, people still enjoy it (but might be embarrassed to admit it).

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

Tim: Can you change the radio to a different station? I hate this song. It's so **cheesy**!

Cam: No way! I love it!

Tim: Can you at least turn it down a little bit then, please?

Cam: All right, fine, fine.

Tim: Thanks.

Nancy: How was the movie you saw last night?

David: So **cheesy**, but good.

Nancy: What did you see?

David: Ah, it was a rom-com.

Nancy: Oh yeah?

David: Yeah. It followed a pretty typical story. Guy and girl meet and fall in love. But it was still cute.

Nancy: I love romantic comedies. I'll have to check it out.

David: If you're a fan of the genre, you'll like it for sure.

Nancy: Perfect!

Quiz

1. **When we feel nostalgic about the past, what do we miss?**
 - a) the green days
 - b) the great olden times
 - c) the golden olds
 - d) the good ol' days

2. **What sport likely gave us the expression *to be totally pumped*?**
 - a) body building
 - b) yoga
 - c) ice hockey
 - d) gymnastics

3. **When a movie is cheesy, what is it?**
 - a) too funny
 - b) too romantic
 - c) too depressing
 - d) too scary

4. **What are the movie previews that are played before the main attraction?**
 - a) testers
 - b) tractors
 - c) trailers
 - d) teasing

5. **Why does Harp like watching movies at home?**
 - a) There are no movie theatres close to her house.
 - b) It is more comfortable than the theatre.
 - c) The popcorn she makes at home is more delicious than movie theatre popcorn.
 - d) She doesn't like the loud noise of the theatre sound system.

6. **When was the slang expression *to bite* most popular?**
 - a) in the 1970s
 - b) in the 1940s
 - c) in the 2000s
 - d) in the 1990s

7. According to Maura, what are Canadian authorities cracking down on?

- a) illegal downloads of movies
- b) people watching movies on their phones while driving
- c) talking in movie theatres
- d) sneaking into the movies for free

8. When you are torn, how do you feel?

- a) conflicted
- b) depressed
- c) excited
- d) happy

9. Which of the following is an expression in English?

- a) as sad as a snake
- b) as happy as a hippo
- c) as busy as a bee
- d) as tired as a toad

Answers:

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