

Chatterbox #145 – Learning to drive

Episode Description

Do you remember getting behind the wheel for the very first time? This episode is all about learning to drive. Join Andrew and Harp for their conversation about getting their driver's licences. They talk about going to driver's ed., hating parallel parking, and feeling the freedom that comes with becoming a driver!

Sample Dialogue

- Harp: I'm a pretty safe, cautious driver. I have to be honest, though, I think that during my driver's test is the only time that I successfully parallel parked.
- Andrew: Me too! That's so funny. I hate parallel parking, which is dumb, because in Montreal, you have to parallel park all the time. But I still hate it and I think the only time that I've **nailed it**, just perfectly, was on my driving test.

Expressions Included in the Learning Materials:

- Same old
- To rack up something
- A life event
- To get behind the wheel
- Wild
- Driver's ed.
- Yeah, no
- It goes to show that
- To nail something
- A breeze
- To jog someone's memory
- To freak someone out



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Note: The words and expressions that appear in **bold text** within the transcript are discussed in more detail in the detailed explanations section that follows the transcript.

Transcript

Harp: Hello everyone. This is Harp.

Andrew: And I'm Andrew and we are here with another Culips episode.

Harp: Yes. Remember to 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 when you are a member, you get access to our Learning Materials, which include full transcripts for each of our episodes, detailed explanations of all the key expressions that we talk about in our shows, and you get quizzes, which will help you test your comprehension.

Harp: We strongly recommend that you become a member. It's the best way to improve your English even more. And remember, we're also on Facebook and on Twitter, so come on over and say hi. You can leave us suggestions for upcoming episodes or any sort of comment.

Andrew: That is right. So, Harp, what's new? How are you doing?

Harp: I'm pretty good. Nothing new, **same old**. How about you?

Andrew: You know what? I'm actually pretty excited right now because just before we met here, I did some grocery shopping and when I looked at my receipt, I noticed that I have **racked up** a ton of frequent shopper points at my grocery store, and I think next time I go shopping, I can just use my points. I won't have to pay for any groceries.

Harp: That is super exciting!

Andrew: Yeah. It's... It's funny. The grocery store that's really close to my house has a deal with my bank and if I use my bank card when I shop there, I get a ton of free points so it's really easy to collect them.

Harp: I love free stuff, so that's great and it's easy for you, too. So that's even better!

Andrew: Oh yeah!

Harp: I think next time you should have to bring a little snack over from the grocery store.

- Andrew: Hey, that's a good idea. I'll do that next time.
- Harp: All right. So let's get started with today's episode. We're gonna do a Chatterbox episode, and that's where we chat. We talk about different events, current events, or we interview people, or we pick just an interesting topic.
- Andrew: Yeah. And today we are going to talk about a significant **life event**. We're going to talk about getting your driver's licence.
- Harp: Yes. That very important moment when you're able to drive.
- Andrew: Yeah. So before you get your licence, you have to learn how to drive and then, of course, you have to take your test, and then you're allowed **to get behind the wheel** by yourself, and it's a real sense of freedom that you feel when you get to drive by yourself for the first time.
- Harp: Yes. And so today we're going to break it down to learning how to drive, and then we're going to talk about actually taking a driver's test, and then afterwards, when you have your driver's licence, all about driving.
- Andrew: That's right. So, let's start with learning how to drive.
- Harp: So how old were you when you first learned how to drive?
- Andrew: Well, as our listeners might know, I grew up in British Columbia. And in British Columbia, you have to be 16 before you can legally drive. So, I guess I was 16. I remember, right after my birthday, I went down to the driver's licensing office and got my learner's licence.
- Harp: You know, that's interesting, because I grew up in Alberta. And in Alberta, you can get your learner's when you're 14. But I know for sure I didn't start when I was 14 because I felt too young, so I... I started learning at 16 as well.
- Andrew: Yeah. That is **wild**, isn't it? Because British Columbia and Alberta are neighbouring provinces. They're close geographically, but that's a two-year difference! That you can learn to drive when you're 14 is amazing to me. Do you know why you can do it when you're so young?
- Harp: I'm going to assume it has something to do with all the farms, because the kids already start driving tractors and farm trucks on the farm. So why not make it young?
- Andrew: Yeah. That makes sense to me.
- Harp: Yeah. I have always assumed that that's why. I think it's a little bit ridiculous for the city kids, though. We're too young at 14 to start driving.

- Andrew: Yes. That is a scary thought to me, to have a kid, really, at 14, driving around in a city.
- Harp: No, for sure. So, yeah, 14. I... I started at 16, like I said, and I remember it was pretty scary learning how to drive.
- Andrew: Yeah. So how did you learn how to drive? Did you take lessons or did a family member help you out?
- Harp: I took lessons. I... I think that my parents would have killed me. They would have been very impatient with me. So I took, kind of like a session, where we did some classroom learning and then I would go out with the teacher and the teacher taught me most of the basics and then I did practise with my parents. It's intense being in a car and all of a sudden you're in control of it. But I remember when I was learning, and when I first started, the teacher that I was with, she had a brake on her side of the car. Did you have the same experience?
- Andrew: I did, because... I didn't take driver's lessons. My parents taught me how to drive. But right before I had to take my test, I was a little nervous about taking the test, so I did a one-hour session with a driving instructor, who sort of went over some of the things that would be on the test with me. And in that car, she had an extra steering wheel and an extra brake.
- Harp: Yup. So, I remember the same thing. My driving instructor had the same thing, a steering wheel and a brake, and I actually felt safer that way because she could stop me if I was going out of control.
- Andrew: Yeah, but the funny thing is, I don't think she had an extra gas pedal. And sometimes, to avoid a dangerous situation, you actually need speed up. So I don't know how that would work, but luckily I didn't have to find out.
- Harp: Yeah. From what I remember, in Alberta if you took **driver's ed.**, your parents would get a deal on your insurance when you became a driver, when you got your licence. So my parents really... They basically forced me to take it. But it was really good and my instructor was great. She was super patient with me and, yeah, it was... It was a good experience.
- Andrew: **Yeah, no.** I think you're right about the insurance discount. And it makes sense because you're going to be a safer driver if you take driving lessons.
- Harp: Yup.

- Andrew: And a lot of my friends from high school... There was a program offered by my high school where you could take driving lessons through the school, and the students that went and took the driving lessons, they always passed their tests and they got their licence right away. And my friends who just studied with their parents, or with their older brother or sister, they always failed and had to take the test, you know, two or three times. So **it goes to show that** the classroom studies are very helpful.
- Harp: Yup. So let's actually move on to the second part, where we talk about taking the driver's test.
- Andrew: Yeah. So you get your learner's licence for 6 months. And after 6 months, you're eligible to take the test and become a full-fledged driver.
- Harp: And now I have to ask you: how many times did you have to take the test before you passed and got your licence?
- Andrew: Only once.
- Harp: Yeah. Me too, actually.
- Andrew: That's good. I feel like I'm a very safe driver. I don't like to take too many risks and this has helped me out on the road, especially with taking tests.
- Harp: Yeah, I agree. I'm a pretty safe, cautious driver. I have to be honest, though, I think that during my driver's test is the only time that I successfully parallel parked.
- Andrew: Me too! That's so funny. I hate parallel parking, which is dumb, because in Montreal, you have to parallel park all the time. But I still hate it and I think the only time that I've **nailed it**, just perfectly, was on my driving test.
- Harp: Yeah, for me too. It's... I suck at parallel parking and in Edmonton you don't really need to really do it very often because there's so much space, there are so many parking lots. But in Montreal, you always have to parallel park and I hate it and I get so stressed out when there are cars behind me waiting and they're honking and it's so stressful, I find.
- Andrew: Yup, it's a nightmare. I usually just keep driving around the block till I find an easy place to park.
- Harp: Yup. So, that was the only time that I really successfully, like, really quickly parallel parked, was during my driving exam.

- Andrew: Mmhmm. Luckily for me, on my driving exam, they took me to a very secluded road where there was no other cars behind me, and I think I had just been practising downtown, where it's very busy and stressful, and so, because on the test it was in a secluded, quiet area, it was just **a breeze**. It was easy to park there.
- Harp: Yup. For me, when I had to pass my test, I had to do a theoretical section, where I had to do kind of a multiple-choice exam about different driving rules, like, can you turn right when... All the sorts of different driving rules. And then I had to do an actual practical exam. Did you have to do the same thing?
- Andrew: Yeah. There was a little kiosk in the driver's office with a touchscreen computer, and there were just multiple-choice questions about the theory of driving. What the road signs mean and what you can and can't do in certain situations.
- Harp: Do you think that you could pass the theoretical exam right now?
- Andrew: I think so.
- Harp: Yeah?
- Andrew: What about you? Do you think so?
- Harp: I don't think so. I... I don't drive very often anymore, so I think I've forgotten a lot.
- Andrew: Yeah. You know, I took many years off of driving when I was living overseas. And even when I came back to Canada, I really got into biking and I still rely heavily on my bike but I do drive once in a while, so I think I'm... I'm up to date.
- Harp: OK. So, yup, the driving test. We were both lucky and smart, apparently, because we passed the first time. But, like you said, there were quite a few of my friends who took the exam over and over and over again.
- Andrew: I remember my best friend was several months older than me. So he was eligible to take his test way before all the other students in my grade were, and we were really relying on him, really hoping that he would get his licence because then we'd have the freedom to drive around wherever we wanted. So, when his test day came up, we were all just cheering for him, rooting for him to pass the test and then he failed and we were all so disappointed. Like, collective disappointment through the whole classroom.
- Harp: Oh, that's tough. He had the pressure of the whole class on his shoulders.
- Andrew: And he let us all down. Yup.

Harp: Yeah. I had some friends who... I think they had to take it five or six times.

Andrew: Oh my gosh!

Harp: Yeah. It's pretty intense. So, should we move on to our last topic, about finally being free to drive alone?

Andrew: Yeah. Let's do it.

Harp: So, do you remember the first place you drove on your own after you got your licence?

Andrew: I do, actually. I drove to... This is not too exciting, but I drove to a music lesson. I had a drum lesson and that was the first time I drove by myself.

Harp: Oh, that's nice. Yeah. It's a bit more exciting, actually, than my story because the first place I drove was to the grocery store to pick up something for my mom.

Andrew: That's a nice thing to do for your mom, though.

Harp: Yup. I think she was very excited that I got my driver's licence.

Andrew: Now, in BC... I think this is different than Alberta, actually. In British Columbia, we have what's called graduated licensing. So when you have your learner's licence, you have to display a big L on your car. That says you're a learner. And once you pass your learner's test, you have to display a big N sticker on your car, which means you're a novice, you're a new driver. And you're actually not allowed to drive by yourself when you have an N now. When I got my N, I could drive by myself. But these days, you need to drive with somebody who's over 25 and has a full driver's licence.

Harp: In Alberta, we didn't have the signs, but when I had just my learner's licence, I could drive with only one person in the car, who had to be over 18 years old. But as soon as I got my actual driver's licence, I could do as I pleased.

Andrew: Mmhmm. I know some of my friends would actually go to Alberta in the summer to take their test, so that they could get the Alberta licence, because it gives you a lot more freedom right away than the British Columbian one, where you have to wait for another 18 months to take another test, and then get your full licence.

Harp: Yeah. And I think that most provinces have something similar to BC has now, with the graduated driver's licence, which makes sense because it's not like you're going to pass the test and then all of a sudden you're the best driver ever and you're OK on your own. Because I sure wasn't!

- Andrew: Yeah. It's a skill that takes a lot of time to refine and practise. So I know Ontario has graduating licensing and I know here in Quebec, it's required that you take driver's lessons before you drive. So, I think you're right. The rest of the country is offering more elaborate learning programs.
- Harp: Yup, but I do remember that once I had my licence, I was able to take my parents' car every once in a while. I didn't have my own car. Did you have your own car?
- Andrew: No. I never had my own car. I had to drive my parents' minivan around town.
- Harp: Yeah. My parents had a minivan and then they had a smaller car, I think it was a Toyota Corolla. So I always wanted the Toyota because the van is just big and hard to park and hard to navigate.
- Andrew: Yeah. The negative aspect about driving a van around when you're a teenager, especially if you take it to school, which I did sometimes, was that all your friends ask for rides everywhere, because you got lots of room. And I always hated that. I was like a chauffeur.
- Harp: Yeah, I'm sure. No, I never drove to school but I was actually working at McDonalds, it was my first job, and I used to have to work the morning shift, which I think back in the day was starting around 5:30 or 6:00 in the morning. And before I got my licence, my mom would wake up early and drive me to work, and that's why she was super excited I got my licence. But, I remember the first winter, every time I was at work, and it started snowing, or there was any snow on the ground, before I was leaving, my mom would wake up. Or if I was working the night shift, she would call me at work. "Do you remember how to drive in the snow? Remember to go slowly. Don't slam on your brakes." Every time! Every time it snowed she would call me.
- Andrew: Yeah. I don't have kids, so I don't know what it's like but I imagine when your kid learns to drive for the first time that it's pretty stressful on the parent.
- Harp: Oh, I'm sure it is.
- Andrew: Yeah. Even now, when my mom knows that I'm on a road trip or something, she's always like, "Text me when you leave, and text me when you get there, and don't drive too fast, and if it snows, just pull over and wait for it to stop."
- Harp: Yup. I think all moms, or all parents, are pretty much the same for that, always worrying about their kids and driving because it can be quite dangerous in Canada, with all the snow.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. So now, this is something that I've been thinking about recently and you **jogged my memory** earlier in our conversation, when we were talking about the age of driving.

Harp: Mmhmm.

Andrew: And now that I'm a little bit older, it **freaks me out** to think that there are 16-year-olds driving around on the streets. What do you think?

Harp: I actually agree with you. I think you should have to be 18 to be able to drive.

Andrew: Yeah. And I think maybe in the USA, in some places, this is the law. But I don't know. In Canada, I agree. We should change it, too.

Harp: Yup. Sixteen is very young. You're still very impressionable and you wanna impress your friends and so you're willing to take more risks, have more people in the car, or drive fast to impress them. It's just dangerous.

Andrew: Mmhmm. Especially with teenaged boys.

Harp: I was going to say that, but I didn't.

Andrew: I think there's actually data, research that's been done, that shows that teenaged boys are really, really bad drivers, so, yeah. Maybe we should wait a little longer. I think it's a good idea, in retrospect.

Harp: Yeah. I know you think you're all mature at 16 when you're young, but looking back now, I think waiting a little bit longer could be OK.

Andrew: And kids these days have so many distractions in the car, too. Cell phones and GPS. Some people even have DVD players in their cars.

Harp: Yup. I agree. There's too much that can distract someone, because back in the day, when I started driving, I did not have a cell phone and I would never even consider eating in the car while I was driving because it would be too distracting. But now it seems like kids are just... Not even just kids, people are just texting while they're driving. They're talking. I've seen people with DVDs on. It's kind of crazy.

Andrew: Yeah. This is really not something that you want, you know, to happen while you're driving because it's just plain dangerous.

Harp: Yup, definitely. OK, so I think we should do a quick recap for today's episode. We started with talking about learning to drive, and then we talked about taking the driver's test.

Andrew: Mmhmm. And then we ended up with talking about what we did and where we went after we passed our test.

- Harp: Yes. So remember, as always, go check out our website. It's amazing. Culips.com. C-U-L-I-P-S.com. And if you like us, and you're on iTunes, you should rate us.
- Andrew: That is right. And if you want to listen to more, we have a lot of back episodes. We have over 300 archived episodes. So if you just can't get enough Culips, check out some of our older episodes.
- Harp: Yup. They're oldies but goodies.
- Andrew: That's right. And we're on Facebook and we're on Twitter, so if you use those social networking sites, check us out.
- Harp: Bye everyone.
- Andrew: Bye bye.

Detailed Explanations

Same old

At the start of this episode, Andrew asks Harp how she's doing, and she replies by saying "Nothing new, **same old**." The idiom **same old** means nothing special has happened since last time. I've just been doing the same old things. So, when a situation is unchanged since you last spoke about it, we can use **same old**.

Usually, this expression is repeated. It is very common to hear it said as **same old, same old**. However, as Harp demonstrates in this episode, it can also be said as just **same old**, without the repetition.

You can use **same old** to describe any situation that hasn't changed since the last time you talked about it.

Here are a couple more examples with **same old**:

Samantha: Hey Alistair! How are you? I haven't seen you in a while.

Alastair: I'm great! How are you? What's new?

Samantha: Oh, not too much. **Same old, same old**.

Alastair: Cool. Are you still working at the cafe?

Samantha: Yup. Still there.

Alastair: That's awesome. I'd love to stay and chat but I'm late for a meeting. I'll drop by the cafe sometime soon and we can catch up.

Samantha: Sounds good! Take care.

Richard: How is school these days?

Sally: **Same old, same old**.

Richard: You don't get to work on any interesting projects?

Sally: Nope. It's the same every day: class, homework, repeat.

Richard: That's too bad.

Sally: Yeah. I'm hoping next year will be more interesting.

To rack up something

At the start of this episode, Andrew says he is excited because he has **racked up** a lot of frequent shopper points at his local grocery store. When you **rack up something** (like money, points, or profits) you gradually acquire or collect those things. In other words, Andrew slowly collected many frequent shopper points and now he is excited because he will be able to exchange those points for free groceries.

To rack up is a separable phrasal verb. This means that the direct object of the sentence can be put in between **rack** and **up** or it can come after the whole verb. This means that both **to rack points up** and **to rack up points** are correct.

So, when you slowly collect a large amount of something, you **rack up** that thing.

Here are a couple more examples with **to rack up something**:

Rachel: Do you have any summer vacation plans?

John: Yes. My wife and I are going to Europe.

Rachel: That's great!

John: Yeah! The best thing is that we don't have to pay for the flights!

Rachel: Did you win a contest or something?

John: Nope. We just used our frequent flyer points to pay for the tickets. My wife has to travel a lot for her job so she was able **to rack a ton of points up**.

Rachel: Amazing! Have a great trip.

John: Thanks!

Michelle: I'm thinking of opening a business.

Alan: Oh really?

Michelle: Yes. I'm really starting to get tired of my boss. She's driving me crazy!

Alan: What kind of business would you open?

Michelle: I'm not 100% sure yet, but it will definitely be a business that will let me **rack up** a bunch of money. I want to be rich!

Alan: OK, well, when you think of the perfect idea, let me know. Maybe I'll be your business partner!

A life event

A life event is any event that changes your life in a significant way. The topic of this episode is learning to drive. Getting your driver's licence is **a life event** because having the freedom to drive anywhere you want to changes your life in a major way.

Some other major **life events** include:

- Travelling abroad
- Graduating
- Buying a house
- Getting married (or divorced)
- Having a baby
- Starting a new career or business
- Retiring

The social networking site Facebook has a feature called *Life Events* that allows users to share important moments with their personal networks. Facebook named this feature **Life Events** because any major event that changes how you live your life can be considered **a life event**.

Here are a couple more examples with **a life event**.

Roseanna: What do you do for a living?

Ray: I'm **a life event** celebration planner.

Roseanna: That sounds interesting. I've never heard of that job before. What is it?

Ray: Well, I help people plan celebrations for significant events that occur in their lives. So, I plan things like baby showers, birthday parties, weddings, and funerals.

Roseanna: Oh, neat. Do you like your job?

Ray: Yes. I love it!

Neal: When I was a teenager, I went through a difficult **life event**.

Emma: Really? What happened?

Neal: My grandparents passed away. It was hard because we were very close and I loved them a lot.

Emma: I'm sorry to hear that. Losing loved ones is really difficult.

To get behind the wheel

To get behind the wheel means to drive a car or operate a vehicle. So, if you are a person who has **gotten behind the wheel**, you are a person who is driving.

In this episode, Andrew says that he felt a sense of freedom the first time **he got behind the wheel**. In other words, the first time he drove a car, he felt free.

The word *wheel* in this expression is short for steering wheel. When you operate a vehicle, you sit behind the steering wheel so that you can control it. Therefore, the expression **to get behind the wheel** means to drive.

Here are a couple more examples with **to get behind the wheel**:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Lee: | This was a super fun party but I'm pretty tired. I think I'm going to go home now. |
| Charlotte: | Are you sure you're OK to get behind the wheel ? Did you have anything to drink tonight? |
| Lee: | No, I don't drink. But I appreciate your concern. |
| Charlotte: | No problem. See you later. |
| Lee: | Have a good night. Bye! |

- | | |
|-------|---|
| Alex: | Whoa. Check out that car! What a beauty! |
| Neil: | That's a Ferrari, right? |
| Alex: | You bet it is. I'd love to get behind the wheel of one of those. |
| Neil: | Me too! It'd be amazing! |

Wild

In this episode, Harp explains that in the province of Alberta, it is possible to get a driver's licence when you are 14 years old. Andrew replies to this by saying "That is **wild**, isn't it?" The adjective **wild** has many different meanings, but in this context, **wild** means unbelievable, crazy, or stupid. In other words, Andrew thinks that it is unbelievable that the government allows 14-year-olds to legally drive.

One of the other definitions of **wild** is cool, interesting, or fun. So, you have to be careful when using this word. For example, if you say "Last night I went to a **wild** party," it means that you went to a very fun party.

On the other hand, if someone tells you that they just got a speeding ticket even though they were only driving 1 kilometre over the speed limit, and you respond by saying “That’s **wild**,” it means that you can’t believe they were given a ticket.

When the adjective **wild** is used to mean unbelievable or stupid, it is usually in response to hearing a piece of news that is difficult to make sense of or to understand.

Here are a couple more examples with **wild** (meaning unbelievable):

Jerry: How did you do on your final exams?
Sylvia: I only got a B in economics.
Jerry: Really? That’s **wild**. You studied so hard for that exam.
Sylvia: Yeah, I know. For some reason I just didn’t do very well.
Jerry: It happens sometimes. Don’t be too hard on yourself.
Sylvia: Yeah. I’m not too disappointed. I still passed!

Isabelle: Did you hear the news?
Gwen: No. What happened?
Isabelle: The company president is resigning!
Gwen: What? That’s **wild**!
Isabelle: I know, right?
Gwen: Did he give a reason?
Isabelle: He said he wants to spend more time with his family.
Gwen: I guess I can understand that.
Isabelle: Yeah, me too. It must be a very stressful job!

Driver's ed.

In this episode, Harp says that she attended **driver's ed.** classes when she was learning to drive. **Driver's ed.** stands for driver's education. **Driver's ed.** is a program or course that teaches students how to drive.

In Canada, student drivers who complete **driver's ed.** can usually get cheaper car insurance rates than students who do not take a **driver's ed.** course. From the insurance company's point of view, students who have completed **driver's ed.** are safer drivers than those who have not attended **driver's ed.**

So, the expression **driver's ed.** is short for driver's education and is used to talk about driving schools that teach student drivers how to drive safely.

Here's one more example with **driver's ed.**:

Tara: What are you doing after school? Do you want to study for our math quiz?

Suzy: I have **driver's ed.** right after school. But I could meet you around 7:00 to study.

Tara: OK, let's do that. If I don't study for this quiz, I'm definitely going to fail.

Suzy: Yeah, me too. OK. See you at 7:00.

Yeah, no

In this episode, Harp says that student drivers who go to driver's ed. get discounts on insurance once they get their licence. Andrew responds to this statement by saying "**Yeah, no.** I think you're right."

Why does Andrew say **yeah, no** here? Why doesn't he just say *yeah*? How is it possible to put two words with opposite meanings right next to each other?

The expression **yeah, no** is a recent addition to English and was originally Australian English slang. It has various meanings depending on the context, but in the example in this episode, Andrew uses **yeah, no** to show that he strongly agrees with Harp's statement.

So, when you agree with something that your conversation partner has said, you can express strong agreement by responding with **yeah, no...**

This is a complicated expression in English, and linguists are still trying to figure out exactly how and why native English speakers use **yeah, no**. If you're interested in reading more about the various uses of **yeah, no**, check out this fascinating discussion at the *Language Log* website: <http://itre.cis.upenn.edu/~myl/languageblog/archives/005525.html>

Here are a couple more examples with **yeah, no**:

Henry: So what's the plan for today?

Jamie: I was thinking we could hike up Mount Royal and then have a picnic on the top. Does that sound ok to you?

Henry: **Yeah, no**, that sounds great!

Jamie: Perfect. Let's meet at 9am.

Henry: See you then.

Farah: What's the best way to get downtown from here?

Tony: I think you should take Highway 12.

Farah: At this hour? It's 5pm. Traffic will be really bad.

Tony: **Yeah, no**. You're right. You should probably take Highway 31 instead.

Farah: Yeah. That sounds like a better plan. OK, see you later!

Tony: Bye.

It goes to show that

In this episode, Andrew says that student drivers who take driver's ed. classes pass the driving test more easily than student drivers who don't take driver's ed. He continues by saying that this **goes to show that** driver's ed. classes are effective.

The idiom **it goes to show that** can be used when we want to communicate that something proves that something else is true. In other words, Andrew says that the high pass rates achieved by driver's ed. students prove that driver's ed. works.

So, we use **it goes to show that** when something proves that something else is true. The best way to understand this idiom is to think of **goes to show** as a synonym for proves.

The word *just* is almost always used along with **it goes to show that**.

Here are a couple more examples with ***it goes to show that***:

Evan: Oh no!

Paige: What happened?

Evan: I just broke my watch.

Paige: What? Really? How did that happen?

Evan: I have no idea, but the strap is totally broken.

Paige: Can you take it back to the store to get fixed? Is it still under warranty?

Evan: No. I only paid 10 dollars for it.

Paige: Well, **that just goes to show that** cheaper doesn't always mean better.

Evan: Yeah, totally.

Clay: Congratulations on making another sale!

Emily: Thanks!

Clay: How many have you made this month now? Six?

Emily: That was my seventh sale, actually.

Clay: Unbelievable! **This just goes to show that** you're a great asset to our company.

Emily: Wow, thanks. I'm doing my best.

Clay: You're doing a great job. Keep it up!

To nail something

In this episode, Andrew says that he **nailed** the parallel parking part of his driving test. When you **nail something**, you do that thing perfectly. In other words, Andrew did a perfect parallel park during his driving exam.

When you have to do a challenging task, and you do it absolutely perfectly, we can say that you **nailed it**. This expression is often used when talking about sports. For example, if a basketball player takes a difficult shot and the ball goes in the basket, we could say that he **nailed** the shot.

So, when you have done a job, task, or activity perfectly, you have **nailed it**.

This expression is related to the idiom *to hit the nail on the head*. When you hit the nail on the head, you make a correct guess or say something that's truthful.

Here's an example with *to hit the nail on the head*:

Jill: Are you doing OK? You look pretty tired.
Gino: You hit the nail on the head. I didn't sleep at all last night.
Jill: How about we grab a coffee?
Gino: Yes. I need some caffeine!

To nail something has a slightly different meaning, and we can use it more generally. When we complete a task by doing it perfectly, we can say that we **nailed it**. This is a casual expression and should be avoided in formal situations.

Here are a couple more examples with **to nail something**:

Terry: How did your job interview go last week?
Laura: I **nailed it**. They offered me the job and I'm starting next Monday.
Terry: Awesome. Congratulations!

Roger: Wow. This is delicious. You're an amazing cook! You totally **nailed** this recipe.
Jan: Thanks!
Roger: Any time you want to have me over for dinner again, I'll be happy to join you.
Jan: Sounds good!

A breeze

In this episode, Andrew says that parallel parking during his driver's test was **a breeze**. When something is **a breeze**, it is very easy to do. In other words, Andrew had an easy time parallel parking during the exam. Although Andrew usually finds parallel parking difficult, it was **a breeze** during the exam because he got to park on a wide and empty street.

Like most idioms, **a breeze** sounds very casual. It is best to avoid using this expression in formal contexts.

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

Dawn: How was work today?

Nicole: It was **a breeze**! Not many customers visited the shop and I didn't have many tasks to do. It was a very easy day.

Dawn: Sounds nice!

Nicole: It's good for me but bad for my boss, who owns the shop.

Dawn: Oh, that's true!

Chris: Are you excited for your vacation?

Ariel: I sure am.

Chris: Well, before you go, I thought I'd buy you a little present.

Ariel: That's so nice of you. What is it?

Chris: It's a new suitcase.

Ariel: Oh, awesome! How did you know I needed a new suitcase? Packing will be **a breeze** with this!

Chris: I'm glad you like it. Have a great trip!

Ariel: Thanks so much!

To jog someone's memory

When something **jogs your memory**, it reminds you of something. In this episode, Andrew says that Harp **jogged his memory** about something he had been thinking about recently: the fact that teenagers as young as 16 can legally drive. In other words, something Harp said during their conversation reminded Andrew that he had been thinking about this topic recently.

So when something (or someone) has helped you to remember something, it has **jogged your memory**.

Here are a couple more examples with **to jog someone's memory**:

Police officer: Hello sir. There has been a robbery in your neighbourhood this evening. Do you remember seeing a man wearing blue jeans and a black sweatshirt walking around the neighbourhood around 7pm tonight?

Man: No. I don't think I saw anyone that fits that description.

Police officer: Maybe this photograph will **jog your memory**. It was taken at the scene of the crime by a security camera.

Man: Oh, yes! I saw this guy walking down the street earlier today, maybe around 6pm?

Police officer: Which street, sir?

Man: Main Street.

Police officer: Thank you. You've been very helpful.

Man: No problem. Good luck finding the robber!

Sly: It was great to hang out with Robin again.

Rodrigo: Yeah. I haven't seen her in years!

Sly: Me neither. Seeing her really **jogged my memory** about how much fun we all had together in high school.

Rodrigo: Yeah. Those were some of the best days of my life.

Sly: Yes. Mine too!

To freak someone out

When something **freaks someone out**, it causes them to have a strong emotional reaction. Depending on the context, this emotion could be fear, shock, surprise, or discomfort.

In this episode, Andrew says it **freaks him out** to think that there are 16-year-olds driving around on the streets. He thinks that 16-years-olds are too immature to be safe drivers, and he is afraid that they could cause accidents. The strong reaction that Andrew feels is fear.

So, when you **freak someone out**, you cause them to have a strong emotional reaction.

Here are a couple more examples with ***to freak someone out***:

Colin: Are you afraid of anything? Do you have any phobias?

Sandy: Not too many things scare me, but spiders do **freak me out**. I just hate them!

Colin: Yeah. Spiders are gross!

Sandy: I can deal with mice and snakes and horror movies but not spiders!

Katrina: Have you told your parents yet that you're dropping out of medical school and moving to Los Angeles to follow your dreams and become an actor?

Robert: No. I haven't told them yet.

Katrina: Why not? They deserve to know.

Robert: I know, but I'm afraid the news will **freak them out**. They're going to be really disappointed.

Katrina: I don't think they will. I think they'll support your decision.

Robert: I sure hope so!

Quiz

1. When you make someone remember something, you do what to their memory?

- a) walk it
- b) run it
- c) jump it
- d) jog it

2. Which emotion would someone NOT feel if you freaked them out?

- a) happiness
- b) shock
- c) fear
- d) surprise

3. What does *to rack something up* mean?

- a) to make something bigger
- b) to discover something
- c) to collect something
- d) to organize something

4. If doing something is a breeze, then doing it is:

- a) difficult
- b) easy
- c) boring
- d) exciting

5. What is a synonym for *it goes to show that...*?

- a) It provides that...
- b) It proves that...
- c) It programs that...
- d) It protects that...

6. When can we use the expression *to nail something*?

- a) when something is completed perfectly
- b) when something is unfinished
- c) when something is partially finished
- d) when something wasn't done well

7. Which of the following is NOT a life event?

- a) eating breakfast
- b) getting married
- c) having a baby
- d) starting a new career

Quiz Answers

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

Episode Credits

Hosts: Andrew Bates and Harp Brar
Episode preparation/research: Andrew Bates
Audio editor: Andrew Bates
Transcription and transcript editing: Andrew Bates
Learning materials writer: Andrew Bates
Learning materials editor: Jessica Cox
Webmaster: Hussain Mohammed
Business manager: Tsuyoshi Kaneshima
Project managers: Harp Brar and Maura Smith