

## Catch Word #161 – Stop goofing off

### Transcript

Maura: Hello everyone. It's Maura.

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

Maura: That's right. So don't forget to go to our website, Culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com, because when you're on our website, you can become a member. And when you're a member, these episodes just get even more interesting and educational. You get transcripts, you get detailed explanations, and quizzes for every single episode that we've ever done.

Andrew: That sounds great. Yeah. You should definitely go to the website and sign up to become a member. And while you're on the Internet, why don't you go to our Facebook page and check us out on Twitter as well?

Maura: Yup. We love hearing from you. And if you have any ideas for an episode, you can send that our way too.

Andrew: Yeah. We love hearing your ideas. And sometimes we can even make them into episodes.

Maura: Yup. So, Andrew, how's it going? What's new and exciting in your life?

Andrew: Well, my brother is coming to visit next week, so I'm pretty excited about that. I haven't seen him in a long time so I'm just getting ready for his visit.

Maura: That's fun. Has he ever visited you in Montreal before?

Andrew: No. This is his first time here, so I'm kind of wondering what we should do. Do you have any recommendations?

Maura: Well, there're so many things to do that I can give you a big list. You could walk up Mount Royal. You could go to **Saint Joseph's**. I find that's a really interesting place to visit. You could have smoked meat and bagels. You could walk around downtown or in the Old Port. And those are just a few of the ideas **off the top of my head**.

Andrew: Yeah. I **put you on the spot** there but those sound like great things to do so maybe we'll do them.

Maura: Yeah, well, if he's never been here, you can do anything.

Andrew: Yeah. That's right. Yeah.

- Maura: Well, have fun. And maybe we'll check back in later and you can tell us what you ended up doing and how much your brother loved Montreal.
- Andrew: I'll give you the full report, for sure.
- Maura: All right. So, let's get to today's episode now. We're going to do a Catch Word episode, and that is where we look at a few related expressions, we explain them to you, we tell you how you can use them, and of course we give you examples, too.
- Andrew: Exactly. And today we are going to be talking about expressions that all describe wasting time and not taking things seriously. So when you're just not really doing anything productive.
- Maura: Yes. So these expressions today have to do with not taking anything seriously. You're just having fun, not taking life too seriously and, often, you're wasting time. You're not being very productive.
- Andrew: Sounds good, doesn't it?
- Maura: It sounds like a nice way to spend the summer.
- Andrew: Yeah, totally. So we should get to our first expression, I think. And that is **to goof off**.
- Maura: That's right. Our first expression is **to goof off**.
- Andrew: Mmhmm. Whenever I hear the word *goof*, I always think of the Disney character, Goofy.
- Maura: Yeah. He's a pretty fun guy. And I don't think he's taking life too seriously.
- Andrew: Exactly. He's always **goofing off**. And so when you are **goofing off**, what are you doing?
- Maura: Well, you're wasting time. You're probably having fun; maybe by yourself, maybe with friends. But you're just doing whatever you like. Nothing too productive. Relaxing.
- Andrew: Yeah. And a lot of times, when you're **goofing off**, you should be doing something different. Maybe you're at work and you should be writing a report or making a presentation or something like that. But instead you're just wasting time. Maybe you're on Facebook or you're texting your friends. I don't know. So you're wasting time. You're not working when you should be.

Maura: Yeah. That's true. When you're **goofing off**, you're definitely supposed to be doing something else. You're supposed to be productive. You're supposed to be doing some kind of work, but for whatever reason, you decided to just have fun and not work too hard.

Andrew: Should we give an example with **to goof off**?

Maura: Yes. Let's do it.

Maura: So, Steve. That's a nice Facebook profile you have.

Andrew: Oh, sorry, sorry. I didn't... Yeah, I wasn't... No, it's OK. Sorry.

Maura: You know, Steve, we have a deadline to meet today and it's really not the time **to goof off**. You've got to get to work.

Andrew: Yeah. Sorry boss. I'm gonna close this down right now. I didn't mean to. I apologize.

Maura: All right. Well, don't let it happen again or we might have to have a serious talk.

Andrew: OK. I understand.

Andrew: In that example, we heard a dialogue between a boss and an employee. The employee, Steve, was not working. He was **goofing around** on Facebook and the boss was understandably a little upset that he wasn't doing his job.

Maura: Right. So in that example, Steve was supposed to be working. He was supposed to be, obviously, working. He's at work. But he wasn't. He was looking at Facebook, which is definitely something that's not too serious and an activity that you should be doing in your leisure time.

Andrew: That's right. So, should we do a second example?

Maura: Sounds good.

Maura: So, how's your thesis coming along?

Andrew: You know what? Don't even ask me about it. I just don't want to talk about it right now.

Maura: Oh, well, don't you have, like, a major deadline coming up? I thought it was kind of **crunch time** for you.

Andrew:	It is. And to tell you the truth, I'm just so far behind. I haven't even really started yet. Like, I just keep <b>goofing off</b> and procrastinating. I'm having a really hard time staying focused and getting this thing started.
Maura:	Hmm. Well, the best advice I can give you is to go to a library or something. A place where everyone's doing work. Sometimes that helps with motivation.
Andrew:	Hmm. That's a good idea. You know what? I should probably try that.
Maura:	Well, good luck, anyway.

Maura: So, this time, we heard from a student who was working on writing his thesis but things weren't going very well for him. He said that he kept **goofing off**. So instead of doing his school work, he was taking it easy, relaxing, probably doing anything else, and not focusing on the work he was supposed to be doing.

Andrew: What about you, when you have something to do, Maura? Do you procrastinate? Do you **goof off**? Or are you a very focused person?

Maura: Hmm. I think that I used **to goof off** more in the past, and now when I get down to work, I just want to get it out of the way. Because I think that sometimes just thinking about work is more stressful than actually doing it. And when you do it, you feel good that the work is done.

Andrew: Yeah, I agree. I could say the same thing about myself, I think. In this episode, you might have noticed that I sometimes say **goof around** instead of **goof off**. And this is because both expressions mean the same thing. They are interchangeable and have exactly the same meaning. Well, let's move on to the next expression, which is **to screw around**.

Maura: Right. **To screw around**. And **to screw around** is to waste time on useless activities. To, kind of, do whatever you like but you're just having fun and you're not using your time productively.

Andrew: Mmhmm. You're just being silly, having fun, and, yeah, not doing anything that really benefits anyone.

Maura: And this expression is a little bit different from the first one, **to goof off**, because when we use **to goof off**, we're talking about a time when you should be working. And when we use the expression **to screw around**, it could be that you're supposed to be working, but maybe there's no pressure on you to do any work or be productive. So **to screw around** can be used when you're just having fun, wasting time, but there's no pressure on you to do anything useful.

Andrew: That is right. So, why don't we give some examples using **to screw around**?

Andrew: Hey! You're here to see the principal too? What did you do?

Maura: Well, I almost got in a fight with Darlene. Man, she makes me mad.

Andrew: You guys are always **scrapping**. Why can't you just get along?

Maura: Uh. I just don't like her. What about you? Why are you here?

Andrew: I was **screwing around** in class again and the teacher got mad. So looks like I'm going to be having a detention.

Maura: Yeah, well, I'll see you there, I'm sure.

Andrew: So in that last example, we heard from two teenagers who were trouble-makers, and they were waiting outside of the principal's office to see what their punishment would be, because the girl got into a fight and the boy was **screwing around** in class and not paying attention. So they were both in trouble.

Maura: Mmhmm. Seems like classic reasons to go to the principal's office.

Andrew: Yeah. This reminds me almost of a scene from a movie or a TV show where you can see a character just waiting for his punishment and he's always nervous.

Maura: All right. Let's give one more example with **to screw around**.

Maura: Paul, what are you doing in here? You're supposed to be cleaning your room.

Andrew: I just need 10 more minutes. I'm almost done this game.

Maura: Paul, quit **screwing around** and clean your room. We've got company coming over in 1 hour and your room is a pigsty.

Andrew: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I know, I know. I'll get it done. Just 10 more minutes, OK?

Maura: No! Now! I'm turning it off and taking it away from you.

Andrew: Mom! Uh!

- Maura: In that example, we heard from Paul, who was supposed to be cleaning his room and he wasn't. Instead, he was playing a video game. And his mother said to him that he was **screwing around**. So he was wasting time. And in this case, he was supposed to be doing something else. He was supposed to be cleaning his room, but he wasn't.
- Andrew: That's right. Kids these days are just so addicted to their video games.
- Maura: Yes. That's very true. But that's a whole other episode, I think.
- Andrew: Very true, very true.
- Maura: And before we talk about the last expression, there's one more thing that we want to tell you about this expression, **to screw around**. And it's about the word *screw*. It can be used in other ways that are offensive and rude, and some people find it very impolite. So even though in this expression, **to screw around**, it's not really a big deal, it's harmless, just using the word can offend people. So be careful if you want to use this expression.
- Andrew: Yeah. That's good advice. I would use this expression with my friends, but maybe in a professional setting or with people I didn't know very well, I would be a little cautious about saying the word *screw*.
- Maura: Yup. Personally, it doesn't bother me at all. But, like I said, with some people, it does bother them and you never know who that's going to bother.
- Andrew: Yup. That's right. So just be careful when using this expression. So now I think we can move on to our final expression for the day, which is **to monkey around**.
- Maura: **To monkey around**. And I like this one because it sounds like fun.
- Andrew: Yeah. **To monkey around** is... Again, it means to waste time. And you can think of a monkey in a tree just jumping around and swinging from branch to branch. Not really doing anything productive, again. Just generally playing and having fun.
- Maura: Right. When someone's **monkeying around**, they're maybe acting silly or goofy and they're not trying to be productive. They're not trying to work hard. They're just having a good time and loving life.
- Andrew: I think we can just jump to the examples for this expression.
- Maura: I think so too. Let's get started.

Andrew: So, how was the wedding? Tell me all the details.

Maura: It was really fun. It was beautiful weather. I saw a lot of old friends, too, so that was great. And the ceremony was really beautiful and touching. But, you know, my kids wouldn't stop **monkeying around** and it was just so inappropriate.

Andrew: Aw. That's too bad. That can be stressful when the kids don't behave very well.

Maura: Yeah, it was. Luckily we were at the back so we weren't too disruptive, but, yeah, other than that it was a really great day.

Andrew: That's great. I'm glad to hear that.

Andrew: So, we just heard an example where two friends were talking about a wedding. And overall, the one friend had a great experience at the wedding, except for one little aspect of it. And that was her kids were **monkeying around** during the wedding ceremony. So that means they were not sitting still and listening well, but instead they were maybe talking or playing around and not being quiet. Just generally being a little disruptive.

Maura: Yeah. A wedding ceremony is a serious event, for the most part, and it's not really a place to be acting silly. And that's what her kids were doing. So she said that they were **monkeying around**.

Andrew: Yeah. **Kids will be kids**. Sometimes when they're **monkeying around**, we can sort of look the other way and give them a pass.

Maura: Yeah. It's true. Sometimes they don't realize that an event is supposed to be more serious, and they feel like having fun.

Andrew: Who doesn't, I guess, **at the end of the day**? Anyways, let's move to our next example.

Maura: So what do you have planned for your vacation next week? You must be excited.

Andrew: Yeah. I'm really excited. I'm going on a road trip all down the east coast of the United States.

Maura: Oh wow. How long is your vacation?

Andrew: It's only about 10 days, unfortunately. Don't you miss the old days when we were in school and we got 2 whole months of free time in the summer to go on vacation? I wish I still had that.



Maura:	Yeah. You had so much time as a kid. You could just wake up late, do whatever you like, <b>monkey around</b> , whatever. Yeah. That was <b>sweet</b> .
Andrew:	Yeah. We never really knew how good we had it.
Maura:	<b>Youth is wasted on the young</b> . Isn't that what they say?
Andrew:	I guess so. Anyways, I'm still excited that I get 10 days off. It'll be a nice break.
Maura:	Yeah, 10 days is better than nothing. Well, have a great time.
Andrew:	Yeah. Thanks.

Maura: In this example, we heard from someone who was about to go on a 10-day road trip. But, you know, 10 days is not very long compared to the 2 months that most students get when you're younger, in high school or elementary school. You get 2 months off in the summer in Canada. And during that time, you don't usually have to do anything. You can just relax, take it easy. And a lot of kids spend time just **monkeying around**.

Andrew: That is correct. And one final note about this expression, **to monkey around**. It has the sense of being a very childlike action, when you're **monkeying around**. We usually use this to describe what children are doing and we can use it to talk about adults as well, but usually only when the adult is acting like a kid.

Maura: Right. And if you think back to the two examples that we just gave you, in both of them we used the expression **to monkey around** to talk about kids or a childhood. And we did that because those examples were the most natural. Like Andrew said, **to monkey around** is used to talk about kids or, maybe an older person who's acting like a kid.

Andrew: Mmhmm. Sometimes, if a kid is being bad, we can even call them **a little monkey**. And I think that's maybe where this expression comes from. For some reason, I don't know why, in the English language, we think of kids who are running around as being like monkeys.

Maura: OK. So now's about the time when we go back over the expressions that we looked at in today's episode. The first one was **to goof off**.

Andrew: Right. And then we talked about **to screw around**.

Maura: And the last expression was **to monkey around**.

Andrew: Mmhmm. And these all just describe not taking anything seriously, just wasting time and playing around.



Maura: And I'll take this time to remind you, now, to go to our website, Culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. And check out becoming a member, because when you are a member, you get access to detailed explanations of the expressions we use in our episodes, the transcripts for every episode, and quizzes to help test yourself. So check that out.

Andrew: That is a great idea. You should all do that. Anyways, thanks for listening and we will talk to you next time.

Maura: Bye for now!

## Detailed Explanation

### Saint Joseph's Oratory

At the beginning of this episode, Andrew asks Maura where he should take his brother in Montreal, and Maura recommends that they visit **Saint Joseph's Oratory**, the largest church in Canada.

**Saint Joseph's** is a Roman Catholic church, and is over 100 years old. It is recognized as a National Historic Site of Canada. Thousands of people visit the oratory every year. Inside the church, there is a wall that is covered with thousands of crutches. These crutches are from sick people who came to the church and claim they were healed by miracles.



**Saint Joseph's Oratory** is located on the side of Mount Royal, the mountain that is situated in the middle of the city of Montreal.

### To put someone on the spot

When you **put someone on the spot**, you make them feel awkward, uncomfortable, or embarrassed because you ask them a question that is difficult to answer. In this episode, Andrew **puts Maura on the spot** when he asks her where he should take his brother in Montreal. This is a difficult question for Maura to answer because Andrew asked it suddenly and because Maura doesn't know Andrew's brother and doesn't know what things Andrew's brother likes.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Mother: How was school today?

Daughter: It was OK, but math class sucked.

Mother: Why? What happened?

Daughter: The teacher asked me to solve a problem in front of the class but I didn't know how to do it.

Mother: I hate that. My math teacher used **to put me on the spot** like that too. It was always embarrassing.

Daughter: Yes, exactly.

Jocelyn: I know you're busy and I hate **to put you on the spot**, but I really need a babysitter tonight. Would you mind watching our kids?

Ralphie: You know I don't like children, right?

Jocelyn: I know, but we're desperate. Our babysitter just cancelled on us.

Ralphie: OK, fine. I'll do it. But just this once.

### To goof off

When someone **goofs off**, they avoid doing work and waste time instead. As Andrew and Maura explain in this episode, when you do what you want to do instead of what you're supposed to do, you're **goofing off**.

Although we may consider **goofing off** to be a negative thing, research into this subject has actually found that **goofing off** at work can lead to a more creative or productive workplace. If this subject interests you, there's an article called *3 Ways **Goofing Off** at Work Can Make Your Company More Innovative* by Lisa Evans that you might like to read. You can find it at <http://www.entrepreneur.com/article/224678>.

Here's one more example with **to goof off**.

Olive: Why are you packing up your desk for? Did you get fired?

Wu: Nope. I didn't get fired, but I am leaving the office. I'm going to work from home from now on.

Olive: Really? Why?

Wu: Well, I complained to the boss that it was too hard to get any work done at the office. No one takes things seriously here. Everyone **goofs off** more than they work.

Olive: So you're still going to be employed by this company but just work from home?

Wu: That's right. I think I'll be able to get more accomplished in a more peaceful environment.

### Off the top of your head

When you say something **off the top of your head**, you say it just using your memory, and without taking time to verify that it's correct. In this episode, Maura recommends some tourist destinations in Montreal to Andrew. She does this **off the top of her head**, from memory, without doing any research.

Whenever you say something without checking the Internet or another source to make sure it's correct and you say something quickly, without thinking about it for a long time, you say something **off the top of your head**.

This is a great expression to use when you want your listener to know that what you are about to say may not be 100% accurate or might not be the best source of information. When you preface your comment by telling someone that you are saying it **off the top of your head**, it minimizes your responsibility if what you say is incorrect or of poor quality.

Here are a couple more examples with **off the top of your head**:

Pat: Thanks for the restaurant recommendation last week. My wife and I really enjoyed our evening out.

Frank: Oh, that's great! I was a little worried, actually, because when you asked for a recommendation, I just thought of that place **off the top of my head**, but I'm glad you had a good time.

Pat: No, you did a great job. It was perfect.

Jamie: Honey, when did we go on vacation to Vietnam? It was quite a while ago. Was it in 1992?

Phil: Oh, I can't remember. **Off the top of my head** I would say it was around 1989, but I can't be sure. I'd have to check my diary.

Jamie: Oh yes. 1989 sounds about right.

### Crunch time

**Crunch time** is a very important moment when it is essential to work hard on a project or job so that it can be finished by a deadline. In a dialogue example in this episode, a student is having difficulty writing a thesis. The deadline for completing the paper is fast approaching, so it is **crunch time**. It is the time that the student should be dedicating to making sure the paper is finished by the deadline. However, the student is having a difficult time concentrating and instead is goofing off and wasting time.

The moment before a deadline, when it is very important to focus on finishing a project or job is called **crunch time**. This expression was first used in the 1960s to describe the time period where politicians worked on solving political crises. These days, **crunch time** means the time before a deadline when it is important to finish a project.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Brayden: Have you finished the sales proposal yet?

Terrell: No, I'm still working on it.

Brayden: Come on! This is **crunch time**! We are meeting with the overseas clients in 2 days. This is an opportunity we can't afford to lose.

Terrell: I know, I know. It'll be done soon. I promise.

Tristan: You wanna go see a movie tonight?

Albert: No, sorry man, I'm busy writing a paper for school.

Tristan: Can't you just take a couple of hours off and sneak out for a bit?

Albert: Nah, sorry. The paper is due in a couple of days and I still need to do a lot of work on it. It's **crunch time** for sure.

Tristan: All right, cool. I understand.

### To screw around

**To screw around** means to waste time or to be unproductive. When you **screw around**, you do something unimportant, like playing a game, watching TV, or taking a nap. You might have a job to do, or you might not, but it does not really matter in this case because when you **screw around** you are just generally being unproductive.

In this episode, Andrew and Maura mention that the word *screw* can be considered impolite in some situations. It is also important to know that the expression **to screw around** can mean to be sexually active, in some contexts.

Here's an example with **to screw around** meaning to waste time:

Roy: Hey, do you mind if I come over to your place to watch the game tonight? My wife is having some friends over so I can't watch it at my house.

Richie: Normally you'd be welcome to come over, but my place is still a construction site.

Roy: You mean your kitchen remodelling job still isn't finished?

Richie: Believe it or not, it's still not done.

Roy: But the construction crew has been working on your house for almost 3 months now. What have they been doing?

Richie: I don't know what's taking them so long. They seem **to screw around** more than work. It's starting to get really frustrating.

Roy: I guess we'll just have to watch the game at the pub then.

Richie: Sounds good, I'll see you at 7:00.

### To scrap

**To scrap** is a slang expression that means to fight. Just like a fight, **a scrap** can be either a physical conflict or a verbal argument. In one of the dialogue examples in this episode, a student has been sent to the principal's office because she was **scrapping** with another student. In other words, she was fighting with the other student.

The verb **to scrap** was first used in the late 1800s. It is not a very common expression. In a Canadian context, the expression is usually used to describe the type of fight that hockey players get into while playing.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Stephanie: I just got a call from the police. My cousin's been arrested again. I need to go bail him out.

Peter: What did he do this time?

Stephanie: I guess he got into **a scrap** down at the bar.

Peter: That guy really needs to learn how to control himself.

Stephanie: Yup. He has anger issues for sure. Anyway, I better go get him.

Peter: OK. See you later.

Beth: Have you ever gotten into a fight with someone?

Emerson: No. Have you?

Beth: I used to be a violent little kid. I used **to scrap** with my brother all the time.

Emerson: Really? But you're so nice and gentle now.

Beth: It's true.

Emerson: Wow. I never would have expected that.

### To monkey around

We use the expression **to monkey around** to describe children (or adults who are acting like kids) who do not do what they are expected to do, and instead waste time or misbehave.

When someone **monkeys around**, they have fun. Instead of being serious and responsible, a person who **monkeys around** just has a good time.

In a dialogue example in this episode, a mother talks about her kids **monkeying around** at a wedding. Although the mother wanted the kids to sit and behave during the ceremony, the kids **monkeyed around** by playing and having fun.

Here's one more example with this expression:

Mother: If you kids are going to play rough, you have to go outside. You can't run around inside the house.

Son: Yeah, but it's cold outside.

Mother: That doesn't matter. You can only **monkey around** outside. When you're inside, you can read books or do puzzles or something.

Son: OK, fine.

### Kids will be kids

The expression **kids will be kids** is used to emphasize that people should not be surprised when kids misbehave, are hyper, or are noisy. This is because children are by nature supposed to like to play and be excited. When children act like children are supposed to, we can describe this by saying **kids will be kids**.

There are a few other expressions that are similar to this one. For example, when boys or men act like stereotypical males (rough or noisy) we can say **boys will be boys**. Similarly, when females act like stereotypical females (giggly or talkative), we can say **girls will be girls**.

Here are a couple more examples with these expressions:

Jayson: Our son made a mess of the living room again. He left his toys all over the place.

Maya: Well, **kids will be kids**. Making messes is what they do.

Ted: A couple of kids from the middle school down the road got arrested for painting graffiti all over the school.

Rachel: Let me guess. They were all male students?

Ted: Yup, you're right.

Rachel: Typical. Well, **boys will be boys**, I suppose.

### At the end of the day

**At the end of the day** is a fixed expression that is said before the most essential information is announced. In this episode, Andrew says that everyone likes having fun, **at the end of the day**. What he means is that although it is important to work hard, everyone likes to enjoy life and have fun too.

**At the end of the day** is used to summarize a thought or idea by saying it before you state an important fact or detail.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Celia: I'm so glad to be back home. Our holiday was great, but the flight back was a nightmare.

Thomas: Why? What happened?

Celia: Our plane had mechanical problems and we got delayed at the airport for 30 hours.

Thomas: That's awful.

Celia: Yeah. It was a really bad experience.

Thomas: Well, **at the end of the day**, at least you made it back safe and sound.

Celia: Yes, that's true.

Reg: I'm pretty disappointed in myself right now. I just got my history paper back and I just barely passed. I got a D minus.

Margo: Do you feel like you deserve a better grade?

Reg: Honestly, I didn't put much effort into this paper.

Margo: Well, **at the end of the day**, the important thing is that you didn't fail. You can recover and make up your grade by doing well on the final exam.

Reg: That's true. I just have to put a bit more effort into studying.

### Sweet

**Sweet** is a slang expression that means good or awesome. It is commonly used in informal North American English. In a dialogue example in this episode, two friends remember how **sweet** it was to have long summer vacations when they were younger.



**Sweet** can function as an adjective that describes something that is good or cool. Or it can work as a standalone exclamation that communicates that you approve of something.

Here are a couple examples with **sweet** used in both of these ways:

Lu: I just bought a new car.

Deanne: Whoa! **Sweet!**

Lu: Yeah. I'm really excited. Wanna go for a cruise later?

Deanne: Yeah, definitely!

Kellie: A new record store opened up downtown. Wanna go check it out?

Sophie: Yeah. I heard they have a **sweet** collection of vintage records. Let's stop by after I get off work.

Kellie: OK, sounds good.

### Youth is wasted on the young

**Youth is wasted on the young** is a phrase that was coined by the playwright George Bernard Shaw. The expression means that kids and young people (teenagers and people in their 20s) have lots of energy and potential, but they do not take advantage of this gift. Instead, they waste their youth by doing silly things or wasting their time.

In a dialogue example in this episode, two friends reminisce about the long summer vacations they used to get when they were students in school, and one of the friends says **youth is wasted on the young**, because the two friends are sad that they did not fully appreciate the nice long holidays they had when they were younger.

Here's one more example with this expression:

Austin: I wish I had backpacked around Europe when I was younger. Some of my friends did that and they said they had the best experience.

Gale: Yeah. I never got to do that either, but I always wanted to.

Austin: Now I'm older and I have a career and a family. It's pretty much impossible to go backpacking now.

Gale: **Youth is wasted on the young.**

Austin: That's the truth.

### A little monkey

The expression **a little monkey** describes a kid who can't sit still and is very hyper and active. It can also describe a child who misbehaves and doesn't do what his parents say.

Just like a monkey in the jungle moves around a lot and swings from tree to tree, we can imagine that a child who is called **a little monkey** runs around, climbs up on furniture, and just generally gets into trouble.

Here are a couple more examples with this expression:

Maylis: Do you have any children?

Jeni: Yup. I have two **little monkeys**: a 5-year-old boy and a 3-year-old girl.

Maylis: Aw, that's so cute.

Jeni: They're a handful, but I love them to death.

Gerry: How was your holiday?

Kim: It was great. I went and visited my brother and sister-in-law.

Gerry: Awesome. So you got to spend some time with your nephew?

Kim: Yup. He's growing up so fast. He's already six.

Gerry: Wow! Time flies. How is he doing?

Kim: Well, he's **a little monkey**, but he's really smart and cute.

Gerry: Perfect. I'm glad to hear everyone is doing well.

## **Quiz**

1. **What does it mean when you say something off the top of your head?**
  - a) You say something and believe it is 100% accurate.
  - b) You do some research before saying something.
  - c) You ask for clarification.
  - d) You use your memory to say something.
  
2. **What is a scrap?**
  - a) a fight
  - b) an injury
  - c) a tool
  - d) a punishment
  
3. **When is the expression *at the end of the day* used?**
  - a) before the most important information is announced
  - b) when you're tired and it is time to stop working
  - c) after unimportant information has been announced
  - d) whenever you describe an event that happened in the evening
  
4. **\_\_\_\_\_ is the period when you need to focus your attention on a project in order to meet a deadline.**

**Fill in the blank.**

  - a) Study time
  - b) Focus time
  - c) Crunch time
  - d) Busy time
  
5. **Which of the following is NOT a common English expression?**
  - a) Kids will be kids.
  - b) Girls will be girls.
  - c) Animals will be animals.
  - d) Boys will be boys.

6. What famous writer said *youth is wasted on the young*?

- a) Ernest Hemingway
- b) George Bernard Shaw
- c) William Shakespeare
- d) Samuel Beckett

7. Children who misbehave or are hyperactive are sometimes called little \_\_\_\_\_.

**Fill in the blank.**

- a) monkeys
- b) goats
- c) possums
- d) anteaters

**Answers:**

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