

Chatterbox #22 – Interviewing Adam Hoyt

Transcript



Harp: Hello everyone this is Harp.

Adam: and this is Adam.

Harp: And we're here bringing you a Chatterbox podcast at Culips.com, that's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. Make sure you go to the website because there you can find a Lipservice for each episode. And in the Lipservice you can find a Detailed Explanation, a complete transcript, and even a quiz. Today we're going to do a Chatterbox podcast and that's where we just chat. We talk about different subjects, we invite special guests, and it's just to meet new people and to talk about interesting things. So today we have Adam here with us, and Adam is actually an **old** roommate of Robin's.

Adam: That's right.

Harp: So how is Robin as a roommate?

Adam: I tell you, Robin, he's a very interesting person. But he was a great roommate.

Harp: Is he messy?

Adam: Uhh...

Harp: You can't answer that?

Adam: **No comment.**

Harp: No comment, OK. OK, so now Adam you're here visiting Canada for just 2 weeks because you live in Japan right now.

Adam: That's right.

Harp: So you're originally from Ottawa and you're living in Japan.

Adam: That's correct.

Harp: OK, where in Japan are you living?

Adam: I live in beautiful Kobe.

- Harp: Where exactly is that?
- Adam: Kobe, it's not too far from Osaka. Where I'm staying, I can catch a train to Osaka and it only takes 30 minutes.
- Harp: OK. What are you doing in Japan?
- Adam: I'm teaching English at a senior high school. I'm there with the **Jet Program**, if you've heard of it.
- Harp: OK, yeah, I've heard of it before. You teach English. OK, but this isn't your first time **overseas**?
- Adam: No, no, not at all. It's actually not my first time in Japan either. I went there **way back** in November 2006 for just a couple of days to get a visa to teach English in Korea.
- Harp: OK, so **you taught English in Korea**?
- Adam: Yes.
- Harp: How long were you there for?
- Adam: One year.
- Harp: Did you like it?
- Adam: Yeah, I did, I loved it.
- Harp: And so, you've been in Japan now for 8 months?
- Adam: Yes.
- Harp: OK, and you just signed another contract.
- Adam: That's right.
- Harp: OK, so you're going to be there until, you were saying, July next year?
- Adam: Yup, July 2010.
- Harp: That's fun. So you really like it then.
- Adam: Yeah, I do.

- Harp: Why did you pick Japan this time?
- Adam: Well I've always been interested in Japan. Um, ever since I was very young, I studied martial arts and Japanese martial art instructors, and I loved the **Ninja Turtles**.
- Harp: **The Ninja Turtles!**
- Adam: Yeah, and it just sort of **planted a seed in my mind** and I've always been interested in Japan and I also just wanted a change. I was living in Montreal for about a year and a bit before I went to Japan and I was ready for a change.
- Harp: Are you doing martial arts now in Japan?
- Adam: Yeah, I was. I injured my elbow while doing martial arts so I'm taking some time off now but before that I was studying martial arts.
- Harp: OK, what kind of martial arts were you studying?
- Adam: Jujitsu.
- Harp: Oh, very exciting!
- Adam: It's fun.
- Harp: Must be. OK, perfect. So now Adam, I heard something interesting about you.
- Adam: What did you hear, Harp?
- Harp: I heard that you're **allergic** to fish.
- Adam: Yes, I'm **allergic** to fish.
- Harp: So you can't eat sushi.
- Adam: Unfortunately, no.
- Harp: That's too bad, you can't eat sushi there.
- Adam: No.
- Harp: What kind of food do you like there? What do you eat?

- Adam: I like **soba** and I like **teriyaki, yakitori**. **Yakitori** is like barbequed chicken on sticks. So, you know, even though I can't eat fish, there are a lot of options. It's not a big problem.
- Harp: OK, that's good. There's lots of other good food you can eat.
- Adam: Yeah, absolutely.
- Harp: OK, now Adam, when you're in Japan, what do you miss about Canada?
- Adam: I definitely miss my family and friends but I also miss my favourite restaurant.
- Harp: What is your favourite restaurant?
- Adam: It's actually called **Shish Taouk**.
- Harp: OK.
- Adam: It's a Lebanese restaurant and it's just about a 30-second walk from where I used to live in Montreal. I used to go there every day and order **shish taouks** and **shwarmas** and I can't do that in Japan and I really miss it.
- Harp: So have you eaten a lot of **shish taouk** since you've been back?
- Adam: Actually yes. I got to Montreal yesterday and I had **shish taouk** for dinner and then I had **shish taouk** again for breakfast today.
- Harp: You had it for breakfast?
- Adam: Yes. It was great.
- Harp: That's love; that's love for food!
- Adam: Yeah, and I plan to go back again and have it for dinner before I leave.
- Harp: Really?
- Adam: Yeah.
- Harp: OK, so how long are you in Canada before you go back?
- Adam: I'm here for another 2 weeks.
- Harp: OK, so you're going to go spend some time with your family in Ottawa?



Adam: That's right.

Harp: Um... Now going back to teaching English, can you give us some tips for our listeners out there who are learning English?

Adam: OK, yeah. The biggest tip I think you should consider is to not be afraid of making mistakes. Because if you are hesitant or afraid of speaking because you don't want to make mistakes, your speaking ability will never improve. It may improve but just a little bit. You have to be confident; you have to not be afraid of making mistakes. And you just need to practice speaking.

Where I teach, a lot of students are very shy. They're very worried about the opinion of others so they don't speak. They would rather have somebody else speak for them and it's unfortunate because these students will never become good speakers. **Whereas** the students who are more **outgoing**, less shy, more social, although they may not study as hard, they're definitely better speakers. So in order to become a better speaker, you need to practice, and in order to practice properly, you have to not be afraid of making mistakes.

Harp: OK, so just do it, just try, just speak.

Adam: Just do it. Everybody makes mistakes. I'm learning Japanese and I make mistakes all the time.

Harp: Yeah, do you speak quite a bit right now?

Adam: Not really, but I'm studying a bit every day.

Harp: OK, do you take classes, or...

Adam: No, I study on my own and sometimes I practice speaking with Japanese friends or sometimes I have language exchanges with Japanese people I know who want to practice speaking English. It's good in that sense 'cause it's free and I can help somebody with their English while they help me with my Japanese.

Harp: Yeah, language exchanges are great. It's a good idea.

Adam: Yeah.

Harp: Have you done any travelling around Japan right now? Are you going to do some more when you get back?

Adam: Yeah, I've done a bit. I've been around to a few cities, Hiroshima, Okinawa,

Kyoto, Nara, of course Osaka 'cause I'm very close to Osaka. But I haven't been up north. I'd like to do that.

Harp: OK, so maybe you're going to do that when you go back?

Adam: Yeah, once the weather warms up I'll go up north.

Harp: Is it cold there?

Adam: It's not that cold, Canada is much colder than where I'm staying in Japan but I'm a bit of a **wimp**. I don't like the cold weather. I complain about it all the time.

Harp: Yeah, you fit with Culips then, we're always complaining about the cold weather. OK, so that's about it for us today. Thank you so much Adam for coming in and joining us today.

Adam: It was my pleasure.

Harp: OK, and remember everyone out there, check out our website, that's Culips, C-U-L-I-P-S.com and this has been Harp.

Adam: This has been Adam.

Harp: Bye everyone!

Adam: Bye!

Detailed Explanation

Old

Most people who know even a little bit of English know the word **old**. **Old** is usually used to mean the opposite of *young*, but **old** is also used just like *former* or *previous* or *ex-* or *past*. In this episode, when Harp talks about Adam being an **old** roommate of Robin's, she is not talking about his age. It means that in the past Adam and Robin were roommates.

It's usually easy to see the difference in the ways old is used. Here are some examples.

Gwen: That's my **old** school.

Ray: Really? When did you study there?

(*old* meaning past, former)

Ben: That's an **old** school.

Vicky: Yeah, it looks like it's falling apart.

(*old* meaning the age of the school)

Yvonne: Who are you meeting tonight?

Brock: An **old** friend of mine.

(*old* meaning past)

No comment

To respond to a question, especially in an interview, **no comment** is a classic line. This is something that people say when they don't want to answer a specific question, usually because the information is personal or the topic is very controversial. In this case, Harp asked Adam a personal question about Robin and so Adam decided to answer with **no comment**.

People might also use this with friends in a joking way in regular conversation. And sometimes, even though the person has responded with **no comment**, the response is still understood.

In this episode, when Harp asks Adam if Robin was messy, Adam laughs and answers with **no comment**. So the answer is clear! Robin is a bit of a messy roommate. If he were neat, then Adam would probably have just said that. Sometimes when a yes or no question is asked and only one of those answers is embarrassing or personal, then if the person responds with **no comment**, it's likely that the response is embarrassing.

Here's another example.

Doug: Have you ever told someone you loved them and they didn't love you back?

Penelope: **No comment**.

In that example, it was a yes or no question. To tell someone you love them and they didn't love you back is a bit embarrassing. If this never happened to you and the answer is no, it is not personal. From this question we can guess that Penelope has told someone she loved them and they didn't love her back!

When it is not a yes or no question it is more difficult to guess the answer when someone responds with no comment.

Jet Program

This is a program for English Native speakers who are interested in teaching **overseas** in Japan. It is a year-long program where English teachers are placed in Japanese high schools. This is the program in which Adam is participating in Japan.

Overseas

Overseas means a foreign country, a country other than the country where you live or are from. *To go overseas* or *to travel overseas* generally means to visit another country.

There is a small distinction to be made here. This word comes from literally going over seas. In the past, when people travelled to different countries they had to take a boat to get there, and so travelled by sea.

Of course, it is also possible to travel to different countries that are not separated by water, and in this case we do NOT use the expression **overseas**. If I visit the USA from Canada I would not say that I went **overseas**. But if I travelled to Europe I could then I say I've been **overseas**.

Here is one correct and one incorrect example.

Elaine: Last summer I went **overseas** for the first time.

Frank: Where did you go?

Elaine: China! It was amazing.

(CORRECT)

Matt: I want to go **overseas** this summer. I am sick of living in Paris.

Oscar: Where do you want to go?

Matt: I want to go to Italy.

(INCORRECT)

A good synonym of **overseas** is *abroad*. But you can use the term *abroad* to talk about any other country, not just countries that are across the ocean.

Way back

This is a short little expression that emphasizes that something happened in the not recent past, a long time ago. Adam uses this expression in this episode when he says, “I went there **way back** in November 2006.” You can actually remove **way back** and the sentence still makes sense. (Some of you may be thinking that 2006 was not that long ago. For Adam it must feel that way.)

Here are some examples of how you can use **way back**.

Ted: When were you in England?

Karly: **Way back** when I was a kid. I hardly remember it.

Jeff: How long have you known Paul?

Carmen: We go **way back**. We’ve known each other since we were 6.

Ivan: It’s fun to talk about the good old days.

Jean: Yeah. Looking at old photos always takes me **way back**.

...you taught English in Korea

This is just one example of something that Harp does throughout this episode. It is a statement used as a question. She does this by changing her tone to sound like a question and leaving it to Adam to confirm. Can you see all the times she asks a question but uses a statement? Look for the times when she uses a questioning tone, but doesn’t begin the sentence with a word like *who*, *what*, *where*, *why*, *when*, or *how*.

The Ninja Turtles

The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, or just **Ninja Turtles**, are four turtle characters that were trained by a rat to be ninjas. They first appeared in comic books but became popular after the cartoon TV show started. They were very popular in the late 1980s to early 1990s. Adam and Harp were both kids during this time.

To plant a seed (in my mind)

To plant a seed is an expression in English. It means that a person has an idea or a hint of something in their mind and it “grows” and becomes bigger for them. The **seed** refers to the small idea that is in the mind of the person.

In this episode, being interested in martial arts was **the seed that was planted** in Adam’s mind. This got him interested in Japan and “the seed” grew to the big idea of going to live there.

Here are some other examples with **to plant a seed**.

Tyson: I want to go on vacation in Florida next year so I **planted a seed in Sue's mind**.

Anna: So maybe by this time next year, she'll want to go.

(By talking about Florida, Tyson puts the idea in Sue's mind to go to Florida next year.)

June: I am trying to get my friend Cindy to go on a date with my friend Mark.

Dave: She doesn't want to do it?

June: I've been talking to her about him to convince her to go. I'm **planting a seed**.

Allergic

Adam is **allergic** to fish. **To be allergic** to something means that your body reacts strangely to something if you eat it or breathe it in. Common allergies in North America include allergies to cats, dogs, peanuts, and pollen.

Soba, teriyaki, yakitori

Soba, **teriyaki**, and **yakitori** are all Japanese foods. (If you're Japanese you can probably describe them better than we can at Culips.) **Soba** is a Japanese noodle made from buckwheat. **Teriyaki** is meat that has been marinated in a seasoned soya sauce. Adam explains **yakitori** in this episode.

Shish taouk, shwarmas

Shish taouk is a kind of **shwarma**. In Montreal a **shish taouk** generally consists of shavings of meat that have been marinated and roasted. The meat is put into a pita with lettuce, onion, tomato, pickled turnip, and garlic mayonnaise. It's pretty darn delicious!

Whereas

The word **whereas** is used to introduce a contrary idea to the one that came before it. For example, Adam talks about students who are too shy to practice their English. Then he talks about the opposite, students who are not shy to speak English. We could say that students who are shy may not improve as quickly, **whereas** others who like to talk may progress more quickly.

Here are some other simple examples with **whereas**.

Jim likes to stay out all night, **whereas** Joan likes to go to bed early.

Whereas she loves pizza, he doesn't.

Outgoing

Outgoing is an adjective that can only be used to describe people. Someone who is **outgoing** likes to talk to people and is not shy. Synonyms for **outgoing** include extroverted, friendly, and social.

Wimp

A **wimp** is a person who is not strong physically, and sometimes mentally too. Adam says that he is a **wimp** because can't tolerate the cold weather. He finds the cold weather difficult to take.

Synonyms for **wimp** include weakling, wuss, sissy, chicken, and 'fraidy cat. There's a whole episode at Culips called **Chicken** that talks about these slang terms.



Quiz

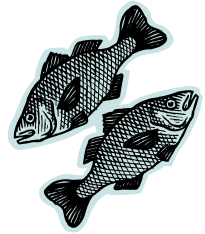
1. What does Adam respond when Harp asks him if Robin was a messy roommate?

- a) "Comment."
- b) "No comment."
- c) "Content."
- d) "No contentment."

2. Adam travelled from Canada to Japan. We can also say that Adam travelled _____.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) overseas
- b) over easy
- c) overindulge
- d) overwhelm



3. What planted a seed in Adam's mind?

- a) shish taouk
- b) the Jet Program
- c) a rat
- d) his love of martial arts

4. Which expression means *a long time ago*?

- a) backpack
- b) way back
- c) wayside
- d) backflip

5. Adam can't eat fish because his body has a strange reaction to it. We can say that Adam is _____ fish.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) annoyed by
- b) in love with
- c) allergic to
- d) excited about

6. Where does Adam have shish taouk?

- a) Montreal
- b) Japan
- c) Ottawa
- d) Lebanon

7. Why does Adam say he is a wimp?

- a) He doesn't know how to fight.
- b) He likes yakitori.
- c) He doesn't like the cold weather.
- d) He misses Montreal.

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