

Catch Word #154 – That's sick!

Informal Contractions in this Episode

Informal contractions are unofficial short forms of other words, and they're usually only used in casual conversation. For example, when a native English speaker talks casually, they might say *gonna* instead of *going to*, or *whaddya* instead of *what do you*. Even though informal contractions are usually only used in spoken English, we include them in the Culips written transcripts to help you get used to how they're used and what they sound like.

These are the informal contractions used in today's episode, along with their meanings:

- **'cause**: because
- **gonna**: going to
- **gotta**: got to
- **ya**: you

Transcript

Maura: Hello everyone. This is Maura.

Andrew: And I'm Andrew, and we're here with another Culips episode.

Maura: That is right. And this is where we remind you to go to our website, Culips.com, that's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. Because that is where you can become a Culips member.

Andrew: And when you become a member, you get access to our learning materials with detailed explanations of some of our key phrases and expressions that we talk about. You also get full transcripts of all the episodes and a quiz as well.

Maura: That is right. So check that out. And if you're on iTunes and Stitcher, you can listen and give us a rating. And if you're also on Facebook or Twitter you can send us a message there or tweet at us.

Andrew: That's right. So you just got back from Toronto. How was your trip?

Maura: It was good. I had a good time. I took the train, which I think is my preferred choice. It was really nice. I could just kick back and relax and enjoy the nice view, and they also have Internet, so I can go online and look at Facebook and check my email and all that stuff too. So it was good.

Andrew: That's awesome that they have Internet on the train now.

- Maura: Yeah. It's convenient.
- Andrew: Yeah. It makes the **time fly by**.
- Maura: That's right. OK. Let's get to today's episode. This time, we're going to do a Catch Word episode.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. And in a Catch Words episode we take a look at three related expressions and tell you how you can use them and what they mean.
- Maura: That's right. So today we're going to look at words that have negative meanings. So if you look them up in the dictionary, they're negative, but they can be used in a slang way to mean something that is positive. Something that is great or cool or amazing.
- Andrew: Exactly. So these are words that have a negative meaning, but the way that we can use them, English is funny, we can make them into positive expressions as well.
- Maura: And the thing about these kinds of words is that they're always changing. Every few years there's like a new one of these words that emerges and some of the other words we don't use anymore and depending where you're speaking English, different kinds of words are more popular.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. That's the funny thing about slang is it's always changing with each new generation.
- Maura: Yeah. When I was thinking about this episode, when I was preparing it, I thought about Michael Jackson. And you know in the 80s, he had that song "Bad". And that's really a **prime example** of this kind of slang.
- Andrew: Exactly. Because "Bad" didn't really mean bad. It meant good in the context of that song.
- Maura: Yeah. Right. So he was singing about being bad, but he didn't mean that he was negative or something was really bad. He meant that it was cool and awesome and, yeah, kind of maybe exciting.
- Andrew: That's right. So we're gonna talk about expressions that work just the same way.
- Maura: Right. But are more popular today and less popular in the 80s.
- Andrew: That's right. They are up-to-date.
- Maura: So the first expression we're going to look at today is **sick**.
- Andrew: Right, that's **sick**.

- Maura: Mmhmm. **Sick**. Which means not healthy or ill.
- Andrew: Yeah. If you look this word up in the dictionary, it's going to say that. It's gonna say not healthy, ill, feeling bad. But when I say something is **sick**, and I'm talking casually with my friends, I'm usually **meaning** that it's pretty cool.
- Maura: Right. So you can say that something is **sick**, and it means that it's great, it's exciting, maybe it's a little bit crazy - all kind of positive things. It doesn't mean that thing is not healthy.
- Andrew: Exactly. Yup.
- Maura: And this is a relatively new slang term. **Sick**, over the years, somehow, someway, became used in a positive way, and we actually don't know where this originated. Some people claim that it came from London and started maybe even in the 80s. And another source said that it might have started in a country like Trinidad and Tobago. So we don't really know where this term comes from, but it's definitely used and understood today to mean that something is cool.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. And I really think that this expression is generational. Younger people tend to use it, but I wouldn't hear my Grandma saying that something is **sick**. I think that would be strange.
- Maura: That would definitely be strange. And that's the thing with these slang terms. When they're new, it's kind of the generation that starts using them, and as they grow older the term fades and a new generation takes on new words.
- Andrew: Exactly. So should we give some examples using **sick**?
- Maura: Let's do it.
- Andrew: OK.

- Maura: So hey! How's it going? What did you end up doing last weekend?
- Andrew: Well, I decided to go to a concert.
- Maura: Oh really? How was it?
- Andrew: Yeah. It was really **sick**. It was a good choice. It was fun.
- Maura: Oh. Cool, cool. What kind of music was it?
- Andrew: It was just kind of rock and roll, you know. But, yeah, it was good. I think you would have liked it. Next time you should come along too.

Maura: Yeah, yeah. Maybe next time I will.

Maura: So in that example we heard from two friends. One person had gone to a concert, and he described that concert as **sick**. A concert cannot be unhealthy. He meant that the concert was cool, great, exciting, all of these good things. He meant that it was a really great show.

Andrew: Mhmm. And this is an expression I use all the time actually when I'm talking about music. Something is **sick**, it means it's good.

Maura: Right. We should also say that you wouldn't use this slang term to talk about something that could actually be **sick**. Like you wouldn't say to someone, "Oh, you have a **sick** dog," because maybe their dog could be **sick**. And so it just sounds a bit awkward and strange. Usually you use it for objects and things that don't have health.

Andrew: Yup. Exactly. So if the thing that you wanted to describe as being cool or good could actually feel **sick** then you wouldn't describe it using **sick**. So, yeah, you wouldn't say, oh, your grandma's so **sick** 'cause that could just be understood to mean something different.

Maura: Yeah. It's just to avoid confusion. OK. Let's give you one more example now with **sick**.

Andrew: OK.

Maura: Oh, I love this song. Do you want to go dance now?

Andrew: Yeah, let's do it. I love this song too.

Maura: OK. Cool.

Andrew: Wow! That's a **sick** dance move. I didn't know you could **breakdance**. Where did you learn how to do that?

Maura: Well, actually, when I was a kid, I got really into it and I took some lessons. But I can totally teach you how to do this dance move.

Andrew: Yeah. I want to learn. That's great.

Maura: Yeah.

Andrew: So in this example, we heard **sick** used to describe a dance move. Two friends were at a party, they went to dance because they liked the song that was being played, and one friend was surprised to see how well his other friend could dance.

- Maura: That's right. So we said that you could call a concert **sick**, you could call a dance move **sick**. There's a lot of different ways that you could use **sick** as slang. And we'll give you a couple more examples in our learning materials. So if you're a Culips member, check that out.
- Andrew: Absolutely. OK. So our second expression is **mean**.
- Maura: That's right. So **mean** is actually something negative, right? If you describe someone as a **mean** person then that means they're not nice, they're not pleasant, they probably are a bit rude. It's not positive at all.
- Andrew: Exactly. I don't really like **mean** people because they're not nice, and they're not fun to be around. But when we describe something in casual speech as being **mean**, we actually mean that it's a positive thing.
- Maura: Right. So if you describe something as **mean**, it could mean that it's cool or really well done. Something is awesome. So you could use **mean** as a slang term to mean something positive. Really the exact opposite of what it means if you look it up in the dictionary.
- Andrew: Exactly. And so, really, it works exactly the same way as **sick** does, where you're using a negative word to mean something positive. OK. So let's give an example using **mean**.
- Maura: All right. Let's do it.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Maura: | So, where do you want to go for dinner tonight? I kind of feel like going to ABC burgers. What do you think? |
| Andrew: | You know what? It's so funny. I've been craving a burger, so let's do it. That'd be great. |
| Maura: | Yeah. I love that place. They make really mean burgers there. |
| Andrew: | Yeah totally. They're great. Let's go. |

- Maura: In that example, we heard from two friends who were going to have a **mean** burger. That means they were going to eat very good burgers. Very delicious. Really great burgers. So they used **mean** to describe food and in this case that means something positive. It's not negative.
- Andrew: Yup. The burgers were delicious at this restaurant, so they were going to go eat them. They called them **mean** burgers, but really they weren't angry or upset, they were just delicious.

Maura: That's right. And something that is important to note about this slang word **mean** is that you really need to use it with the thing that you're describing. You have to say **mean** burgers. I could say that I ate a **mean** burger, but I couldn't say it was **mean**. It sounds funny. I have to really use what I'm describing. It was a **mean** burger. I have to say burger.

Andrew: Yeah. You should always keep that noun that you're modifying in the sentence. So if you cut it out it just sort of sounds funny.

Maura: Mhmm. OK. Should we do one more example with **mean**?

Andrew: Yeah. Let's go to our second example.

Andrew: Hey, that's a nice car. That's such a **mean** ride.

Maura: Thanks! Do you want a **lift**?

Andrew: Well, yeah, I guess so. Can you take me for a ride in it?

Maura: Yeah, sure. Get in. **Where ya going?**

Andrew: Downtown.

Maura: That's where I'm going too.

Andrew: In this example, we heard the expression **mean** used to describe a really, really cool car.

Maura: That's right. We heard one person give a compliment by saying that it was a **mean** car and of course that didn't mean the car was rude, that doesn't make sense! So to say that it was a **mean** car means that it was a cool car, that it was awesome.

Andrew: Exactly.

Maura: OK. We're gonna to give you one last slang expression today, that is **wicked**.

Andrew: **Wicked**. Yeah.

Maura: And this follows that same rules as the other. If you look up **wicked**, it has the meaning of being evil and bad, but when it's used in a slang way, it means that something is cool or amazing or great. It's positive.

Andrew: Mhmm. So we take the dictionary definition, and we actually flip it around. And so when we're talking casually, something that is **wicked** is something that is cool.

Maura: And you know? I've heard that **wicked** is especially popular in Boston. I think that it's used everywhere, but it must be a particularly Boston slang. They've claimed this as theirs.

Andrew: Yeah. So if you're a listener in Boston let us know. Do you hear this expression a lot? We want to know.

Maura: Yeah. OK. So let's just jump right in, and we'll give you an example with **wicked** meaning cool or great.

Andrew: Yeah. Let's go.

Andrew: Oh, I had a great day of snowboarding yesterday. You should have come along.

Maura: Oh, was there a lot of **fresh powder**?

Andrew: Yeah. There was **wicked** powder. It was awesome.

Maura: Well I have plans to go next weekend so hopefully the snow doesn't melt by then.

Andrew: Yeah. **No doubt**. You gotta get up there.

Maura: Yeah. I want to get in at least a couple more days of boarding before it's spring.

Andrew: So in this example we heard the expression **wicked** being used to describe powder. So we heard the expression **wicked** powder. And this just means really good and fluffy snow.

Maura: That's right. So powder is the kind of snow when it's light and fluffy, like you said, and **wicked** is positive. It means that it was great and it was awesome. So we're going to give you now one more example with **wicked**. And there's something a little bit different about this slang, which is that **wicked** can also be used as an intensifier, like very. So can say something is **wicked awesome** or **wicked cool**. It's kind of just another way that you can use **wicked** in a positive way.

Andrew: Mhmm. If you really want to emphasize how great something is, you can use **wicked**, just like you said, to intensify your statement just like you said. So **wicked awesome**, **wicked cool**. These are totally fine things to say.

Maura: Yeah. And I think those are two of the most popular ones right there.

Andrew: Exactly. Yeah.

Maura: OK. Here is one more example for you.

Andrew: Hey, I'm actually thinking of going to the beach sometime soon, but I don't know which beach is best here. Is there one that you'd recommend?

Maura: Yeah. There's one I know that's **wicked fun**, and the best part about it is, it's kind of a secret. Not many people know about it, so it's not over crowded on the weekend. It's pretty cool. Actually, I'm probably going next weekend. If you want, you can come.

Andrew: Yeah. Is the swimming good there?

Maura: Yeah. The swimming is pretty sweet. The temperature of the water is pretty good. It's not too cold, but it's still refreshing. Yeah. And the water can get pretty deep if you like to really go for it.

Andrew: Cool. **I'm sold**. Let's go.

Maura: In this example, we heard about a beach that was **wicked fun**. So **wicked** was used like very. Instead of saying very fun, the person said **wicked fun**. And that doesn't mean it's bad. It means that it's really very fun. This beach is really cool.

Andrew: Yeah. I love the beach. It's great. And so this was a **wicked** beach. It wasn't a bad place. It was a good spot. It was a great place to go.

Maura: Yup. That's right. And that brings us to the end of our episode, so let's go over the slang that we looked at today one more time.

Andrew: Mmhmm. So we started with the expression **sick**.

Maura: And then we told you about **mean**.

Andrew: And then we ended with **wicked**.

Maura: And one more thing we want to mention is the tone and context of how these slang terms are used. Like we said, the actual meaning is negative, so once in a while there could be some confusion. But most of the time, it's clear if you're using it in a negative or positive way because of the tone of your voice when you're saying it and also because of the context. You can understand if it's positive or negative.

Andrew: A lot of times, we lengthen these words when we say them. So we don't say that was a **sick** car. We say that was a **sick** car. We make it, we emphasize the word as we're saying it.

- Maura: Yeah. Because we're excited, and we're feeling positive. So we say that was **wicked fun**. You're right. We do kind of emphasize the word. And it sounds happy when we say it.
- Andrew: That's right. It's all about the tone and the context. These are the cues that let you know it's being used in a positive way.
- Maura: And if you found that this was a **sick** Culips episode, and you want to know more about these expressions, you should become a member. And to do that all you have to do is go to our website and sign up. The money that you spend helps go to us and allows us to keep making these great episodes for you.
- Andrew: Exactly. And we really appreciate your support. So I guess that's it for today. We'll catch you next time.
- Maura: Yup. Talk to you soon. Bye.

Detailed Explanation

Time flies (by)

When we say that **time flies (by)** we mean that it seems like time is passing very quickly. In this episode, Andrew says that having an Internet connection on the train makes the travel **time fly by**. In other words, being able to use the Internet while traveling makes the trip seem much shorter than it really is.

This is a popular idiom in English and its roots can be traced back to Latin. It is actually a direct translation of the Latin expression *tempus fugit*. Sometimes when people use this expression, they add the word *by* onto the end. This is optional and doesn't affect the meaning.

So, whenever we want to express the idea that time feels like it is passing by faster than normal, we can use the expression **time flies (by)**. Here are some examples that use this expression:

Gerry: Wow, I can't believe it is 5pm already. We've been at the beach since 9am so that means we've been here already for 8 hours.

Tina: Yeah, that's crazy!

Gerry: **Time flies by** when you're having fun!

Wendy: Your kids are getting so big. How old is your eldest now?

Pete: He just turned 11 last week.

Wendy: Wow, I really can't believe that. How **time flies**! It seems like he was still running around in diapers only yesterday.

A prime example

A **prime example** is an example that is really good. A **prime example** accurately represents the characteristics that are central to the example. For instance, in this episode Maura mentions that Michael Jackson's *Bad* is a **prime example** of how the word *bad* is actually sometimes used to mean *good* or *cool*. What she means here is that *Bad* is a very good and accurate example of the slang meaning of the word *bad*.

So, a **prime example** is a very good and clear example. Check out the following examples to see how this expression works:

Damon: Did you watch the basketball game last night?

Chet: No, I missed it. Who won?

Damon: The Lakers dominated. They won by 50 points. It was a **prime example** of how to play basketball.

Chet: That's great. I love the Lakers they're my favourite team.

Stella: Last night when I rode the subway the train made a sudden stop and someone spilled their coffee all over me. It was horrible, I think my sweater is ruined.

Reggie: That's a **prime example** of why I hate riding on public transit.

Stella: Yeah, in retrospect I should have just walked home. I would have gotten some exercise, and my sweater would still be wearable!

Sick

In its slang form, the word **sick** is used to mean good, great, or awesome. This usage is especially common among younger people. Like a lot of slang, the exact origins are hard to trace. However, **sick** was probably made popular due to skateboarding culture in the USA in the late 1980s. Skateboarders would use **sick** to describe really crazy and mind-blowing skateboard tricks.

So, when someone describes something as being **sick** this can mean that this thing is awesome or cool. This is a very informal expression and should not be used in important writing or conversations.

We can use **sick** as an adjective to describe something cool. It can also be used as a one word exclamation that expresses that something is cool. Here are a few examples for you to check out:

Reg: You'll never believe it, I just won \$100 dollars on a scratch ticket.

Millie: **Sick!**

Reg: Yeah! Wanna go grab dinner tonight? I'm buying.

Millie: Definitely. Let's celebrate!

Rebecca: I bought a **sick** new game for my Xbox. You should come over and play it later.

Sara: Yeah, I'd love to. I haven't played video games for a while. That would be fun.

Rebecca: Cool. I'll call you later this week to set up a time.

To be meaning

To mean is a stative verb, which means that it traditionally cannot be used in the progressive tenses. This is because stative verbs describe situations that are assumed to be stable and are not likely to change.

However, many English speakers break this rule and use stative verbs in the progressive tenses to achieve emotional effects. In this episode, Andrew says:

*When I say something is sick and I'm talking casually with my friends I'm usually **meaning** that it's pretty cool.*

Andrew uses *to mean* in the present progressive tense indicate that during the time he is with his friends he uses *sick* to mean *cool*. However, this is not always the case. When Andrew interacts with other people, he uses *sick* to mean *ill*.

Let's look at another example to see how this works. Compare these two sentences:

She's grumpy.

She's being grumpy.

The first sentence leads us to believe that the girl is *always* grumpy. However, the second sentence indicates that the girl is only grumpy right now. We can presume that at other times she is not grumpy.

So, this is what Andrew does when he uses *to mean* in the present progressive tense. When he is with his friends, he usually uses *sick* to mean *cool* but when he speaks with other people he uses *sick* to mean *ill*.

Here are a couple examples that use stative verbs in the progressive tenses. We've included some brief explanations about why the speaker chose to use these verbs in a progressive tense.

We can use stative verbs when we want to be polite and don't want to bother our listener. See how this works in the following example:

Clair: Hi professor, I was just **wanting** to talk to you about the grade I got on my last paper. I think I deserve a higher grade.

Professor: Ok, we can talk about it after class. Please meet me in my office and we can have a quick chat.

Clair: Great, thanks.

We also use statives in the progressive tense when we want to minimize the harshness of a criticism. By using statives in the progressive, we can soften how we criticize someone or thing. Here's how this works:

Linda: The first few chapters of your book are really great, but I'm not **feeling** the last half. I think you might want to try to write another draft.

George: Really? Ok, I'll see what I can do.

Breakdancing

Breakdancing is a form of street dance that is characterized by aerobic and skilful moves. It emerged in the 1970s and is usually danced to with hip-hop or funk music. Today, **breakdancing** is a very popular style of dance and is practiced all over the world.

Breakdancers are called b-boys or b-girls and a team of **breakdancers** is called a crew. Here is a picture of a b-boy **breakdancing**.



And here are some examples that use the expression **breakdancing**:

Wayne: You're a really good at **breakdancing**. When did you learn how to dance?

Lee: I started in high school, I guess. I just started copying what I saw in music videos.

Wayne: Amazing!

Sally: Did you make a New Year's resolution this year?

Gaby: Yup! I decided to finally learn how to **breakdance**.

Sally: No way! That's a good one.

Gaby: Yeah, it's really fun and is a great way for me to exercise.

To be mean

Mean is an adjective that can be used to describe people or things that are very good. Just like this episode's other expressions, it is an example of a word that usually has a negative meaning; however, when used in its slang sense, the word takes on a positive meaning.

Mean cannot stand alone in a sentence. You must always include the object that you are describing as **mean** in the sentence. Although it is possible to use *sick* as a one word exclamation, this is not possible with **mean**.

So, whenever something or someone is really good, talented, or skilled, we can say that that thing or person is **mean**. Here are some examples that use **mean**:

Jonathan: I bought a Thelonious Monk CD last week. He is such a **mean** piano player!
Felix: Absolutely. He is a jazz legend and one of best to ever live.

Erin: Would you like to come to poker night tonight at my place?
Jess: Is Frank going to be there?
Erin: Yup, of course. He never misses a game.
Jess: I'm going to pass then. He plays a **mean** game of cards! Every time we play poker together he ends up taking all my money!
Erin: I know what you mean! He is a really good player.

A lift

A **lift** is a free ride. In this episode, we hear a dialogue example where a man is asked if he wants a **lift**. In other words, he is asked if he wants to go for a ride in the car.

In British and Australian English, the word **lift** means elevator. In North America, however, **lift** is mainly used to refer to a free ride in a car or other vehicle. Here are some examples that use **lift** in the North American sense:

Mandy: Hey I'm heading out in 10 minutes. Do you want a **lift** to school? I can drop you off on my way.
Ben: That would be great. Thanks!

Robin: Do you think you could give me a **lift** to the mall on your way to work?
Al: I actually don't think I can today, sorry. I have other errands to run before I go to work.
Robin: Oh, ok. No problem.

Where ya going?

In fast, informal conversation, it is very common for speakers to drop the verb *to be* out of simple questions. So, a question like *Where are you going?* ends up sounding like **where ya going?**

In this episode, we hear a dialogue example where a driver offers a lift to a pedestrian and then asks him the question **where ya going?** We can imagine that in this situation, where a driver is pulled over to the side of the road talking to a pedestrian on the sidewalk, that the driver's speech would be sped up and to the point. In this setting, she drops the *to be* verb and simply asks **where ya going?** instead of *where are you going?*

It is common for English speakers to make similar reductions with other simple wh-questions. For example, *what are you doing* often gets simplified to *what ya doing?* Again, the verb *to be* is omitted.

In Australian English, a very common greeting is *how ya goin?* This expression can mean many different things depending on the context but usually it means *how are you?* or *what are you doing?*

Here are a few examples that use reduced -wh question forms:

Jill: What are you doing?

Tim: I'm cleaning up my house.

Jill: Oh yeah? **Why ya doing** that?

Tim: My in-laws are coming visit for the weekend so I'm just making sure everything looks good for their visit.

Jill: Good plan!

Rena: I'm planning to go to New York City this summer. Have you ever been?

Henry: Yup. **How ya getting** there?

Rena: I was thinking about driving.

Henry: I'd recommend taking the train instead. Parking can be a nightmare in that city.

Wicked

In its slang usage, when something is **wicked** it means that it is really cool or great. In this episode, we hear an example about **wicked** powder on a ski hill. This means that the light, powdery snow on the mountain is very good for skiing.

Wicked can also be used as an intensifier to modify and strengthen an adjective. This communicates that something is very, very good. So, it is possible to say that something is **wicked awesome** or **wicked cool**. When **wicked** is used in this way, it means *to a great extent, really, or very*.

Just like *sick*, **wicked** can be used on its own as an exclamation. We can use **wicked** to respond to a statement or suggestion that we agree with by just saying **wicked**!

Since **wicked** is a slang expression, it is best to avoid using it in formal conversation or writing.

Here are three examples that demonstrate the three ways that **wicked** can be used:

Randy: That was a **wicked** party you threw last night, man. I had such a good time!

Bill: Thanks! I had a great time too.

Randy: Yeah, next time you plan to have another party, let me know. I'll be there for sure.

Vanessa: Wow it's **wicked** hot out here! What's the temperature? Like, 35 degrees?

Dan: Yeah, we're in the middle of a heat wave right now. It's supposed to stay really hot until next week.

Kylie: I just got promoted at work! I'm going to be moving into a bigger office and I'll be getting a raise!

Stan: **Wicked!** That's so great, congratulations!

Fresh powder

Freshly fallen, light, and fluffy snow is called **powder** or **fresh powder**. It is the ideal snow for skiing and snowboarding. Some of the best **powder** in the world can be found on the Rocky Mountains in Canada and the USA and also on many mountains throughout Japan.

There are many words in English that are used to talk about snow. Here are some of the most common snow words:

Slush: Slush is snow that partly melts once it hits the ground. Slush causes big puddles of snow and water to form on roads and sidewalks. It is dangerous to drive on slushy roads and is no fun to walk on a slushy sidewalk.

Sleet: Sleet is a combination of both rain and snow. When sleet hits the ground, it is likely to cause slush to form. It can be very dangerous to drive when sleet is falling.

Blizzard: A blizzard is a strong winter storm. During a blizzard, snow falls heavily and the wind blows strongly. Blizzards often cause white out conditions where visibility is very poor and it is hard to see anything.

Wet or Packing snow: Wet (also called packing) snow is near the melting point so it is very heavy. This is the perfect snow for making snowballs, a snowman, or a snow fort. Wet/packing snow does is not good for skiing because it is very dense and heavy.

No doubt

The expression **no doubt** has two meanings. We'll explain them both for you.

In this episode, we hear a dialogue example where two friends are talking about skiing. One friend says that she hopes the snow doesn't melt soon and the other friend replies by saying, **no doubt**. In this context, **no doubt** means *I agree, yes, or absolutely*. It is used to show that you agree with a statement.

No doubt is also used to emphasize that what you say is likely to occur or to be true. Both of these expressions are shortened versions of the longer expression *there's no doubt about it*.

No doubt is best explained through examples, so here are a couple for you to check out:

Ali: I can't wait for summer to come. Hanging out in the park last summer was so fun!

Blair: **No doubt!** I can't wait either!

Taylor: Something needs to be done to keep our office clean and organized. Everyday when I come to work it's a mess.

Jonny: There's **no doubt** that management will hold a meeting and bring this up with all the staff. I agree things are a bit out of control and need to be fixed.

To be sold

When someone **is sold** on an idea or plan, it means that they believe that a plan/idea is good and likely to be successful.

In this episode, we hear a dialogue example where two friends talk about going to the beach. After one friend describes the good qualities of the certain beach, the other friend replies by saying, **I'm sold**. *Let's go!* What this means is that he has been convinced that going to this beach is going to be fun and that he thinks it is a good idea to go to the beach.

So, when someone **is sold** on a plan or an idea, it means that they have been persuaded or convinced to think that the plan or idea is good and is going to be successful. Here are some examples that use the expression **to be sold**:

Alex: My husband and I have decided to buy a new house.

Ross: Wow! You're finally going to move out of your old apartment, hey?

Alex: Yup! It took a little bit of time to **sell** my husband on the idea, but eventually he came around and realized that owning a house is a good plan in the long run.

Ross: Well, congratulations! Enjoy your new place!

Sue: There's a hockey game on tonight. Want to go to the pub and watch it?

Leah: I don't know. I'm not really a fan of hockey.

Sue: Oh come on. It'll be fun and I'll even pay for dinner.

Leah: Ok, **I'm sold**. See you at 7?

Sue: Perfect, see you then!

Quiz

1. What snow is the best for skiing?

- a) slush
- b) sleet
- c) powder
- d) wet snow

2. What style of dance emerged in the 1970s and has become popular worldwide?

- a) breakdance
- b) tango
- c) boogie-woogie
- d) mambo

3. When someone is convinced that an idea or plan will be successful, they are _____ on the idea.

Fill in the blank.

- a) bought
- b) traded
- c) hooked
- d) sold

4. What “negative word” does not have a slang equivalent that is used to mean good or cool?

- a) wicked
- b) awful
- c) sick
- d) mean

5. What expression can you use when you want to agree with something that has been said?

- a) no danger
- b) no doubt
- c) no deal
- d) no double

6. Which of the following verbs is a stative verb?

- a) wash
- b) run
- c) see
- d) cook

7. What is a prime example?

- a) a very bad example
- b) an example of a robot
- c) an example of a math equation
- d) a very good example

8. When someone wants a lift, what do they want?

- a) a chance to start over
- b) to grow taller
- c) a bus ticket
- d) a free ride

9. Which expression do we use to express the idea that time seems like it is passing quickly?

- a) time drags (by)
- b) time flies (by)
- c) time squeaks (by)
- d) time jumps (by)

Answers:

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