

Chatterbox #60 – Parents

Transcript

Maura: Hello!

Harp: Hello!

Maura: This is Maura.

Harp: And Harp.

Maura: And we're here with your Culips English Learning p-p-p-podcast.

Harp: And make sure you go to our website, that's Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com, 'cause there, you can become a member and then you have access to the Learning Materials. And for each episode, the Learning Materials contain a complete transcript, detailed explanations, and even a quiz.

Maura: And if you want to get to know us better and chat with us, check out our Facebook page. You could also like us on iTunes. Thank you very much.

Harp: Yes. And today we're doing a Chatterbox podcast, and that's where we chat.

Maura: Right. We talk about something that's going on in the news, something cultural, some interesting topic that we think you might like to listen to and learn some English expressions about.

Harp: Yes. So today, what are we talking about, Maura?

Maura: Today we're going to be talking about parenting.

Harp: Parenting.

Maura: Right. So, first we're gonna talk about the parenting styles of today and the things that parents do with their children.

Harp: Yes. And then we're gonna go through some expressions that parents often say to their **kids**.

Maura: Right, the classic lines that parents say to their **kids**, sometimes when their **kids** are in trouble.

Harp: Yes, exactly.

Maura: So if you're in a family, you might hear this, but you'll also hear it on movies and TV when there's a family situation.

- Harp: Yeah, these are expressions that are often used on TV.
- Maura: So, let's first start by talking about parenting. Now, neither of us are parents, but we both have some.
- Harp: Yup, exactly, yup. I've got my mom and my dad, living in Edmonton.
- Maura: Right. And so there are certain things that parents do when they're trying to **raise their children** and teach them how to behave and all that kind of stuff. So many parents make their **kids** do **chores**.
- Harp: Yup, I did **alotta chores** when I was young.
- Maura: So, **chores** that **kids** do, in the past and today, can be anything that helps take of the house.
- Harp: Yup, washing dishes, vacuuming, cleaning your room, dusting, really anything.
- Maura: Yup, anything. What kind of **chores** did you have to do?
- Harp: Everything that I just said plus more.
- Maura: Did you have a certain schedule, like a certain time that you had to do them, every Saturday or something or did your parents just randomly say "Harp, clean the bathroom"?
- Harp: We cleaned on Saturdays but it wasn't like a set time that we had to do it by. And we had to wash the dishes every day after dinner. And my dad actually makes a really funny joke, which he thinks is really funny, because the way my parents' house is set up, is that they don't have room for an actual **dishwasher**, like the machine **dishwasher**, and my dad always jokes, when we try to say, "Oh, can't we get one of those **dishwashers** that you can move?" And he said, "Why do I need to buy a **dishwasher**? I already have three."
- Maura: Ha ha ha.
- Harp: Yeah, he means me and my two sisters.
- Maura: Yeah. I've heard a joke like that before too, because a **dishwasher** can be a person who washes dishes or it can be a machine. Nice.
- Harp: Yeah, he thought he was pretty funny. I've heard that joke at least 20 times in my life.

- Maura: It also is important to note that most **kids**, if not all **kids**, hate to do **chores** and whine and complain when they're asked to do **chores**.
- Harp: Yeah, we didn't have much of a choice, but definitely I remember complaining about having to clean. You just have to do it again and again and again.
- Maura: Right, it never stops.
- Harp: Nope.
- Maura: But now that you're older, Harp, do you see the value in doing **chores**?
- Harp: Yes. It gave me a lot of discipline and I know how to do things, like I know how to cook, I can take care of myself. And what about you? What kind of **chores** did you have to do?
- Maura: I actually didn't have to do that many **chores**.
- Harp: Wow.
- Maura: My mom's story is that when she was young, her and her sisters had to do a lot of **chores**. So that every Saturday, she had to wake up early, she wasn't even allowed to **sleep in**, and they had to clean the whole house. So my mom has memories of hating that. So because she hated it so much, she always said, "When I have **kids**, I'm not gonna make them do that much work around the house."
- Harp: Wow, so she did all of the cleaning?
- Maura: I guess so.
- Harp: You didn't even notice.
- Maura: Well, we did help out once in a while, and we did do the dishes sometimes, but we didn't have regular **chores** to do. But I agree with you that I think it is an important thing to do and it's probably an important thing to do when you're younger.
- Harp: Yup. Another thing that parents do is they give an **allowance**.
- Maura: Right. Especially for doing **chores**. So, parents will give their children a certain amount of money per week and then it's their money to do with what they want. So they could save it, or they could spend it. And that's called an **allowance**.

- Harp: So often times in families, when **kids** are growing up, when they do their **chores**, they get an **allowance** and the amount would depend on the family.
- Maura: I probably don't even know what **kids** get nowadays but I would say maybe \$20 a week or something?
- Harp: I have no idea. I never got an **allowance** when I was growing up.
- Maura: Yeah, me neither.
- Harp: It always seemed to be so cool though. On TV I would see in shows that people would get an **allowance**, and I would imagine the things I would do with money.
- Maura: So right, children do **chores**, sometimes they get **allowances**, and then they also possibly get into trouble.
- Harp: As **kids** sometimes do.
- Maura: Right. And when **kids** get into trouble, especially older children, there are a lot of different ways that parents can **punish** them. And one of them is **grounding**, so *to ground a child*.
- Harp: Yes, so a when a child misbehaves or does something wrong, a parent can **ground** them. And that means that they have to stay at home and they can't go out and play with their friends, and they can't go to a party. It's a way of **punishing** the child.
- Maura: Right. And it definitely is **punishment** because you can't do anything, you have to stay home, you may have to miss a party.
- Harp: Did you get **grounded** a lot when you were a **kid**, Maura?
- Maura: Nope, I never got **grounded** actually. My mom didn't really **ground** us, but also, we weren't really troublemakers, so she didn't really need to.
- Harp: Yeah. I was a really good **kid** so I don't really remember getting in trouble with my parents a lot.
- Maura: Yeah. I almost regret being so good. I think back, I should have been a bit more wild and crazy and done funny things, you know?
- Harp: That's funny. Really?

- Maura: So, another thing that parents might do is take away some of their possessions. Like, especially nowadays, you can't play on your video game or you can't go on the Internet or watch TV. So then also the children are bored and get something taken away from them.
- Harp: Yeah. I have a friend who, that was his mom's **punishment**, to him, he would not be allowed to watch TV or he was only allowed to watch TV for 30 minutes a day rather than however much TV he wanted to watch. But he was a very smart **kid**, and so he would ask his mom, "OK, so is the 30 minutes including commercials? Can I stop watching for the commercials?" And he would extend how much time he could watch TV for. Smart guy.
- Maura: That's funny. That's a good move. Another thing that parents do is limit the amount of time that their children can stay out. Especially when they get older and more independent and really they're teenagers, a parent will give their child a **curfew**, which means they have to be home at a certain time. No matter what they're doing, no matter where they are, they have to be home at a certain time, every night.
- Harp: Yeah, and usually as **kids** get older, their **curfew** gets later and later.
- Maura: Yeah. Some people have really early **curfews** and they have to be home by, like, 10 or 11 o'clock, and of course we're talking about teenagers now. And other people have late **curfews**, like 3 o'clock in the morning. It really depends on your parents.
- Harp: Yeah. My mom's rule for us was when the sun goes down, you have to be home, that was when we were young, that was her rule. But the thing is, we were growing up in Northern British Columbia, and in the north of Canada, the sun stays light for a long time in the summer. So the **curfew** depended. Depending on what season we were, in winter I had to be home by 6:00, but in the summer it could be up until 10:00, so it was kind of fun.
- Maura: Yeah, I had a similar **curfew** too when I was younger, and I liked that. It was fun because you could stay out later and later when the sun was up.
- Harp: Yup.
- Maura: OK. Let's move on to our second section, which is the classic expressions that you hear from your mom and dad growing up.
- Harp: Yes. Those expressions you see on TV or that your parents maybe said to you when you were growing up.
- Maura: Right. One of the first ones that I think of is **money doesn't grow on trees**.

- Harp: My dad used to say that to me all the time when I was asking for a new toy or something, maybe a new outfit or a new shirt, he would say, "What, you think **money grows on trees?**"
- Maura: Exactly. So, obviously **money doesn't grow on trees**, but your parents always ask it like it's a question. And that's exactly what it means, that money does not grow on trees, so I don't have a lot of it, so I can't always be buying you things.
- Harp: Exactly. I remember when I was young I say back to my dad, "But money is paper and paper comes from trees." He didn't like that so much.
- Maura: Oh yeah, I think I used that one too, for sure.
- Harp: **Kids**, they think they're so smart. The next expression that parents often use is **as long as you live under my roof, you'll do as I say**.
- Maura: Right. So this would be used when a parent asks a child to do something and the child doesn't wanna do it, like a **chore**, when they're whining or complaining. And the parent might use this line, which is **as long as you live under my roof, you'll do as I say**, which means if you live with me (*under my roof* means in my house), you're going to do what I say, because the parent pays for the child, gives them a place to stay, gives them clothes to wear, food to eat. So they have to listen to their parents.
- Harp: Yeah. **As you long as you live under my roof, you'll do as I say**.
- Maura: That's a classic. What's another one?
- Harp: The one that I remember seeing on TV, and my dad used to do a variation of this, but the classic line is the **I used to walk uphill both ways to school**.
- Maura: Yup, that's an old, old classic, I think, that parents would always tell their children how difficult they had it when they were younger. But it just means that it was so difficult and the parents had it so difficult when they were young and now the **kids**, of course, have it so easy. Nowadays, **kids** can take the bus to any place or their parents drive them a lot of the time. But often, it is true that when older people were younger, before all of that became so popular, they did have to walk really long distances and they did have it a bit harder.
- Harp: Life is just more easy now in Canada. There's more public transportation, there's more set up than back 40, 50, 60 years ago.
- Maura: Yup. So it's a good expression that especially older people like to use, to just show how their life was so hard.

- Harp: Yes. When **kids** are complaining, it's often used to show that their life was harder when they were young. And the next expression is often used when **kids** don't pick up after themselves, when they don't put away their toys, when they don't clean up their clothes, when they don't put their dishes in the sink. And this expression can be used in many different ways, but I'll give you the classic one. The parent would say, "**Do you think those socks are going to pick themselves up?**"
- Maura: Right, so the parent is asking if the child really thinks that they're going to take care of themselves, because clearly the child has to clean up their own mess.
- Harp: Yeah, so when they're saying, "**Do you think those socks are going to pick themselves up?**", the parent is saying, "**Do you think the socks are just going to walk to the hamper?**"
- Maura: Yup, it's like the parent is saying, "Pick up your socks."
- Harp: Very much so.
- Maura: But as you said, Harp, you could use this in a few different situations. You could say, "**Do you think those dishes are going to wash themselves?**" as in, "Wash those dishes because they're dirty and you did it."
- Harp: Yup. A couple of different variations. We'll explain some more in the Learning Materials. And the last expression is a very funny one, it's not to be taken seriously. ***I brought you into this world and I can take you right back out.***
- Maura: Yes, this is a real classic. I feel like I've heard this one mostly in movies and TV, when a child has really done something crazy and the parent wants to show how much power they have over the child.
- Harp: Yes. Do you want to say the expression one more time, Maura? It's very long.
- Maura: I know, it is a long one. ***I brought you into this world and I can take you out.***
- Harp: It's quite funny, the parent's not, obviously, being serious but...
- Maura: Yeah, it sounds serious but they're just mad or frustrated and they're just reminding the child that they brought them into the world.
- Harp: My dad used to say this, and I think I almost giggled every time he said, 'cause it's just kind of funny.

- Maura: And probably 'cause you'd heard it on so many TV shows and movies that it made it a bit funnier.
- Harp: Yeah, exactly.
- Maura: You know, Harp. I've notice that you've talked about your dad a lot during this episode.
- Harp: Yeah, yeah, I guess I did.
- Maura: You're going to have to tell him to listen in.
- Harp: I will. I'll tell him.
- Maura: So yeah, so that was another classic one, ***I brought you into this world and I'll take you out.*** And this is when the child is in a lot of trouble for... it could be so many things.
- Harp: **Kids** get into trouble for a million different reasons.
- Maura: So much trouble. Everywhere around the world, that's something that **kids** have in common; they're always mischievous and curious and getting into trouble, playing around, sometimes intentionally and other times unintentionally.
- Harp: No, definitely. I think this is a universal situation and I'm sure there are similar expressions in different languages. We'd love to hear about them.
- Maura: Yeah. And it is interesting, the different parenting styles around the world, too, because I think that in Canada we have a pretty relaxed parenting style for **kids**.
- Harp: Definitely.
- Maura: Even though we just talked about **punishment** and trouble the whole time, I think that a lot of parents around here are pretty laid back, especially nowadays.
- Harp: Yeah, that seems to be true.
- Maura: So, that's where we'll end it today. We wanna remind you: First we talked about parenting and different parenting techniques that are used in Canada and North America, and the different **punishments** that children get when they've gotten themselves in trouble.

- Harp: Yeah, and then we went through some classic expressions that parents say to their **kids** in real life in North America and also in TV and in different movies.
- Maura: Yeah, so **keep an ear out** and I'm sure you'll hear some of them. OK, so, we hope that you enjoyed this episode about parenting, if you're a parent or if you have parents.
- Harp: Tell us what kind of expressions they said to you when you were in trouble.
- Maura: Yeah, I'm sure some of these are familiar to you and they're just little variations in your own language.
- Harp: Yeah.
- Maura: And don't forget to go to our website, Culips.com, that's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. And if you want to help support us, a one-time donation would be greatly appreciated.
- Harp: Yes, Thanks to everyone who's already donated.
- Maura: And we'll be talking to you soon. Bye!
- Harp: Bye everyone!

Detailed Explanation

To raise a child

While you're growing up and your parents are taking care of you, we say that your parents are **raising you**. **To raise a child** means to feed, provide shelter, and do all the things that parents do.

You can also **raise** animals. It means the same thing, but obviously we **raise** animals differently than we **raise children**.

Here's another example using the expression **to raise a child**:

Carol: I'm going to need a second job. We're **raising a child** now, and it's getting expensive.

Shannon: Yeah, it costs a lot of money to **raise a child**.

Chores

As we hear in this episode, **chores** are things that kids do to help around the house. A chore can be anything from washing dishes to cleaning their bedrooms. **Chores** are sometimes done at a specific time each week, or they are done whenever parents ask their children to do them.

Here's another example using the word **chores**:

Kevin: I can't go to the mall today because I have to do my **chores**. On Saturdays, I have to clean the bathroom, clean my bedroom, and wash the floors.

Nathan: That's a lot of work!

Alotta

We only use this word when we're speaking. Instead of using *a lot of*, which takes longer to say, we combine it into one word: **alotta**. Some people, especially younger people, might also use **alotta** when texting. You might also see this word written as *alota*, but remember: This is not a real word!

Here's an example with **alotta**:

Ben: That's **alotta** stuff you got there. I don't know if it's gonna fit in the car.

Greg: Well, let's see.

Dishwasher

One meaning of the word **dishwasher** is a machine that washes the dishes for us. A **dishwasher** often goes under the counter in the kitchen, as Harp mentions in this episode.

But a **dishwasher** can also be a person. Restaurants have people who are employed as **dishwashers**. They might wash the dishes themselves, or they might also have a machine to do it for them. We can even say that a **dishwasher** often uses a **dishwasher**!

Harp says that her dad used to make the joke that he didn't need to buy a **dishwasher** (the machine), because he already had three, Harp and her sisters.

To sleep in

People often like to **sleep in** on Saturday or Sunday mornings. The expression **to sleep in** means to sleep later than we normally would. Teenagers especially like to **sleep in** on the weekends.

Here's another example using the expression **to sleep in**:

Mark: I've had such a busy week. I can't wait to **sleep in** on Saturday. I'm gonna sleep until noon.

Dave: Yeah, me too.

Allowances

Sometimes when children are growing up, they receive a certain amount of money from their parents. This is sometimes given for doing chores, or sometimes not. If children get an **allowance** from their parents, it's usually once a week.

Here's another example using the word **allowance**:

Carey: I got my **allowance** for this week. Let's go out to McDonald's for lunch!

Lindsay: Yay! I got mine too! Let's go!

The word **allowance** also has other meanings.

Kids and other slang terms for children

There are a few different slang versions of the word *children*, which is plural, or *child*, which is singular. The most common term is *kids*, which is probably used even more often than the word *children*, although it's not as formal.

Here's a list of some other terms for *child*:

- Kiddie
- Kiddo
- Little one
- Rug rat
- Bambino (a Spanish word that we borrow in English)
- Little tyke

To ground

As we hear in this episode, **to be grounded** means to be made to stay at home as a punishment. A child who is **grounded** can't go out with their friends for a certain amount of time.

This expression probably comes from an airplane being **grounded**. If a plane is **grounded**, it means it can't fly; it has to stay on the ground. It can't leave the airport for some reason, just like a child can't leave their home if they're **grounded**.

Here's another example of the expression **to be grounded**:

Paul: Are you going to the big party tonight? Emma's parents are out of town.

Lisa: I can't. I came home late last Friday so I'm **grounded** this weekend. It's not fair.

To ground also has other meanings completely unrelated to this one.

Punishments

A **punishment** is something unpleasant that is done to a person because they have done something wrong, illegal, or impolite. Parents punish their children if they have done something wrong, something against the rules.

As we see in this episode, one example of a **punishment** is to ground a child, to not allow them to leave the house, but there are also other forms of **punishment**. Sometimes parents take away a privilege, for example, if the child plays hockey, then his or her parents might not allow him or her to play (a very Canadian **punishment**, because Canadians love hockey!).

It's becoming much less common, but sometimes, parents spank a child. This means to hit the child on the bum. Again, this is becoming much less common because many people believe it is wrong to hit a child, and harsh physical **punishment** for children is illegal in Canada.

Curfews

As we see in this episode, a **curfew** is the time that a child has to be home at night. Some children have early **curfews**, and some have later **curfews**. If a child comes home after their **curfew**, they might be punished.

Here's another example using **curfew**:

Dina: Oh no! It's 11:15! I'm out past my **curfew**!

Jennie: Hopefully your parents aren't strict. Otherwise, you might not be able to go out next weekend!

Money doesn't grow on trees

As we hear in this episode, parents say this to mean that we can't buy what we want all the time. Money does not simply grow on trees, which means that there is not an endless supply of money. If money grew on trees, we could just grab some whenever we wanted it, just like we'd pick an apple off a tree!

Here's another example using **money doesn't grow on trees**:

Krista: I saw a sweater at the mall and I really want it. Can I have it, Mom? Pleeese!

Krista's mom: No way. **Money doesn't grow on trees**, you know. You just got a bunch of perfectly good sweaters when we went shopping last week.

Parents also might use the expression *do you think I'm made of money?* They don't really expect an answer. This is just an expression that means basically the same as **money doesn't grow on trees**: Parents don't have an endless supply of money.

Here's an example using the expression *do you think I'm made of money?*:

Paulina: Can I have an extra \$20 this week? I want a new pair of shoes.

Paulina's dad: Do you think I'm made of money? You don't need any more shoes.

As long as you live under my roof, you'll do what I say

As we hear in this episode, this is an expression that means that when a child lives with their parents, they have to do what their parents say. If they don't want to do their chores, they have to anyway, because their parents make the rules where they live.

Here's an example using this expression:

Kim: I want to go out with my friends. I'm tired of studying.

Kim's father: Nope. You have to stay home and study. **As long as you live under my roof, you'll do what I say.**

To walk uphill both ways

As we hear in this episode, parents often want to explain to their children that life was tougher for them when they were growing up than it is for kids nowadays. **To walk uphill both ways** is a classic story that parents tell their children. When they were growing up, they had to walk uphill both ways. There was no downhill, because that would have been easier. **Walking uphill both ways** means that it was always difficult.

This is not a fixed expression, but more a line from a story. The story is about how difficult life was. Sometimes the story might also include walking in very bad weather, or extremely long distances.

Here's an example using **to walk uphill both ways**:

Cory: Ugh, I wish I didn't have to walk to school today. It's so cold.

Cory's dad: When I was your age...

Cory: I know, I know, you had **to walk uphill both ways** to school.

Do you think those socks are going to pick themselves up?

This is an expression that parents use to make children clean up after themselves. When a parent asks if a child **thinks their socks are going to pick themselves up**, it means that the parent wants them to pick the things up themselves. As we say in this episode, a parent can use this expression with anything. It doesn't have to be socks. It could be toys or clothes or anything a child might leave around.

Here's another example:

Harvey's mom: Harvey! Get up here now. **Do you think all these clothes are going to pick themselves up?**

Harvey: Sorry Mom.

I brought you into this world, and I can take you out

When parents say this, they don't mean it seriously. They just want to remind their child that they brought them into the world, and that the child needs to follow the parents' rules. They don't actually want to *take you out* of the world, or we hope not, at least!

Here's another example with this expression:

Celia: Mom! I'm going out tonight whether you want me to or not!

Celia's mom: Celia, remember, **I brought you into this world...**

To keep an ear out

To **keep an ear out** means to listen carefully for something. If you **keep an ear out** for expressions in English, it means to listen carefully to see if you can hear those expressions.

Here's an example using ***to keep an ear out***:

Martin: Can you **keep an ear out** for any job offers? I really need a job!

Kent: Sure.

You can also use the expression *to keep an eye out* to mean the same thing, but with your eyes. If you keep an eye out for something, it means you're watching for it.

Anne: I need a pair of green shoes to match my new dress. If you see any, let me know.

Charlotte: Sure, I'll keep an eye out.

Quiz**1. What are chores?**

- a) set times when children need to be home
- b) something a parent says to their child often
- c) very well-behaved children
- d) work that children do around the house

2. What is a dishwasher?

- a) a person who washes dishes
- b) a machine that washes dishes
- c) both a and b
- d) neither a nor b

3. John slept in on Tuesday. He was late for work!

What does that mean?

- a) John slept at work.
- b) John slept late into the morning.
- c) John woke up early.
- d) John doesn't like sleeping.

4. How often do parents usually give their children allowances, if they give them allowances?

- a) once a month
- b) once a week
- c) once a year
- d) once a day

5. Which of the following is not a common slang term for children?

- a) kids
- b) rug rats
- c) bambinos
- d) froggies

6. **If a parent grounds a child, what does that mean for the child?**
- a) The child cannot go out of the house and visit with friends.
 - b) The child must not go into their bedroom.
 - c) The child must do all their chores immediately.
 - d) The child will not be punished.
7. **Which is NOT a classic expression used by parents, as discussed in this episode?**
- a) Do you think I'm made of money?
 - b) Money doesn't grow on trees.
 - c) Do you think that toy is going to pick itself up?
 - d) That's not fair.
8. **Why do parents tell their children that they walked uphill both ways when they were younger?**
- a) to show that they were very strong
 - b) to show that their life was harder when they were young
 - c) to show that they lived in an area with a lot of hills
 - d) to show that they didn't bike
9. **Sarah is keeping an ear out for any news about a job opening in her field.**
- What does this mean?**
- a) She is hoping to hear about a job.
 - b) She wants a promotion at her company.
 - c) Sarah does not listen to music at work.
 - d) Sarah is not currently applying to new jobs.

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