

## Chatterbox #160 – More new English words

### Episode Description

In this episode, Andrew and Maura get together to take another edition of the *New Words Quiz*. Join them as they test their knowledge of new English words! If you'd like to play along, you can find the quiz here:

<http://blog.oxforddictionaries.com/2015/08/quiz-new-words/>

### Sample Dialogue

Maura: All right, I'm ready. I'm really curious to see what kinds of words have just been added.

Andrew: Right. So there are 10 expressions that we're going to look at today. And this is actually a quiz – a multiple-choice quiz – that is on the blog of Oxford Dictionary. So we will provide the link with the description of this episode, and if you want to play along, now is the time to navigate to the website so you can take the quiz as well. So, let's get started, shall we?

Maura: Let's do it. You're **dead meat**.

### Expressions Included in the Learning Materials

- To chew the fat
- To stump someone
- Dead meat
- Final answer
- The bro code
- Back in the game
- Hindsight is 20/20
- A gut feeling
- To be sold
- To teeter-totter
- The stakes



## Chatterbox #160 – More new English words

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: Hey everybody. It's Andrew.

Maura: And I'm here too. It's Maura.

Andrew: And we're back with another Culips episode. Make sure to check out our website, Culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. And while you're there, check out our membership area. You can sign up and become a member, and this will give you access to our learning materials, which are absolutely fantastic for taking your English studies to the next level.

Maura: And if you're wondering what you'll get, well, let me tell you. You'll get transcripts for all of our past episodes, more detailed explanations of the expressions we use in those episodes, and you'll also get quizzes to test your comprehension. So check that out and get even more out of our episodes.

Andrew: We're also on the social networking sites Twitter and Facebook, so come on over, give us a like, or tweet us, because we love to hear from you.

Maura: So, Andrew, how is it going? What's new?

Andrew: Well, if you look around, you can see my apartment's kind of a mess right now, and that's because I'm getting ready to move. I'm packing up and I'm moving to a new apartment.

Maura: Uh huh. And, you know, they say that moving is one of the most stressful things in a person's life. Do you find it stressful?

Andrew: That's interesting. I've never heard that, but I can see where that expression would come from, that moving is stressful. No, it's not stressful for me because I don't have that many things. I think I've shared with our listeners that over the last 10 years or so I've moved a lot, and every time I move, I get rid of more stuff. So now I don't have that many things and packing isn't that big of a job.

Maura: Well, that's good. So are you looking forward to it then?

Andrew: Yeah. And you know what? We're going to be almost neighbours. We're going to live in essentially the same neighbourhood.

- Maura: Yeah, it's pretty cool. Well, welcome to the neighbourhood then.
- Andrew: Hey, thank you.
- Maura: All right, let's get started on today's episode then.
- Andrew: Yeah. Today we have a very fun episode. We are going to do a Chatterbox episode, and this is where we chat and we **chew the fat**, and we gossip, and we have fun. And today we're going to play a game, which is the most fun you can have on a podcast.
- Maura: Now, last time you did this kind of game, it was with Harp, so this is my first time. So I guess I should say I'm extra excited to try this.
- Andrew: So what we're going to do is the *New Words Quiz*. And English is a language that is always coming up with new expressions and new ways to say things. And so every couple of months, the big dictionaries, like Oxford Dictionary and Cambridge Dictionary, they add new words to their dictionary. And so what we're going to do is look at some of these new words and see if we can understand – as native speakers – what these words mean, or if they **stump us**. It'll be fun. And last time, I actually lost. Harp beat me, so I am on a mission to win tonight.
- Maura: All right, I'm ready. I'm really curious to see what kinds of words have just been added.
- Andrew: Right. So there are 10 expressions that we're going to look at today. And this is actually a quiz – a multiple-choice quiz – that is on the blog of Oxford Dictionary. So we will provide the link with the description of this episode, and if you want to play along, now is the time to navigate to the website so you can take the quiz as well. So, let's get started, shall we?
- Maura: Let's do it. You're **dead meat**.
- Andrew: Ooh, OK. So expression number one is *cat café*.
- Maura: Wow, *cat café*.
- Andrew: Hmm. I've heard of this one before.
- Maura: Yeah, me too. But I'm surprised that it's getting its place in a dictionary.
- Andrew: You know we have a cat café in Montréal now?
- Maura: I think I heard that. Have you been?
- Andrew: No.

- Maura: Although cats are generally very clean animals, I don't know if I'd want to pet all kinds of strange cats. I actually have two of my own, so I'm not missing any cat affection in my life.
- Andrew: Right. So shall we go through the options for *cat café*? And we'll try to decide which is the correct choice. So we have *cat café*; it could be a commercially prepared coffee for pet cats.
- Maura: Or the second choice is a café where people pay to interact with cats housed on the premises.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. Or it could be coffee served with whipped cream or hot milk.
- Maura: Well, I think our discussion already gave away the answer.
- Andrew: I think so. It's got to be B, right? It has to be a café where people go to interact with the cats.
- Maura: Yeah.
- Andrew: And so this idea was really popular in Korea when I lived there, and I think in Japan as well. But, like we said, it's kind of new to North America; we just have one cat café in Montréal. All right, one point for each of us.
- Maura: All right.
- Andrew: OK. Let's go to expression number two: *cakeage*.
- Maura: *Cakeage*? Hmm. I have to say, I haven't heard of this word before.
- Andrew: I've never heard of *cakeage*. It sounds delicious.
- Maura: Well, it makes me think – yeah, like you – of a cake.
- Andrew: Yeah. So, *cakeage*, let's go through the options here. Hmm. Number one is: a charge made by a restaurant for serving a cake that they have not supplied themselves.
- Maura: OK. And the next choice is: a small round piece of cake coated with icing or chocolate and fixed on the end of a stick.
- Andrew: Kind of like a Popsicle?
- Maura: Yeah.

- Andrew: OK. And the third option is: a place where cakes are made or sold.
- Maura: Well, I'm really curious about the second part of this word. Right away we thought, "*Cakeage*... OK, we understand *cake*. But the second part, A-G-E... I wonder what the meaning behind that is.
- Andrew: Hmm. I'm curious. I don't actually know. My logic is that number three is incorrect because a place where cakes are made or sold is a bakery.
- Maura: I totally am with you on that one.
- Andrew: And, you know, if I had to guess, I would say that it's number one: a charge made by restaurants for serving a cake that they have not supplied themselves.
- Maura: I think I would go with that one too, Andrew, only because I know about these, kind of, cake pieces on a stick. I've seen them around and I have never seen them referred to as *cakeage*. So I think it must be the first one too.
- Andrew: OK, so let's go with number one. Yeah, and it is correct, we are right. But I don't know what the *-age* means in *cakeage*? Do you?
- Maura: No. I'm thinking it has to do with maybe the amount of money? But I can't think of a word that ends in A-G-E.
- Andrew: Hmm. I think if you bring a bottle of wine to a restaurant and the restaurant hasn't supplied that bottle of wine, in certain regions you have to pay a corkage fee, and so maybe this is related to *corkage* – *cakeage*. I think that might be right.
- Maura: I believe you. That sounds good. I trust that.
- Andrew: We figured it out. OK, good. Let's go on to number three: *bruh*.
- Maura: Yeah. Is that how it's pronounced? I'm not even sure. I think it is.
- Andrew: Bru, bra?
- Maura: Yeah, bru or bra.
- Andrew: Yeah. The spelling is B-R-U-H.
- Maura: Hmm. So this word could mean – I'll give you the first choice – a small ball or roll of minced meat or fish fried in breadcrumbs.
- Andrew: Mmm. Sounds delicious. Every one of these is making me hungry. OK, the second one is: a male friend.

- Maura: And the third is used to express someone's reaction to feeling cold.
- Andrew: Hmm. What do you think?
- Maura: Well, I have to say, I'm pretty confused. The second option, which is a male friend, I believe, is *bro*, and I don't think that B-R-U-H is the correct spelling for that.
- Andrew: Mmhmm.
- Maura: And then we have the third option, which is used to express someone's reaction to feeling cold, and that make me think of *brrr*, which we definitely say when we're feeling cold, but that that isn't spelled like B-R-U-H either.
- Andrew: Right. So this is really weird. And a small ball of minced meat fried in breadcrumbs... You know, I've never heard of this before, and if it was a trendy food, I think I would be aware of it.
- Maura: OK. I'm going to go deep with my analysis on this one.
- Andrew: OK.
- Maura: Because the Oxford Dictionary is from Oxford in England and mincemeat is not popular in Canada – really, not very popular. I would say it's more popular in England, so maybe this is slang or a new kind of food that's more popular in the UK?
- Andrew: You know what? You just sparked my imagination, because I'm thinking if somebody with a British accent tried to say *bro* it might come out like *bru*, and then it would be B. It would be a male friend.
- Maura: Oh, well now that's confusing. Will this be the first question that we don't have the same response for?
- Andrew: Ooh, let's see. So what's your **final answer**?
- Maura: Well, I'll go for A: the small ball or roll of minced meat or fish fried in breadcrumbs.
- Andrew: OK, I'm going to go with the male friend. And let's see. Oh, I'm correct! It is a male friend.
- Maura: I am totally shocked by that.
- Andrew: It's **the bro code**; you got to know it.

- Maura: I guess because I'm not a bro, I couldn't figure out this question?
- Andrew: Maybe. Who knows? Who knows? OK, let's go on to the next one.
- Maura: All right.
- Andrew: Oh, hmm. Any idea on how to pronounce this word, Maura?
- Maura: Nope.
- Andrew: So the word is just two letters, M-X.
- Maura: So do you think it's pronounced M-X?
- Andrew: There're two possibilities, it's either M-X, or mix.
- Maura: OK, strange.
- Andrew: Hmm, yeah. I haven't seen that many words in English with no vowels.
- Maura: Yeah.
- Andrew: I can't think of one off the top of my head.
- Maura: No, only really abbreviations, like *Dr.* or *Mr.* or something like that.
- Andrew: Yeah. So... Hmm. You're on to something here. It must be an abbreviation for something. So, let's go through the options. Number one is: micro X-ray.
- Maura: So in that case abbreviation would work because the M would come from *micro*, and the X would come from *X-ray*.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. Good.
- Maura: Number two is: a title used before a person's surname by those who wish to avoid specifying their gender.
- Andrew: Oh, now this could be it. This is sounding very promising to me. I like this number two. And number three is...?
- Maura: In skateboarding and snowboarding, an aerial manoeuvre in which the boarder spins one and a half times.
- Andrew: OK, I know that's a five-forty.



- Maura: OK. I'm glad you shared that knowledge with me, because I had no idea.
- Andrew: Yeah, 540 degrees. OK, well I'm pretty confident it's not number three. But actually, number one and number two both seem like they could be correct.
- Maura: Yeah, definitely. Number two, I think could be correct because more and more nowadays, people are talking about issues with gender and how to treat those people who are transgender, or in this case, who wish to avoid specifying their gender, so I guess the second option is also possible.
- Andrew: Yeah. I'm not really sure, so I'm going to take a guess, and I'm going to go with number one: micro X-ray.
- Maura: OK. And just to make it interesting, I'll go with the second choice then.
- Andrew: OK, so let's see.
- Maura: I'm crossing my fingers.
- Andrew: Will I take a commanding lead, or will the game be tied? Oh, you're right. I'm wrong.
- Maura: Yes! I'm **back in the game**.
- Andrew: So I wonder, then, how this would be pronounced. M-X. Probably *mix*, *miz*? No, it wouldn't be *miz*, it would be *mix*.
- Maura: I guess it would be *mix*, yeah.
- Andrew: Cool. All right, let's move on to number five.
- Maura: This one makes me laugh. Let's try to pronounce it now, Andrew. It says *freekeh*.
- Andrew: *Freekeh. Freekeh, freekeh*. OK, I like it. *Freekeh*.
- Maura: Yeah, it's the kind of word that feels funny to say seriously.
- Andrew: Yeah. It is an interesting-looking word and it sounds funny to me. I can't help but laugh when I pronounce it.
- Maura: OK, so let's review what the possible definitions are. The first option is: the visual quality of the out-of-focus areas of a photographic image. OK.
- Andrew: Very specific. The second one is: a cereal food made from unripened wheat that has been roasted and crushed into small pieces.



- Maura: And the last option, which is the simplest, is the word *freaky*.
- Andrew: Yeah, *freaky*.
- Maura: And I have to say, that's definitely the one I'm going with.
- Andrew: Yeah, me too. I'm pretty confident that it is *freaky*. It's just a fun way to alter the saying of *freaky*. If something's freaky, you can say, "Whoa, that's freekeh!"
- Maura: Totally. I have definitely heard that and I think it could be a word that was recently accepted.
- Andrew: Yeah. I'm going to agree with you. So let's check, we're going with number three, *freaky*. Oh, and we are both wrong.
- Maura: Wow. We were doing pretty well; at least one of us was always getting it right until this point.
- Andrew: Wow. I was really sure that it was *freaky*, but it's number two: a cereal food made from unripened wheat that has been roasted and crushed into small pieces.
- Maura: You know, of course **hindsight is 20/20**, but now that I know the right answer, I can kind of envision this word written on a package, on a grain that I've seen in, like, a health food store.
- Andrew: Hmm, yeah. OK, the next word is *geofence*.
- Maura: OK, *geofence*.
- Andrew: And immediately, a definition came to my mind of something that I thought it would be, and it's not on this list of options, so I must be wrong, but let's check them out anyways.
- Number one is: an activity, or pastime, in which an item or a container holding a number of items is hidden at a particular location for GPS users to find by means of coordinates posted on the Internet.
- Maura: That is a long definition.
- Andrew: So I guess this is kind of like a scavenger hunt, where something would be hidden at a GPS location and you have to go find it.
- Maura: OK.
- Andrew: It kind of sounds fun.

Maura: It does sound fun. The second option is: provide geographical coordinates corresponding to a location.

Andrew: OK, so maybe if you were to look up the address of a building, it would give you the GPS location of it, so you could find that place quickly and easily, maybe? I don't know.

And the third one is: a virtual geographic boundary defined by GPS or RFID technology that enables software to trigger a response when a mobile device enters or leaves a particular area.

Maura: Well, I have to say, I haven't heard this word before, but when I saw it, my mind automatically broke it into two pieces: *geo*, which makes me think of *geography*, *geographical*; and we've heard those words throughout. And it also made me think about a fence, which could be a kind of boundary. So I'm just going to go with the third option, based on that.

Andrew: Me too, I agree. I had a very similar thinking process to you, and I also thought, "Oh, a fence. It's like a boundary." And I'm going to choose number three too.

Maura: Yay!

Andrew: Yay! We're both right. So I think a geofence might be the type of thing that a business would set up around their store or their location. So could you imagine a big department store sets up a geofence, and when you walk into the store you get a text message on your phone with coupons for that store? I think it might be something like that.

Maura: Yeah, or something like when people check in on social media to say they've arrived at a location. Something like that.

Andrew: Totally. So our next expression is: *normcore*. And you know what, Maura? We actually covered this in the last new words episode.

Maura: That's funny, since it was a few months ago. Well, anyway, I've never seen this word before so maybe I could still take a guess.

Andrew: Yeah, you should try. This will be fun to see if you know what normcore is. So, let's go through the options. Number one is: conforming to a standard; usual, typical, or expected.

Maura: OK. And the second choice is: a style of dressing that involves the deliberate choice of unremarkable or unfashionable casual clothes.

Andrew: And the last one: a style of rock music characterized as conventional and mainstream.

- Maura: So even though I haven't seen this word before, I would say that it doesn't seem like number one, and it doesn't seem like the third one either. So I would say that normcore is a style of dressing that involves the deliberate choice of unremarkable or unfashionable casual clothes.
- Andrew: Interesting choice. You know what? You are correct.
- Maura: Nice.
- Andrew: Good job.
- Maura: And this word, too, was kind of like the last one. I really separated the two. *Norm* being *normal*, and *core*, like *hardcore*.
- Andrew: Yeah, but you know what? Because of that I thought that you might choose number three, because hardcore is a type of rock music. It originally started as a type of rock music, so I was thinking, "Ah, Maura's going to choose number three," but then you didn't, so, good for you.
- Maura: Thanks.
- Andrew: The next term. Oh, interesting: *devo*.
- Maura: *Devo*. Hmm.
- Andrew: Devo's the name of a really cool band. But I don't know it. Let's see. Let's look at these definitions. OK, number one: very loving or loyal.
- Maura: OK. The second one is: the transfer or delegation of power by a central government to a local or regional administration.
- Andrew: Hmm, OK. And the third one: a Korean alcoholic drink, typically made from rice or sweet potatoes.
- Maura: Well, with your experience in Korea, Andrew, what do you think about the third option?
- Andrew: Well, I would say that it's incorrect, because a Korean alcoholic drink would be soju.
- Maura: OK, so?
- Andrew: So it's either a very loving or loyal person or thing, or the transfer of power from a central government to a local government.
- Maura: I think I know which one I'm going to choose, but I don't want to say why because I don't want to help you.

- Andrew: You're evil. OK, I'm guessing number one.
- Maura: Me too.
- Andrew: Because I think it's just a shortened word of *devotee*.
- Maura: OK, well, that was mostly my reason, too. I thought it was a shortened version of *devoted*. Same thing.
- Andrew: Same word, essentially. OK, I think we're on the same page here, so that makes me think that we're both right. But let's check. Wow, we're wrong.
- Maura: Wow.
- Andrew: Are you sure we're native English-speakers?
- Maura: Some of these words, like the transfer or delegation of power by a central government to a local or regional administration, is something that I would never use, because I don't work in government and I don't follow it closely enough to hear about new terminology that they're using. So that's my excuse.
- Andrew: Yeah, that's my excuse too. That's interesting. I was very confident that it was A, but I guess we're wrong.
- Maura: But you can see how they choose their definitions, trying to trick us. And it worked.
- Andrew: It worked. OK, let's go to the next expression: *bants*. So *bants*; it reminds me of the word *pants*, but with a B instead of a P.
- Maura: Yeah. It also makes me think of *rants*.
- Andrew: OK, well let's check out the choices. We have one: attack or behave aggressively towards someone or something.
- Maura: I guess, yeah. And the second choice is: heavily under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. And the final option: playfully teasing or mocking remarks exchanged with another person or group.
- Maura: I have to say, my gut tells me that this is an expression that is probably used in England more than it is around here.
- Andrew: You're right about that, I think. Yeah, I have never heard *bants*. My **gut feeling** tells me that it might be number three: playfully teasing or mocking remarks. I think it might be that.

- Maura: Well, I would definitely say I don't think it's the second option about being heavily under the influence of drugs or alcohol, because we already have tons of expressions for that. I don't think we need another one.
- Andrew: And also, *bants*, it seems like a noun, and if you were under the influence of a substance, you would need an adjective to describe that. So I think, yeah, we can safely knock that off.
- Maura: You know, I also think that *bants* is a funny-sounding kind of word, so in that case, it would go more with playfully teasing than serious aggressive behaviour.
- Andrew: Yeah, to me it sounds like *banter*. So you're sort of, you know, talking to each other, poking fun at each other. I'm going to go with three.
- Maura: Yeah, that banter idea really **sold me**. I'm going with number three too.
- Andrew: And the answer is three. We're back on the board.
- Maura: Yeah. Good job to us.
- Andrew: Yay. OK, we have one final expression to look at.
- Maura: And, Andrew, I think this is a tie-breaker.
- Andrew: OK, the lightning round.
- Maura: *Rando* is the last word.
- Andrew: *Rando*. This also sounds very British to me.
- Maura: Mmhmm.
- Andrew: *Rando*. OK. So: smelling extremely unpleasant.
- Maura: OK. And the next option is: a rogue.
- Andrew: A rogue. And finally, the third option is: a person one does not know, especially one regarded as odd, suspicious, or engaging in socially inappropriate behaviour.
- Maura: Well, I don't think it's the second option. But I'm **teeter-tottering** between the first and the third.
- Andrew: Yeah. I'm going back and forth between the two as well.
- Maura: Care to share your thoughts?

- Andrew: Yeah. Well, again, I think if we take a look at the grammatical aspect here, a rando is a thing, so if something smelled bad, we would use an adjective to describe it, I think. We'd say it's smelly or it's disgusting. So, based on that logic, I have to say it's number three. It would be somebody you don't know. Maybe a random person could be a rando.
- Maura: That's exactly what I thought for number three: that a random person could be shortened to *rando*. So I think I like that connection better than anything I could think of for the first option.
- Andrew: Mmhmm.
- Maura: So it looks like if we both get it right, it's a tie, and if we both get it wrong it's a tie.
- Andrew: You know what? I've actually heard some of my younger cousins refer to people as randoms, not rando, but as randoms. It's not really slang that I use, but, yeah, so I think we might be on to something here. Let's choose number three. And we're right!
- Maura: Nice.
- Andrew: Nice. Unfortunately, I didn't beat you.
- Maura: It's a draw.
- Andrew: It's a draw. But, you know, good game.
- Maura: We should definitely play again in the future, and **the stakes** will be even higher then, Andrew.
- Andrew: Yeah. I wonder if any of our listeners beat us. That would be embarrassing.
- Maura: If you did play along and you scored better than us, let us know so we can congratulate you.
- Andrew: Yeah. So check us out on our website, Culips.com, or on Facebook, or on Twitter. Let us know how you did on the quiz, and let us know if you enjoyed this kind of episode, because if you did, we can do another one in the future because it's guaranteed that there will be more new words and new expressions in the future.
- Maura: Yeah. That's one of the things I really like about English, is that we have lots of words and we're always adding new ones.
- Andrew: That's right. So thank you for listening everybody, and we will talk to you next time.

Maura: See you later!



## Detailed Explanations

### To chew the fat

The expression **to chew the fat** means to talk light-heartedly or to gossip. In this episode, Andrew describes Chatterbox episodes as a time when the Culips hosts get together to **chew the fat**. In other words, during a Chatterbox episode, the Culips hosts have a light-hearted and casual conversation about a wide range of interesting topics.

No one is certain how this expression entered the English language. Some people believe that it might refer to sailors in the British Navy. In the 1700s and 1800s, sailors would bring dried meat with them on their voyages. When they had free time, they'd gather on the deck of their ship to snack on the dried meat and chat. This is a possible explanation of why **to chew the fat** means to chat casually.

Although we can't be sure of the origin of this expression, we can be certain of the meaning. When someone **chews the fat**, they participate in small talk and have a casual and informal conversation.

Here are a couple more examples with **to chew the fat**:

Rose: What did you get up to yesterday?

Greg: I met up with Dave and we had coffee together. It was good to catch up with him and **chew the fat** for a bit.

Rose: He's doing well?

Greg: Yup, he's doing great. He told me he's starting a new job next week that he's really excited about.

Rose: Good for him!

Ryan: I'm going to meet Bill and Sara tonight. Do you wanna come along?

Ashley: I don't know. What are you guys going to do?

Ryan: We'll probably just have a drink and **chew the fat**. Maybe we'll play cards or something.

Ashley: OK, yeah. That sounds fun.

Ryan: Great. Let's meet at 7pm.

Ashley: Sure. See you then.

## To stump someone

When you **stump someone**, you confuse or puzzle that person. In this episode, Andrew describes how Maura and he plan to take the *New Words Quiz*. By doing so, they'll find out if they're up to date on the newest English words or if these new words **stump them**. In other words, when they take the test, they'll discover whether they know the meaning of the new words or if the new words puzzle them because they don't know the meanings.

So, when someone or something **stumps someone**, that person or thing confuses or puzzles that person.

Here are a couple more examples with **to stump someone**:

Marco:	Do you like trivia questions?
Elizabeth:	Yeah. Why, you got one for me?
Marco:	Yup! What is Canada's longest river?
Elizabeth:	I have no idea. You <b>stumped me</b> .
Marco:	It's the Mackenzie!
Elizabeth:	Oh, there's no way I would have known that. I'm horrible with geography!

Gretchen:	Have you talked with Paul today? I wonder how his final exam went.
Josh:	I talked to him just a little while ago. He said the test went well but there were two or three questions that <b>stumped him</b> .
Gretchen:	Well, as long as it was only a few questions, he should still get a good grade on the test.
Josh:	Yeah, definitely. I'm sure he's glad it's over!

## Final answer

In this episode, Andrew uses the expression **final answer** when he asks Maura whether she has decided on a quiz question response. This is a reference to the gameshow *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* On this show, the quiz host asks each contestant, "Is that your final answer?" in order to confirm the answer the player has selected before proceeding to the next stage of the game.

If you are unfamiliar with this gameshow, you can find many video clips of it on YouTube. Make sure to keep your ears open for the **final answer** question.

## Dead meat

Just before starting the *New Words Quiz*, Maura tells Andrew that he's **dead meat**. When someone is **dead meat**, they are in deep trouble, they are doomed, or they find themselves in a hopeless situation. Maura tells Andrew he's **dead meat** because she thinks she will beat him at the quiz. Andrew is in trouble because, in Maura's opinion, he has no chance of winning the quiz.

So, we can use the idiom **dead meat** when we need to describe someone or something that will not succeed because they are in a hopeless situation. We often use this expression when we want to make fun of our opponents when we play games, just like Maura did in this episode.

Here are a couple more examples with **dead meat**:

Elliot: Do you think the Yankees will win this afternoon?

Rachel: They way they've been playing lately? No way. They're **dead meat**.

Elliot: Yeah. I hate to agree with you, but I think you're right!

Sammy: I was thinking about playing tennis this afternoon. How about you? Are you down for a game or two?

Val: Sounds fun. We haven't played in a long time.

Sammy: I know, right? Last time I believe I beat you.

Val: Not this time! You're **dead meat**!

Sammy: Let's settle this on the court. See you around 2pm?

Val: Perfect!

### The bro code

In this episode, Andrew jokes that Maura doesn't know **the bro code** and this is the reason she got the question about the word *bruh* wrong. Guys sometimes refer to their male friends as their bros. And **the bro code** is a pop culture reference to a set of unwritten rules that determine the guidelines of friendship among men. Because Maura is a woman, Andrew jokes that she wouldn't know about bros and **the bro code**.

Although **the bro code** isn't a real thing and is just a joke, it is quite popular on the Internet. There are numerous websites that list hundreds of rules that male friends should follow. A quick Google search for **bro code** will turn up many results.

### Back in the game

When a team or player is **back in the game**, they have gone from a losing position to a competitive position (losing by just a little bit, tied, or winning). In this episode, we Maura exclaims that she's **back in the game** after she answers a quiz question correctly and Andrew answers incorrectly. This evens up the score between Maura and Andrew.

So, when a player or a team has gone from losing to being competitive, that player or team is **back in the game**.

Here are a couple more examples with **back in the game**:

Brandon: I hate watching the playoffs on TV. It makes me so nervous.

Gina: I know, right? But don't worry. The Jets just need to score one more goal and they're right **back in the game**.

Brandon: I'm keeping my fingers crossed. Go Jets!

Kyle: Did I miss anything while I was in the washroom?

Lisa: Yeah, you did, actually. The Kings are **back in the game**. They just scored again.

Kyle: Oh no!

Lisa: Yeah, exactly. Now we're losing.

Kyle: We'll get it back. I have faith in my team.

## Hindsight is 20/20

The idiomatic expression ***hindsight is 20/20*** means that past events are easy to understand from the present, even though they may have been confusing when you were actually experiencing them.

In this episode, Maura says that ***hindsight is 20/20*** after she answers the quiz question about *freekeh* incorrectly. When she was trying to answer the question, she had no idea what the correct response was. However, after she found out the answer, something clicked in her mind that reminded her that *freekeh* is the name of a grain. So, knowing what she knows after hearing the answer, she says that ***hindsight is 20/20*** because it is now clear to her that *freekeh* is a grain and the other quiz options were incorrect.

The ***20/20*** part of this expression comes from medical terminology that describes vision. If you have ***20/20*** vision, you have perfect vision. So, the expression ***hindsight is 20/20*** means that when viewed from the present, past events and situations are clear or obvious.

Here are a couple more examples with ***hindsight is 20/20***:

Marc: Could I have a quick chat with you about your presentation last week?

Brenda: Sure.

Marc: I feel like next time you need to be more prepared. There were several moments where you looked like you were improvising. It came across as unprofessional.

Brenda: I'm sorry about that. I felt pretty well prepared, but obviously that wasn't the case. ***Hindsight is 20/20***, I guess. I'll make sure I'm prepared next time.

Marc: I look forward to your next presentation. I know you'll get it right next time.

Brenda: I sure will!

Faith: I have to take my computer to the repair shop tomorrow. It's got a virus again.

Paul: That's crazy. How many times have you had to take that computer to the shop?

Faith: Way too many times. I should never have bought that model.

Paul: ***Hindsight is 20/20***, but there's no way you could have known you'd have so many problems with it.

Faith: True. Next time I'll be doing a lot of research before I select a computer model to buy.

## A gut feeling

When you have **a gut feeling**, you feel or believe something very strongly but you don't know why. **A gut feeling** is an instinctive feeling that you can't explain, but that you feel strongly. In this episode, Andrew says that he has **a gut feeling** about the correct answer to the quiz question about the word *bants*. In other words, Andrew has a strong feeling he knows the answer, but he does not know why he thinks he knows the answer. It's just an instinctive feeling.

The word **gut** refers to the area of the body where the stomach and other organs are located. So, the expression **a gut feeling** suggests that instinctive feelings come from this area of the body.

When you believe or feel something very strongly but you don't know why, you have **a gut feeling**.

Here are a couple more examples with **a gut feeling**:

Frederick: You want to go skiing tomorrow?

Pamela: Skiing? There isn't even any snow on the ground.

Frederick: I know, but it will snow tomorrow.

Pamela: Oh yeah? Did you watch the weather forecast?

Frederick: No. I just have **a gut feeling**.

Pamela: Oh really? Well, if it snows, I'm down to go skiing. But I kind of doubt it will.

Frederick: Oh, it will. Just you wait and see.

Jean: Are you going to Dave's party tomorrow?

Judy: Yeah, I'm planning to. How about you?

Jean: I was actually thinking about skipping it. I just think it might not be much fun.

Judy: Why do you think that?

Jean: No reason really, just **a gut feeling**.

Judy: OK. Well I'm going to go. I think it'll be fun. Let me know if you change your mind.

Jean: OK, will do.

## To be sold

In this episode, Maura and Andrew answer a quiz question about the word *bants*. Andrew guesses that it might be related to the word *banter* and explains why he thinks this. Maura then says that his explanation really **sold her**. When you are **sold**, you are convinced that something is true, useful, or a good idea. In other words, Andrew's explanation convinced Maura that Andrew's guess was correct.

So when someone is convinced that an idea or plan is good, we can say that person is **sold**.

Here are a couple more examples with **to be sold**:

Andrea: I'm going out for dinner tonight. Wanna come along?

Olivier: Where are you going?

Andrea: You'll love it. It's a pizza buffet. All you can eat for 10 dollars.

Olivier: Oh, wow! **I'm sold!**

Andrea: Awesome. See you at 6:00?

Olivier: You bet.

Zach: Did you ask your dad if we can borrow his car for the road trip?

Kim: I talked to him last night.

Zach: What did he say?

Kim: I told him I would be really careful with the car and everything, but **he wasn't sold**.

Zach: That's disappointing. What are we going to do now?

Kim: Maybe we could just rent a car?

Zach: Yeah. I guess that's true.



## To teeter-totter

When you **teeter-totter**, you have a hard time making a choice when you are presented with two options. You change your mind repeatedly and find it difficult to make a decision. In this episode, Maura said that she was **teeter-tottering** between the first and third option when trying to answer the question about the word *rando*. In other words, she kept going back and forth between those two options before making a final decision.



A teeter-totter is a toy that children play on in a playground. Just like kids bounce up and down on a teeter-totter, when you **teeter-totter**, you go back and forth before two options while making your mind up and making a decision.

Another name for a teeter-totter is a see-saw. And we can also use the verb *to see-saw* the same way as **to teeter-totter**. So, if you **teeter-totter** or see-saw, you hesitate and keep going back and forth between two options before making a decision.

Here are a couple more examples with **to teeter-totter**.

Ian: You know, our vacation time is coming up in a couple of months. We should start planning our trip.

Eve: Yeah, definitely. Do you have any ideas about where we should go?

Ian: I'm **teeter-tottering** between France and Brazil. What do you think?

Eve: Oh, I'd love to visit Brazil!

Ian: Awesome. Let's go!

Carl: Which sweater do you think I should buy? The black one, the grey one, or the brown one?

Quinn: Hmm. I think they all look nice, but I'm **teeter-tottering** between the black one and the grey one. Brown isn't a great colour on you.

Carl: Yeah, that's true. Maybe I'll go for the black one.

Quinn: Good choice!

## The stakes

At the end of this episode, Maura tells Andrew that they will definitely play another round of the *New Words Quiz* in the future, and when they play again, **the stakes** will be even higher. **The stakes** is a gambling expression that describes how much risk you take when you do something. Usually, this means betting money on a game, match, or other sporting event.

When Maura mentions that **the stakes** will be higher next time she and Andrew take the quiz, she means that it will be very embarrassing to lose the next time they play. This is because they now both have the experience of taking the quiz. **The stakes** will be higher because the loser's pride will be hurt to a greater extent.

So, **the stakes** refers to the risk involved with doing an activity. High **stakes** means there is a lot of risk, low **stakes** means there is not much risk.

Here are a couple more examples with **the stakes**:

Lauren: How long are you going to be in town?

Will: Just for the weekend. I'm driving back home on Sunday night.

Lauren: Did you hear that there's supposed to be a snowstorm on Sunday night? You shouldn't drive then, **the stakes** are too high.

Will: Oh really? I didn't hear that. Maybe I'll leave Sunday morning then.

Lauren: Yeah. I think that's a safer idea.

Mariah: Let's go away for the weekend; get out of town for a bit. It'll be good for us.

Peter: That would be nice, but don't you have to work?

Mariah: Yeah, but I'll just call in sick or something.

Peter: Don't you think **the stakes** are too high to do that? I mean, you could lose your job.

Mariah: Nah. They won't fire me. It'll be OK.

Peter: OK, if you say so. All right, so where should we go?

## Quiz

1. **Fill in the blank: When a past event seems obvious from the perspective of the present, we say that hindsight is \_\_\_\_\_.** 
  - a) 10/20
  - b) 20/20
  - c) 30/20
  - d) 40/20
  
2. **What does it mean when we describe someone as sold?**
  - a) They need to sell something.
  - b) They are convinced that something is a bad idea.
  - c) They are convinced that something is a good idea.
  - d) They need to buy something.
  
3. **Which of the following expressions refers to an instinctive feeling?**
  - a) a gut feeling
  - b) a brain feeling
  - c) a stomach feeling
  - d) a knee feeling
  
4. **What does *to teeter-totter* mean?**
  - a) to throw something away
  - b) to make a decision
  - c) to exercise
  - d) to hesitate between two options
  
5. **What do you do when you chew the fat?**
  - a) save money
  - b) take on a lot of responsibility
  - c) eat potato chips
  - d) talk casually

- 
- 6. Fill in the blank: If the stakes are high, then there is a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ involved.**
- a) respect
  - b) bliss
  - c) risk
  - d) shock
- 7. How do you feel when you are stumped?**
- a) busy
  - b) open-minded
  - c) puzzled
  - d) organized
- 8. True or false? A team who just had a goal scored against them is back in the game.**
- a) true
  - b) false
- 9. What does it mean if someone is dead meat?**
- a) That person is in trouble.
  - b) That person has died.
  - c) That person has escaped from a dangerous situation.
  - d) That person is going hunting.

## Quiz Answers

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

### Episode Credits

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