

## Catch Word #109 – The proof is in the pudding

### Transcript

Harp: Hello everyone. This Harp.

Maura: And hello, it's Maura.

Harp: We're here with another wonderful Culips English learning Podcast. And that's where we bring you natural English expressions that you hear on the street in North America.

Maura: Exactly. And if you want to know more about Culips, or learn more about this episode, please go to our website, Culips.com, that's C-U-L-I-P-S.com, and there you can see all of our wonderful past episodes. You can also become a member. And when you become a member, it enriches your experience of the episode because you get the transcripts, you get more detailed explanations for the expressions that we use, and you get even a little quiz to test yourself.

Harp: Definitely. And you can also like us on Facebook, because we have quite a bit going on there. We post pictures of ourselves here, we have lots of listener comments. It's a really fun little space.

Maura: Right. So don't forget to check all of that out. Now, let's get to the episode. Today's episode is a Catch Word episode and that's where we look at different expressions and slang and we give you explanations and examples and all that kind of stuff to help you fully understand them.

Harp: Exactly. Let's get started.

Maura: Our first expression today is...

Harp: ***The proof is in the pudding.***

Maura: Mmhm. ***The proof is in the pudding.***

Harp: Yes. ***The proof is in the pudding.***

Maura: Now, this expression means that too fully test something, to see if it's good or not, you have to experience it yourself. And it can't be judged when it's in the process of being completed; you have to wait **till** something is finished and you can judge whether it's good or not in the end only.

- Harp: Yes. And if you think about it, ***the proof is in the pudding***, pudding is a dessert. It's a creamy substance, and when you make it, it's liquid, so you have to wait for it **to set**, so you have to wait **until** the ending before you know if it's good or not.
- Maura: Right. You can't just make pudding and then one minute later, start eating it, because it's not ready. You have to make the pudding, let it **set**, and then the real way to tell if it's good or not is not by looking at it, it's by eating it.
- Harp: Yeah. So ***the proof is in the pudding*** means that you have to wait for the end result before you can judge something.
- Maura: Right. The proof of whether or not it's good is at the end, when you can eat the pudding.
- Harp: Exactly.
- Maura: And actually the original expression is ***the proof of the pudding is in the eating***. So it's exactly what we said, that you have to eat the pudding, experience it yourself, to know if it's good or not. But over time, this expression has gotten shorter and it changed around a little bit. Now we simply say ***the proof is in the pudding***.
- Harp: Yes. ***The proof is in the pudding.***
- Maura: So, you can't judge something if it's just in the process of being completed. You have to wait **until** the end, wait **until** it's finished, and then you can experience it and see if it's good or not. Or in the case of food, you can eat it.
- Harp: Yeah. So you have to wait for the results. OK, I think we should give an example with ***the proof is in the pudding***.
- Maura: Yes, let's do it. And even though this expression is about food and dessert and I'm feeling hungry, the example we're going to do isn't about food.
- Harp: Yeah, because often you use this expression and it **has nothing to do with** food.
- Maura: Right. OK, let's start.

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|--------|---|
| Maura: | Hey, how's it going?  |
| Harp:  | Good. How are you?  |
| Maura: | Yeah, pretty good, good. Actually, I just bought a new bed yesterday. |
| Harp:  | Oh, that's exciting.  |

Maura: Yeah, yeah. I'm pretty excited. I hope that I'll sleep better on it. You know, it was kind of expensive, but I really need some better support for my back so I hope it'll be worth it.

Harp: Well, you know, **the proof's in the pudding**. So we'll see how it goes for the next couple weeks. I hope you sleep better.

Maura: Yeah, I hope so too.

Maura: So, there is an example where we could use the expression **the proof's in the pudding**. And the reason we used this expression is because we can't judge right now whether the bed will be worth the money. We can't judge whether it's going to be very comfortable to sleep on. The only way we'll be able to judge is after you've experienced sleeping in the bed and you know what it's like.

Harp: Yup, definitely. Let's give one more example.

Harp: Hey, Josie, you did excellent on that presentation this morning.

Maura: Aw, thanks. That means a lot to me, actually. You know, I actually took a class on public speaking because I felt nervous and it was really something that I wanted to improve on.

Harp: Well, **the proof's in the pudding**. You did fantastic.

Maura: Thanks. It's really fun. It was a really interesting class.

Harp: Cool.

Maura: Now, there's an example where we can use the expression **the proof is in the pudding** and this time, we're not focused the experience but we're focused on the results.

Harp: Yeah. And the result was that after taking this class, the person was able to give a speech without feeling nervous.

Maura: Right. So this person tried really hard to improve their skills and the result of taking the class was that they were a better public speaker and so we can say **the proof is in the pudding**.

Harp: Exactly. Let's move on to our next expression.

Maura: The second expression in this episode is **I have to see it to believe it**.

Harp: Yes. So that expression is **I have to see it to believe it**.

- Maura: Right. Now, the first expression with the **proof's in the pudding** was kind of complicated, and this expression is much clearer and easy to understand because it means exactly what it says: I have to see something to believe that it's true, or that it's real.
- Harp: Yeah. ***I have to see it to believe it.***
- Maura: Right. So this means that if a person doesn't see it, or doesn't experience it, for themselves, then they will not believe that it's true or that it's so great.
- Harp: Exactly. Like, for me, I think that aliens exist but really, ***I have to see it to believe it.***
- Maura: Right. Because you've never actually seen an alien, or you've never talked to an alien, it's hard to believe.
- Harp: Unless you're an alien.
- Maura: **Nice one**, Harp. I wish I could tell you I was an alien, but I'm a boring human, just like you.
- Harp: All right. So again, with this expression, ***I have to see it to believe it***, it means that you need proof in order to believe something.
- Maura: Yeah. You have to see it or experience it in order to decide if it's good or not good.
- Harp: Exactly.
- Maura: This expression is particular in that it's used when someone does not believe something; they don't believe that something is true. And then they use this expression to tell you that they're not going to believe it **until** they experience it themselves. So Harp, if you told me that you went to an alien party last night...
- Harp: Yes?
- Maura: I would probably say, ***"I have to see it to believe it,"*** because I would find it difficult to believe that you were with aliens last night. In order to believe you, I need to see some kind of video of the party or maybe some kind of alien souvenir. Right. And it doesn't have to be about aliens; it could be about something much more common that you wouldn't think of. Like, if Harp told me that she built a boat on the weekend, I probably wouldn't believe that either and I'd need to see it in order to believe it.

Harp: Yeah. So when you use the expression ***I have to see it to believe it***, you're saying that you don't believe what the person is telling you or what the person did or what the person saw.

Maura: Right. And the only way you're going to be able to judge if it's actually true is to see it for yourself.

Harp: Exactly. Let's give an example with this expression.

Maura: Let's do it.

Maura: So, did you have a good weekend?

Harp: I had a great weekend. It was very relaxing.

Maura: Oh, good, good.

Harp: How 'bout you?

Maura: Yeah, I had a good weekend too, but I'm tired because after the snowfall on Friday, I was out all weekend with my kids building the biggest snow fort that I've ever built. Honestly, it's almost as big as my house.

Harp: Wow. Really?

Maura: Yeah, we were freezing buckets of ice and building walls.

Harp: Wow. ***I have to see it to believe it.***

Maura: In this example, somebody built a snow fort that was really, really big and so it was difficult to believe that someone would actually build a snow fort that big.

Harp: Yeah. So in this example, the person would either need to see a picture of the snow fort or to see it in person to believe that it's this big.

Maura: Right. Now, let's do one more example with ***you have to see it to believe it***.

Harp: Let's do it.

Harp: I have to tell you what I did last night.

Maura: Oh. What?

Harp: I made a cake.

Maura: Oh, really?

Harp:	Not just any cake. It's three layers, one's vanilla, one's strawberry, one's chocolate. It's beautiful.
Maura:	Wow. But I thought you didn't even know how to make <b>macaroni and cheese</b> .
Harp:	Well, I'm not a very good cook but I was able to make this cake. It's so beautiful. I'll show you a picture.
Maura:	<b>I gotta see it to believe it.</b>
Harp:	OK, I'll show you.
Maura:	All right.
Maura:	So, there is an example, again, where you can use the expression <b>to have to see it to believe it</b> .
Harp:	Yes. Because you did not believe the cooking ability of the person who said they made a three-layer cake.
Maura:	Right. So I have to see it, or maybe in this case taste it, to believe that you made a beautiful, delicious cake. Now, we have one more expression in this episode for you.
Harp:	Yes. The last expression is <b>don't jump to conclusions</b> .
Maura:	Right. So the third expression is <b>not to jump to conclusions</b> or <b>don't jump to conclusions</b> .
Harp:	Yeah. So the last expression is <b>don't jump to conclusions</b> .
Maura:	This expression is used to remind people that you can't judge something <b>until</b> it's finished or <b>until</b> it's complete.
Harp:	Yeah. So <b>don't jump to conclusions</b> . And if you think about maybe a criminal trial and if you think right away the person is guilty, you're <b>jumping to a conclusion</b> . You have to wait <b>until</b> all the evidence is presented, then you'll have a better idea if the person is guilty or not.
Maura:	Right. This expression is usually used when someone makes a conclusion or a judgment too early. Like you said, in a court case, you need to wait <b>until</b> the end of the case before you can make a fair judgment. If you make a judgement right away, you've <b>jumped to conclusions</b> .
Harp:	Yeah. So if one of your friend <b>jumps to conclusions</b> , you can say to her or him, " <b>Don't jump to conclusions.</b> "

Maura: Right. And if you think about doing some research, and at the very beginning of your research, you already decide what the end result is going to be, it's like you jump from the beginning all the way to the end without any of the proof or experience or knowledge that you need to make a good conclusion.

Harp: Yes, exactly. I think everyone out there has that one person in their life who always **jumps to conclusions**.

Maura: Someone who doesn't take the time to experience something for themselves or get more information. They just make a conclusion or a judgment on something with very limited knowledge.

Harp: Yeah. So, I have that one friend who I'm always saying, "**Don't jump to conclusions**."

Maura: Right. Like, maybe a friend who sees a strange phone number on her boyfriend's cell phone and automatically thinks "Oh, he must be cheating on me." So without much information and without talking to her boyfriend, she's already made the conclusion that he's off seeing somebody else.

Harp: Yup. They jump through a lot of evidence straight to the conclusion.

Maura: Exactly. Now, let's give a couple of examples with this expression.

Harp: Sounds good.

Maura: Oh, I think this TV **is garbage**. I've tried to fix it for the last two minutes and I can't get it to work. I think we should just throw it out and buy a new one.

Harp: Wow, hold on. **Don't jump to conclusions**. Let's try to get it fixed before. You only spent two minutes on it.

Maura: Oh, all right, fine, but I think it might **be garbage**.

Maura: In that example, she **jumped to conclusions** when she thought that the TV was broken.

Harp: Yeah. And she didn't wanna investigate very much and she didn't put much time into it and look for other evidence that maybe it's not broken; maybe just one small piece needs to be changed.

Maura: Right. In that case we use the expression **don't jump to conclusions** to remind that person that you should really investigate a little bit more, have a bit more knowledge and understanding before you decide what to do.

Harp: Exactly. Let's give one more example.



Maura: So, did you see Shannon and Bill talking at lunch today?

Harp: Yeah, so?

Maura: They've been getting closer and closer over the past couple weeks. Have you noticed?

Harp: They're just friends. What are you trying to say?

Maura: No. I think that they're having a secret affair.

Harp: Wow, **don't jump to conclusions**. I think they're just friends.

Maura: And there's an example where someone else was **jumping to conclusions**. With no evidence and no knowledge, this person decided that Shannon and Bill were a couple.

Harp: Yup. Again, no evidence. This person **jumped to a conclusion** with no proof.

Maura: Right. Now, let's go over our expressions one more time. Because they're all related but they're all different. So let's take our time to go over them with a little bit of definition again.

Harp: All right. So we started with ***the proof is in the pudding***.

Maura: Right. And this means that you can't judge something **until** it's completed or **until** there are results. And you need to experience this thing for yourself before you can make a judgment.

Harp: Exactly. And the second expression was ***I have to see it to believe it***, and this means that you need to see something in order to believe it.

Maura: Right. And often, this expression is used when you don't believe it and you don't think it's true. You feel that you need to see it or experience it to actually believe that it's possible.

Harp: Exactly. And then we ended with ***don't jump to conclusions***. And this is where someone comes to a conclusion, comes to a decision on something, without gathering evidence, without looking for proof.

Maura: Right. If you want to know more about these expressions and you want to know more some other related expressions, you should check out our Learning Materials, which you can access once you become a member. And when you become a member at Culips, you also help support us and help us continue to make these podcasts for you.



Harp: Exactly. And remember, the website is Culips.com, that's C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Maura: And don't forget to say hi on Facebook. We'll see you there.

Harp: Bye everyone.

Maura: Bye.

## Detailed Explanation

The proof is in the pudding

**The proof is in the pudding** is a phrase that means that the value of something can only be judged after it is tested. It means that only the result or outcome of something is what is important.

In this podcast, there is an example where Josie took a class because she wanted to improve her public speaking. The presentation she made proved that the class she took worked. So when her friend says that **the proof is in the pudding**, she is saying that the proof that the class worked is in Josie's presentation.

Let's take this episode as another example. In order to prove that you learned from this episode, then we would need to see the outcome of it by seeing what you learned. If you complete the quiz and see that you learned a lot from this episode, then we can say that **the proof is in the pudding!**

Here's one more example with **the proof is in the pudding**:

Hannah: I think my Aunt Sheila's apple pie is the best I've ever had!

Jon: Oh, really? Let me try it. **The proof's in the pudding.**

Till

**Till**, **'til** and **until** all have the same meaning and can be used in the same way. **Until** is the more appropriate one to use in formal conversation and writing. **'Til** is actually just a short form of **until**. **Till** and **'til** can be used more casually, like when speaking or writing to a friend. They sound exactly the same when spoken, and so there is no difference between the two when speaking.

To set

In this episode, Harp says, "Pudding is a dessert. It's a creamy substance, and when you make it, it's liquid, so you have to wait for it **to set**." What does it mean to wait for something **to set**? When something **sets** it becomes firm, thick, or permanent.

In this episode, letting pudding **set** means leaving it for a while until it is ready to eat. Pudding starts as a liquid and after it is left for a while it becomes creamy and thick. When this happens, the pudding has **set** and is ready to eat.

Jello is another dessert that can **set**. It starts as a liquid, like pudding, and then becomes more solid. This is when it **sets** and you can eat it. Glue can also **set**. For example, if you glue a broken piece of furniture together, you may glue a piece and then let it harden. When the glue has **set**, you can begin using the furniture again.

Here's another example with **to set**:

Mel: Once the cement **sets** in our patio, we can start using it.

Janice: I can't wait to relax in the sun on the new patio!

*Set* is a word that can be used in a lot of ways. A *set* can be a collection of things, and *to set* can mean to fix or arrange things in a certain way. *Set* can also be used when something is ready. Something that is ready can be said to be all set.

#### To have nothing to do with something

In this episode, Harp says, "...often you use this expression and it **has nothing to do with** food." This means that the expression *the proof is in the pudding* is not often used in relation to food. *Nothing to do with* is a very common expression that means not related to. People use this expression to say that there is no connection between two things. This expression is used when people might think that there is a connection, so someone uses *nothing to do with* to say that there is not.

Here's another example with *to have nothing to do with something*:

Adam: Do you not want to go to the party tonight because Denise might be there?

Paul: Denise **has nothing to do with** it. I just don't feel like going to a party tonight.

#### To have to see it to believe it

**To have to see it to believe it** and *to have to see it for myself* mean the same thing and can be used the same way. They are phrases that mean that something needs to be seen or proven in order to be believed. They can also be used to emphasize when something is very amazing and needs to be seen in order to fully appreciate how amazing it is.

So, let's pretend that you are telling a friend about something you saw on the weekend that seems very unbelievable, like a cat riding a bike. You could say, "There really was a cat riding a bike! **You have to see it to believe it!**" Or, if we were telling someone about how awesome the Culips website is and wanted to really emphasize it, we could say that Culips is such an amazing website, **you have to see it to believe it**.

Here's an example using **to have to see it to believe it** meaning that something is amazing:

Frank: I saw the northern lights last winter when I took a trip to the Yukon. They are so beautiful!

Mary Anne: I'm sure they are. I've never seen them before.

Frank: **You have to see it to believe it**.

Another variation of these expressions is *seeing is believing*.

Nice one

People often use the term **nice one** to simply mean that something is good or funny or smart. If someone says or does something that is funny or smart, you could tell them “**Nice one!**” In this episode, Harp makes a joke that Maura could be an alien. Maura then says, “**Nice one**, Harp,” meaning that Harp made a funny joke.

Here’s an example using **nice one**.

Sabrina: I think I know how to fix your television. Just let me connect these wires back here...

Steve: **Nice one!** It’s working now.

'Bout

'Bout is a short form of the word *about*. It is only used in casual conversations, like when speaking to a friend or when text messaging a friend.

When we leave a letter out of a word at the beginning and write it in this casual form, we should include an apostrophe at the beginning. Another example of this is writing *'cause* in place of *because*. In text messages, people often do not include apostrophes, even where they are needed.

Macaroni and cheese

**Macaroni and cheese** is a very popular food in North America, especially in the US. It began as a casserole, which is a pasta dish mixed with sauce and sometimes other ingredients that is baked all together in the oven. It was often made in the winter months to be a warm and comforting meal. Warm and comforting foods like casseroles are sometimes called comfort foods.

Nowadays, **macaroni and cheese** is most commonly made from a package of dry noodles and powdered cheese that you can buy in the supermarket. The most common type of **macaroni and cheese** is a brand called *Kraft Dinner*. It is very easy to make and only requires boiling water, butter, and milk. It is ready to eat in only 10 minutes. It’s very cheap too, which makes this food popular with students in college and university!

People often call this meal *Kraft Dinner* instead of **macaroni and cheese**. It can also be called **mac and cheese**.

Don't jump to conclusions

**Jumping to conclusions** refers to when someone judges something or assumes something without having any proof. We know that jumping is when you hop from one spot to another, usually to avoid or go over something. We also know that *conclusion* means a judgement or result. So, when someone **jumps to a conclusion**, it means they hop from an assumption to a conclusion, avoiding any proof. **Jumping to conclusions** is always used negatively, because you should always have proof before you make any judgements.

Here's one more example with **to jump to conclusions**:

Sylvia: I totally failed my math test. I just know it.

Gabriel: **Don't jump to conclusions**. Maybe you didn't do so badly. Wait till you get your mark.

To be garbage

People sometimes say that something **is garbage** when they do not think it is good and believe that it is so bad that it belongs in the garbage. This expression is only used casually. It is a negative statement that you would only use when you do not like something or it is broken and cannot be used. In the dialogue example about a television, the television **is garbage** because it does not work anymore and so it is not good.

Here are two examples with **garbage** used with the different meanings:

Eileen: I hate this music. **It's garbage**.

Don: It's not my favourite, but I think it's OK.

Missy: This table is broken and I think there's no way we can use it anymore.

Camille: You're right. **It's garbage**. Let's get rid of it.

## Quiz

1. Which of the following is an example of *the proof is in the pudding*?
  - a) when you ask someone to borrow some money
  - b) when your friend tells you that you need a haircut
  - c) when you win a marathon after you join a gym
  - d) when your teacher asks you to read out loud
  
2. Which of the following is NOT a correct way to use the phrase *to have nothing to do with*?
  - a) Cooking classes have nothing to do with table manners.
  - b) Reality television often has nothing to do with reality.
  - c) My cat is bored and has nothing to do with.
  - d) This test has nothing to do with mathematics.
  
3. In which case would you NOT use the phrase *you have to see it to believe it*?
  - a) I went to the circus and saw the most amazing tightrope walkers. You have to see it to believe it.
  - b) I'm going to be late for my dentist appointment. You have to see it to believe it.
  - c) If aliens do exist, you'd have to see it to believe it.
  - d) The new mall they built is so big! You have to see it to believe it.
  
4. What do the apostrophes in *'til* and *'bout* mean?
  - a) that a letter or letters have been removed to shorten the word
  - b) that the word is related to television
  - c) that the word is a curse word and should never be used
  - d) that the person who wrote it is lazy
  
5. Why is macaroni and cheese considered a comfort food?
  - a) because it's Italian
  - b) because there's cheese powder in it
  - c) because it's made from a box
  - d) because it's warm and comforting

- 6. When you jump to conclusions, what important thing are you “jumping” over?**
- a) a river
  - b) a fence
  - c) proof or evidence
  - d) your teacher
- 7. What does it mean when something is set or when something like a pudding sets?**
- a) It's tired.
  - b) It's ready.
  - c) It's sick.
  - d) I happened a long time ago.
- 8. What is a casual way to tell someone that you liked their joke or comment?**
- a) That's tasty.
  - b) Nice one.
  - c) Interesting time.
  - d) That joke was floral.
- 9. When someone thinks something is not good, what might they say about it?**
- a) It's garbage.
  - b) It's recycling.
  - c) It's an apple core.
  - d) It's litter.



**Answers:**

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