

Chatterbox #82 – They're on the prowl

Transcript

Maura: Hello everyone. It's Maura.

Harp: And Harp.

Maura: And we're back with another Culips episode for you.

Harp: Yes. And **check out** our website, Culips.com, that's C-U-L-I-P-S.com, because there you can find all our older episodes.

Maura: And our older episodes are just as interesting as our new episodes, because the expressions we talked about a couple of years ago are still the expressions we're using today.

Harp: Exactly. And also when you're on the website, you can become a member. And this is super important because you help support us but you also help yourself by learning better.

Maura: Right. In all our learning materials, you get transcripts for all the episodes we have, you get more explanations of the expressions we use, and quizzes to help test yourself.

Harp: So today we're doing a Chatterbox episode, and that's where we chat. We talk about different topics. Sometimes we interview people.

Maura: Right. And Harp and I love to chat. Particularly today's topic, it's very interesting.

Harp: It is very interesting. Today we're going to talk about dating.

Maura: Right. Specifically, being **on the prowl**.

Harp: Yes, when you're looking for someone to date.

Maura: Right. So, the first thing we're gonna talk about is slang that is used when people are looking to find someone that they're physically attracted to.

Harp: Yes. And then we'll talk about places where people are **on the prowl**.

Maura: Right. So those are the places where people go when they're trying to find a new boyfriend or girlfriend or some kind of love interest.

Harp: Yes. And then the last topic is... We're gonna talk about some types of people that you might see **on the prowl**.

- Maura: Mmhm. So, first let's start by talking about expressions. And we've already mentioned one: **to be on the prowl**. And this is an animal reference. When an animal is on the prowl, this means they're walking around in the forest or the jungle and they're looking for something to eat.
- Harp: Yeah, they're hunting. They're on the prowl.
- Maura: Right. And we use this same expression for people who are out, usually at night, looking for someone to date.
- Harp: Exactly. **To be on the prowl**. They're looking for someone to date.
- Maura: Mmhm. Now, when someone's **on the prowl**, they might actually **pick up someone**.
- Harp: And **to pick up someone** doesn't mean that they lift them up, it means that they start talking to them, get their attention. They **pick up someone**.
- Maura: Right. So, at a bar, if a person was there and they saw another person that they were interested in, and they went over to that person and tried to make a conversation with them, that would be **picking them up**.
- Harp: Yeah. And they often use **a pick-up line**, which is a one-line statement that's supposed to be kinda smart or witty, sometimes it's funny, to try to get the person's attention.
- Maura: Right. Harp, let's think of some **pick-up lines** that we know.
- Harp: Oh, one I remember is when a guy comes up to a girl and he says, "Did it hurt?" And then she'll say, "Did what hurt?" "When you fell from heaven."
- Maura: Oh, that's a good one. I know another one that's a little bit similar. So, one person goes up to the other person and looks at the tag on the back of their shirt and then they pretend to read it and then that person says, "Just like I thought, 100% made in heaven."
- Harp: I haven't heard that one, but yeah.
- Maura: Yeah, so, sometimes there're some classic lines. And I would say most of the time people don't actually use them, because everyone knows them so they just won't be taken seriously.
- Harp: Yeah, exactly. So you hear about some classic **pick-up lines**, but it's rare they're used.
- Maura: I think one of the oldest **pick-up lines** that might actually be used is "Hey, do you come here often?"

- Harp: Yep. That's a very classic **pick-up line** that I could see people using very often.
- Maura: Right, because you really just ask the other person if they come to this bar often, or if they've been here before. So you can, at the very least, have a conversation about the place where you are.
- Harp: Yes, exactly.
- Maura: Now, if someone is **on the prowl**, so they're looking to find someone they're interested in, and then they see someone at a bar and **pick them up**, they might also **hook up** with that person.
- Harp: Yes. **To hook up** is when you kiss a person or when you end up going home with the person.
- Maura: Right. So if two people **hook up**, it means that they've made some kind of connection and they're attracted to each other. It might just be for that night or it could be long term. But I'll explain more about that in our learning materials, if you wanna know more about **hooking up**.
- Harp: Yes. So we talked about **to be on the prowl**, **to pick up**, and **to hook up**.
- Maura: Right. Now, if you're someone who is **on the prowl**, it's important to know where to go. Where can you meet people if you're in your 20s or even your 30s and you're looking to meet someone? Where can you go to meet people?
- Harp: And this brings us to our second topic, of where people go when they're **on the prowl**.
- Maura: So the most common place people go is to clubs or bars, because that's where there are a lot of younger people and people are usually drinking alcohol, which means that they become more relaxed or friendlier and they're more open to talking to strangers.
- Harp: Yeah, definitely.
- Maura: There are clubs that are for younger people, there are clubs that are for older people, there are places that have a different style of music. But all of those things don't matter when you're talking about **a meat market**.
- Harp: Yes, **a meat market**.
- Maura: **A meat market** is the kind of club where people specifically go **to hook up**, or **pick up** people.

- Harp: Yes, exactly. You can go to a normal club and people are there just to have a good time, to dance. But **a meat market** is where people are there and they are **on the prowl**.
- Maura: Right. Of course, you can meet people at any club, but **a meat market** feels like everyone is looking around at who's available and **checking everyone out**, trying to figure out who they might dance with later in the night.
- Harp: Yeah, exactly.
- Maura: And in this case, I guess the people are like meat. And when you're at a market, you go and you look at all the different kinds of meat and you choose which piece you would like. It's kind of the same idea.
- Harp: Yeah, not a really nice idea, but it definitely exists.
- Maura: Yep. So, **a meat market** is a certain kind of bar where a lot of single people go when they're hoping to meet someone new.
- Harp: You know, I have a funny story about **a meat market** here in Montreal.
- Maura: Oh, **do tell**.
- Harp: It's a club. I've never been there before, but some of my friends were going so we all went, and we were all around 28 or 29 years old. And we get to this club, and every other person in the club is maximum 19 years old. It's 18- and 19-year-olds.
- Maura: Oh no! You must have **felt out of place**.
- Harp: Definitely. But it was **a meat market**. They were all there to meet up and so forth. I felt like I was a chaperone at a high school dance.
- Maura: That's true. Sometimes, as you get a little bit older, people still go out when they're 29 or 30, especially in a big city. But there are certain places where only younger people tend to go.
- Harp: Yeah. We didn't stay there for very long.
- Maura: A lot of bars and clubs have an event which is called ladies' night. This is also a place where people might go if they're **on the prowl**.
- Harp: Yeah, exactly. Because for a ladies' night, it usually means that there's some sort of drink special or food special for all the ladies that come. So the ladies come because it's cheaper for them and then the men come because there are ladies there.

- Maura: Exactly. It's quite logical when you think about it.
- Harp: Yes, definitely.
- Maura: So, women come to ladies' night because they get some kind of special deal. It may be that they don't have to pay to get in, or they get a deal with the drinks. And like you said, Harp, because there's a lot of women there, a lot of men come. So there's a lot of people, women and men, who are looking to meet people.
- Harp: Yeah, exactly. And you also have this when you have **a happy hour**, which is when a bar or a club will have specials on drinks and food for certain hours. And usually it's between 5:00pm and 7:00pm.
- Maura: Right. So oftentimes people might go after work. But in a big city especially, it brings a young crowd. So that might also be a time when people are out **on the prowl**.
- Harp: Yeah, exactly. It brings out the younger people, the people who don't have the kids to go home to or the families to go home to.
- Maura: Right. So, there's one more thing we wanted to talk about and that was the types of people you might see out **on the prowl**.
- Harp: Yes. So, you'll see a lot of different types of characters out **on the prowl**.
- Maura: Right. But there are a couple of specific names we wanted to mention. The first one is **metrosexual**.
- Harp: ***Metrosexual***. What does this mean, Maura?
- Maura: Well, it is talking about a male who really cares about his appearance. Now, you might think of course a guy cares what he looks like, but in the past, it was more important for women **to get all dolled up** and do their hair and do their makeup. But more and more, it's important for men to also look good. So that describes a kind of man who is focused on his appearance.
- Harp: Exactly. And **metrosexual**... When you think of *metro*, it's thinking about a metropolis, a big city. And this is where it normally happens that guys care more about their appearance. They care about what shoes they're wearing and if it matches with their pants and their shirt and all of that.
- Maura: Right. You know, this is a really new expression. I can even remember the first time I heard it. It was about 8 or 9 years ago and a friend that I was working with said that a guy she knew was **metrosexual**, and I had to ask what it was because I had never heard it.

- Harp: Yeah, I agree. It's a newer term and it basically just means a guy who dresses well and takes care of his appearance.
- Maura: Right. A **metrosexual** guy might even get a manicure or pluck his eyebrows.
- Harp: Yes, exactly. Things that you would normally think of girls doing.
- Maura: Right. And it's now socially acceptable for guys to do that kind of stuff too.
- Harp: Yes, exactly.
- Maura: Now there's one more expression, for an older woman who is out **on the prowl**.
- Harp: Yes, **a cougar**.
- Maura: Yes. So **a cougar** is slang for an older woman who is single and looking to meet someone.
- Harp: Exactly. And the weird thing about **cougar** is that there's no male equivalent.
- Maura: Right. So it's a bit unfair that women have a funny name when they're older and out at bars looking to meet people, but a man doesn't seem to have one. I can't think of one.
- Harp: Yeah, and the thing that's a little bit special about **cougar** is that it's usually an older woman who's trying to meet a younger man.
- Maura: Mmhmm. So **a cougar** might be trying to deny that she's getting older and going out to the bar and trying to stay young.
- Harp: Yeah, wearing very young clothes and looking for the younger man.
- Maura: There's even a TV show called *Cougar Town*. Have you heard of it, Harp?
- Harp: I've heard of it. I've never seen it though.
- Maura: I've only seen one episode, but it actually stars Courtney Cox, who was on *Friends*. But the show is about women who are older, in their 40s, who are single and go to bars and are looking to meet younger men.
- Harp: That's funny. I've never seen the show.
- Maura: Yeah, you might like it.
- Harp: Maybe I'll **check it out**. You might also see someone out who people would call **desperate**.

- Maura: Right. And that means that this person is **on the prowl** and is hoping to **hook up** with almost anyone.
- Harp: Yep. They're the kind of person that you'll see talking to anyone and everyone and just trying really hard, using a lot of **cheesy pick-up lines**.
- Maura: Right. This kind of guy might be dancing with a girl who turns him down so then he just moves on to another girl that's right beside him, and it doesn't look very good. But you can tell this person is really just trying to **hook up** with someone, anyone.
- Harp: Yeah, so you would call that person **desperate**.
- Maura: Right. So we could say, "That guy is **desperate**."
- Harp: Exactly.
- Maura: So it's a fun time when you maybe are younger and single and you're going out to the bar, so these could be some fun expressions for you to use if the bars that you're going to sound like **meat markets**.
- Harp: Exactly. OK, so let's wrap it up and recap what we talked about today.
- Maura: Right. So first we gave you some expressions that people use when they're looking to find someone they're physically attracted to. So, this person could be **on the prowl** and they might also try to **pick up** someone, and hopefully, for them, **hook up** with someone.
- Harp: Exactly. And then we talked about places where people who are **on the prowl** go.
- Maura: And they go to all kinds of clubs and bars, including **meat markets**, and they attend ladies' night.
- Harp: They might even go for a **happy hour**.
- Maura: They might. The last thing we talked about was the types of people that might be out **on the prowl** at these **meat markets**.
- Harp: Yes. We talked about **metrosexuals**.
- Maura: And we talked about **cougars**, and...
- Harp: **Desperate** people.

- Maura: Right. So, if you wanna learn a little bit more about these expressions, become a member. Then you'll have our more detailed explanations. You'll also get transcripts and a quiz.
- Harp: So **check out** the website, Culips.com, that's C-U-L-I-P-S.com.
- Maura: And say hi to us on Facebook. So, Harp, do you wanna go out tonight?
- Harp: Sure, why not? Let's go dancing.
- Maura: All right. We'll talk to you soon. Bye.
- Harp: Bye everyone.

Detailed Explanation

To be on the prowl

When a person is looking for someone that they find attractive, we can say this person is **on the prowl**.

The verb *to prowl* was originally used mostly for animals that were looking for food, or for people who were searching for something, often something to steal. Over the years, **to be on the prowl** started being used for people who are looking for sexual partners.

Here's an example with **to be on the prowl**:

Fiona: Check out that guy over there! He definitely looks like he's **on the prowl**.

Kyla: Yeah. He's been trying to talk to every girl that walks by.

To pick up

To pick up means to meet someone you're attracted to and make a connection. This could mean that after you meet someone at a party, you leave the party together. It could also mean that you make plans with this person to see them again.

You can say simply **to pick up** and in the right context, we understand that a romantic connection was made between two people. You can also say **to pick up someone** or **to pick someone up**.

Here are a few examples:

Marc: I wanna **pick up** tonight.

Leon: Me too! Let's go to the Dirty Dog bar tonight.

Naomi: Last night I **picked up** this really cute guy.

Shannon: Really! What happened?

John: Sam **picked up** a girl named Jen at the bar this past weekend.

Michael: I know. He told me. I think they're going to see each other again.

In the U.K. the slang term for this is *to pull*.

Also, remember that **to pick up** is a common expression with other meanings. For example, a person can pick something up off the floor or pick up a friend from work with their car.

A pick-up line

A **pick-up** line is a phrase that's used when one person wants to begin talking to another person that they are attracted to.

Harp and Maura give a couple of examples of **pick-up lines** in this episode, but there are tons of them! A quick online search turns up lots of different websites with long lists of **pick-up lines**. Most of them are just for fun and shared as a joke between friends.

To hook up

To hook up is to meet another person, to both be attracted to each other, and to get together somehow. When two people **hook up**, it often means that they kissed or had sex.

This is a very vague expression. You know that some kind of connection was made between two people, but it's not exactly clear.

Here's an example with **to hook up**:

Greg: So did you **hook up** with that girl last night or what?

Nick: No! She wasn't interested. I think she liked my friend.

A meat market

There are some bars and clubs that are well known for being good places to go if you want to meet a new person who you are attracted to. These places are called **meat markets**.

Not all bars are **meat markets**. Sometimes people are there just to dance or spend time with friends. Some people might call places other than bars or clubs **meat markets**. For example, a gym where lots of single people go to show off their muscles and meet other single people.

To check out

There are a few different ways that **to check out** can be used. You may have already noticed that we say it often at the beginning of each Culips episode. We're always telling you **to check out** our website!

To check out is to look at something and decide what you think about it. People often use **check out** _____ to tell other people to look at something and then to give their opinion.

In this episode, we use **to check out** when we're talking about people. When one person **checks another person out**, it means that they look at someone to determine what they think of this person. This often means that they are looking and deciding whether they find the other person attractive, but not always

Here are a couple of examples with **to check out**:

Victoria: **Check out** that guy over there.

Justine: Wow, he is so cute!

Betty: **Check out** what Sean is wearing today.

Ben: That's a pretty crazy shirt he's got on. I can't believe he wore that to work.

In the second example, they are **checking out** Shawn's shirt, not Shawn. They're just looking and deciding what they think of Shawn's shirt.

Do tell

This is a little expression used all by itself. A person might say **do tell** to another person because they would like that person to tell them more about something that they just said. This is an older expression, but it can still be heard today.

In this episode, Harp says, "You know, I have a funny story about a meat market here Montreal." Maura is interested in Harp's story and wants to hear more, so she says, "**Do tell**." Harp then responds by giving more details about this story.

Here's another example with **do tell**:

Hannah: I had the craziest dream last night, and you were in it!

Doug: **Do tell**.

A variation of this expression is *pray tell*.

To feel out of place

If a person **feels out of place**, it means that they do not feel that they belong in a certain place, because they are different from the other people there. In this episode, Harp tells a story about a night out when she went to a bar where she and her friends were older than the rest of the people there. Because of this, she **felt out of place**.

We have a Culips episode called *To stick out like a sore thumb*, focused on expressions to describe when people don't feel like they belong. We talk more about the expression **to feel out of place** in that episode.

Here's an example with **to feel out of place**:

Jackie: How was dinner with your friend last night?

George: It was all right. But she had also invited a bunch of her friends from school who I'd never met, so I **felt a bit out of place**.

Happy hour

Happy hour is the time, usually in the late afternoon or early evening, when bars have reduced prices for drinks. People may go right after work for **happy hour**. It is usually not just one hour as the name suggest, but often sometime between 4 o'clock and 7 o'clock.

A metrosexual

Here is a new slang term for a type of guy. A **metrosexual** guy cares about and takes time with his appearance. This could mean that he takes time to style his hair and plans his outfits. A **metrosexual** guy has similar grooming habits to many women.

This term is made up of two parts. The first part is *metro*, which comes from the word *metropolis*, meaning the city, as this is where **metrosexuals** often live. The other part of the word comes from the word *heterosexual*, as these men are sexually attracted to women. This word began to be widely known in the 2000s.

Here's an example of how **metrosexual** can be used:

Foster: What do you think of this bar? It's full of **metrosexuals**!

Juliana: I don't mind. I like a guy who takes care of this appearance.

To get all dolled up

To get all dolled up means to get dressed up in something extra special. When a person **gets dolled up**, they also care about their hair, and women especially take time to style their hair. People **get dolled up** for special occasions. This expression is used more often to talk about women. In the expression **to get all dolled up**, *all* is used as an intensifier, like *really* or *very*.

Here's an example with **to get dolled up**:

Jamie: Check out Diana! She really **got dolled up** tonight!

Charles: Wow. She looks great.

We've got an episode called **To get dolled up**! If you want to know more, check it out on iTunes or through our website.

A cougar

A **cougar** is a slang term for a single woman, usually in her 40s or older, who goes out to the bar looking to meet a man, usually a younger man. This term has been around for the past 10 to 20 years, and actually has possible origins in Canada.

This term can be negative and so it is best to never tell someone that she is **a cougar**.

Here's an example with the expression **a cougar**.

George: Isn't that your aunt over on the other side of the bar?

Sheila: Oh my gosh! You're right. Since her divorce I'm afraid she's turning into a bit of **a cougar**.

Did you notice the connection between *on the prowl* and **cougar**? Depending on whether we're talking about the animal or a woman, **a cougar** could be on the prowl in the jungle or at a bar!

Desperate

When a person is described as **desperate**, it means they really want something, but believe that they cannot have it. Someone who is **desperate** will usually take whatever is offered. A **desperate** person could want a job or an apartment. For example, if someone is **desperate** for a job, they will take the first job that is offered to them. If someone is **desperate** for a car but has no money, they will continue to desire a car. A person may feel **desperate** for help because they cannot afford to pay their rent.

But being **desperate** isn't just about money. As we say in this episode, a person can be **desperate** to be with another person romantically. For example, if you're out at a bar and you see a guy who's trying to meet every female who's close to him, this person could be called **desperate**.

Of course, this is never nice to say to someone directly. If you do, the person will likely feel offended and upset.

Here's an example with **desperate** used to talk about someone looking for a romantic partner:

Lucy: I can't believe how Kelly is acting tonight.

Quinn: I know! I hope I never look that **desperate**.

Cheesy

Describing something as **cheesy** means that it is cheap or inauthentic. A movie could be **cheesy** if it has immature or childish jokes. A song could be **cheesy** if the lyrics are overly emotional.

Many pick-up lines are **cheesy**. This is because they are not authentic and can be overly romantic. Harp says that a desperate person may use **cheesy** pick-up lines. This means that the person is using pick-up lines and they do not take seriously what they say to the other person.

Quiz

1. Talia is out at a club and on the prowl.

What does this mean?

- a) She does not want to talk to a new person.
- b) She is trying to meet a new person who she is attracted to.
- c) She is a cougar.
- d) She is desperate.

2. Jack saw Karla at a party and wanted to meet her. He started a conversation with her and by the end of the night, they kissed goodbye. She gave him her phone number.

What happened that night?

- a) Karla picked up Jack.
- b) Jack picked up Karla.
- c) Jack used a pick-up line.
- d) They were both at a meat market.

3. Which of the following is not likely to be considered a meat market?

- a) a night club
- b) a bar
- c) a class
- d) a gym

4. Becky: I'm so surprised that Pauline _____ with that guy last night.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) picked up
- b) was on the prowl
- c) hooked up
- d) was out of place

5. Jean wore a costume to a Halloween party, but felt totally out of place.

Why did she likely feel out of place?

- a) The costume was itchy.
- b) She knew everyone at the party.
- c) Everyone was wearing costumes.
- d) She was the only one wearing a costume.

6. When is happy hour usually held?

- a) Between 4pm and 5pm
- b) Between 4pm and 7pm
- c) Between 11pm and midnight
- d) Between 3am and 5am

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

- a) They take the time to style their hair.
- b) They spend money on their appearance.
- c) They never wear cologne.
- d) They do not wear clothes that are out of style.

8. Which of the following is true about cougars?

- a) They are usually 20–30 years old.
- b) They can only be women.
- c) They usually look for younger men.
- d) both b) and c)

9. What might a desperate girl do on a night out?

- a) ignore everyone
- b) talk to as many guys as possible
- c) dance in a funny style
- d) dress up as a guy

Answers:

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