

Catch Word #77 – On the same page**Transcript**

Maura: Hello everyone! It's Maura.

Harp: And Harp.

Maura: And we're back with your Culips ESL podcast.

Harp: Yes, where we help you improve your English.

Maura: Right. And our podcast are always free, but you can help us keep this podcast going by becoming a member. And when you become a member, you have access to what kind of stuff, Harp?

Harp: Well, you get the complete transcript, so you can follow along word for word with everything we say. So you can check if you've understood everything.

Maura: Right. And you also have more detailed explanations on some of the expressions that we talk about, and a quiz.

Harp: Exactly.

Maura: So check that out and help us out. So, today's episode is a Catch Word podcast. And in our Catch Word podcast, we look at different expressions and idioms. We give you synonyms, explanations, and examples.

Harp: Of course. And we always pick expressions that are popular and used all the time in Canada and North America.

Maura: Right. A lot of the time, I get an idea for an episode when I'm speaking with someone in my regular everyday life and someone uses one and I think oh, that would be a great one.

Harp: Yeah, me too. Or when I'm watching TV.

Maura: So, today's episode is about expressions that we can use when two or more people are thinking exactly the same way and really understand each other well.

Harp: Or when they have the same knowledge.

Maura: Right. Or when they completely agree with each other about something.

- Harp: Or all of these things at the same time.
- Maura: Right. Because sometimes you think the same way as someone, you have the same knowledge, and you agree.
- Harp: Exactly.
- Maura: Great. So, all of the expressions in today's episode are talking about when two or more people are **getting along** really well and things are really easy between them.
- Harp: OK.
- Maura: So, the first expression is **to be on the same page**.
- Harp: **On the same page**.
- Maura: Right. So you talk about two or more people being **on the same page**. And this means, just like we said, that these two people are thinking the same way, they agree, they understand each other.
- Harp: Yeah, so with this expression, **on the same page**, imagine a book with lots of pages and you just happen to be on the same page with someone. In this case, you're in the same place and have the same information.
- Maura: Right. So it's like you **come from the same place**, you understand each other, you're at the same place.
- Harp: Exactly.
- Maura: And we should mention that this expression is especially used in business.
- Harp: Yes. You hear it all the time in business: meetings, among partners in business. It's used all the time.
- Maura: Right. Because when you're working with someone, it's really important to know that you understand each other and that you have the same ideas about a project or something you're working on.
- Harp: Exactly. When you're **on the same page**, you're working well together; you understand each other well.
- Maura: Right. In a meeting, one person could say to another person, "Let's make sure we're on the same page," because they want to be sure that they

understand each other well.

Harp: Yeah, for sure. When I give a presentation at work, and it's new information, I make sure I ask everyone, "Oh, are we **on the same page** here? Everyone understands? We have the same knowledge now?"

Maura: Great, yup. So let's give another dialogue example not related to business.

Harp: OK.

Maura: So how do you think we should change the bathroom, Harp?

Harp: Well, we definitely have to paint it.

Maura: Yup, I agree. We should paint it.

Harp: I think we should pick a new colour.

Maura: Yes, a new colour. What do you think the new colour should be?

Harp: I think we should paint the bathroom pink.

Maura: Harp, we're so **on the same page**. Let's do it.

Harp: Excellent! Let's the paint the bathroom pink.

Maura: So, in that example, we really agreed on what to do with the bathroom. We had the same idea; we wanted to do the same thing. I understood your idea; you understood mine. So we were **on the same page**.

Harp: Yes. We were definitely **on the same page** in that example.

Maura: OK. Now let's look at our next expression, which is **to be on the same wavelength**.

Harp: **On the same wavelength**.

Maura: Right. This one is really identical to **be on the same page**, just with a different word. It's **to be on the same wavelength**.

Harp: Yes. So, **to be on the same wavelength** is like **to be on the same page**, where two or more people are thinking the same way, understand each other well. When they have the same knowledge, they're **on the same wavelength**.

- Maura: Right. And in this case, the people are **getting along** really easily. There's no problems; everything's just **going smoothly**. So, let's give an example with **on the same wavelength**.
- Harp: Let's do it. So Cindy, how was the date last night?
- Maura: Well, it was actually pretty good. We went to see a movie and then after, we went for a coffee and we talked a lot and we had lots of good discussion and we were completely **on the same wavelength** the whole night.
- Harp: Oh, that's so great!
- Maura: So, in that example, I was talking about a date that I'd been on, and that myself and my date were completely **on the same wavelength**. We **got along**, we really had the same opinions on things. Now, we should also mention that for all of these expressions, of course you can use them in the negative too.
- Harp: Yes, for example, if you don't **get along** well with someone, you don't understand their opinions, you don't think the same way, you're not **on the same wavelength**.
- Maura: Exactly, right. And you could use that just the same, and say that you're not **on the same page** too. Let's give an example in the negative.
- Harp: OK! Maura, I have a big problem.
- Maura: What?
- Harp: My new roommate and I are not **on the same wavelength at all**.
- Maura: Oh, what's going on?
- Harp: She's a real **neat freak** and I'm just more relaxed about cleaning.
- Maura: That is a big problem when you're living with someone.
- Harp: Yeah, it's not going well. We're just not **on the same wavelength**. I just want to relax and she's just such **a neat freak** that she keeps cleaning around me and keeps talking about cleaning and ... just relax!
- Maura: That's really hard when one roommate likes it really clean and the other one doesn't.

- Harp: Yeah, we have different opinions on cleaning for sure.
- Maura: In that example, Harp, you and your roommate were not **on the same wavelength** because you did not have the same ideas about how clean an apartment should be.
- Harp: Not at all.
- Maura: OK. Now let's look at the last expression that also means that two or more people are thinking the same way and understanding each other, which is **to be in tune with each other**.
- Harp: Yes, **to be in tune with each other**.
- Maura: And this one is really just the same as **to be on the same page** and **to be on the same wavelength**. It means that two people agree with each other and have the same knowledge and just really understand each other. So let's give one more dialogue example with this expression. So, Jane, how's your new boss?
- Harp: She's great!
- Maura: Oh, I'm so happy to hear that. What's so great about her?
- Harp: We're just completely **in tune with each other**. She understands what I need to do my job well.
- Maura: Wow, that's pretty rare, because often a boss can cause you stress and really doesn't understand what you're **going through**. But if your boss understands what you need, and you understand your boss, that's great.
- Harp: Yes, we've been **on the same page** from the first day.
- Maura: Awesome. And so, when you hear this expression with the word **tune**, you might think of music.
- Harp: Yeah, you might.
- Maura: And really, **to be in tune** when you're playing music with another person means that you're singing the same note or you're playing the same note with your musical instrument, so there's a little bit of a connection there.
- Harp: Yeah. So with the expression, when you're **in tune** with someone, you think the same way, you're understanding each other, you **get along** easily.

- Maura: Yeah, good. So, let's go over these expressions, one more time.
- Harp: OK. We started with ***to be on the same page***.
- Maura: Right. And then the second expression was ***to be on the same wavelength***.
- Harp: And we ended with ***to be in tune with someone***.
- Maura: And all of these expressions mean the same thing: that two or more people understand each other well and **get along** really well. And they can all be used in the negative.
- Harp: Yes.
- Maura: So, don't forget to go to our website, Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com. And if you're not going to become a member, you can still help support us by giving us a small donation.
- Harp: Exactly. Keep us going and making more fun, exciting podcasts.
- Maura: Right, because we wanna keep bringing you the most up-to-date modern expressions that are being used in English.
- Harp: For sure.
- Maura: So, we'll talk to you soon. This has been Maura.
- Harp: And Harp.
- Maura: Bye for now!
- Harp: Bye everyone!

Detailed Explanation

On the same page

To be on the same page means that two or more people understand each other, have the same knowledge, or get along in a certain situation. This expression is most often used when people are discussing something and they find that they are thinking very similarly. They could be discussing things like their beliefs or their plans for the future.

Discussions and meetings are a big part of the professional world, and the phrase **on the same page** is often used in business to make sure that everyone understands each other. At work, it is often important that coworkers are working towards the same goals, and understand that goal in the same way.

In this episode, we often used the expression **to be on the same page**, but **on the same page** can also be used with other verbs. We can also say **to get on the same page**. If people do not understand each other well or do not have the same knowledge, they can continue to work together **to get on the same page**.

Here's an example with **to get on the same page**:

Dennis: I was thinking that we could advertise the product in magazines.

Luke: I thought that the best way would be to make television commercials.

Dennis: It looks like we need to **get on the same page** here. Let's discuss what we're both thinking and decide where we want to advertise.

Like all the expressions in this episode, we can also use **on the same page** in the negative. Here's an example:

Trevor: We're **not on the same page** anymore.

Lila: I know. Maybe we should sit down and talk about the issues that we disagree about.

We often say **we are on the same page**, but you can also say **I am on the same page as you**. Here's an example of this:

Mike: I think Julie and I understand each other now.

Ben: I agree. She seems to be **on the same page** as you.

To come from the same place

We say in this episode that when two people **come from the same place** they have the same knowledge and understand each other. We used **to come from the same place** to help define the expression **on the same page**.

The idea here is that when two people **come from the same place**, the same country or the same city, they understand each other. If you think about it, it's true! If you were in a different country and met someone from your home country, you would likely understand each other because you have a similar culture.

The idea of **to come from the same place** can also be used as an expression to mean that you have similar ideas or that you understand the idea of the other person. Here are some examples of this:

Bob: I think that we need to build a fence.

Joan: I understand where you're **coming from**, but building a fence is just too much money right now.

John: Amanda needs help in school, but I don't always have time to help her.

Mathew: I agree, but I think she needs to learn on her own anyway.

John: I think we're **coming from the same place**. Now we just have to figure out what Amanda needs.

On the same wavelength

On the same wavelength can be used just like **on the same page**. Sometimes expressions are similar, but are used differently. In this case, these expressions are true synonyms: you can always replace one with the other. Just like you can say *to be on the same page* or *to get on the same page*, you can also say **to be on the same wavelength** or **to get on the same wavelength**.

You may also be asking yourself what a **wavelength** is. It's a very scientific term. Here's a simple description of a **wavelength** that relates to this expression: A **wavelength** is a connection between two points that are on the same level.

To be on the same level is also an expression that can be used between two or more people to say that they understand each other or have the same knowledge. This expression can also imply that there are others who are above or below their level. To imply that other people are below your level is never polite.

To go smoothly

We can say that an activity or event goes **smoothly**. If we use **smooth** to describe a physical object, it means that it is flat, consistent, and free from any imperfections in the surface. If an event is described as **smooth**, this means that it is calm or easy and does not have any difficulties.

Just like the definition of **smooth**, **smoothly** is used with the same meaning, but to describe verbs. It went **smoothly** or she spoke **smoothly**. When something goes **smoothly** between two or more people, they are on the same page.

To get along

When two or more people **get along**, this means that communication between them is easy. People can **get along** at a party, which means that they have an enjoyable conversation and think the same way about many topics. People can **get along** at work, which means they work well together.

This is a really common expression and we have explained it before in more than one previous Culips episode. If two people **get along** well, there's a good chance they would also be on the same page in a discussion or plan.

At all

At all is an intensifier that can be used at the end of a negative sentence to emphasize the point. When added to the end of a negative sentence it emphasizes the phrase and has the meaning of *completely* or *totally*. It cannot be used with a positive sentence.

You can also remove the **at all** without changing the core meaning of the sentence. We can say *She doesn't like him at all* or *She doesn't like him*. The second sentence is not as strong as the first.

Here are a couple more examples with **at all**:

Isla: Do you want something to eat?

Pete: No, I'm not hungry **at all**.

Ted: Do you know Donna? Have you met her before?

Pete: I don't know her **at all**.

Ted: Oh, I thought you'd met her.

Pete: No, I've only heard about her from you.

A neat freak

This is the name given to someone who likes everything to be clean and organized all the time. **Neat freak**, also written as **neat-freak**, can be used to talk about a person who is obsessed with things being neat. In this episode, the roommate who wanted everything clean all the time was a **neat freak**.

Adding **freak** to nouns means that the person is *crazy about* or *obsessed* with the noun. In this example, the **neat freak** is obsessed with being neat. You could also have a movie freak who is obsessed with movies. A person who loves anime could be described as an anime freak. Someone who loves to go to the gym could be called a gym freak. Any noun followed by the word **freak** means that a person is obsessed.

Freak used by itself to describe a person is generally not a complement. It means that someone is strange, abnormal, and unnatural.

To be in tune

This is the last similar expression in this episode. **To be in tune** means the same as *to be on the same page* and *to be on the same wavelength*, but it has some differences.

On the same page and *on the same wavelength* can be followed by *as another person*. If we compare to people with **to be in tune** we follow with *with another person*. Here's an example of this:

Vicky: Henry has been working hard on the new furniture.

Paul: How's everything going with his new partner?

Vicky: It's going well. He's really **in tune with** Henry.

To be in tune is also an expression used in music. If you are **in tune** it means that you are singing or playing the right musical note. If you **are in tune** with someone else it means that together you are singing or playing the music that goes together well. So whether in music or in discussions, **to be in tune** is always a good thing!

To go through

This is another case where we have a compound verb made up of more than one word.

To go through means to experience. And just like two-word verbs using **to go through** is more casual than saying *to experience*. Maura says to Harp in this episode that it's rare to have a boss who understands what you're **going through**.

To go through can simply replace the word *experience* when it's used as a verb. Here are a couple more examples with **to go through**:

Adam: I'm so upset right now about losing my job.

Tabitha: That makes sense with all that you've **gone through**.

Yasmina: She **went through** so much to get here.

Ivan: I know. She had to take two buses!

Quiz

1. **Stella: I really like working with Jean. He's always _____ as me.**

Please fill in the blank.

- a) working
- b) on the same page
- c) in tune
- d) on the same wave

2. **What is a wavelength?**

- a) a scientific term for a connection between two points
- b) the size of a wave in the ocean
- c) a long wave with a hand
- d) long hair with waves

3. **Barbara: The drive to Florida was long, but after we got there the rest of the vacation went smoothly.**

What does this mean?

- a) There were a lot of problems during the rest of the vacation.
- b) The vacation was short.
- c) There were no problems during the rest of the vacation.
- d) The vacation was long.

4. **Elijah does not like playing hockey at all.
Tyrone does not really like playing hockey.
Karla likes to play hockey sometimes.
Ken does not like playing hockey.**

Who does not like hockey the most?

- a) Elijah
- b) Tyrone
- c) Karla
- d) Ken

5. If someone describes Cathy as a soccer freak, what does that mean?

- a) Cathy hates soccer.
- b) Cathy is obsessed with soccer.
- c) Cathy is on a soccer team.
- d) Cathy only watches soccer on television.

6. *To be in tune* is also a literal expression in which domain?

- a) music
- b) dance
- c) art
- d) business

7. *To go through* is a synonym for which verb?

- a) to exit
- b) to exist
- c) to experience
- d) to exercise

8. *To be on the same page* is often used in _____.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) stores
- b) families
- c) cars
- d) business

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