

Chatterbox #159 – An interview with Ben: Part 2

Episode Description

Have you ever wondered what it's like to work as a bartender? In this, another special two-part Chatterbox episode (this is part 2), Andrew interviews his friend and bandmate Ben, who works as a bartender in Montreal. Join them as they talk about their friendship and some of the highs and lows of working in the bar and nightclub industry.

Sample Dialogue

Ben: In Montreal, I think pretty much all I would need is a good pair of socks, a pair of pants, and some **long johns**.

Andrew: Oh, yes. **Long johns** for sure.

Ben: A T-shirt, a sweater, a big coat, **a tuque**.

Andrew: **A tuque**. Yeah. I think in the winter, the accessories are just by default a scarf, **a tuque**, and mitts.

Expressions Included in the Learning Materials

- On the regular
- Common ground
- Cheesy
- A throwaway
- Off the cuff
- To preach to the choir
- Long johns
- A tuque



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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

Andrew: Hello everyone. Greetings from Montreal, Canada. I'm Andrew and you're listening to Culips. Last episode, I introduced you to my friend Ben. Ben told us all about what it's like to be a bartender. If you didn't hear that episode, you should go back and listen to it before continuing, because today you'll hear the conclusion of my interview with Ben.

Before we start, though, please check out our website: Culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com, where you can hear all of our back episodes and sign up to become a Culips member. Membership is a great way to take your English to the next level, so please consider signing up. We're also on Twitter and Facebook, so follow us on our social media sites.

OK. We're all ready to go. Here's part 2 of my interview with Ben.

I imagine when you are serving a bunch of people who are drinking, you see the best and worst of humanity.

Ben: Oh yeah.

Andrew: Do you have any funny stories you could share with us about what you've seen at the bar, or from behind the bar?

Ben: Sure. Yeah. I mean, there are certain things that I only became aware of in the last couple of years, definitely at Sparrow, this cocktail bar, because it's exactly the kind of place that people will come if they want to drink alone. You know, if they just want to come and drink at the bar, they know they'll be able to talk to the bartender most of the time, and it's kind of got this very casual atmosphere. So it's a homey place; it's somewhere where you feel comfortable almost immediately and so people talk to you. And one thing that I've learned, which is funny, is that you have to be careful of these solo drinkers, because it's a weird kind of... It's this thing where I'm kind of trying to figure them out, because if they come in a lot and they're solo and they know who I am and we have this rapport, that can be great. If it's slow, they can come in and, like, we can have great conversations and they can help the time pass.

Andrew: It's good to have a regular customer.

Ben: And having regular customers is great, right? It's like, you know, they tip you well, you know who they are, they know that if even if they don't have anybody, or if they live in the neighbourhood, they can come and they can come see you and you can hang out. It's, like, it's a good thing, but you have to... There is a certain responsibility that comes with that, though, because you're serving them booze. I tend to be kind of cautious at first when people come in. Like, if they start coming in **on the regular** and they start coming in alone, it's kind of, like, I won't introduce myself right away until I've kind of established a kind of trust with them. Because there's a certain level of, like... I wouldn't say ownership, but kind of, because I can't move. I can't get out, right?

Andrew: Right.

Ben: If we're not talking about something that's, you know, interesting, or if they get offensive, you know, as they drink more, I'm kind of there and I've got to uphold the kind of, you know, the courtesy of being the bartender. I don't want to be disagreeing with, you know, this person overtly or get into some kind of argument.

Andrew: So you probably do a lot of smiling and nodding.

Ben: Yeah, well... And I don't want to do that either because that's not really what the bar is known for; I think the reason it's done so well is because the people that work there, like myself, are genuinely happy to be working there.

Andrew: Yeah, and to interact with the clientele.

Ben: And so that's something that I never even thought about. At first, I just introduced myself to everybody and it worked out great, but then occasionally there's these people that will come in, and they'll come in belligerently drunk, and they know who you are, and they'll sit down and they'll be like, "You know what I mean? Like, blah." And they'll be telling you their, like, life story, but it comes out so incoherent, you know? Or, like, maybe I'm just not in the mood to really talk but I kind of owe these people, you know? So that's a kind of interesting aspect of the job. I mean, if you want a kind of, like, anecdotal kind of funny thing, there was a couple that came into the bar a few months ago, and since these dating websites and dating apps have come around, you see a lot of these kinds of things like this.

Andrew: OK, so they were maybe on a first date or a blind date.

Ben: Yeah. I'm pretty sure it was, like, a Tinder date. So it was evident when these people came in and they sat down. You know, the guy came in first, he was waiting for somebody. When the girl came in, they sat down right in front of me. And the bar is long but I'm at one end of the bar and that's where I make all of my cocktails. And so whoever is sitting there essentially has my full attention, but also we were talking about being able... like, I can't leave. I always have to come back to the cocktail station, so if it gets busy, I'm stuck there. So these people are right there, which is great, because they can watch me make drinks or whatever, but if I find them irritating, or in this case, unbearably boring, you know, then I'm just stuck there with whatever. And so they were having one of the most boring first dates I've ever, ever heard, and that's something, as a bartender, that, like, I had never in my life had to deal with, which is getting used to this kind of, like, awkward interaction of people on first dates.

Andrew: Yeah. That's so interesting.

Ben: You know, like, I'm not being critical, because I've been there. Of course I have, you know, like, everyone's been there. There's not so much... You don't know each other, you have to pick the, kind of, most base-level, surface-level kind of details...

Andrew: To talk about.

Ben: To talk about, and then...

Andrew: But at the same time, you're trying to impress the other person.

Ben: Right. And so there's this thing. And then with, you know, online dating, it's like you know even less. It's, like, you probably didn't even have a conversation before.

Andrew: Yeah, exactly.

Ben: And so you're literally starting from the beginning.

Andrew: Starting from scratch.

- Ben: And this couple that came in, you know, they started talking and I was like, "Oh, they're obviously having this first date or whatever," a very simple thing. But, you know, they hit it off, they ordered some drinks, they were drinking incredibly slowly. And I think... Like, at first I was like, "OK, this is getting-to-know-you conversation." But it's weird, because then it started to pick up and get busy for me and so I was stuck behind the bar and I was just listening to the conversation, but it was just, like... I didn't feel like I had very much in common with either of these people, but I was being forced to listen to this, kind of, awkward interaction that was happening, and so I was learning a great deal about these people, none of which I found any interest in really, and because I had no choice. So I was just stuck there listening to this unengaging, kind of, conversation because I had no choice but to listen to it. So it's like they weren't talking about anything very interesting because they couldn't, because they didn't know each other, and so they were kind of like, you know, big, you know, like, "Do you like sports?" "Yeah. You know, kind of. Like, I kind of like this," but never talking anything about any one particular thing in very much detail.
- Andrew: That's when you have to DJ and just pump the tunes up.
- Ben: Yeah. I think I was doing that as well, but then they kept on speaking louder to hear each other. It was like... It was an impossible scenario. It doesn't happen very often. That was exceptionally boring. Usually, the people at the bar I can find **common ground** with, or I can interject in conversation when it feels appropriate.
- Andrew: Right. The conversation is more stimulating.
- Ben: But, yeah. That was incredibly boring; powerfully boring.
- Andrew: It sounds like it. Well, I want to end the interview with something that I do with all my guests on the show, and that is to ask them five random questions. I just pick some weird questions and ask to get your reaction to them. So are you OK to end on that note?
- Ben: Sure.
- Andrew: OK. So, the first question I have for you is: If you could live in any other place, let's say outside of Canada, where would you want to live?
- Ben: Hmm. Live, live?
- Andrew: Live, live. Not just travel, but to settle down a bit.
- Ben: Really. Well, it would definitely be somewhere warm, because I am in a very cold place right now. Maybe somewhere like southern California.

Andrew: Oh, nice.

Ben: I think... I mean, it's still within the United States, which can be a little scary sometimes.

Andrew: Yeah.

Ben: Southern California, with the politics and everything, but...

Andrew: Oh, California is kind of a progressive place these days.

Ben: It's, like, yeah, it's a pretty progressive place, though.

Andrew: It's doing OK, yeah.

Ben: So maybe somewhere like southern California. Maybe not Los Angeles. I mean, I've been there before and it's got a certain charm, but maybe somewhere smaller. Like, actually, do you know what? Maybe somewhere like... Oh, my God, what's it called? You know, Henry Miller spent a bunch of time there.

Andrew: Hmm. Tropic of Cancer? I don't know.

Ben: Anyway, it's a beach town on the Highway 101; this beautiful beach highway. So anywhere in southern California along that highway I think I'd definitely like to be. It's warm all year 'round. That would be great.

Andrew: Yeah. That sounds very nice. I think I would go and visit you if you relocated there. OK, let's move on to question number two. I know you're a huge music fan, and we talked about being in the band together earlier. So what's something you've been listening to lately, and maybe something you could recommend for our listeners?

Ben: Oh. OK. Maybe I have two songs that both are very different from one another. There's a song that you know very well by this English band called The Clinic.

Andrew: Clinic, yeah.

Ben: It's this song called *Distortions*, which is a song from the year 2000.

Andrew: The year 2000.

- Ben: And I've had that on repeat for a long time. A friend of mine showed it to me over the weekend and it's a great song. And then another song, which is totally dissimilar, by the band that Lionel Richie of *Dancing on the Ceiling* fame, and many other hits in the '80s, he was in a band on Motown called The Commodores, which was an R&B band, but he has a very strange song he wrote, called *Sail On*.
- Andrew: *Sail On*?
- Ben: Yeah.
- Andrew: By Lionel Richie, performed by The Commodores?
- Ben: Yes, Lionel. It was by The Commodores, but Lionel Richie wrote the song and he sings in it. And it's a really, really weird, **cheesy** R&B song. But the first, like, 3 minutes is this really weird, kind of, like, American country song, and then it kind of turns into this amazing R&B song. And I've been listening to that a lot, like, I found it on vinyl for, like, \$3. It's, like, this **throwaway** '80s Motown album, but I found this one song, this song called *Sail On* by The Commodores.
- Andrew: OK, well, you'll have to play it for me when we wrap up this interview.
- Ben: Yeah.
- Andrew: OK, cool. Let's move on to the third question, and this question is about language. And I'm wondering if you have a pet peeve word in English, like, a word that, when you hear, you just really react negatively to. For example, I hate the word *moist*; whenever I hear the word *moist*, I sort of shrivel up and will be like, "Ew. That's so gross." Is there a word that gives you that kind of reaction?
- Ben: I feel like, yeah, there was one that really bothered me. I don't know if I can think of it **off the cuff**. I mean, *moist* is kind of like a... It's a weird thing, and I think the meaning of the word coupled with the way you have to move your mouth...
- Andrew: Yeah. It's the perfect pairing of, like, a weird meaning and a weird sound.
- Ben: Yeah. I really am not a big fan of it.
- Andrew: I think a lot of people feel that way about the word *moist*.

- Ben: Yeah. I think maybe overall in English, something that frustrates me, I think, is I really like English as a written language and I understand that there's, kind of, historical elements of the language, like the word *night*, N-I-G-H-T, right? But it's not phonetic at all, and so I like the way it looks on paper, or even any English word with, you know, G-H, like a lot of Celtic words, like Scottish names, *McCullough* and stuff like that. And so I like how that sounds and on paper I like how it looks, but I feel like it's confusing and annoying. There's a very big disconnect between the way it sounds and the way it's actually written, you know?
- Andrew: Yeah. I feel like you're **preaching to the choir** with this one, because I'm sure a lot of our listeners, who are learning English, feel the same way when they look at the English spelling system. They're probably like, "Oh, what the heck's going on?" It's frustrating for me too, even, trying to spell some words. It just doesn't make a lot of sense.
- Ben: Yeah. I do like it, but it is hard to reconcile because I feel like we're historically separated from that time, and so, like, the idea of me, you know, using a word that has, like, G-H-T at the end of it, it's like at some point maybe they pronounced it more or something, but couldn't you just write *nite*, N-I-T-E? You know, like, I get it, you could have, we could know where it came from. There could be... What is that, the etymology of a word?
- Andrew: Yeah.
- Ben: I could look that up, if I wanted.
- Andrew: Definitely.
- Ben: But if I just want to spell it, it would be a lot easier.
- Andrew: Or even to have new symbols that represent vowels. Like, why do we need to put the E at the end of *nite* to switch the sound of the I in the middle of the word? Things like that are strange.
- Ben: Exactly.
- Andrew: OK. Let's move on to our fourth question. This is a question about fashion, OK?
- Ben: OK.
- Andrew: So, you're getting ready for a big night out, and you can choose one accessory; it could be a hat, it could be a scarf, it could be a ring. I don't know. What would you choose to put on that's a little bit different than just a shirt and a pair of pants?

- Ben: I think that's... That's where I don't... I don't know. I feel like I've lost all my accoutrements, my ornamentation, I feel like, you know?
- Andrew: Sure.
- Ben: In Montreal, I think pretty much all I would need is a good pair of socks, a pair of pants, and some **long johns**.
- Andrew: Oh, yes. **Long johns** for sure.
- Ben: A T-shirt, a sweater, a big coat, **a tuque**.
- Andrew: **A tuque**. Yeah. I think in the winter, the accessories are just by default a scarf, **a tuque**, and mitts.
- Ben: Yeah. I think everybody in our band – almost everybody I know – wears **a tuque** inside in Montreal.
- Andrew: It's funny that you mentioned it; we're both wearing **tuques** right now.
- Ben: We're both wearing **tuques** right now, in my very warm apartment. My apartment is so... It's so hot in here.
- Andrew: It's true. It's very warm but we're still both wearing **tuques**.
- Ben: We still wear the **tuque**. And it's funny because in the summer, I do not wear hats. I'm not a hat guy. But it's kind of, like, it's a comforting thing, it's like a blanket for your head.
- Andrew: Yeah. It's totally true. I feel weird when I take my **tuque** off for like... only to sleep, pretty much.
- Ben: Yeah, pretty much. I know.
- Andrew: And when I'm at work. But otherwise it's always on.
- Ben: But in the summer, I'm just like, yeah, it's fine. I don't have to replace the **tuque** with something else when it gets warmer. It's funny.
- Andrew: Yeah. Very good. OK, so let's move on to our fifth and final random question. I'm curious about snacking. What's your go-to snack?
- Ben: My go-to snack. It's a very specific brand of cookie.
- Andrew: Oh, you're a cookie guy?
- Ben: Yeah. I'm a cookie person.

- Andrew: OK.
- Ben: I got some fancy cookies over here I bought from the bakery, but usually it's Chunks Ahoy.
- Andrew: Chunks Ahoy, nice.
- Ben: So it's, like, white and milk chocolate chunks in a kind of brittle, crunchy cookie.
- Andrew: And what is it about the Chunks Ahoy that does it for you? Is it the sweetness or the texture of the cookie?
- Ben: I don't know. Yeah, I kind of like the crunch and I like that there's a couple of different kinds of chocolate in there. They're pretty similar. Usually I'm not a white chocolate kind of guy, but I don't know what it is. I started eating them and it's pretty much, like, if I'm going to go out and buy some cookies, that's pretty much what it's going to be.
- Andrew: It's the default.
- Ben: Yeah. It's kind of default. Like, maybe I'll go a little fancy and I'll get some Chesapeake Bay, kind of, like...
- Andrew: Are those the soft ones?
- Ben: Yes. Suspiciously soft. For, like, mass-produced, I kind of worry what kind of chemical they put in that to keep it so soft.
- Andrew: It's just like right out of the oven?
- Ben: Yeah, every time, you know? But pre-packaged. So I don't know. I don't really trust that kind of stuff.
- Andrew: Right. So you go for the, like, Chunks Ahoy.
- Ben: I go for the super dry, impossible-to-go-bad kind of cookies.
- Andrew: Right on.
- Ben: Even if they were stale, they'd probably taste great.
- Andrew: Right on. Well, thanks a lot for talking with us today, Ben.
- Ben: You're welcome.
- Andrew: And take care, hey?

Ben: Yeah. You too.

Andrew: OK, so that was my interview with Ben. I hope you enjoyed listening to it as much as I enjoyed recording it. As always, make sure to check out our website and consider signing up to become a member. You can find us at Culips.com. If you have any comments, questions, or even episode ideas to suggest, send them our way. You can email me at Andrew@Culips.com, or you can reach us through Facebook or Twitter as well.

OK, thanks everyone, and we'll talk to you next time.

Detailed Explanations

On the regular

On the regular is a very informal way to say regularly. In this episode, Ben talks about some of the customers who visit his bar **on the regular**. In other words, the customers regularly visit his bar.

Sometimes, this expression is shortened to **on the reg**. For example, you might hear someone say, "I go to the gym **on the reg**." This means the person regularly visits the gym.

So **on the regular** is a casual way to say regularly. Because **on the regular** is very informal, it should not be used in formal contexts.

Here are a couple more examples with **on the regular**:

Victoria: You look great. Have you been working out?

Boris: Yeah, I have. Thanks!

Victoria: Is this a new thing?

Boris: No, not really. I've been going to the gym **on the regular** for the last several years. I guess I just don't talk about it much.

Victoria: Oh wow. That's great. No, I didn't know that about you. Anyways, keep up the great work.

Boris: Thanks.

Jana: Do you miss your brother now that he's moved away?

Bobby: I do miss him, but we still talk a lot.

Jana: Oh, that's good.

Bobby: Yeah. We Skype **on the regular**, so it's not that bad.

Jana: I'm happy to hear that. Tell him I say hello next time you talk to him.

Bobby: OK, will do.

Common ground

When you share an interest, hobby, opinion, etc. with someone, then you share **common ground**. This expression is usually used to describe two people who share one thing in common but are different in other regards.

In this episode, Ben tells says that he can usually find **common ground** with the customers at his bar. In other words, he can usually find at least one mutual interest between him and the customers who he interacts with at work.

So, when you and another person share **common ground**, it means that you have something in common. This could be an interest, opinion, belief, hobby, etc.

Here are a couple more examples with **common ground**:

Sarah: How's your new job?

Nick: I like it a lot!

Sarah: That's great. And are you getting along well with all your new coworkers?

Nick: Absolutely. I was able to find some **common ground** with a couple of people in the office and we hit it off.

Sarah: Sounds like a good fit.

Nick: Yeah, it definitely is.

Jamie: Hey Juan!

Juan: Hey. How's it going?

Jamie: I'm doing well. How are you?

Juan: I'm doing well too, thanks. What's new? How's Bill?

Jamie: Oh, you didn't hear? Bill and I broke up last week.

Juan: Oh, I didn't know.

Jamie: Yeah. We liked each other, but ultimately we just couldn't really find any **common ground**. We are just two very different people.

Juan: Sounds like it was for the best.

Jamie: Definitely.

Cheesy

Something that is **cheesy** is silly, stupid, immature, or not in style. In this episode, Ben describes the song *Sail On* by the Commodores as **cheesy** because it is not in style anymore. When listening to the song, you are exposed to sounds and lyrics that are typical of the 1970s. This style of music is not fashionable or popular anymore and that is why it can be described as **cheesy**.

So, the slang expression **cheesy** is used to describe things and people that are silly, immature, or out of style.

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

Lee: What do you think of this sweatshirt? Should I buy it?

Jane: No way! What's with all the weird colours? It looks totally **cheesy**.

Lee: Yeah, but I like how strange it is. Don't you think it's kind of funny?

Jane: No, not at all. That sweatshirt is a definite pass.

Lee: OK, OK. I won't get it.

Stephen: I'm going to see a comedian tonight at the Laugh Cafe. You want to come with me?

Heather: What kind of comedy?

Stephen: A guy named Leo is performing. He's pretty funny and tells a lot of **cheesy** jokes.

Heather: I don't know, that doesn't really sound like my thing. I'm not a big fan of stand-up comedy.

Stephen: Ah OK, that's OK. His style of comedy isn't for everyone.

Heather: But let's hang out soon. Maybe we can grab a coffee next week.

Stephen: Totally! Let's do that.

A throwaway

The expression **a throwaway** describes an album, record, or song that is not popular and has been ignored by most people. In this episode, Ben talks about **a throwaway** track by the band the Commodores. The song is **a throwaway** because it is not popular and is overlooked by most people.

This expression is also used to describe things that are only used once before being discarded, such as **a throwaway** camera (a disposable camera) or **throwaway** 3D glasses (the ones used to watch 3D movies).

Throwaway is also used to talk about music and describe records or songs that are overlooked or ignored by most people.

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

Josh: What's your favourite **throwaway** Beatles track?

Kyle: Good question. I'd have to say *Glass Onion*. What about you?

Josh: It's difficult but I'd say *I am the Walrus*.

Kyle: Interesting choice!

Josh: Yeah. I guess it's a song that some people forget about, but it's always been one of my favorites.

Melody: This song is really good! Who is it by?

Mariah: I actually don't even know. I bought a bunch of weird **throwaway** albums at a garage sale last week. The one we're listening to now is a compilation of Brazilian music from the '70s.

Melody: Well, it sure is great! Nice find.

Mariah: Yeah. This song is catchy, isn't it? The best thing is I got all of the records for only two bucks!

Melody: What a deal!

Off the cuff

A remark or comment that is made **off the cuff** is made without any previous planning, preparation, or consideration. In this episode, Ben says that he cannot think of an English word that he hates **off the cuff**. In other words, without thinking about it very much, he is unable to provide a word that he dislikes.

So, when something is unprepared or not planned, it is **off the cuff**. Most often, this expression is used to describe comments a speaker says without planning.

This expression has an interesting origin story. It first entered the English language in the 1930s and originally referred to someone who would write notes on their shirt cuff to help them when they made a speech or wrote a test. This person was unprepared to complete the speech or test without the help of notes that they had to read off the cuff. These days, we use **off the cuff** when someone says or does something without any previous planning or preparation.

Here are a couple more examples with **off the cuff**.

Brianna: Your speech at James and Fannie's wedding last weekend was so great!

Chris: Thanks, but I don't think it was anything special.

Brianna: I thought it was really touching.

Chris: Well, I didn't really prepare anything; I just said a few words **off the cuff**.

Brianna: That's even more impressive! Honestly, great job!

Carol: How are things going lately?

Mitch: I'm doing fine, but I'm a bit worried about my son. He's been getting into trouble at school recently. Just the other day he made an **off-the-cuff** remark about his teacher that earned him a detention.

Carol: That's no good!

Mitch: Yeah. It's upsetting for my wife and me. We have a meeting next week with his teacher and principal, so we're hoping we can figure out what's going on.

Carol: Parenting a teenager is hard work. Just keep doing your best and everything will work out.

Mitch: We'll keep trying. Thanks!

To preach to the choir

When you **preach to the choir**, you try to convince or persuade someone to believe something that they already believe or that they already accept to be true. In this episode, Ben mentions that he dislikes the English spelling system. Andrew says that Ben is **preaching to the choir**, because he thinks that many Culips listeners will agree with Ben. In other words, Ben is **preaching to the choir** because he does not need to convince Culips listeners that English spelling is weird; many Culips listeners already agree that this is true.

So, when you **preach to the choir**, you attempt to make someone believe something that they already believe.

Here are a couple more examples with ***to preach to the choir***.

Brody: This traffic is crazy. We're going to be stuck here for at least an hour.

Taylor: I know. It's so annoying. The city should widen this road. We need more than just two lanes going in each direction.

Brody: You're **preaching to the choir**, buddy. I've been saying that for years.

Taylor: Hopefully the city will come to the same realization and make some changes soon.

Karl: Management really needs to make some changes around here. I spend half my day filling out paperwork. I don't have any time to do actual work.

Stella: Tell me about it. **You're preaching to the choir.**

Karl: Changes need to be made so that more things are automated. Filling out the paperwork digitally would be faster and more efficient.

Stella: I couldn't agree more!

Long johns

Long underwear that is worn in the winter is called **long johns**. In this episode, Ben says that **long johns** are a must during the long, cold Montreal winters.

No one is certain how long underwear got the nickname **long johns**. However, we do know that this expression originated in the 1940s during the Second World War.

Long johns also go by the names thermal underwear and long underwear.

Here are a couple more examples with **long johns**:



Kelsey: I'm going to walk down to the corner store to grab some snacks. You want anything?

Felix: Nah, I'm OK. Make sure you bundle up, though. It's cold out there!

Kelsey: Don't worry. I've got my **long johns** on and I'll put on my big coat.

Felix: OK, sounds good. See you in a bit.

Kelsey: See you.

Jessica: Did you buy a birthday present for Cam yet? I don't know what to get him.

Ricardo: I did, actually. I got him a pair of **long johns**.

Jessica: That's awesome.

Ricardo: Yeah. They were on sale and I know he loves skiing so I thought I'd get him a new pair.

Jessica: Right on. Well I'm sure he'll love them.

Ricardo: Yeah, me too.

A tuque

A **tuque** is a knit hat that is worn in the winter. **Tuques** are usually made of wool and are designed to keep your head warm. In this episode, Andrew and Ben talk about how they often wear **tuques** in the winter.

Outside Canada, **tuques** go by different names. They are commonly called beanies, knit hats, and woolen hats in other English-speaking countries.



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

Johnny: Hey. Have you seen my **tuque** around anywhere? I can't seem to find it.

Christy: No, I haven't seen it. Did you check your coat pocket? You probably left it in there.

Johnny: Oh, yup. There it is.

Christy: I knew it! Make sure you wear it. It's freezing outside.

Johnny: I will.

Matt: What are you knitting?

Cindy: I'm working on **a tuque**.

Matt: Wow. That's awesome.

Cindy: Yeah. This is my first attempt at knitting **a tuque**, so I'm not sure it'll turn out very well.

Matt: I'm sure it'll be fine. You've been a knitter for years, right?

Cindy: Yeah, for at least 10 years, but this is a little more complicated than the scarves I usually make.

Matt: You're going to do great.

Cindy: Thanks for the vote of confidence!

Matt: No problem.

Quiz

1. If you and another person have something in common, what do you share?

- a) common territory
- b) common air
- c) common space
- d) common ground

2. Which of the following expressions means without preparation?

- a) on the fence
- b) cut corners
- c) break-neck
- d) off the cuff

3. What does *cheesy* mean?

- a) busy; unavailable
- b) horrible; smelling strongly
- c) old-fashioned; out of style
- d) perfect; flawless

4. Fill in the blank with the appropriate expression.

Henry: I'm tired. I wish I could leave work early.

Bob: Hey man, you're _____. I'm tired too. I'd love to go home, but unfortunately that's not an option.

- a) preaching to the choir
- b) teaching the students
- c) talking to a talker
- d) speaking to the listener

5. Which of the following adjectives describes a song that is often ignored or unpopular?

- a) salvaged
- b) throwaway
- c) vague
- d) one-use

6. What is the Canadian name for a hat worn in winter?

- a) a knit hat
- b) a beanie
- c) a wool hat
- d) a tuque

Quiz Answers

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

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