

Catch Word #156 – Movers and shakers

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

Transcript

Harp: Hello everyone. This is Harp.

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

Harp: Yes. Make sure you go to our website, Culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. Because that's where you can sign up and become a member.

Andrew: Yeah. And when you become a member, you get access to the transcripts of every episode that we record, you get detailed explanations of all the key expressions, and we give you a quiz to test your knowledge to see how much you've been learning with us.

Harp: Exactly. And make sure you come to Facebook and Twitter and say hi to us there, and leave us a comment and a rating on iTunes or Stitcher.

Andrew: That's right. So, Harp. How's it going? What's new?

Harp: It's going really well. I went shopping last weekend

Andrew: Shopping? Where did you go?

Harp: We actually drove down to the US and we went to Lake George and there are all **these outlets** there and it was crazy.

Andrew: Hmm. In the States. I bet you got some good deals.

Harp: That's why I'm saying it's crazy! The clothes were so cheap compared to here.

- Andrew: Wow. Well, yeah, maybe I should go to Lake George. That sounds like a great place to get some clothes.
- Harp: Yeah. The deals are amazing. I would recommend it. Clothes are expensive in Canada.
- Andrew: You're telling me! Yeah, it's so expensive.
- Harp: So, that's what I did.
- Andrew: Great! Well, should we start with today's episode?
- Harp: We should.
- Andrew: OK. Today we are doing a Catch Word episode, and this is where we take three related expressions and give you some examples and definitions to help you understand them.
- Harp: Yes. So today's expressions are all related to people who are ambitious and who are really trying to be successful.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. People who try hard to get what they want.
- Harp: Let's get started with our first expression.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. Which is ***to be a mover and a shaker***.
- Harp: Yes. ***To be a mover and a shaker***.
- Andrew: So when you are **a mover and a shaker**, you are a person who has a lot of energy and can change things to make what you want to happen happen.
- Harp: Yes. So to be **a mover and a shaker**, it means that you are very energetic and you're ambitious and you're doing as much as you can to get the things you want done done.
- Andrew: Exactly. And usually we call people who are very successful, who are rich or good businessmen or politicians, these are **movers and shakers**. These are, like, really big figures in society.
- Harp: Yeah. Rich and powerful people. We call them **movers and shakers**. And with this expression, when I think of **a mover and a shaker**, I think of someone who's really energetic and actually physically moving a lot to try to get things done.

Andrew: Yeah. And we should warn you that when you use this expression, you have to use both *mover* and *shaker* together. You have to say somebody is **a mover and a shaker**. If you say they're just a shaker or just a mover, it doesn't work. Both together.

Harp: That is a very good point. Andrew, do you know the origin of this expression?

Andrew: I did a little research on this, and I found that it first appeared in a poem by a poet who I had actually never, ever heard of. His name was Arthur O'Shaughnessy, who I'm imagining is Irish. And this poem was written way back in the 1800s, but he was the first person to use the expression **mover and shaker**. And then eventually, over time, it sort of entered into the common vocabulary.

Harp: Yeah. OK. Very cool. I think we should give an example.

Andrew: Yeah. Let's do that.

Harp: Hey. Do you know who you're going to vote for in the election?

Andrew: Yeah. I think I'm going to vote for Paul Smith, because he was a real **mover and a shaker** in the business world, and I want somebody running the country who has a strong business sense.

Harp: Hmm. That's a good point. Yeah, maybe I'll vote for him for president. I need to think about it a little bit more though.

Andrew: Mmhmm. Just don't forget to vote.

Harp: No, I definitely won't.

Harp: So in this example, we had two friends talking about the upcoming presidential election and who they were going to vote for and one of them was gonna vote for Paul Smith, because he was **a mover and a shaker** before, which meant that he was someone who initiated change and he influenced events. He was a really good businessman before.

Andrew: Exactly. So the one friend wanted a strong business leader as president and so he decided that he was going to vote for Paul Smith.

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

Andrew: Have you met Linda?

Harp: Yeah! The new girl in marketing?

Andrew: Yeah. It's crazy. She already got a promotion.

Harp:	Already?
Andrew:	Yeah. She's only been here for a month and she's already moving on up the ladder .
Harp:	Wow! She's a real mover and shaker .
Andrew:	I know. She's got a great work ethic.

Andrew: In this example, we heard a conversation between two coworkers discussing a woman at work named Linda, who is a real **mover and a shaker** and had managed to work herself **up the ladder** to get a promotion in just a month after starting work at their company.

Harp: Yup. She was an energetic person who really showed her **drive** and the things she could do.

Andrew: Mmhmm. And it worked out for her. She got the promotion. So congrats, Linda.

Harp: OK. Let's move on.

Andrew: Our next expression is **to be a go-getter**.

Harp: Yes. **To be a go-getter**.

Andrew: And **a go-getter** is similar to **a mover and shaker**. It's just a person... It's a person who is very ambitious and hardworking and goes and gets what they want.

Harp: Yup. **A go-getter** is someone who really wants to be successful so they do what they need to become successful.

Andrew: Mmhmm. And they may even be aggressive. They might work super, super hard and just **give their all** to getting what they want.

Harp: Yeah. Usually **a go-getter goes above and beyond** what is expected just to make sure they're successful.

Andrew: Should we give some examples with **to be a go-getter**?

Harp: I think we should.

Andrew: OK.

Andrew: Do you have any plans this weekend?

Harp: Yup. I have my sister's university graduation ceremony.

Andrew: Didn't she just enter university two years ago?

Harp: Yup. She actually is graduating university in only two years.

Andrew: So she finished a four-year degree in two years?

Harp: Yup.

Andrew: Wow! That's insane. **What a go-getter.** That's great. Congratulations to her.

Harp: Yeah. I'm super proud of her. She's very ambitious. She knew what she wanted, and she did it.

Andrew: Wow. I'm jealous. **What a** hard worker. Well, that's great!

Harp: So in this example, we had the girl's sister who was **a go-getter**. She finished university in two years instead of four years. She was really ambitious, she knew what she wanted, so she worked really hard to get it done.

Andrew: Mhmm. And, yeah, so she was able to graduate way **quicker** than normal, in half the time, because she was **a go-getter** and she knew what she wanted and, yeah, she did it.

Harp: Yeah. Let's give one more example with **to be a go-getter**.

Harp: You'll never guess who I ran into this weekend.

Andrew: I have no idea. Who?

Harp: Ryan from high school.

Andrew: Ryan? Really? That guy? What's he doing? Is he, like, a homeless guy on the street now? Or where did you see him?

Harp: That's what you would expect because he was such a slacker in high school, but he seems like he's a real **go-getter**. He had a suit on. He was telling me about his job on the stock market.

Andrew: What? I'm shocked. That guy never worked hard for anything in his life back in high school. He just **floated around**.

Harp:	Yup. I don't know what changed for him, but he seems like he's a real go-getter now.
Andrew:	Well, good for him. I'm happy to hear that he's picked his life up .
Harp:	Yup. Me too.

Andrew: In this last example, we heard from two old high school friends and one of the friends had recently run into an old high school acquaintance, Ryan. And back in the day, during high school, Ryan was a slacker. He didn't work hard for anything. But now he is a successful stockbroker and he walks around in a suit and tie and he's a real **go-getter**. So he changed his life around. He went from being somebody who doesn't work hard at all to being a **go-getter** who is ambitious and works hard to get what he wanted.

Harp: Yup. Exactly. In this example, Ryan went from a slacker to being a **go-getter**.

Andrew: Mhmm. So, maybe we should move on to our final expression, which is **to be a self-starter**.

Harp: Yes. **To be a self-starter**.

Andrew: And a **self-starter** is, once again, somebody who is highly motivated and does things on their own without having to be told what to do, or without even having to even be encouraged by other people.

Harp: Yeah. **A self-starter** is someone who starts projects on their own.

Andrew: They take their own initiative to get things done and I think bosses really, really like **self-starters** because they don't always have to remind them to get their work done. They just do it on their own and, yeah, they go forward without having to be told to do so.

Harp: Yup. It's definitely a very positive trait for someone to have when they're an employee.

Andrew: And this expression was first used way back in the 1800s to talk about self-starting motors on cars, 'cause that was a big jump in technology, I guess, to have a motor that could start by just turning the key. But eventually, again, it evolved and now we use it to talk about people who are highly motivated and get things done on their own.

Harp: Yes. Exactly. I think that we should give some examples.

Andrew: Yup. Let's do that.

Harp: Thanks Bob, for coming in for an interview. Let's get started.

Andrew: OK. **Thanks for having me.**

Harp: All right. Why don't you start by telling me a little bit about yourself?

Andrew: Sure. Well, I've been a computer programmer for about 10 years. I'm a motivated person. I would consider myself to be **a self-starter**. And my most recent project that I have finished is an application for the iPhone.

Harp: Ah. Interesting. Did you create this application all on your own?

Andrew: Yeah. I did, actually. I did all the programming myself.

Harp: OK. You really are **a self-starter**.

Andrew: Mmhmm. Yup. It has been very successful and I've got almost 50,000 downloads on iTunes for this app.

Harp: Oh, that's great. OK, and now, what about your last job?

Harp: So in this example, we had Bob, who was going in for a job interview and he was asked to describe himself. And he said that he was **a self-starter**. And he gave the example of the application that he had created. And this was a very ambitious thing to do. He did it on his own. No one asked him to do it. So he was **a self-starter**.

Andrew: Mmhmm. And we should say that actually, **a self-starter** is a really good expression to use if you're in a job interview situation, or even if you're writing a resume in English. This is something that we do all the time to talk about ourselves. We call ourselves **self-starters**.

Harp: If we really are, but yes.

Andrew: Yeah. Don't lie about yourself. But if you are this ambitious person, this is a good expression to use to describe yourself without sounding like you're bragging.

Harp: Yup. Exactly. Let's give one more example with this expression.

Andrew: Can I help you find anything?

Harp: Yeah. Uh. No, I'm just browsing. But, wow, this is a really cool store.

Andrew: Oh. Thanks a lot. That means a bunch. We just opened two weeks ago, actually.

Harp:	I didn't think I had seen it when I walked by last time.
Andrew:	Yeah. I just decided to open the store. It's been an idea that's been floating in my mind for about a year now, and I just made the decision to pull the trigger and open the store. And here we are.
Harp:	Wow. It's your store. You're a self-starter . It's awesome.
Andrew:	Yeah. Well, if you need anything, just let me know. I'm happy to help.
Harp:	OK. Thanks!

Andrew: In this example, we heard a conversation between a storeowner and a customer. And the customer complimented the owner on the nice new store that she had never been to before. And during their conversation, the customer found out that the storeowner had recently opened the store, it was a brand new store, and that he had done so on his own. He just was ambitious and motivated to start his own business and he did so. So she described him as being **a self-starter**, somebody who gets things done, gets what they want.

Harp: Yup. She called him **a self-starter** because he was ambitious and he started a project all on his own, and it was successful.

Andrew: Exactly. Well, I guess that about wraps it up for today.

Harp: Yes. Let's do a quick recap of the expressions we talked about today.

Andrew: And we started with **to be a mover and a shaker**.

Harp: Yes. And then we talked about...

Andrew: **To be a go-getter**.

Harp: And we finished with **self-starter**.

Andrew: That's right. So those were our three expressions that are used to describe highly motivated people.

Harp: That's right. And make sure you check out the website, Culips.com. C-U-L-I-P-S.com, which was created by a bunch of **self-starters** who are really **go-getters**.

Andrew: That's right. Well, thanks for listening everybody, and we will talk to you next time.

Harp: Bye everyone.

Detailed Explanation

An outlet

An outlet is a big store that sells products from one specific company at discounted prices. In this episode, when Harp talks about visiting the outlets, she is describing the special shopping district she visited where there are many outlet stores. Outlets are sometimes also called factory outlets or outlet malls. They are almost always located outside of a city, in the suburbs. Some of the most common and popular outlet stores are for companies like Nike, GAP, Polo, and Levis.

When you visit an outlet store, you are only able to buy the products of the company that owns and operates the store. However, prices at outlets are much cheaper than department stores. The prices at outlets can be up to 50% cheaper than the prices at shopping malls or department stores.

Here are a couple more examples with ***an outlet***:

Dan: I love that shirt you're wearing. Do you mind if I ask where you bought it?

Gary: Not at all. I picked it up last weekend at the outlets.

Dan: Awesome. I'll have to see if I can find something similar next time I'm there.

Gary: Yeah, and it was super cheap too. I love shopping at the outlets!

Tila: I need to buy a new winter coat so I'm thinking about heading to the outlets this weekend. Would you be interested in joining me?

Sarah: Sure, I'd love to.

Tila: Perfect. I'll pick you up Saturday morning around 11am.

Sarah: Great. See you then.

A mover and a shaker

A mover and a shaker is a person who is very influential, powerful, and successful. As Harp and Andrew explain in this episode, the expression ***a mover and a shaker*** is often used to describe ambitious and successful businessmen and politicians. **A mover and shaker** is someone who accomplishes many things, is inspiring, and is successful.

Andrew explains in this episode that the term originated in a poem written in the 1800s. It is now a very common expression and is used often when talking about successful people who do many great things.

Here are another couple of examples with **a mover and a shaker**.

Evan: You know what's really interesting?

Jesse: What?

Evan: A lot of the big **movers and shakers** in the world never graduated from university.

Jesse: Really? Like who?

Evan: Well, for example, Steve Jobs and Bill Gates.

Jesse: I never knew that! That is really interesting!

Theresa: I heard a rumour that some **mover and shaker** is planning to buy the old abandoned theatre downtown so that he can renovate and reopen it.

Paul: No way! That's amazing.

Theresa: I know! I'm really excited. It's a beautiful old building. It's such a shame it has just been sitting empty for years and years.

Paul: Absolutely. I'm glad to hear that it will be operational again. I can't wait to go see a show there!

To move (on) up the ladder

When someone **moves (on) up the ladder**, they make progress in their career. In this episode, we hear a dialogue example about a woman who receives a promotion after working at a company for only one month! She was able **move up the ladder** in a very short time.

A ladder is a tool that is used to climb up to high places. We can imagine that a career ladder is something that people can climb as they advance in their career. The higher someone climbs **on the ladder**, the more success they achieve. An entry-level position represents the lower rungs of the ladder. As someone climbs **higher on the ladder**, they take on more responsibilities and receive a higher salary.



This expression is sometimes used with the preposition *on*. In these cases, the full expression is **to move on up the ladder**. However, the word *on* is optional, and including it in the expression does not change the meaning. In this episode, Andrew uses the expression once with *on* and once without.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Wendy: Now that you're about to graduate, what are your plans for the future?

Tim: I hope to get an entry-level job at a tech company. I hope that after a few years of hard work I'll be able **to move up the ladder** and secure a position in management.

Wendy: Sounds like a great plan!

Lisa: Did you know that our company's owner used to be a salesperson just like us?

Frank: Really? That's crazy. How did he become so successful?

Lisa: Apparently he just worked really hard and eventually was able **to move up the ladder**.

Frank: That's amazing! I hope I can own my own company someday too.

Drive

When someone has **drive**, they are very motivated and work very hard to get what they want. In this episode, Harp and Andrew give a dialogue example about a woman who has a lot of **drive**. She was able to get a promotion at work because of her **drive** to do great things. A person with a lot of **drive** has a very strong desire to accomplish their goals. When someone puts a lot of energy and effort into making their dreams come true, we can say that they have **drive**.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Richard: I have never seen an athlete with more **drive** than Michael Jordan. He was a truly fantastic basketball player. He practised longer and harder than everyone else, and because of that, he became one of the all-time greats.

Sue: I totally agree with you. He was the best player I've ever seen, a true champion.

Ming: I wish you had a bit more **drive**. You seem to have no ambition at all.

Sara: That's not totally true. I do want to do something with my life but I'm just not sure what that is yet.

Ming: Maybe you should go back to school. Does that interest you?

Sara: I wouldn't know what to study at school. I think I just need some time to think about what I really want out of life before I commit to something.

A go-getter

A go-getter is someone who is highly motivated and works energetically to achieve success. Just like the word suggests, **a go-getter** is someone who goes and gets what they want. When someone is very determined to make their dreams come true and achieve their goals, we can call them **a go-getter**. This expression is usually used to describe business people or people at work.

Here are a couple more examples with **a go-getter**:

Carlos: There is a woman at my work who is a real **go-getter**.

Harvey: Oh, yeah? Why is that?

Carlos: Last year we had a fund drive to raise money for charity. She was able to raise much more money than the rest of the staff.

Harvey: That's great!

Carlos: Yeah, and she usually works six days a week.

Harvey: Wow, your co-worker really is motivated! She must love the taste of success!

Nikka: My cousin was able to buy her own house and her own car before she turned 25.

Austin: Wow, that's very impressive. How did she do that? Win the lottery?

Nikka: Nope. She is just a real **go-getter**. She finished university in only two years by studying through the summer. Then she worked really hard to start her own business. Now she does really well for herself and makes a lot of money.

Austin: That's great. I wish I were as motivated as her!

To give your all

When someone **gives their all**, they put all of their energy, time, and effort into doing something. In this episode, Andrew explains that someone who is a go-getter **gives their all** to guarantee that they can make their dreams come true.

When you try as hard as you can to be successful and you commit all of your time, energy, and effort into making your goal become a reality, then you are giving your all.

Sometimes people insert the word *it* into this expression, so that it becomes **to give it your all**. The *it* here refers to the task or job someone is doing. So, if someone is studying hard for a test and they **give it their all**, then they give the test all of their attention, effort, and time.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Gary: Did you catch the game last night?

Monica: Yeah. It was such a disappointment. Even though the Yankees **gave it their all**, they still weren't able to win the World Series.

Gary: That's just the way it works out sometimes. Anyway, they will have a chance to try again next year!

Philip: I'm so proud of you! It is so amazing that you were able to win a full-ride scholarship to university.

Hector: Thanks! I really **gave my all** during high school. I guess all the hard work paid off because now I get to go to Harvard in the fall!

To go above and beyond

When someone **goes above and beyond**, they put more effort into doing something than is required. This expression is part of a larger phrase, **to go above and beyond the call of duty**. This full expression is used to describe soldiers who do incredible things while serving their country. Not only do these incredible soldiers sacrifice many things to protect their country, but they do something extra that sets them apart from the other soldiers (such as doing something very brave like rescuing an injured comrade).

When we want to talk about people who aren't soldiers, we can use the first part of the expression, **to go above and beyond**, to describe anyone who puts a lot of effort and hard work into doing something. In this episode, Harp mentions that go-getters **go above and beyond** to make sure their dreams become true.

A person who puts much more time, effort, and hard work than is needed into making sure a job gets finished successfully **goes above and beyond**.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Rose: Wow. Your kitchen looks amazing.

Gus: Thanks. I painted it last week.

Rose: You did a great job. How long did it take you?

Gus: Oh, about 50 hours.

Rose: Wow! That long?

Gus: Yeah. I just wanted to **go above and beyond** to make sure everything was done correctly.

Rose: Well you sure did that. It looks great. Next time I need to paint, I'll make sure to have you come over and do my house.

Gus: Sounds like a plan!

Charles: I am really impressed with your work around the office lately.

Marshall: Wow. Thanks a lot!

Charles: You've really been **going above and beyond**, and I just wanted to let you know that you're doing a great job. Keep up the good work!

Marshall: Thanks. I will.

What a/an...

We use the expression **what a/an...** when we want to emphasize that something is good, bad, or special. Whenever you have a strong feeling or reaction towards something, you can express this emotion by using **what a/an...**

In this episode, Harp and Andrew give a dialogue example about an ambitious student. When talking about the student, they say "**what a** go-getter" and "**what a** hard worker." The inclusion of **what a** underscores that the student in the example was really a go-getter, and a very hard worker.

Here are a couple more examples with **what a/an....**:

Ross: Is that a new phone?

Heather: Yup, I just bought it last night. I got it online for only \$99.

Ross: Wow, **what a** deal!

Heather: I know. Sometimes when you shop online you're able to get great bargains!

Evan: My car was stolen last night.

Dave: That's awful. Any leads on who stole it?

Evan: Yeah they caught the thief this morning. Apparently he stole it just because he was bored.

Dave: **What a** loser! That makes me so angry.

Evan: Me too!

Quicker or more quickly

According to the traditional rules of English grammar, when we want to describe the speed of an action, we should use the correct adverbial form. So, for example, instead of saying *he graduated **quick*** we should say *he graduated **quickly***. We should use the adverb instead of the adjective.

But when it comes to comparative forms, native speakers sometimes use adjectives in place of adverbs. Andrew does this in this episode when he says "She was able to graduate way **quicker** than normal."

According to the traditional grammar rules, Andrew should have said *she was able to graduate way **more quickly** than normal*. However, native speakers often bend this rule when they speak.

Although it is OK to use a comparative adjective instead of a comparative adverb in everyday speech, this should be avoided in formal speech and avoided completely in writing.

Here are a couple more examples that show how native speakers may use either a comparative adjective or adverb in natural speech:

John: Could you eat any **slower**? We've been sitting in this restaurant for nearly an hour.
Gus: Sorry, I'm almost finished!

John: Could you eat any **more slowly**? We've been sitting in this restaurant for nearly an hour.
Gus: Sorry, I'm almost finished!

Paul: I have a feeling I'm going to run **quicker** in this year's marathon than I did last year.
Tim: Why is that?
Paul: I've been training for the past three months and I feel like I'm in good shape.

Paul: I have a feeling I'm going to run **more quickly** in this year's marathon than I did last year.
Tim: Why is that?
Paul: I've been training for the past three months and I feel like I'm in good shape.

To float around

When someone **floats around**, they do not do take their responsibilities seriously. In this episode, Harp and Andrew give an example about a man who **floats around** in high school. This means that when he was in high school, he did not work hard and did the minimum amount of work required to pass.

We can think of someone who **floats around** as being like a bottle floating in the sea. Just like the bottle floats aimlessly and goes wherever the ocean pushes it, a person who **floats around** goes through life without direction or purpose.



When someone **floats around**, they have no ambition to be successful and instead do the bare minimum required to take care of their responsibilities.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Katie: I can't wait until summer vacation comes. Then I'll be able **to float around** guilt free and just take it easy.

Philip: Yeah me too. I'm planning to do a lot of relaxing this summer.

Trish: Ever since my husband lost his job, he has been really depressed. I'm worried about him.

Esther: Has he been looking for a new job?

Trish: No. He just **floats around** at home. He doesn't seem to be motivated to do anything.

Esther: You should encourage him to keep looking for work or to volunteer somewhere. I'm sure once he becomes busy again he will start to do better.

To pick up

To pick up is a complicated phrasal verb that has many different definitions. For this entry, we'll focus on **to pick up** as meaning to improve.

In this episode, Harp and Andrew give an example about a man who was able **to pick his life up** and become successful even though he was a lazy student in high school. The man was able to make a big improvement to his life. He transformed from a lazy person into a go-getter and turned his life around.

We can use the verb **to pick up** whenever we want to describe something or someone that becomes better or improves.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Aiko: Wow. Real Madrid is really not playing that well.

Careen: I know. I really hope they **pick up** their play soon. I hate to see them lose!

Jans: Did you finish reading The Game of Thrones?

Kacey: Yes, I finally did!

Jans: Cool. What did you think?

Kacey: The start was really good but then it got pretty boring. I almost stopped reading it but then it really **picked up** towards the end and got really good.

Jans: Yeah, I love it. It's probably my favourite book series.

A self-starter

A self-starter is a person who has a lot of ambition and takes the initiative to start work-related projects without having to be asked to do so. In this episode, Harp and Andrew give an example about a computer programmer who describes himself **a self-starter**. He is a highly motivated individual and even designed an iPhone application in his free time. Because he undertook this project without being told to do so by a boss, he is **a self-starter**.

Anyone who is a very driven person and starts work-related projects on their own, without having to be instructed to do so can be called **a self-starter**.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Ida: My company is looking to hire a new graphic designer. Do you know anyone who is looking for a job?

Will: I have a few friends who might be interested. What kind of person are you looking for?

Ida: We need someone who works well on their own, is a hard worker, and is **a self-starter**.

Will: My friend Katherine sounds like she would be perfect for that job.

Ida: That's great! Just get her to send me an email and we can set up an interview.

Will: I'll do that for sure. Great!

Arthur: I'm thinking about quitting my job and starting my own business.

Annie: Really? Do you think that is a good idea? I've never known you to be much of a **self-starter**. Do you think you'd really be able to motivate yourself to work hard?

Arthur: You're right. In the past, I haven't worked very hard. But I'm ready to try to change. If I can make this business work, I'll really be able to live a better life, I think.

Annie: Well it sounds like you're doing it for the right reasons! I wish you all the luck in the world!

Thanks for having me

Thanks for having me is a polite expression of thanks that is often said in two specific situations. The first is during an interview. In one of the dialogue examples in this episode, we hear this expression used by an interviewee to thank his interviewer. In this case, we can think of the expression as being a shortened form of **thanks for having me over to do this interview**. This expression is also used often during radio or TV news interviews. When a host thanks an interviewee for being on the programme, the interviewee often replies by saying **thanks for having me**.

Another situation when this expression is often used is when a guest thanks a host for their hospitality. It is a very common way to say thanks to a host. In this case, we can think of this expression as being a shortened form of **thanks for having me over to your house**.

Here are another couple of examples with ***thanks for having me***:

Radio host: Hello Mr. Mayor. Thanks for agreeing to come on to our show today to answer questions about the new highway the city plans to build next year.

Mayor: No problem at all. **Thanks for having me.** I'm grateful to have the opportunity to reach out to the fine citizens of our great city.

Elizabeth: Thanks again for coming over for dinner. I had a great time hanging out.

Paul: No, no, no. **Thank you for having me.** Dinner was delicious. Next time, you're coming over to my place!

Elizabeth: Sounds great, I'd love to.

To pull the trigger

When you **pull the trigger**, you make an important decision that causes something to happen. In this episode, Andrew and Harp give an example about a man who **pulled the trigger** on opening his own business. In other words, he made the decision and then took the action to open his own shop and become a small business owner.

This expression has an interesting origin, and is related to the action of firing a gun. A trigger is the lever on a gun that causes the gun to shoot a bullet. When you pull the trigger of a gun, a shot fires out of the gun. When it comes to shooting a gun, pulling the trigger makes the action of a gunshot happen.



When we talk about someone **pulling the trigger**, it means that they have made a decision and committed to the action that is the result of this decision. This expression is often followed by the preposition *on*.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Carrie: Management finally **pulled the trigger** on upgrading our work computers.

Lena: That's awesome!

Carrie: Yup! I heard that the new computers will be installed next week.

Lena: That's great. I can't wait!

Terry: I have some big news to share with you.

Ellen: Really? What is it?

Terry: I finally **pulled the trigger** and asked Anne to marry me!

Ellen: Oh wow! What did she say?

Terry: She said yes! After dating for 10 years, we will finally tie the knot.

Ellen: Congratulations. I'm so happy for you!

Quiz

- 1. When someone puts more effort into completing a task than is required, what have they done?**
 - a) gone up and down
 - b) gone under and over
 - c) gone above and beyond
 - d) gone here, there, and everywhere

- 2. What polite expression can you say to a host after they have had you over for dinner?**
 - a) Thanks for hosting me.
 - b) Thanks for getting me.
 - c) Thanks for having me.
 - d) Thanks for cooking me.

- 3. What does *to pick up* mean?**
 - a) to choose
 - b) to stay the same
 - c) to get worse
 - d) to improve

- 4. When someone makes progress in their career, what are they doing?**
 - a) climbing up the mountain
 - b) crawling up the stairs
 - c) moving up the ladder
 - d) running up the hill

- 5. What is drive?**
 - a) a bicycle
 - b) ambition to do something
 - c) enjoyment in doing something
 - d) a performance

6. What kind of stores does Harp talk about visiting in this episode?

- a) outlets
- b) malls
- c) department stores
- d) shops

7. Dan: You did a really great job today. I'm really happy with the way everything turned out.

Cindy: Thanks so much. I really _____.

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct expression.

- a) gave it my all
- b) gave it the greatest
- c) gave it some hard work
- d) gave it good

8. Which expression is the odd one out?

- a) to float around
- b) to give it your all
- c) to go above and beyond
- d) to move up on the ladder

9. What is a trigger?

- a) the button on a computer mouse
- b) the device on a car that cleans the windows
- c) a step on a ladder
- d) the lever that fires a gun

Answers:

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