

## Catch Word #157 – You killed it

### 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
- **dunno**: don't know
- **gonna**: going to
- **gotta**: got to (have to)

### Transcript

Maura: Hello everyone. It's Maura.

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

Maura: And we have to remind you now to go to our website, Culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. Because that is the place where you can become a member. Yay! And when you're a member, you have access to the transcripts for all of our episodes, more detailed explanations of the expressions that we use, and quizzes to help test yourself when you're done listening.

Andrew: And we love it when we hear from you. You can get in touch with us through our Facebook site and also our Twitter site. And, as well, if you're downloading the podcast, you can do that on iTunes and on Stitcher.

Maura: That's right. So, Andrew, I notice that you've been growing a beard, slowly.

Andrew: That's right. Yeah. I have a pretty bushy beard right now. Yeah.

Maura: Have you ever had a beard before?

Andrew: I've had a beard for, probably, like, the last 5 years, I'd say, off and on.

Maura: OK. So you're experienced.

Andrew: Yeah, that's right. I have lots of beard experience, yes.

- Maura: And you know, one of the reasons why I thought I would ask you about this is because I read online recently that beards are at an all-time high, and they're so popular that razor blade sales are down because so many men have beards.
- Andrew: Yeah. I think that's true. I'm trying to think of my friends right now and a lot of them have beards, so that would make sense to me. Yeah. I could see it happening.
- Maura: Hmm. And I also heard that we've **reached peak beard**, which means that they've become so popular that there's nowhere to go but down, and that now beards are gonna start to become less and less popular.
- Andrew: Yeah. We'll see about that. I dunno. I like having a beard for a couple reasons. The first is that it's super easy. It's great for lazy people. Second of all, like you said about razor blades, razor blades are expensive, so having to buy razor blades and shave all the time, that costs a lot of money, which I don't like to spend.
- Maura: Yeah. Beards are cool. I've always been a fan of beards, and I think that even if they become less popular, I'll still think that they're pretty cool and fun.
- Andrew: Yeah, well it's funny that you should mention it, because I'm actually going to shave. I was planning on shaving tomorrow, 'cause now it's getting really hot in Montreal. It's summer and it's just too warm. So, yeah, the **peak beard** theory. It's coming true already.
- Maura: It's true, though, that beards are probably great for the Canadian winter. They help keep your face warm. But in the summer, like you said, it's just another layer.
- Andrew: Yeah. It's too hot, so off comes the beard as of tomorrow.
- Maura: OK. So let's get to our episode today. So today we're going to do a Catch Word episode, and that is where we look at different expressions, three related expressions, and we explain them for you, we give you examples, and let you know how you can use them.
- Andrew: Exactly. And today we're gonna look at three expressions that you can use to describe a situation where somebody performs really, really well.
- Maura: Right. We use these expressions when someone does something very well. They succeed in some way.

- Andrew: And the way that we define these expressions is going to be different from what you'll see in a dictionary if you look them up, because these are very slang expressions, slang ways of using these terms.
- Maura: Yup. That's right. So when you look up these verbs in the dictionary, you're not going to see these definitions right away.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. So, should we start the episode, Maura?
- Maura: Yeah. Let's get to it.
- Andrew: All right. So our first expression is **to kill it**.
- Maura: Mmhmm. It sounds so violent. **To kill it**.
- Andrew: Yeah. It's very violent, I guess, when you think about it. But in reality, this just means that you performed well when you were doing something.
- Maura: Right. So, when a person does something really well, you can say that that person **killed it**.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. And it does sound **gruesome**, I agree. But this just means that this person did an excellent job on a certain task.
- Maura: Right. It could be also maybe a performance or something like that, where you could say that somebody **killed it**. And again, it's not violent. It just means that someone did something very well. They succeeded in some way. OK. Now we'll give you a couple of examples.

- Andrew: Hey, so you had an audition yesterday for a play, right?
- Maura: I did.
- Andrew: And? How did it go?
- Maura: **I killed it!**
- Andrew: Congrats. That's awesome. So you got a part?
- Maura: Well I don't know if I got a part yet, but I feel like it went really well. I practised a lot and then, when I went in, the lines just flowed from my mouth and I really felt connected to the character.
- Andrew: That's awesome. I'm so happy for you.
- Maura: Yup. I'll hear next week, but I'm pretty sure you'll be seeing me on stage in the summer.

Andrew: So, in this example, we heard about an actress who **killed it** during an audition. So she tried out for a play, she performed really well. She remembered all of her lines and just did a great job, so she felt like she had **killed it** and that she'll probably get a part in the upcoming play.

Maura: And this example was a little bit funny, because she said herself that she **killed it**. Most of the time, you hear a person telling someone else that they **killed it** as a compliment, but you can actually say it about yourself, too.

Andrew: That's right. If you feel that you did a good job and you're confident about your performance, then you can totally say that you **killed it**.

Maura: OK. Let's give one more example now with **to kill it**.

Maura: Hey, your presentation was really interesting today.

Andrew: Thanks. You really think so? I felt kind of nervous.

Maura: No. It totally seemed like you knew your stuff. Are you passionate about dinosaurs?

Andrew: Yeah. I've really enjoyed dinosaurs since I was a kid, actually. So it was really cool to be able to study the topic in school and make a presentation on it.

Maura: Yeah, well you definitely knew your stuff, and you seemed really excited about it. I would say that you **killed that presentation**.

Andrew: That's awesome, thanks a lot. I hope I get a good grade.

Maura: I'm sure you will.

Maura: In this example, we heard from someone who had just given a presentation on dinosaurs, and there was a fellow student who complimented him and said that he **killed it**. He **killed his presentation**, which meant that he did a really good job and the presentation was **a hit**.

Andrew: That's right. He **killed the presentation** and everybody enjoyed it, thought it was interesting. He did such a good job presenting that, yeah, he **killed it**.

Maura: This is such a violent-sounding expression. It's strange, but we also have some more that are similar.

Andrew: That's right. So for example, if you did something really well, like make a presentation for example, you could say that you murdered it.

- Maura: Aw. It sounds so **harsh**, but it's true that I've heard people say *I murdered something*, and it means that they did something really well.
- Andrew: Another expression that my friends sometimes say is that they destroyed something if they did it really well.
- Maura: Yeah. You could say *I destroyed it*, which means that you did something, you completed something, very well.
- Andrew: Exactly. So these are all really violent ways to express doing something well, but it's what we say. It's what happens.
- Maura: You know, I don't think I would ever say *I murdered it*, because it sounds so aggressive, but I've definitely heard it.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. I agree with you. I don't know if I use these expressions too often. Every once in a while. But I agree, you have to be aware of who you're speaking to, especially if you want to use an **ultra**-violent expression like *to murder it*.
- Maura: Yeah. These are definitely a more casual way to say that you've done something well, probably used between friends or people who you know very well. It's not very professional sounding.
- Andrew: Yeah. Absolutely. Should we move on to the next expression?
- Maura: Good idea.
- Andrew: All right. So the next expression is **to nail it**.
- Maura: Right. **To nail it**.
- Andrew: And this is almost exactly the same as **to kill it**. We use this to describe a situation where you've done something really, really well and you've just perfected it.
- Maura: Right. You've completed some kind of task or maybe you've performed and you did it successfully. You did it well.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. If you've done something right, you have **nailed it**.
- Maura: I think we can just move right on to examples. What about you?
- Andrew: Yup. I think we're ready. Let's do it.

Maura: So Betty's birthday's coming up. We've gotta get her something.

Andrew: Yeah. And she's turning 40, too. That's, kind of, like, a big deal. We should get her something special.

Maura: Yeah. Um. I don't know. Should we get her, like, a good book that she might like?

Andrew: Hmm. A book. That's kind of boring. I was thinking maybe a watch.

Maura: Hmm. You know, I don't think that she ever wears a watch. I think she just checks the time on her phone now.

Andrew: That's true. Oh. You know what? I was in the **antique** store the other day and I saw this amazing old globe. And I know that Betty is really into history and she loves **antiques**. I think she would really like it.

Maura: I think you **nailed it** with that. She would love that.

Andrew: Yeah. Let's go pick it up then.

Maura: Ah. I hope it's still there. Let's go after work today.

Andrew: OK. Sounds good.

Maura: In this example, we heard two friends talking about what to get Betty for her birthday. And eventually one friend thought of getting her a globe, which turned out was a great idea, so the other friend said that he **nailed it**. He did a really great job of coming up with an idea for Betty's birthday. He picked the perfect idea for a gift, so she said that he **nailed it**.

Andrew: Yup. Exactly. So the task that those two friends had to do was come up with an idea for a gift. The one friend came up with the perfect idea; he did the task really well, so he **nailed it**.

Maura: Nice. And you know, that does sound like a nice gift, doesn't it?

Andrew: Yeah. I would love that. An **antique** globe? That's **right down my alley**.

Maura: OK. Let's do one more example.

Andrew: Yeah.

Andrew: Hey. What'd you get up to last night?

Maura: Actually, I ended up teaching my son how to play chess.

Andrew: Chess? I love that game. How did he do? Did he pick it up?

Maura: Yeah. Actually, he totally **nailed it**. I was really surprised. He caught on really fast.

Andrew: Really? That's great. And who won?

Maura: He did.

Andrew: He beat you on his very first game?

Maura: Well, you know, I was **going easy** on him because I thought it was his first game, but then he ended up winning after all.

Andrew: Wow. That's great. I'd love to try and play him sometime. Maybe he's a chess **prodigy** in the making.

Maura: Maybe. I'll keep you posted.

Andrew: OK.

Andrew: So, in this last example, we heard about a mom who taught her son how to play chess. And he learned how to play chess very quickly, and he totally **nailed it**. So the task was for him to learn chess, he did really well at this task, at the learning, and so we can say that he **nailed it**.

Maura: And, you know, it is actually quite impressive that a boy was able to learn how to play chess and do so well right away, because it's a pretty complicated game.

Andrew: Yeah. Even when I play chess sometimes, I get a little confused and can't remember all of the rules exactly, so, yeah, for a child to learn how to play very quickly is quite impressive.

Maura: Yeah. I've only played a handful of times, and to be honest, I can't remember, really, any of the rules right now. And that's what I don't like about it, is there are so many rules to remember. It's quite hard to strategize when you're still trying to remember the rules.

Andrew: Absolutely. I haven't played chess for a long time, either, but I love the game. It's great.

Maura: OK. Let's move on to the last expression today, which is **to rock it**.

- Andrew: Yeah. **To rock it**. And **to rock it** is very similar to all of the expressions that we've looked at today: **to kill it** and **to nail it**. And we just use this to describe a situation, again, when somebody does something really, really well.
- Maura: That's right. When someone does a really excellent job at something. Like we said before, it could be a task, it could be a performance. If they do something very well you could say **to rock it**. And this is probably the most fun expression. We're even having fun saying it. **To rock it!**
- Andrew: Yup. And I would also say that this is the most common expression. People use it all the time. And I especially hear this expression used to describe people who dress well. So you hear it a lot on entertainment shows, when people are talking about, like, award ceremonies and maybe an actress wore a really fantastic dress and looked great. You could say that she **rocked it** last night.
- Maura: Right. And in that example you gave, *it* would be the dress. She **rocked** the dress. So you can **rock** different pieces of clothing or you can **rock** a certain look. But you're right that this expression is a little bit different because you can use it to talk about wearing something or dressing successfully; **pulling off a certain look**.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. Yeah, so, it's funny to say that, like, somebody dressed themselves well and they did a good job at that, but that's how we use it. So if you **rock it**, and we're talking about fashion, it just means that you looked good.
- Maura: Mmhmm. OK. Now let's give another couple of examples with **to rock it** meaning to succeed in something or do something very well.

- Maura: I just got my licence.
- Andrew: No way! That's awesome. Now you can drive me around everywhere.
- Maura: Yeah. I'm super **pumped** to get on the road.
- Andrew: And how was the test? I know you were a little nervous about the parallel parking.
- Maura: Yeah. Everything was going pretty well, and then of course I had to do the parallel park, but **I rocked it!**
- Andrew: That's so great. You're the first one of our friends to get her licence. That's sweet.
- Maura: So what are you doing Friday night?



Andrew: Obviously going out with you.

Maura: Yeah.

Maura: So we just heard from someone who just got her driver's licence. And she was talking about her driving test. In most driving tests, you have to parallel park your car, and it can be stressful because it's not something that's easy to do if you don't do it often. And she said that she **rocked it**, which means that when she had to parallel park, she did a really good job. She was very successful at her parallel park.

Andrew: That is exactly right. The one big task she had to do on the driving test that she was a little bit nervous about was the parallel park, but she **rocked it**. She did really well, and as a result got her driver's licence.

Maura: You know, this example makes me think about when all of my friends were first getting their licences. It's a fun time, isn't it, when you can go out on the road with your friends?

Andrew: Yeah. It's totally the first taste of freedom that you get when you're growing up. Yeah, it's really cool.

Maura: Yeah. Let's give one last example with **to rock it**.

Andrew: Thanks so much for coming out to the recital last night. It really means a lot to me.

Maura: No. It was my pleasure. Actually, I was quite impressed. You're a really great dancer.

Andrew: Really? Well thanks a lot.

Maura: Yeah. Yeah, that solo part you did? You **rocked it**.

Andrew: Thanks a lot. I spent a long time practising it, so I'm really glad that it all came together and that you enjoyed it.

Maura: Yeah. You're really talented. Have you ever thought of pursuing that professionally?

Andrew: It has **crossed my mind**, to tell you the truth.

Maura: Well you should think about it. You're really good.

Andrew: Yeah? Thanks!

- Andrew: In the last example, we heard about a friend who just performed at a dance recital. And his dance show, his dance recital, was really awesome. He did a great job, so he **rocked it**.
- Maura: That is right. He **rocked it**, which means that he did a really great job, specifically at his recital, and even more specifically, his solo, when he did some special dancing on his own.
- Andrew: What type of dancer do you think he is?
- Maura: In my head, I was envisioning breakdancing.
- Andrew: Yeah. Breakdancing. Very cool.
- Maura: Yeah. Breakdancing was cool in the '80s, but I think it's come back around. It's cool again.
- Andrew: It's always been cool, I think. I love breakdancing. I wish I could breakdance.
- Maura: Yeah. It's quite difficult, isn't it?
- Andrew: Mmhmm.
- Maura: OK. Let's look back at this whole episode, and we'll go over the expressions that we talked about this time.
- Andrew: So the first expression that we looked at was **to kill it**. And then we talked about **to nail it**, and finally **to rock it**.
- Maura: And I have to say Andrew, how do you think we did this episode?
- Andrew: I think we **rocked it**.
- Maura: That's right. So, we'll remind you again to go to our website, Culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. And if you're not a member yet, what are you waiting for? Check it out!
- Andrew: Yup. Become a member and get in touch with us through Facebook or through Twitter, and rate us highly on iTunes, and, yeah, we're on Stitcher as well, I believe. So that's about it for us today. We'll talk to you next time. Bye bye.
- Maura: Goodbye.

## Detailed Explanation

### To reach peak something

**To reach peak something** means to reach the maximum of something. It is already at its best or highest, and cannot get any better. If you imagine a mountain, the peak is the top of the mountain. After the peak, the mountain starts going down again. So when something **reaches the peak**, it's at its top.

In this episode, Maura and Andrew talk about beards. Maura says that she thinks we've **hit peak beard**. This means that she thinks that beards are as popular as they can be now, and won't get more popular. This also means that the popularity of beards can only go down. So fewer people will have beards in the near future.

Here's another example with this expression:

Alexis: I've seen lots of girls wearing these long maxi dresses lately. Do you think the trend is here to stay?

Simone: No. I think we've **reached peak maxi dresses**. I'm sure that by next year we will be back to short skirts again.

### To kill it

**To kill it** is an informal expression that means to do something really well. Although the verb *to kill* is violent, this expression is actually positive. The expression does not just mean you did something well, but that you did something extremely well. It is similar to *to nail it* and *to rock it*.

**To kill it** also has two other meanings. It can literally mean to kill something and make it dead. It can also mean to ruin a moment. For example, if someone is telling a joke, and you kill it, it means you spoil the joke. Another example is if everyone is having a good time, and then someone starts an argument with someone and kills it; he or she has spoiled the mood. That person made everyone stop having a good time. So **to kill it** can mean something good or bad.

One of the examples in this episode is someone who says they **killed their presentation**. This means that their presentation went really well. The presenter was well prepared and passionate when he spoke, and will probably get a good mark. So we can say he **killed it**.

Here's another example with the expression **to kill it**.

Josh: I came to your show last night to see you play. I didn't know you were so great! You had such great stage presence. You definitely **killed it**!

Eva: Thanks! It was a great show. Thanks for coming to see us.

### Gruesome

Something **gruesome** is awful and horrifying. The adjective **gruesome** describes something that is terrible and disgusting, or shocking. For example, the word **gruesome** can be used to describe a violent murder scene.

In this episode, Maura uses the word **gruesome** to describe the phrase *to kill it*. She says that it sounds **gruesome** because the word *kill* sounds violent. The action of killing is horrifying, so Maura says the expression sounds **gruesome**, even though the expression is actually positive.

Here's another example with **gruesome**:

Shane: Have you seen that new zombie movie?

Edwin: No. But I heard that the special effects are awesome. Some of the scenes are apparently really **gruesome**. I can't wait to see it.

### A hit

When something is **a hit**, it means that it is received well by other people. When people react well to something, we can say that it is **a hit**. For instance, a popular song that many people like and enjoy is **a hit**. Anything can be **a hit**. If you bring a homemade dish to class and everyone loves it, we can say that the dish is **a hit**.

In this episode, Maura describes the presentation in one of the dialogue examples as a hit. This means that the presentation went well. People really liked the presentation, so we can say that it was **a hit**.

Here's another example with this expression:

Jane: Those brownies you made were **a hit** with everyone at the party tonight! They were so delicious!

Karen: Thanks! It was my grandmother's recipe.

### Harsh

When something is **harsh**, it is severe and unpleasant. This word has a negative meaning. Something that is intense or extreme and harmful is **harsh**. For example, if you have sensitive skin and you get an allergic reaction from a cream, you can say that the cream was too **harsh**. The chemicals in the cream didn't react well with your skin. Someone's words can also be **harsh**. If someone is being mean, and hurts someone else's feelings, they are being **harsh**.

In this episode, Andrew talks about other expressions that you can use instead of *to kill it* to mean that something went well. The expression *to murder it* is similar to *to kill it*. But Maura thinks this expression sounds **harsh**. The expression sounds a bit extreme and severe, so she says that it sounds **harsh**.

Here's another example with **harsh**:

Jason: I got into a fight with my sister this morning. I was so mad that I made her cry.

Ellie: Wow, that's **harsh**. You probably didn't need to be so mean.

Jason: I know. I'm going to apologize when I get home tonight. I was just really upset.

### Ultra

The word **ultra** is used as an intensifier. It is treated as a prefix and attaches to the beginning of an adjective. It is used to mean the same thing as words such as *very*, *super*, or *extremely*. However, it has the idea of being the highest possible degree of whatever it is describing. So something that is **ultra**-cool is extremely cool, or beyond cool. It's not just cool, it's really cool.

In this episode, Andrew uses the term **ultra-violent** when he talks about expressions such as *to kill it* and *to murder it*. These terms sound extremely violent, so he uses the word **ultra** to describe that these terms sound very violent.

Here's another example with **ultra**:

Catherine: Have you ever met my best friend Jen?

Logan: Yeah. She's the tall one with the **ultra**-long black hair you came to the party with, right?

### To nail it

**To nail it** means to do something perfectly or successfully. This expression is given in this episode as another way of saying *to kill it* or *to rock it*. If you think of a nail, it has a point that goes into a surface. When you hit a nail, you want it to go into a specific part of the surface. So you need to be precise. So **to nail it** means to be perfect, and to have something turn out the way you want it to.

In one example in this episode, two friends talk about ideas for Betty's birthday gift. One of the friends comes up with the perfect idea of an old globe for a gift, and the other friend said that he **nailed it**. There couldn't have been a better idea, and it fits perfectly with Betty's interest in history and antiques.

Here's another example with **to nail it**:

Jon: Beyoncé is such an amazing singer live!

Carrie: Yeah. She really **nailed** that high note in her last song. I was really impressed.

### An antique

**An antique** is an old, collectable item. **Antiques** are usually valuable if they are kept in good condition, and are rare or hard to find. Furniture, jewellery, coins, and dishes are common **antique** items. **Antiques** can be bought from an **antique** store, or they may be passed down or given to someone by older family members.

In an example in this episode, two friends talk about Betty's birthday gift. One friend says that Betty likes **antiques** and history, so an old globe is a good gift idea. **Antiques** are old objects that may be worth a lot of money. Since Betty likes history, and **antiques** are old objects from history, the globe is a great idea for her.

Here's another example with **an antique**:

Sarah: The other day, I found these old silver spoons in a box of stuff my mother dropped off. I wonder if they're worth anything.

Charlie: We can find out. I know the **antique** show is coming to town this weekend. You can get someone to take a look and tell you how old they are and how much they are worth.

Sarah: Great idea! I'll go check it out this weekend.

### To be down someone's alley

When you say that something is **down someone's alley**, it means that something is suited to that person's tastes or abilities. The phrase is an informal expression. You can also say that something is **up someone's alley**. Both terms mean the same thing. If you like something, or something suits you, you can say it is **right down your alley**.

In this episode, Maura says that an antique globe sounds like a nice gift. Andrew agrees, and says that it is **right down his alley**. This means that he thinks the globe is a great gift and it is suited to his tastes. He would like to receive an antique globe as a gift, so it is **right down his alley**.

Here's another example with this expression:

Lucy: Hey! There's a new burger joint that opened up down the street. Want to go?

Paul: Of course! Burgers are **right down my alley**. I love them.

### To go easy on someone

When you **go easy on someone**, you are gentle with them. For example, when you play a game, if you **go easy on someone**, you let them win. If you are really good at a game, you may play less than your best, so the other person has a chance to win.

In one example in this episode, a friend talks about her son learning to play chess. She said she was going **to go easy on him**, but he ended up winning the game. This means that she was going to be gentle and not play her best. She was going to make it easy for her son to beat her, but even when she didn't **go easy on him**, he still won. Her son was a good chess player even though it was his first game.

Here's another example with this expression:

Bob: I picked up this new game from the store yesterday. Have you ever played it before?  
Sierra: Yeah, I own it. We can play. I'll **go easy on you** the first round.

### A prodigy

**A prodigy** is someone who is really talented or really good at something. Another word that has a similar meaning is a *genius*. The term **prodigy** is usually used to describe a child. You can emphasize that it's a very young child by calling them **a child prodigy**. There are many kinds of **prodigies**; for example, piano, math, science, and language **prodigies**.

In this episode, a friend talks about teaching her son to play chess. She was going to go easy on her son, but then he ended up beating her in the first game. Since he was able to learn the game so quickly and play so well, the mom's friend says that the son might be a chess **prodigy** in the making, meaning that he might become very good at chess soon.

Here's another example with **a prodigy**:

Susan: I love Picasso's work. It's always so fresh and different.  
Harry: Yeah, I think he's a genius. Did you know he was considered **a child prodigy**? One of his most famous paintings was done when he was only 8 years old!

### To rock it

**To rock it** means to do something well and to do it with confidence. This expression can be used in the present tense (**rock it**) or in the past tense (**rocked it**), or in any other tense. It is similar to the other expressions in this episode—*to nail it* and *to kill it*.

In this episode, Maura talks about **rocking a test**, as well as **rocking a piece of clothing**. When you **rock a piece of clothing**, it means that you wear it with confidence, and the clothing looks good on you. For instance, someone might wear really high heels, and they **rock the heels**. This means that the heels look really good and they are wearing them with confidence.



Here are a couple more examples with **to rock it**.

Kevin: Man, that quiz was really hard. How do you think you did?

Belle: I'm sure **I rocked it**. I studied hard, and some of the questions were the same as the practice questions, so I know I got perfect on those questions for sure!

Jessica: You made a brave choice dying your hair green. And you're really **rocking it**.

Tyler: Thanks! I really like it. I wanted to do something different with my hair this time.

### To pull off a look

**To pull off a look** means to make an outfit look good. This informal expression can be applied to other things related to your appearance as well, not just clothing. It is usually used with something related to your appearance that is out of the ordinary; for example, a crazy hair colour like blue, or neon-coloured shorts. When you **pull off a look**, you successfully make it look good on you.

In this episode, Maura uses this expression to talk about someone who wore a great dress to an awards ceremony. The dress may have been revealing or a crazy colour or pattern. It is probably different than something that most people would wear. If the actress **pulled off the look**, it means that the dress looked good on her.

Here's another example with this expression:

Ally: What do you think about this shirt? Do you think it's too revealing?

Caroline: No, I think you can **pull it off**. Just don't wear it to work.

### Pumped

To be **pumped** about something means to be excited or enthusiastic about it. This is an informal expression you can use when you can't wait to do something; for example, you could be **pumped** to go a basketball game.

In an example in this episode, one friend gets her driver's licence, and says she is **pumped** to get on the road and start driving. This means she is excited to start driving on her own now that she has a licence. Before she passed her driving test, she had to drive with someone else who had a licence, but now she can drive anywhere alone.

Here's another example with this expression:

Jerry: There's only one more week before we go on our road trip.

Dylan: Yeah. I'm **pumped**! This is the first time I've been able to travel in 3 years.



### To cross someone's mind

When something **crosses your mind**, it means that you think about it. It can also mean that you consider something or that something occurs to you. Usually this expression is used to talk about something that you have not thought about for very long. If you think about the verb *to cross*, it means to go from one end to the other, but not to stay in the middle. So when a thought **crosses someone's mind**, they think about something for a little while, but don't dwell on it.

In this episode, two friends talk about one of the friends' dancing ability. He is a really great dancer, and his friend thinks he should consider being a professional dancer. He says that the thought had **crossed his mind**. This means that he has thought about being a professional dancer.

Here's another example with this expression:

Tessa: This cake is delicious, Patricia! Have you ever thought about opening a bakery?  
Patricia: The thought **crossed my mind** when I was younger, but I decided it would be better as just a hobby.

## **Quiz**

**1. Which of the following does NOT mean to do something well?**

- a) to rock it
- b) to pump it
- c) to nail it
- d) to kill it

**2. Which of the following means that you thought about something?**

- a) You pulled off a look.
- b) It was down your alley.
- c) It was harsh.
- d) It crossed your mind.

**3. Since this is your first time playing, I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Please fill in the blank.**

- a) go easy on you
- b) nail it
- c) cross your mind
- d) be pumped

**4. When you are excited, you are \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Please fill in the blank.**

- a) antique
- b) harsh
- c) pumped
- d) gruesome

**5. Which of the following means extremely?**

- a) rock
- b) ultra
- c) professional
- d) cross

6. Which of the following words means old and valuable?

- a) expression
- b) gruesome
- c) globe
- d) antique

7. A child who is really good at math can be called a math \_\_\_\_\_.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) cow
- b) dancer
- c) prodigy
- d) rock

8. Which of the following means horrifying or terrible?

- a) power
- b) prodigy
- c) ecstatic
- d) gruesome

9. When you look good in a dress, you are \_\_\_\_\_.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) a prodigy
- b) an antique
- c) nervous
- d) pulling off the look

**Answers:**

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