

Chatterbox #61 – Meet Kelly**Transcript**

Maura: Hello everyone! It's Maura.

Kelly: Hi! It's Kelly.

Maura: And we're here with your Culips English Podcast. If you've never been to our website, you should go check it out. It's Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com, where we have all kinds of episodes about different interesting and exciting slang and idioms. And while you're there, you can also become a member. And when you're a member, you have access to the transcripts for all of our episodes, more detailed explanations, and even a quiz. Now, today's episode is our Chatterbox episode, and that's where we chat about all different kinds of topics. We might talk about something that's happening in the news, or some different cultural aspect, or sometimes we interview people and today that's what I'm going to do. I'm going to interview my friend Kelly. Say hello.

Kelly: Hello!

Maura: And one of the reasons that we're interviewing Kelly today is because she's working at Culips now. She's helping us out behind the scenes. So we thought it would be a great chance for you to get to know her as well. Kelly is helping out doing some of the writing for our Learning Materials, so if you haven't checked those out, you should. But in addition to that, Kelly is also my friend. That's right, right?

Kelly: Yeah, we're still friends.

Maura: And we met from a mutual friend.

Kelly: We did. We met through our mutual friend Stephanie. And one time, we happened to both be in Toronto at the same time and didn't realize it. Only when we got to the train station we ran into each other. We ended up sitting beside each other on a train and talked the whole time. I had mentioned to Maura once that it was the most pleasant train ride I have ever had.

Maura: It's funny, because once in a while you run into someone unplanned, and that was one of those times.

Kelly: So since then, since we're both teachers, we like to keep in touch and talk about our lesson plans and about our students and how much we love English.

Maura: Yes, we do love English.

- Kelly: We do.
- Maura: So, we always have stuff to talk about.
- Kelly: Yes.
- Maura: So this is a great episode for us because we can chat.
- Kelly: That's right, **Chatterbox**.
- Maura: So first, let's let everybody get to know you a little bit more.
- Kelly: OK.
- Maura: Tell us where you're from.
- Kelly: I'm originally from a city called **Regina, Saskatchewan**. Saskatchewan is a **Prairie** Province in the west of Canada. It's **very, very flat**. I came to Montreal about four years ago and started teaching English at high schools here and I love it.
- Maura: Yeah, yeah. And I'm sure it's very different from the **flat** place you're from.
- Kelly: It is extremely different from the **flat** place that I'm from; **flat** in many senses of the word. It's pretty boring, too. Here there are a lot more places to go, restaurants, people to see, concerts. I like it a lot.
- Maura: Yeah. So let's talk a little bit about **Regina**, because Canada is such a big place and most of the time at Culips we talk about Montreal and what's going on around here, which is exciting, but I'm sure many people listening don't know much about **Regina** and that part of Canada.
- Kelly: OK. Well **Regina** is known as the Queen City. Why it's called the Queen city? Let me think. It's named after a queen. **Regina** is also the capital of Saskatchewan. It has about two hundred thousand people. It's much smaller than Montreal.
- Maura: Yeah. I think that's really interesting, because it's the capital and so you would think it would be a really big city but two hundred thousand is not a very big city by Canadian standards.
- Kelly: No, it's a pretty small city. It's growing, but it's one of the smaller cities, actually.
- Maura: Have you visited some of the other small towns and cities in the area?

- Kelly: I have visited some of the small towns and cities in the area. Did you know there are some strange place names in Saskatchewan? We have a town called **Elbow**, another one called **Eyebrow**.
- Maura: No!
- Kelly: Yes. Several other sort of bizarre names, really strange.
- Maura: You know what? I have heard some interesting names too, but **Elbow** and **Eyebrow** are way crazier than the ones that I've heard.
- Kelly: Yes and there are a couple of French names in Saskatchewan. There are a few French-speaking people in Saskatchewan, and we have one town called Fort **Qu'Appelle**. That means *who calls*. Fort "who calls" in French, but we say it a lot differently in English than they do in French.
- Maura: Right. That's what happens a lot, because throughout Canada, we do have these places that have French names, even in the English-speaking parts, and then what happens is the English-speaking people make the name sound English. It doesn't sound French anymore, and it has this weird accent.
- Kelly: Right, exactly.
- Maura: Another thing I want to talk about it that I think is really important and really interesting is how **flat** it is. I only spent a short amount of time in Saskatchewan and in the **Prairies**, on a bus, and when I was driving through, I was shocked and amazed at how **flat** it is. It's amazing; you can see for miles and miles into the distance.
- Kelly: You can see for miles and miles into the distance. It is a very interesting place to watch a storm coming in. You can see a storm coming in for miles and miles and miles, so you know when you should go into your basement, when a tornado is coming. It's very **flat**. If you're a runner, which I used to do, not so much anymore, but it's easier to run because the **Prairie** is **very, very flat**. Here, there are a lot of hills. There's something that we call a mountain in the middle of the city, but it's really more of a hill. But in Saskatchewan, yes, it is **very, very flat**.
- Maura: The other thing I've heard is that driving can be so boring because the scenery looks the same. It just looks the same for hours and hours.

- Kelly: It does. Yeah, it's very boring. And the best thing though, I have to say about Saskatchewan are the sunsets. The sunsets are amazing and it is something, actually, that I miss in Quebec a little bit, that I can't see the sunset. Also living in a bigger city here in Montreal, I often don't get to see the stars at night, which I do miss. Luckily for me, my mother lives just outside of the city and when I go and visit her, I make sure to look up at the sky.
- Maura: So, you were born in **Regina**, you grow up there. How did you make your way to Montreal then?
- Kelly: Well, about four years ago, I decided to move here because I followed my brother. My brother came here many, many years ago to go to McGill University to do his master's degree. He ended up staying here for quite a few years. I used to visit him a lot, and I loved this city, 'cause like I said, it's a lot different from Saskatchewan. So I needed a change, and I decided to move here.
- Maura: And now that you've been here for a while, what are some of your favourite things to do here? Because there really is so much to do here.
- Kelly: There really is. And one of my favourite things to do in Montreal is to go to restaurants. I really love going to restaurants. Sometimes I can't always afford to, because I'm a teacher. In the summer, I don't make any money so it's a lot harder for me to go to restaurants. One other thing that I like to do that's free is to walk on the mountain in Montreal. As I mentioned earlier, Saskatchewan is very **flat**, so it's a lot different here. I like to do that. Montreal is a great city for walking, so I just enjoy walking around the city. I'm lucky enough to live close to work, so I can walk to the school where I teach. It takes me 25 minutes and the walk is beautiful. There are a lot of things to see in Montreal. People watching is always interesting and I forgot to say I love croissants, so I get some kind of croissant on the way to work sometimes. Good coffee too here.
- Maura: Yeah, the restaurants are really great here. What is one of your favourite restaurants? Because there are so many different kinds of food, I think that's interesting too. So what kind of restaurant do you like to go to?
- Kelly: Well, there's a French restaurant called *L'Express*, on St. Denis. Have you heard of it?
- Maura: No.
- Kelly: *L'Express* is on a street called St. Denis, and it's a French restaurant. Generally, I don't really like French restaurants because there's a lot of meat. But when I go to this place, there are quite a few fish options and it's sort of a little bit fancy, but not too fancy. It's perfect.

- Maura: Cool. I'll have to check it out.
- Kelly: It's very good.
- Maura: And that's it. There are so many restaurants that you can't even go to all of them or there are so many that you still haven't heard of even when you've lived here for a while.
- Kelly: It's true. Another good thing, I was going to say, is the late-night food in Montreal. I don't know if you've talked about **poutine** on Culips?
- Maura: Of course.
- Kelly: There are so many places to go for a 4am **poutine**, it's amazing. And several other different things like **bagels**; you can get **bagels** all night. I've had a **bagel** at 5 o'clock in the morning before. It's amazing.
- Maura: Yeah, that is true. When you're hungry, you can always find something to eat.
- Kelly: It's true.
- Maura: Something else I wanted to talk about is **Mount Royal**, because I usually say what you've said, in that it's not really a mountain, but in the middle of Montreal, we do have a **very, very** big hill that you can walk up and you can get different views from. Now, I wanted to ask you, have you ever been lost up there? Because when I start walking around, I often get lost.
- Kelly: I have been lost. I was lost on the mountain when it was starting to get very dark one day. It was in the fall, when it starts to get dark at about 7 o'clock, and I was on the mountain by myself and kind of got lost. It was a little bit scary. I did find my way but it was a little scary.
- Maura: Yeah, once you get up the mountain, in the city, there are different pathways. And in the winter they have all kinds of things you can do. You can go ice skating, you can go cross country skiing. And the paths sometimes aren't clearly marked and you can end up getting lost.
- Kelly: It's true. If you do get lost though, there's always something to eat on the mountain. Did you know you can get beaver tails at Beaver Lake?
- Maura: Oh no, I didn't.
- Kelly: Yes. Next time you're lost, go and get a pastry.
- Maura: That's a good idea 'cause I'll definitely be hungry if I'm lost. Since you've been living in Montreal, you have also become a teacher, as you mentioned.

- Kelly: I have also become a teacher, and I love it. I got to Montreal and I didn't speak much French. I still don't. I didn't know what to do. I was lucky to get a job as a teacher and I've been teaching ever since. Right now, I teach high school. It's an all-girls school. I teach grades 7, 8, and 9. The girls are from about the age of 12 to 15. It's fun. I really like it.
- Maura: Yeah, it's fun and it's a good challenge.
- Kelly: It is. It's definitely a good challenge and it's nice to have a job that is all about what I like to do. I like to read, I like to write, and I like to talk.
- Maura: And you also taught English as a second language too, right?
- Kelly: I did, I did. I actually... My first English as a second language job was an online teaching job.
- Maura: Oh, really?
- Kelly: It was kind of an interesting job. It was through a college in Montreal, a college called LaSalle. It was an online course. I couldn't see anyone, but they could hear my voice. Every Saturday, I taught a three-hour course online. It was an interesting way to teach language.
- Maura: And how many students did you have?
- Kelly: I had 20 students who were all from Columbia.
- Maura: Wow! And they never saw your face?
- Kelly: They never saw my face.
- Maura: Wow, that's interesting, but a little bit strange, I think. You wanna have some face-to-face contact.
- Kelly: You do. It was a strange way to teach language, but that was my first job and soon after that I started teaching in high schools and I've been teaching in high schools ever since.
- Maura: So, do you have any great advice for our listeners out there who are learning English? What's your best advice?
- Kelly: My best advice is to watch movies and listen to music. It's nothing new, but this is a very good way to enjoy the language, to have fun, that is important. It's **very, very** important that you have fun. When you're watching a movie, it's good to watch the subtitles in English at the same time. It helps to reinforce the language and it makes it a little bit more interesting too, I think.

- Maura: Now, you also mentioned that when you got to Montreal, you started teaching because you didn't speak French very much. And of course in Montreal, in Quebec, there is a majority of French speakers. How has that been going? Because I think it's interesting of also have the experience of learning another language.
- Kelly: Absolutely. The area where I live now is quite English. There are a lot of English-speaking people in the area where I live. But I did teach at two Francophone high schools, French-speaking high schools, when I first moved here and that was a challenge. So I was forced to speak French with my colleagues, which really, really helped. And after I stopped teaching at those schools, I tried to speak French whenever I go to a place that I think is going to be French speaking, for example at *L'Express*, the restaurant that I mentioned before, I like to speak French when I go there. So I practice it whenever I can, and it's fun too.
- Maura: Yeah, it is fun. And we have to remember to have fun.
- Kelly: That's right.
- Maura: Just like you said.
- Kelly: That's right.
- Maura: OK. So we'll wrap it up there. I think that everyone who's been listening has gotten a good idea of Kelly and what she's all about. What do you think?
- Kelly: It's been a pleasure. I have so much more to say!
- Maura: So maybe we'll have you back for another episode. Let us know if you wanna know more about Kelly. And at the same time, don't forget to go to our website, Culips.com.
- Kelly: It's C-U-L-I-P-S...
- Maura: Dot com. Thanks Kelly. And there you can become a member and have access to all our learning materials. You can also check us out on Facebook and communicate with us there. And don't forget to like us on iTunes. So, we'll be talking to you again soon. Bye everyone!
- Kelly: Bye!

Detailed Explanation

Chatterbox

A **chatterbox** is someone who doesn't stop talking. *To chatter* means to talk a lot. Together with the word *box*, you can imagine a talking machine that just won't stop. At Culips, we love to talk, so we invented these episodes called *Chatterbox*.

You can call someone a **chatterbox** and they usually won't be insulted because it's not a very mean thing to say. It's often said to tease someone or to talk jokingly about someone.

Here's an example with the word **chatterbox**:

Sarah: It's hard to get off the phone with my mom. She's such a **chatterbox**. She won't stop talking!

Rebecca: Yeah, sometimes you just have to hang up the phone. I do the same thing with my mother.

The Prairies

The Canadian **Prairie** Provinces are Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. They are all in Western Canada. The **Prairies** are mostly made up of **flat** land where there are a lot of farms. Most of Alberta is **flat**, but there are some areas that have mountains.

There are different ways that we use the word **prairie**. We can say **the Prairies**. If you say **the Prairies**, it means that you are talking about the **Prairie** Provinces. You can also use the word **prairie** (singular instead of plural) when you are using it as an adjective.

Here's an example using the expression **the Prairies**:

Michelle: I've never been to **the Prairies** before. I think I might go this summer.

Nicole: You should. It's an area of Canada that people don't explore enough.

And here's an example using the word **prairie** as an adjective:

Dan: I love the **prairie** landscape. It's so beautiful.

Brett: Yeah, it really is.

Regina, Saskatchewan

Regina is a prairie city with over 200,000 people. It is the capital of the province of Saskatchewan.

Here are some more facts about **Regina**:

- **Regina** has a training centre for the RCMP (The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or *Mounties*) so when tourists go to **Regina**, they can visit the RCMP museum and see parts of the training centre. There are plenty of RCMP souvenirs available in **Regina**!
- The University of **Regina** has a very good English as a Second Language program, so there are always English learners around the city.
- **Regina** has one of the largest parks per capita (meaning that it's large compared to the size of the city). It's called Wascana Park, and people spend a lot of time there in the summer.
- Everyone's favourite ice cream in **Regina** is at a place called *Milky Way*. There's always a big line-up in the summer. If you ever go, order a soft chocolate cone with candy sprinkles and nuts!

Flat

In this episode, Kelly mentions that there's more than one way we can use the word **flat**. One way we use the word **flat** is to describe something that has a smooth surface, with no bumps. The land on the prairies is **flat**.

We can also use the word **flat** to talk about something that is boring.

Here's an example using the word **flat** to mean *boring*:

James: How do you like the class you're taking?

Mike: I don't really like it. The professor's lectures are a little **flat**.

An expression you can use to say that something didn't go very well is to say that it *fell flat*. If something starts to become boring, you can say that it *fell flat*.

Here's an example using *fell flat*:

Dana: How was your date last night?

Lisa: Well, it was okay for the first little while, but then the conversation just fell **flat**.

Dana: Oh, that's too bad.

Elbow, Eyebrow and other crazy Saskatchewan town names

Every Canadian province, and probably every country in the world, has its share of strange place names.

Here are a few strange place names in Saskatchewan:

- **Elbow**: called this because it's at the **elbow** (or bend) of a river
- **Eyebrow**: named after an **eyebrow**-shaped hill nearby
- Forget: named after the first Lieutenant Governor (an important government official) of Saskatchewan
- Mosquito, Grizzly Bear's Head, Lean Man: One Aboriginal community with three names! Aboriginal communities often use names taken from nature.

French words in English

In English, we borrow a lot of words from French and pronounce them with our own accent, as we mention in this episode.

Here's a list of a few of the words that we borrow, with their definitions:

- chic: stylish, cool
- rendezvous: usually used to describe a romantic date, but in French, it just means an appointment
- hors d'oeuvres: appetizers, served before a meal
- table d'hote: a complete meal (with soup or salad, a main course, and a dessert) at a restaurant
- couture: high fashion

Very, very

Sometimes when we're speaking, we want to place extra emphasis on what we're saying. To do this, we can use two intensifiers, like the words **very, very** or *really, really*, which both mean the same thing. These words intensify what we're saying; they help us add emphasis. This is only done when we are speaking, and isn't used in formal writing.

Here's an example using **very, very**:

Elise: Can you come over tonight to watch a movie?

Megan: No, I'm going to stay home and go to bed early. I was up all night studying last night, so I'm **very, very** tired.

Montreal's favourite foods

In Montreal, we love to eat. One of the first things Kelly mentions about Montreal is the great food!

One of the foods Montreal is famous for is smoked meat. The most popular place to get smoked meat is at a restaurant called *Schwartz's*, which always has a long line in front. As we say in this episode, **bagels** are also very popular in Montreal. The two most famous places to get **bagels** are *Fairmount* and *Saint Viateur*. Most people prefer either *Fairmount* or *Saint Viateur*. Cream cheese and smoked salmon is perfect on a Montreal **bagel**. Of course, we also love **poutine**. A restaurant called *La Banquise* is one of the most popular places to get **poutine**. It's open 24 hours a day, so you can have **poutine** for breakfast if you'd like. At *La Banquise*, you can get a lot of different varieties of **poutine**. You can get **poutine** with sausage, onions, chili, or almost anything else! Some people prefer more traditional **poutine**, like the kind you can get at a restaurant called *La Belle Province*.

Mount Royal

In the centre of Montreal is a large hill that people call *the mountain*, **Mount Royal**, or the proper French name for it, *Mont Royal*.

There are a lot of activities to do on the mountain. During the warmer months, people like to gather on Sunday afternoons in Parc Mont Royal (at the bottom of **Mount Royal**) to play music and have picnics. In the winter, **Mount Royal** is a popular place to go for winter sports like skiing.

At the top of **Mount Royal** is a large cross. At night, the cross is lit up so that you can see it for miles. All year round, **Mount Royal** is a very popular place to go.

Quiz

1. What is a chatterbox?

- a) a television show
- b) someone who talks a lot
- c) a machine with words
- d) someone who likes to study languages

2. What is a prairie?

- a) a flat farm land
- b) a province in Canada
- c) a groundhog
- d) a city in Saskatchewan

3. *Flat* means that something has a smooth surface. What is the other meaning of *flat* used in this episode?

- a) exciting and interesting
- b) loud and noisy
- c) cold and distant
- d) boring and uninteresting

4. Which of the following is NOT one of the interesting names of a Saskatchewan city?

- a) Elbow
- b) Eyebrow
- c) Forget
- d) Remember

5. What is true about saying something is *very, very* or *really, really*?

- a) This is not acceptable in formal writing.
- b) This is acceptable in formal writing.
- c) People almost never speak like this.
- d) This is old English.

6. Which of the following foods is Montreal NOT known for?

- a) bagels
- b) chicken wings
- c) smoked meat
- d) poutine

7. Which of the following is NOT true about Saskatchewan?

- a) It is flat.
- b) Its capital city is Regina.
- c) It is a Prairie Province.
- d) It is a French province.

Answers:

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