

Catch Word #165 – It's on the tip of my tongue

Episode Description

Do you have a good memory? Or are you someone who sometimes forgets details like names and dates? In this Catchword episode, Andrew and Harp introduce and explain three expressions that can be used in those frustrating situations where you have a mental block and can't remember something that you thought you knew.

Sample Dialogue

Harp: You know, this has happened to me so often, but at work, when I go to my colleague's office and I get there and I say hi and then I forget what my question is.

Andrew: Yes, definitely. It's happened to me as well.

Harp: Yeah. I often have **brain farts**. I think I'm getting old.

Expressions Included in the Learning Materials:

- The Big Apple
- To head on over to somewhere
- On the tip of my tongue
- To swear you've done something before
- To be like
- A brain fart
- What are friends for?
- A senior moment
- To go with something
- To have something in mind



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Note: The words and expressions that appear in **bold text** within the transcript are discussed in more detail in the detailed explanations section that follows the transcript.

Transcript

Harp: Hello everyone. This is Harp.

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

Harp: Yes. Remember to go to our website, Culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Andrew: And while you're on the website, we recommend that you sign up and become a member because when you are a member, you get access to our fantastic Learning Materials, which include what, Harp?

Harp: A complete transcript, detailed explanations, and even a quiz for each and every episode we have.

Andrew: And we have a lot of episodes.

Harp: We have so many episodes.

Andrew: So **head on over to** Culips.com and sign up to become a member today.

Harp: I wonder if we have any listeners who can claim to have listened to all of our episodes. Hmm.

Andrew: Hmm. That's a very good question. Have you listened to all the episodes?

Harp: I have indeed!

Andrew: Well, if you can equal Harp's record of listening to every one of our episodes, let us know.

Harp: Yes. We would love to hear that!

Andrew: As well, we are on Facebook and Twitter.

Harp: Yes. And if you're listening to us on iTunes, leave us a rating. A five-star rating.

Andrew: Yes, please. That would help us a lot.

Harp: All right. So how are you? What's new?

- Andrew: You know what? I am really excited today.
- Harp: Oh. Tell me why.
- Andrew: Well, I am going to New York in a couple days and I'm just really excited about this trip.
- Harp: Oh. That's fun. Is it your first time going there?
- Andrew: This will be my first time to **the Big Apple**, yeah.
- Harp: Wow. I love New York City. I'm sure you will.
- Andrew: Do you have any recommendations for things to do?
- Harp: Um... I went and my best friend was living there so she kind of took charge of all the planning, so no. Just explore. Walk a lot. It's just such a beautiful, fun city.
- Andrew: All right. I will do that. I am looking forward to it.
- Harp: OK, so should we get started with today's Catchword episode?
- Andrew: Yeah. Hmm... What are we talking about again today?
- Harp: I can't remember. I forgot. Uh... Wait...
- Andrew: **It's on the tip of my tongue**... Oh, right. We're talking about expressions for when you can't remember what you want to say.
- Harp: Yes. So we're gonna give you guys a couple of expressions when you kinda forget what you want to say.
- Andrew: Mhmm. Yeah. So the three expressions that we're gonna talk about today are all related to momentarily forgetting what you want to say.
- Harp: I think we should get started before we forget what we want to talk about.
- Andrew: That is a good idea. Our first expression is **to be on the tip of my tongue**.
- Harp: Yes. **The tip of my tongue**.
- Andrew: Every once in a while, I find myself in a situation where I forget a word. And it could be somebody's name, it could be maybe the name of the restaurant I want to go to, it could just be a short little piece of information. And I know I know it, but I just can't remember it.

Harp: Yup. This happens to me often, where I know what I want to say and I know the word that I'm thinking of, but it's not there. I can't remember. I can maybe remember the first letter of the word or the name. It's so, so frustrating.

Andrew: Yeah. So in this situation, we can say "Ah. That word is **on the tip of my tongue**. I can almost remember it. I know it starts with maybe the letter P and I know it's five letters long, but for some reason, I just can't remember it." So that's when a **tip-of-the-tongue** moment happens.

Harp: Yes. Exactly.

Andrew: How 'bout we give some examples using this expression?

Harp: I think that's a very good idea.

Harp: Doesn't that lady look familiar? **I swear I've seen her somewhere before.**

Andrew: Yeah, totally.

Harp: This is annoying. What's her name?

Andrew: Um... Hmm... I don't know. It's **on the tip of my tongue**. I think her name starts with a B?

Harp: Brenda!

Andrew: Oh yeah! Brenda. That's it!

Harp: Remember? She used to work with us, like, 10 years ago.

Andrew: Oh yeah! That's right.

Harp: So in this example, we had two friends who were trying to remember the name of someone they saw on the street. Her name was **on the tip of their tongues** but they couldn't remember and finally, with some thought, they remembered it was *Brenda*.

Andrew: That is right. And usually, when something's **on the tip of your tongue**, you feel like if you just concentrate for a moment, you can remember it. But honestly, for me, when something's **on the tip of my tongue**, it usually takes me a day or two to remember it.

Harp: Yeah. For me, I'm always saying *ah, it's on the tip of my tongue*, but really it takes me a while to remember and it's usually when I'm in bed, after the day's done, and I remember *oh, that's what her name was!*

Andrew: It's such a satisfying moment, through, when you do remember that piece of information. **You're like, yeah!**

Harp: Yeah, definitely.

Andrew: OK. How 'bout we give one more example?

Andrew: Hey. Can you help me for just a second?

Harp: Sure. What's up?

Andrew: Well, I'm working on this report for school and I can't quite think of what word I should use. Can you think of a synonym for *special*? I have a word **on the tip of my tongue** but I can't think of what it is.

Harp: Hmm... *Special. Original?*

Andrew: No.

Harp: *Distinct?*

Andrew: Not quite.

Harp: *Unique?*

Andrew: Ah, *unique*. That's what it was. Awesome. Thank you.

Harp: No problem.

Andrew: So in this example, we heard two students talking about a report. And one student was trying to think of a synonym for the word *special*. And he couldn't remember what it was. It was **on the tip of his tongue** but he couldn't think of it. So he asked his friend for help and she said, "Is it *unique*?" And he said, "Ah ha. Eureka! That's it!"

Harp: Exactly. The friend helped figure out what word the person was thinking of.

Andrew: Mmhmm. And **what are friends for**, really, but to help you think of synonyms?

Harp: Exactly!

Andrew: OK. I think we are ready to move on to our second expression.

Harp: Yes. Our second expression is quite a fun one.

Andrew: Yeah. This one is **a brain fart**.

Harp: **A brain fart.**

Andrew: And this expression makes me laugh.

Harp: Me too. It's funny. **Brain fart.**

Andrew: So, what is **a brain fart**, Harp?

Harp: So, **a brain fart** is basically when you suddenly can't remember something that you did know before. It's just, like, a lapse in concentration.

Andrew: Mmhmm. So you might be in a conversation with someone and all of a sudden, you lose your focus and you don't remember what that person is talking about and then they ask you a question and you pretended like you were in the conversation, but you had **a brain fart** and you don't know what's happening anymore.

Harp: Yup. It can happen in so many different ways, but it's basically when you just can't remember something; either where the conversation was going, or what you wanted to say, or what you were about to do. You can have **a brain fart**.

Andrew: Mmhmm. And I also hate when this happens.

Harp: I know. It happens to me a lot, and more and more as I'm getting older.

Andrew: Yeah, it's true. All of these things, I think, we're going to experience more and more the older we get. What a sad story!

Harp: I find it always happens for me when I'm ready to do something and I start walking to go do something in my house and then I get somewhere, like, let's say the laundry room, and then I'm thinking "Oh. Why am I here? What was I gonna do?" And then I realize, no, I'm having **a brain fart** and completely forgot.

Andrew: For me, it happens often when I want to search for something on the Internet. So I go to my computer and I sit down and I bring up Google, and then I can't remember what I want to search for. I just have **a brain fart**. It's very frustrating.

Harp: Yup. I understand that. That's happened to me too, often.

Andrew: Yup. OK. Well, how about we give some examples using **brain fart**?

Harp: All right. Let's do it.

Andrew: How was your day today?

Harp: Embarrassing.

Andrew: Oh no. Why? What happened?

Harp: My teacher asked a question in class that I 100% knew the answer to. So, I raised my hand to answer the question. Then when the teacher called on me, I had **a brain fart** and couldn't think of what to say.

Andrew: Aw, that's the worst feeling. I've had that happen to me before also.

Harp: I know. And everyone was staring at me and it just made me more nervous and I really couldn't even think of what the answer was.

Andrew: Ah. You'll get the answer right next time.

Harp: Yeah.

Harp: So in this example, we had a student who was about to answer a question that a teacher had asked but when it came time to give the answer, they had **a brain fart** and couldn't remember the answer.

Andrew: Mmhmm. And so they just lost their concentration. They couldn't remember what they wanted to say, even though 5 seconds before they knew the answer.

Harp: Yup. They temporarily forgot the answer.

Andrew: Mmhmm. Too bad.

Harp: So frustrating.

Andrew: Very frustrating. OK. How 'bout one more example?

Harp: Sure.

Andrew: Hello?

Harp: Hey. How are you?

Andrew: Good. How are you?

Harp: I'm good.

Andrew: Yeah? What's up? What can I do for you?

Harp: Oh. Uh... That's so weird. I called to ask you something but now I can't remember what it is. I think I'm having **a brain fart**.

Andrew: Oh my gosh. Well, if you think of what it was, just call me back, I guess?

Harp: OK. Sorry. I'm embarrassed. I'll call you back later. Bye.

Andrew: Bye.

Andrew: So in this example, we got to listen in on a phone conversation between two friends. And one friend called her friend **with a specific purpose in mind**, but then she forgot what that purpose was. She had **a brain fart** and she couldn't remember what she wanted to ask her friend.

Harp: Yup. And you know, this has happened to me so often, but at work, when I go to my colleague's office and I get there and I say hi and then I forget what my question is.

Andrew: Yes, definitely. It's happened to me as well.

Harp: Yeah. I often have **brain farts**. I think I'm getting old.

Andrew: Well, should we move on to our third and final expression?

Harp: I think we should.

Andrew: OK. This expression is *to have a senior moment*.

Harp: Yes. *To have a senior moment*.

Andrew: And this is very similar to the other two expressions that we looked at so far. When you have **a senior moment**, you forget something for just a moment, for a temporary period of time, and you might act or feel like an old person does, like a senior does.

Harp: Yes. And it just means, like you said, the same thing about, kind of, momentarily forgetting what you wanted to say or ask or you forget a word. You have **a senior moment**.

Andrew: Mmhmm. And you know who uses this expression a lot is my mom.

Harp: Oh, really?

Andrew: Yeah. So for example, if she can't find where she put her keys, she'll say "Oh. I'm having **a senior moment**."

Harp: That's fun that she uses this expression.

- Andrew: I think it's OK for her to use because, you know, she's getting a little bit older herself and if she compares herself to a senior, it doesn't really come across as rude.
- Harp: Yup. But if a younger person, even someone in their 30s, uses this expression, **senior moment**, it could be rude if there are older people around.
- Andrew: Mmhmm, yeah. I think so. Have you ever used this expression?
- Harp: I prefer **brain fart**.
- Andrew: Yeah. I think I would use **brain fart** as well. So maybe this is a generational thing. If you're an older listener, maybe you'd prefer to use **senior moment**. If you're a little bit younger, maybe **go with brain fart**.
- Harp: Yes. I think that's a very good recommendation.
- Andrew: Cool. Well, I think we're ready to give some examples.
- Harp: All right. Let's do it.

- Andrew: We've been hiking for almost 3 hours now! Can we go home? I'm tired.
- Harp: Sure. I'm tired too!
- Andrew: OK, good. Uh... So how do we make our way back to the car?
- Harp: Um... That's a good question, actually.
- Andrew: Oh. My. Gosh! Now is not the time to be having **a senior moment**.
- Harp: Don't worry. Relax. I'll just check the map.
- Andrew: Phew. OK, good.

- Andrew: OK. So in this example, we heard from two friends who were hiking in the woods and they were very far away from their car. And when one friend asked "How do we get back to the car?" the other friend temporarily couldn't remember. She was having **a senior moment**. And the other friend got very worried that they might be lost in the woods. But the crisis was averted when they simply checked the map.
- Harp: Yes.
- Andrew: It's always a good idea to bring a map when you go hiking.

Harp: Yup. This is actually one of my big fears when I go hiking, is that I'm not going to remember how to go back, so I'll get lost in the woods and then I'll get eaten by a bear.

Andrew: Yes. So bring a map, please. Stay safe out there.

Harp: Yes.

Andrew: OK. How 'bout one more example?

Harp: OK. Let's do it.

Harp: Hey, where did we go for my birthday last year?

Andrew: You mean your birthday dinner?

Harp: Yeah.

Andrew: Oh. Hmm... It was that restaurant downtown. Remember?

Harp: I know. But do you remember the name?

Andrew: Oh. Hmm... I think I'm having **a senior moment**. Um... I can't remember the name. It was delicious.

Harp: I know. I can't remember it either. Uh... It was Mexican. I'm really not remembering...

Andrew: Fernando's, I think.

Harp: Fernando's! That's it.

Andrew: Yeah, yeah, no. That place was awesome.

Harp: Cool. I want to suggest it for my friend's birthday that's coming up this weekend.

Harp: So in this example, we had two friends trying to remember the name of a restaurant, and they actually both had **a senior moment** where they couldn't remember the name of a restaurant. They temporarily forgot what it was called.

Andrew: Mmhmm. And then they remembered and everything was right in the world again.

Harp: Exactly. So that's what **a senior moment** is.

Andrew: Mmhmm. Great. Well, I think it's time to recap our episode. So today, we looked at three expressions, and the first one was ***to be on the tip of my tongue***.

Harp: Yes. And then we talked about *to have* ***a brain fart***.

Andrew: And then we ended the show with talking about *to have* ***a senior moment***.

Harp: And remember, don't have **a senior moment**; go to our website, Culips.com. C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Andrew: And become a member.

Harp: Yes. And come over to Facebook or Twitter and say hi.

Andrew: Yup. And that about wraps it up for us today. Thanks for listening and we will talk to you next time.

Harp: Bye everyone.

Detailed Explanations

The Big Apple

At the start of this episode, Andrew says he is excited because he will soon be visiting **the Big Apple** for the very first time. **The Big Apple** is a popular nickname for New York City.

This nickname was first given to New York City in the early 1920s. In those days, there were many horse races that occurred in the city. One of these races was called the Apple. Before the Apple race one year, a sports writer wrote a column asking the question “Who is going to win the Big Apple?” He was curious about who was going to win the first place prize at the Apple race.

From this point on, people started to use the name **the Big Apple** to refer to New York City. The nickname became very popular in the 1970s, when the city used the expression in a tourism advertisement campaign.

So, when someone talks about visiting **the Big Apple**, they are talking about visiting New York City.

Here’s one more example with **the Big Apple**:

Jeff:	What did you do this weekend?
Shannon:	My husband and I took a quick trip down to the Big Apple to watch a Knicks game.
Jeff:	That sounds exciting. Did they win?
Shannon:	Yeah. They beat the LA Lakers in overtime. It was a super great game.
Jeff:	Sounds like a lot of fun!

To head on over to somewhere

At the start of this episode, Andrew suggests that everyone who listens to Culips should **head on over to** the Culips website. Depending on the context, the phrasal verb **to head on over to somewhere** means either to come or to go somewhere. In other words, Andrew encourages Culips listeners to go to the Culips website.

This expression evolved from the verb **to head**, which means to go in a specific direction. When you **head on over to somewhere**, you go or come to a specific place.

This is a casual expression and is more likely to be used in everyday conversation than in formal writing.

Here are a couple of phone call examples with **to head on over to somewhere**. The first example shows how the expression can mean *to go* and the second shows how it can mean *to come*.

Anna: Hello?

Sebastian: Hey Anna. I'm just calling to tell you that we're going to be a little bit late for your birthday party.

Anna: No problem. What time do you think you will get here?

Sebastian: We're going **to head on over to** your place in about 30 minutes, so we'll see you in about an hour.

Anna: OK, perfect. See you then.

Reggie: Hello?

Violet: Hey Reggie. Are you doing anything right now?

Reggie: No, not really. Why? What's up?

Violet: Jeff and I are at the park and the weather is beautiful. Would you like to come down and join us?

Reggie: That sounds fun. Sure. I'll come to the park.

Violet: OK, perfect. **Head on over to** the eastern corner of the park whenever you're ready. We'll be here all day.

Reggie: Cool. I'll leave in about 20 minutes.

Violet: See you soon!

On the tip of my tongue

The first of this episode's key expressions is **on the tip of my tongue**. When a word or a name is **on the tip of your tongue**, you feel like you know what the word/name is but you just can't remember it. When you temporarily forget a word or a name, then it is **on the tip of your tongue**.

This expression is fun to visualize. We can imagine the temporarily forgotten word sitting on the very end of your tongue but you're just not able to say the word because you can't remember it at the present moment.

So, when you forget a word or name but are confident that you knew it in the past, and will remember it in the near future, you can say it's **on the tip of your tongue**.

Here's one more example with **on the tip of my tongue**:

Jackie: Where was Mom born?
Terry: Why do you need to know that?
Jackie: I'm doing her taxes for her this year and need to report her birth city.
Terry: Well, now that you ask, I can't think of it. Just call her and ask.
Jackie: Well... Wasn't she born near Toronto?
Terry: Hold on. I almost had it... It's **on the tip of my tongue**.
Jackie: Oh wait. Wasn't she born in Niagara Falls?
Terry: Yeah! That's it.

To swear you've done something before

In one of the dialogue examples in this episode, two friends notice a woman on the street who they **swear they've seen before**. We can use the expression **to swear you've done something before** when we feel like we had a certain experience in the past but the details are slightly difficult to remember.

For example, imagine a song comes on the radio and you **swear you've heard the song before**. This means you have a strong feeling that you've experienced listening to this song in the past, but you are not 100% certain.

So, when you **swear you've done something before**, you are confident that you've experienced that thing previously.

Here are a couple more examples with **to swear you've done something before**:

Henry: Isn't this cafe great? It just opened last month.

Fae: Are you sure? I **swear I've been here before**.

Henry: Impossible. Like I said, it's a brand new cafe.

Fae: Weird. I must be getting it confused with somewhere else.

Valerie: Hey. What's that you're watching on TV?

Cam: Oh, just some new show. I heard it was supposed to be good.

Valerie: Are you sure it's new? It looks very familiar. I **swear I've seen it before**.

Cam: I doubt that. This is the first episode.

Valerie: Really?

Cam: Oh, you know what? This is a spinoff show. You probably saw the original series. Some of the same actors are in both shows.

Valerie: Aha. That must be it.

To be like

In this episode, Andrew says that when you suddenly remember something that's been on the tip of your tongue, **you're like, yeah! Like** is one of the most commonly used casual expressions in English. It has many different uses and meanings.

We can use **like** in conjunction with the verb **to be** to quote something that would be or was said. In other words, Andrew says that when you remember something that was on the tip of your tongue, you would say *yeah* and celebrate.

When we quote speech (real or hypothetical) using **to be like**, it sounds very casual. It is best to avoid using this expression in any formal situation.

The best way to understand the expression **to be like** is to think of it as a synonym for *to say*.

Here are a couple more examples with **to be like**:

Brandon: What would you do if you won the lottery?

Susan: First, I'd call my mom and I'd **be like**, "Mom! I won the lottery! Can you believe it?" Then I'd probably go on a long vacation to a tropical country.

Brandon: If I won the lottery, I'd donate all the money to charity.

Susan: Really? You wouldn't keep anything for yourself?

Brandon: Well, maybe I'd go on a vacation too, but then I'd give the rest away.

Susan: That's a good plan.

Nathan: What happened to your car?

Wendy: I got in a little accident last week.

Nathan: Wow. Are you OK?

Wendy: Yeah. I'm fine but it was scary.

Nathan: What happened?

Wendy: This guy drove right through a stop sign and hit the side of my car.

Nathan: Crazy!

Wendy: Yeah. But at least he was really nice. He got out of his car and **was like**, "I'm so sorry. I didn't see the stop sign. I will pay for all the damage to your car."

Nathan: That's a relief.

Wendy: Yes. So I am taking my car to the shop tomorrow to get it fixed.

Nathan: Well, I'm glad you're OK.

Wendy: Me too!

A brain fart

This episode's second key expression is **a brain fart**. **A brain fart** is a temporary inability to remember something. So, when you have **a brain fart**, you can't remember something for a short period of time.

In this episode, Harp says that she sometimes experiences **brain farts** at work. She goes to a colleague's desk to talk to them about something, but then she forgets what she wanted to talk about. Andrew, on the other hand, gets **brain farts** when using the Internet. He sits down at the computer to search for something, but then forgets what he wanted to look up. These examples of temporary forgetfulness are **brain farts**.

This expression is very casual, and could be considered a little bit rude in formal contexts, so be sure to use it only in friendly, informal situations.

Here's one more example with **a brain fart**.

Andrea:	I ran into my old manager downtown yesterday.
Christine:	Oh yeah? How was that?
Andrea:	It was actually pretty awkward. I had a brain fart and for some reason I couldn't remember her name.
Christine:	Really? That's funny.
Andrea:	Yeah. So I made up an excuse that I was late for a meeting and I had to go. I only talked to her for about 30 seconds.
Christine:	Did you end up remembering her name?
Andrea:	Yes. Right after I finished talking to her, I remembered that her name is Julie.
Christine:	Too funny!

What are friends for?

In this episode, Andrew asks the question **What are friends for?** after the dialogue example in which a student helps her friend think of a word that was on the tip of his tongue.

When you do something nice for a friend and they thank you for your help, you can respond by saying **What are friends for?** This expression means "I'm happy to help you because we are friends and friends help each other out." So Andrew asks this question because it is relevant to the dialogue example, in which a student helped her friend write his report.

This expression is a rhetorical question. That means that when someone asks it, they don't actually expect an answer.

Here are a couple more example with ***What are friends for?***

Phil: Thanks again for helping me move last weekend. I couldn't have done it without you.

Victor: Hey, no problem. **What are friends for?**

Greg: Your presentation was amazing! You did a great job.

Kelly: Well, I wouldn't have been able to do it without your help. Thanks again for helping me practice.

Greg: Of course. **What are friends for?**

Kelly: Should we go out for a drink to celebrate?

Greg: Sounds good!

A senior moment

The final key expression from this episode is ***a senior moment***. This expression can be used when we forget something for just a short moment. When we use ***a senior moment***, we compare ourselves to a senior citizen (a person who is 65 years old or older). As we age, we usually become more forgetful and seniors are stereotyped as being forgetful people. That's why when someone forgets something temporarily, we can say they are having ***a senior moment***.

As Harp and Andrew mention in this episode, this expression could be considered rude if you use it while talking with seniors and you are not actually a senior yourself. It is usually only used by people who are seniors or are close to being seniors.

Here's one more example with ***a senior moment***.

Matthew: Have you seen my phone? I can't seem to find it.

Lisa: Did you forget where you put it again?

Matthew: Yup. I must be having ***a senior moment***.

Lisa: Check the coffee table. I think I remember seeing it there.

Matthew: OK. I'll go have a look.

To go with something

In this episode, Andrew suggests that younger people should **go with** the expression a *brain fart* instead of a *senior moment* so that they can avoid being offensive. We can use the phrasal verb **to go with something** when we need to make a suggestion or recommendation.

So when we suggest that someone **go with** something, we suggest/recommend that they choose that thing. For example, if you are in a restaurant and you ask the waiter for a wine recommendation and the waiter says “You should **go with** the merlot.” This means he thinks you should choose the merlot. The waiter is recommending this wine.

So, when we want someone to choose something, we can recommend/suggest the thing they should choose by using **to go with something**.

Here are a couple more examples with **to go with something**:

Fraser:	OK, so this hole is a par 4 and is 400 metres long. Which golf club should I use?
William:	Definitely go with a driver. You need to hit the ball a long distance and this is the perfect club for the job.
Fraser:	OK, thanks! Let's give it a try and see how it goes.

Eric:	I'm going to Calgary for the weekend. I've never been before. What should I do?
Christina:	Whenever I'm in Calgary, I make sure to go to Bill's Steakhouse.
Eric:	Oh yeah?
Christina:	Yeah. They serve the best steaks there!
Eric:	I'll have to check it out.
Christina:	Yeah, you should! And if you do, I'd go with the T-bone steak. It's so delicious!
Eric:	OK. Thanks for the recommendation. I'll definitely go there.

To have something in mind

When you **have something in mind**, you are thinking about a specific thing. In one of the dialogue examples in this episode, a woman makes a phone call to her friend. When her friend answers the phone, however, the woman has a brain fart and forgets why she had called. When she called her friend, she **had something in mind** that she wanted to talk about, but when her friend answered the phone, she forgot what that thing was. In other words, she had a specific question she wanted to ask or a specific topic she wanted to talk about but she had a brain fart and forgot what it was.

So, when someone **has something in mind**, they have a specific thing in their brain that they are thinking about.

Here are a couple more examples with ***to have something in mind***:

Sales clerk: Hi. Can I help you with anything?

Customer: Yes. I'm looking for a new jacket. Can you help me find one?

Sales clerk: Sure, no problem. Do you **have any specific style in mind**?

Customer: Yes, definitely. I'm looking for a jean jacket.

Sales clerk: OK, no problem. We have a lot in stock. Follow me and I'll show you what we have.

Customer: Perfect. Thanks.

Kimberly: I need to go to the grocery store downtown later this afternoon.

Robert: Why do you have to go all the way downtown? Can't you just go to the store around the corner?

Kimberly: I **have a special dish in mind** that I want to cook tonight and it requires some ingredients that they don't sell at the closest grocery store. That's why I have to go downtown.

Robert: OK, well, I can come with you if you'd like and keep you company.

Kimberly: That would be great, actually.

Robert: Perfect!

Quiz

1. When is the appropriate time to say *What are friends for*?
 - a) after a friend gets angry with you
 - b) after a friend hugs you
 - c) after a friend thanks you
 - d) after a friend forgives you

2. Which phrasal verb can we use to recommend something?
 - a) to go along
 - b) to go about
 - c) to go to
 - d) to go with

3. True or false? When a word is on the tip of your tongue, you can usually remember some information about it (its length, the first letter, etc.).
 - a) true
 - b) false

4. When is the slang expression *to be like* used?
 - a) when talking in the past tense
 - b) when making predictions
 - c) when quoting someone
 - d) when speaking in formal situations

5. What does *to head on over* mean?
 - a) to speak or listen
 - b) to go up or down
 - c) to start or stop
 - d) to go or come

6. Which sporting event inspired New York City's nickname, *the Big Apple*?
 - a) a horse race
 - b) a baseball tournament
 - c) a tennis competition
 - d) the Olympics

Quiz Answers

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

Episode Credits

Hosts: Andrew Bates and Harp Brar
Episode preparation/research: Andrew Bates
Audio editor: Andrew Bates
Transcription and transcript editing: Andrew Bates
Learning materials writer: Andrew Bates
Learning materials editor: Jessica Cox
Webmaster: Hussain Mohammed
Business manager: Tsuyoshi Kaneshima