

Simplified Speech #5 – Technology addiction

Episode Description

Do you ever find yourself looking at your smartphone just a little too often? If so, you might be a tech addict! In this Simplified Speech episode, Andrew and Maura get to the bottom of addiction to technology. Join them as they talk all about their technological weaknesses!

Sample Dialogue

- Andrew: Well, it's funny that we're talking about phones because the topic for today's episode is technology, and specifically using technology a little too much, relying on technology too much, being an addict.
- Maura: It's interesting because I think that it's hard to say if a person is addicted or not. I think that many people would say that they're not addicted, but they actually use technology—specifically their cell phones—a lot.

Expressions Included in the Learning Materials

- to plug something
- to spread the word
- word for word
- an eye-opener
- quite the something
- to turn out
- -esque
- to feed an addiction

Plus comprehension questions, verb and noun pairs, and more!



Simplified Speech #5 – Technology addiction

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

Andrew: Hello everybody. This is Andrew and I am here with...

Maura: Me! I'm Maura.

Andrew: Yeah, we are back with another Culips episode. And today we have a Simplified Speech episode for y'all.

Maura: That's right. So if you've just started learning English, you can listen. And if you've been learning English for a while, this episode can also be interesting because we pronounce extra clearly all the words for you.

Andrew: That is exactly right. Before we start today, I want **to plug** our website, so please check it out. It's located at Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Maura: And while you're at our website, please think about becoming a member. When you're a member, you get transcripts. That's **word for word** everything we say in our episodes. You also get more explanations of the topics and vocabulary in the episodes, and there are also quizzes to help test yourself.

Andrew: Yeah, exactly. So if you are a serious student of English and you really want to improve, we suggest checking out our Learning Materials.

Maura: And if you want to communicate with us in other ways, you can find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Andrew: And if you listen to this podcast through iTunes, please leave us a five-star review; it would really help us **spread the word** to everybody about Culips.

Maura: Andrew, how's it going today?

Andrew: I'm doing very well. Thanks for asking. How are you?

Maura: I'm pretty good. I'm a little bit tired, but nothing that a good coffee can't help.

Andrew: Have you been looking at your phone too much today? Maybe that's why you feel tired.

Maura: Today I actually have been using it more than I usually do, so maybe you're right.

- Andrew: Well, it's funny that we're talking about phones because the topic for today's episode is technology, and specifically using technology a little too much, relying on technology too much, being an addict.
- Maura: It's interesting because I think that it's hard to say if a person is addicted or not. I think that many people would say that they're not addicted, but they actually use technology—specifically their cell phones—a lot.
- Andrew: You know, recently something happened to me that I was a little bit sad about, and that is: I broke my cell phone. I can't use it anymore because I broke it. And, you know, when I broke it I took a little break from using my cell phone until I got a replacement phone, and that is when I realized how addicted I was to my phone. All of a sudden, in this little break, I've read more books, I've had more conversations; it was **a real eye-opener** for me.
- Maura: That makes me feel sad because I haven't had a break, but I do like to use my cell phone, and when I do, I try to make sure I'm not spending too much time on it. I don't want to be on my phone 24/7, but it's interesting that it could be negatively affecting my productivity.
- Andrew: Yeah, absolutely. Sometimes we just don't realize how involved we get with some certain types of technology, and I think phones are the easiest example to think of because everybody is obsessed with their phones these days.
- Maura: You know what just happened to me earlier today?
- Andrew: No.
- Maura: I was waiting in line at a store and the cashier was talking to the person in front of me about a place, and the cashier said, "You must go to this place. You must visit it." And because I was listening and curious, and I had never heard of this place, I decided to Google it and see where it was, because if it was so good, I wanted to go.
- Andrew: And you did this while you were waiting in line?
- Maura: Yeah, I had nothing else to do so I thought, why not? Well, it **turns out** this really cool place to visit is nowhere around Montreal and I'm not going to be going there. It **turns out** this place is in Florida.
- Andrew: Florida. Whoa, that's **quite the recommendation**. It must be an awesome, awesome place if you would go all the way to Florida to visit.
- Maura: Well, I missed the beginning of the conversation. Probably they were talking about Florida and this is why the cashier recommended this spot.

- Andrew: I see. But I think the important part of this story is that you were able to use your phone right away to search for the information.
- Maura: Right. Especially when we have nothing to do and we're waiting for something, we don't just sit and think about life, we look at our phones and sometimes search ridiculous things.
- Andrew: Are there any other types of technology that you would admit an addiction to?
- Maura: Well, I'm slowly becoming addicted to my new vacuum.
- Andrew: Your new vacuum? What? You just clean all the time or something?
- Maura: No, it cleans for me. There's a new kind of robot that moves around your home and cleans all of the dirt up for you. All you need to do is press a button and empty it out when it gets full, but it goes around on its own and sweeps up all of the dust and dirt on your floor. It's pretty great.
- Andrew: And it's a real robot?
- Maura: Well, that's what it says on top of it. It says iRobot; it's a kind of vacuum.
- Andrew: Does it look like a vacuum cleaner, or does it look like a little **human-esque** robot?
- Maura: Neither actually. It's kind of like a disc shape. It doesn't have a face or eyes on it; it doesn't look like a human at all.
- Andrew: I see. This reminds me of a type of robot that my best friend used to have, because he had a swimming pool and he had this little robot that went around in his swimming pool and cleaned the pool automatically.
- Maura: That sounds pretty cool. And I think these stories illustrate why we love technology and why we become addicts. Because this technology makes our lives easier.
- Andrew: Do you use any social networking sites, like Facebook or Twitter or Instagram?
- Maura: Yeah, sure.
- Andrew: Some of my friends are very addicted to using these sites. They love to post content and they're addicted to getting likes, to having people post comments on their content or liking their pictures.
- Maura: Yes, definitely. There are people who use social media a lot and are very active on the sites. And I would agree that it is addictive to get feedback on things that you've posted.

- Andrew: It is a great feeling. You get that little chime on your phone and you can check it and see, "Oh, yeah. This person liked my photo, that's very cool."
- Maura: But I suppose if not many people like your photo, then does it have the opposite effect? Can it make you feel negative?
- Andrew: I think this is why some people take a lot of selfies and spend a lot of time editing the selfie before they decide which one to post, because, yeah, it would make you feel bad if nobody liked your picture.
- Maura: You know, I really do love technology. I think that it's brought a lot of great things into my life, but I'm always a little bit cautious when using social media or using my cell phone, or maybe even using my robot.
- Andrew: Yeah, well, it's good to have it in mind so that it doesn't become too big of a problem. With every technology there are good aspects and bad aspects, and it's always important to remember the bad aspects.
- Maura: Well, one good aspect about technology is that it allows people from all over the world to listen to this podcast.
- Andrew: Yes, thank you Internet for allowing us to connect with everybody all around the world.
- Maura: I really do like to hear from listeners, especially on Facebook, hearing what they think of our episodes, or even where they listen to our episodes. It's really amazing
- Andrew: So even if you are a Facebook addict, we'll let you **feed your addiction** one more time, to log in and send us a message, because we do really like hearing from you. It's true, it makes us feel good. So log in and send us an email or a message today.
- Maura: And if you're online, you can also check out our website. It is Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com.
- Andrew: That wraps it up for us today. Thanks for listening and we will talk to you again very soon.
- Maura: Bye for now.

Detailed Explanations

To plug something

When you **plug** a product, you mention it on TV, the radio, a podcast, etc. In this episode, Andrew says that he wants **to plug** the Culips website. In other words, Andrew wants to mention the website and remind Culips listeners to check it out.

This verb is mostly used when we talk about celebrities who appear on TV to promote movies, TV shows, books, or albums. When a celebrity **plugs** something they've recently been involved in, they promote the product to the public.

So, if someone **plugs** something, they appear on TV, the radio, or a podcast and talk about something they've recently created or been involved in. They use the media platform to promote the product to many different listeners or viewers.

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

Cliff: Did you see Paul Rudd on the Conan O'Brien show last night?

Ira: No, I missed it. Was the interview good?

Cliff: Oh yeah, it was great! He came on the show **to plug** his new movie *Ant Man*. Every time Paul Rudd goes on Conan, he tells the funniest jokes. You should look up the interview on YouTube. It's worth watching.

Ira: OK, cool. I'll do that. I love Paul Rudd!

Paulette: What are you reading?

Maria: Oh, this is the new book by John Grisham.

Paulette: Nice! Is it any good? I love him.

Maria: Yeah, it's great! I had never read him before but I heard him on the radio **plugging** this book and I thought I'd give it a shot. And guess what? He's got a new fan.

Paulette: Awesome. I can't wait to read it!

To spread the word

In this episode, Andrew and Maura ask Culips listeners to give Culips a five-star rating on iTunes because this will help **spread the word** about Culips to English learners worldwide. When you **spread the word** about something, you tell many different people about it. In other words, giving Culips a five-star iTunes rating will allow many different people to learn about and study with Culips.

So, when you **spread the word** about something, you tell many different people about it. This expression is used when you need to promote an event or tell many different people some information. These days, many people use social networking to **spread the word** about things they want to share with their friends and colleagues.

Here are a couple more examples with **to spread the word**:

Harvey: How's the apartment hunt coming along?

Wes: Not so good. I still haven't found a place yet, and I need to move out of my current apartment by the end of the month.

Harvey: Wow. You've only got 2 weeks to find a new place?

Wes: Yeah. I'm starting to stress out. If you could do me a big favour and **spread the word** that I'm looking for a new apartment, that'd be awesome. Maybe one of your friends knows of a place for rent or something.

Harvey: Sure, no problem. I'll make a Facebook post about it.

Wes: Thanks a bunch!

Jamie: Hey Ron. I'm not sure whether you heard or not, but I'm organizing a softball game for Thursday night. Can you make it?

Ron: Oh, cool. Yeah, I'd love to.

Jamie: Awesome. If you could **spread the word** among your friends, that'd be great. We need to get at least 15 people out to be able to play.

Ron: No problem. I'll try to get some of my pals to come out.

Jamie: Sweet! See you on Thursday.

Word for word

In this episode, Maura mentions that the Culips Learning Materials include **word-for-word** transcripts of each Culips episode. This means that the transcripts include each and every word that is spoken in Culips episodes.

When something is retold, written, translated, or duplicated **word for word**, every word is used and no parts are omitted. For example, if a story is retold **word for word**, it means that the story is true to the original. Every part of the story is retold and no parts are added or left out.

So, the expression **word for word** is used when something is true to the original and all parts are left intact.

Here are a couple more examples with **word for word**:

Ruth: Want to watch a movie tonight or something?

Terry: Are you serious? You realize that we have a reading comprehension quiz in English class tomorrow, right? I won't be able to watch a movie. I'm going to be busy reading Hamlet all night.

Ruth: You haven't finished yet?

Terry: No. You have?

Ruth: Of course! Well, I mean, I didn't read it **word for word**, but I skimmed through it. I think I know enough that I'll be able to pass the quiz.

Terry: I don't know about that. If I were you I'd spend a little more time with it.

Oliver: Someone called for you while you were out for lunch.

Stacey: Oh shoot! Was it Lisa from the Shanghai office? That was an important call. Did she leave a message with you?

Oliver: She did, yes.

Stacey: OK, great. Can you tell me what she said **word for word**? Her instructions are very important.

Oliver: No problem. She told me that you should email the Smith Report to Ron in HR before the end of the day.

Stacey: Perfect, thanks.

An eye-opener

An experience or an event that causes you to realize something important or learn something new is **an eye-opener**. In this episode, Andrew says that going without a cell phone was **an eye-opener** for him because it made him realize how addicted he was to his cell phone. He says that going without a phone allowed him to read more books and have more conversations with people.

So, when something surprising happens that causes you to see something in a new way, and from this experience you learn or realize something important, then it's **an eye-opener**.

We use the word *real* to intensify this expression. If something is **a real eye-opener**, then it was especially educational or enlightening.

Here are a couple more examples with **an eye-opener**:

Juan: When you were younger, did you go travelling?

Debra: Yeah. I actually went all over the place. I visited Europe, South America, and India.

Juan: That's awesome! How was it?

Debra: It was a great experience for me and **a real eye-opener** because I realized that the world is a lot more diverse than I realized growing up in a small town.

Juan: Fantastic. I wish I had had the opportunity to travel when I was younger.

Debra: Yeah, I was really lucky!

Greg: Hey, you look great. Have you lost some weight?

Natalie: Thanks! Yeah, I have, actually. I've been eating a little healthier and doing some exercise.

Greg: That's fantastic.

Natalie: Yeah. My uncle had a heart attack last year and that was **an eye-opener** for me. I realized that if I didn't start taking care of myself I might also get sick.

Greg: I'm sorry to hear about your uncle, but I'm glad you're feeling good.

Natalie: Thanks so much!

Quite the something

If something is surprising, weird, or unexpected we can say it's **quite the [something]** to comment on it. In this episode, Maura tells a story about overhearing a conversation between a cashier and a customer. The cashier recommended that the customer visit a place in Florida. After hearing this story, Andrew says, "That's **quite the recommendation**." In other words, because the recommendation is unexpected, Andrew can express his shock by using the expression **quite the [something]**.

So, we use **quite the [something]** when we want to comment on how weird, shocking, surprising, or interesting something is.

Here are a couple more examples with **quite the [something]**:

Ivan: Hey Alfred. That's **quite the bag** you have there.

Alfred: Oh yeah. Pretty big, hey?

Ivan: Yeah. Why'd you bring that to the office? You pack a really big lunch or something?

Alfred: No, after work I'm heading directly to the airport. I'm going to Paris for a week.

Ivan: Oh really? I didn't know that. Have a great time.

Alfred: Thanks and I'll see you in a week!

Sally: You'll never guess what happened last night! I came home after work and walked into my house. I got to the living room and turned on the lights and there was a bird in my living room!

Brandy: Oh my!

Sally: Yeah. I had left the window open and it flew in!

Brandy: So what did you do?

Sally: Well, I tried to get it to fly out the open window but it wouldn't leave. Eventually I had to call animal control and ask them to catch the bird.

Brandy: Wow. That's **quite the adventure** for that little bird!

Sally: You're right about that. Once animal control arrived they were able to catch the bird and release him outside. I have to make sure to not leave my window open anymore or it might decide to visit me again!

To turn out

The phrasal verb **to turn out** is used when we want to talk about something that happens that is surprising or unexpected. In this episode, Maura tells us a funny story about an interaction between a cashier and customer, where the cashier suggested the customer should visit a place. Maura overheard this conversation and used Google to find more information about the place. However, she was surprised to learn that the place they were talking about is in Florida. Although Maura expected the place to be in Montreal, it **turned out** to be in Florida.

We can use the expression **to turn out** in this context because the story happened in a way that surprised Maura.

So, if something happens in a way that you were not expecting or that surprised you, you can use **to turn out** to show that the result was different than you expected it to be.

Here are a couple more examples with the phrasal verb **to turn out**:

Sunny: Hey Blair. I didn't expect to see you at the office today. I thought you were going out of town on a business trip.

Blair: Yeah, I thought so too. It **turns out** the representative in London I was supposed to meet with caught the flu. We've postponed the meeting for a few days.

Sunny: Ah, OK. Well, if I don't see you again before you leave, have a great trip to London.

Blair: Thanks!

Sara: Hey, is that a new cell phone you have?

Paul: Yup, it sure is.

Sara: Weren't you telling me just last week that you had no plans to upgrade your phone anytime soon?

Paul: Yeah, I did tell you that. But, it **turns out** that there was a mega sale on cellphones this week and I just couldn't resist the temptation to get a new one.

Sara: So you got a good deal, then?

Paul: Yup, saved myself about \$100.

Sara: Oh nice, good for you!

–esque

–esque is a suffix (a part that is added to the end of a word to change its meaning). Adjectives that are formed with **–esque** are used when a thing looks like or is like another thing.

In this episode, Andrew and Maura talk about Maura's new robot vacuum cleaner. Andrew asks Maura what the robot looks like and whether it is **human-esque**. In other words, Andrew wants to know whether the robot vacuum looks kind of like a human.

So, if something resembles or reminds you of another thing, you can describe it by forming an adjective with the **–esque** suffix.

It is common to describe works of art with **–esque**. For example, if a painting reminds you of something by Picasso, you can say it is **Picasso-esque**. Or if a poem reminds you of something by Shakespeare, you can say that it is **Shakespeare-esque**.

Here are a couple more examples with the suffix **–esque** used to form adjectives to describe something that resemble something else:

Grant: What did you do this weekend?

Krista: I went to the art gallery.

Grant: Cool. What was the exhibit?

Krista: It was really neat. There were these massive sculptures that were very strange looking. They looked like **alien-esque** monsters.

Grant: Woah. Sounds scary.

Krista: Yeah, it was a little creepy but overall very interesting. You should check it out if you get the chance.

Grant: Sounds good! I might just do that.

Kayla: Wow, this song is really great. Do you know which band it is?

Chris: I'm not sure. I've never heard this track before. It's really groovy though. Very **Beatles-esque**.

Kayla: Totally, it's super catchy.

Chris: I'm going to go ask the DJ who the band is.

Kayla: Cool. Yeah, do it!

To feed an addiction

If you **feed an addiction**, you indulge in or support the thing that someone is addicted to. In this episode, Andrew says that Culips listeners can **feed their addiction** to technology as long as they visit the Culips website. In other words, Andrew thinks that some Culips listeners might be addicted to technology, and even though this isn't healthy, he jokes that they can indulge in their addiction as long as they visit the Culips website.

So, when someone **feeds their addiction**, they do the thing or consume the thing that they are addicted to. If you **feed someone else's addiction**, then you allow them to indulge in the thing they are addicted to.

Here are a couple more examples with **to feed an addiction**:

Rudy: Hey, is that another lottery ticket I see you with? I thought you told me you were going to stop buying them.

Hubert: I know, I know. I should stop. But old habits die hard.

Rudy: You just have to have some willpower and stop **feeding your addiction**.

Hubert: You're right. I'll quit, I promise.

Lionel: My son wants me to buy him a new video game system for his birthday.

Rene: Are you going to?

Lionel: I'm not sure. Do you let your kids play video games?

Rene: Yeah, from time to time.

Lionel: I'm worried that my son is becoming addicted to video games. I'm worried that buying him a new system will just **feed his addiction** even more.

Rene: Maybe you could give him the gift he wants but attach conditions to it. No video games until he finishes all his homework or something like that. That's what I do with my kids.

Lionel: That's a great idea. I'll definitely consider it!

Quiz

Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following suffixes means to resemble or to be reminiscent of?
 - a) –able
 - b) –y
 - c) –ful
 - d) –esque

2. What do you do when you spread the word?
 - a) read a long book
 - b) write a long report
 - c) keep something a secret
 - d) share information with other people

3. An event or experience that helps you realize something important is called what?
 - a) a mouth-breather
 - b) a back-scratcher
 - c) an eye-opener
 - d) a head-shaker

4. If you support an addiction, then you do what?
 - a) feed it
 - b) escort it
 - c) steer it
 - d) control it

5. Which of the following phrasal verbs is used when the result of something was unexpected?
 - a) to turn in
 - b) to turn out
 - c) to turn away
 - d) to turn to

6. True or false? Something that has been transcribed word for word is an accurate representation of the original.
- a) true
 - b) false
7. Which of the following verbs is a synonym for *to promote*?
- a) to bond
 - b) to connect
 - c) to plug
 - d) to sample
8. Which of the following expressions expresses shock or surprise at something weird or unexpected?
- a) rather the [something]
 - b) super the [something]
 - c) very the [something]
 - d) quite the [something]

Comprehension

1. Why did Andrew take a break from using a smartphone?
2. What place did Maura overhear a cashier and customer talking about?
3. What type of technology does Maura admit she's addicted to?
4. What does Maura's vacuum cleaner look like?
5. What is one aspect of technology that Maura likes?

Verb and Noun Pairs

Match the verbs on the left with the nouns on the right to form expressions that were used in this episode.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. to leave | a. time |
| 2. to spread | b. feedback |
| 3. to spend | c. an addiction |
| 4. to feed | d. a review |
| 5. to get | e. the word |

Quiz Answers

Multiple Choice:

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

Comprehension:

1. because he broke his phone
2. Florida
3. Maura is addicted to using her robot vacuum cleaner.
4. It is disc-shaped.
5. Maura likes that the Internet allows people from all over the world to listen to Culips.

Verb and Noun Pairs:

1.d 2.e 3.a 4.c 5.b

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