

Simplified Speech #009 – Mother's Day

Episode Description

Have you ever wondered how to show your mom you care? In this episode, Andrew and Suzanne discuss the special things they do for their mothers on Mother's Day. Whether it's a surprise visit or a **gift that keeps on giving**, listen to this episode to learn all about how you can celebrate Mother's Day.

Sample Dialogue

Suzanne: I think I miss my mom more on Mother's Day because I wish I could take her out for a brunch or take her to a massage or have dinner, and I know that she wants me to, so, yeah.

Andrew: Mother's Day is a nice holiday that recognizes moms and all the hard work that they do for their children. And usually in North America we celebrate Mother's Day by treating our mom to something nice, right?

Suzanne: Right.

Expressions Included in the Learning Materials

- Mani-pedi
- The gift that keeps on giving
- To bring home the bacon
- Brunch
- To freak out
- To be floored



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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

Andrew: Hey, everybody, I'm Andrew.

Suzanne: And I am Suzanne, and welcome to another episode of Culips.

Andrew: If you want to learn English for everyday use, you've come to the right place. At Culips we help make English understandable. By listening to our podcast, you can learn natural expressions and correct conversational structure. If you're interested in learning more about Culips and what we do, check us out on Facebook, Twitter, or our website, Culips.com.

Thanks for listening; we hope you enjoy this Simplified Speech episode.

[Phone rings]

Andrew: Hello.

Nana: Hello, Andrew.

Andrew: Oh, hi, Nana. How are you?

Nana: I am good, how are you?

Andrew: I am well. What's up?

Nana: Oh, it's so cold out today.

Andrew: Yeah, it's cold where you are?

Nana: Yes, very, very rainy and wet. My knee is hurting. Oh.

Andrew: Oh, I'm sorry to hear that.

Nana: Oh, it's OK. But, you know, I was wondering what you guys were doing for Mother's Day.

Andrew: Mother's Day? Oh, that's right, it's Mother's Day this Sunday.

Nana: Well, yes. Have you not made plans with your mother?

Andrew: No, I should do that. Maybe we should take Mom out for lunch?

Nana: Yes. Mimosas, she really likes mimosas.

Andrew: Mimosas? Well, what are you doing on Sunday? It would be nice if we could all get together and hang out on Mother's Day.

Nana: All right. Yes, I would love that.

Andrew: You know, you're a mother too.

Nana: Of course. I would love it. Maybe come over in the afternoon. That would be lovely.

Andrew: Well, how about I pick you up?

Nana: OK.

Andrew: I'll pick you up at 10:30 Sunday morning.

Nana: OK, I can be awake.

Andrew: OK, you get ready. We'll surprise Mom. We'll have a nice afternoon together.

Nana: Oh, I can't wait to see you. Oh, it's great.

Andrew: Well, thanks for calling, Nana. See you on Sunday.

Nana: All right. See you Sunday, Andrew.

Andrew: Bye.

[Music]

Suzanne: Hey, Andrew. How are you?

Andrew: I'm pretty good, Suzanne. How are you?

Suzanne: I am good.

Andrew: I just got off the phone with my nana.

Suzanne: Oh, your nana.

Andrew: Yeah, she reminded me that it's Mother's Day coming up.

Suzanne: Oh, right.

Andrew: Did you remember?

Suzanne: No. Thank you, Nana. This is a big deal.

Andrew: This is a big deal, yeah. Do you and your mom celebrate Mother's Day together?

Suzanne: Well, my mother lives in Texas and I live in Montreal, so I don't get to see her very often, or not usually for Mother's Day, unfortunately.

Andrew: Right. I wonder if on Mother's Day you miss your mom more than you usually do.

Suzanne: I think so. I think I miss my mom more on Mother's Day because I wish I could take her out for a brunch or take her to a massage or have dinner, and I know that she wants me to, so, yeah.

Andrew: Mother's Day is a nice holiday that recognizes moms and all the hard work that they do for their children. And usually in North America we celebrate Mother's Day by treating our mom to something nice, right?

Suzanne: Right.

Andrew: You said **brunch**, or flowers.

Suzanne: Yes.

Andrew: Or massages. I like this.

Suzanne: Yes.

Andrew: That seems like a very relaxing way to spend the day.

Suzanne: One year my younger sister and I took my mom to a spa.

Andrew: Very nice.

Suzanne: And we had lunch, we had massages, we had manicures and pedicures.

Andrew: A **mani-pedi**?

Suzanne: A **mani-pedi**.

Andrew: Wow.

Suzanne: She loved it.

Andrew: I wonder if my mom would like to have a **mani-pedi** with me on Mother's Day?

Suzanne: I say, why not? It is called a mani.

- Andrew: Yeah, well there's only one way to find out. Maybe this Mother's Day is the day to try it out.
- Suzanne: That's a good idea. Do you think your nana would also like a **mani-pedi**?
- Andrew: Ah, hard to say. Hard to say. I think maybe she's past the point of enjoying that activity. Usually what I do with my mom on Mother's Day is to have a nice **brunch** or a nice lunch with my brother, my sister, my father, the whole family together. And I think my mom enjoys just spending the day with us.
- Suzanne: And maybe she can really enjoy it and not feel like she has to do the daily rituals and the laundry and the cooking, or work.
- Andrew: Exactly. So Mother's Day is an interesting holiday because it's always on a Sunday.
- Suzanne: Yes, and Sunday is the best day for **brunch**, I think.
- Andrew: It's the only **brunch** day, in my opinion.
- Suzanne: Andrew, do you give your mom gifts or presents on Mother's Day besides going to lunch or **brunch**?
- Andrew: Yes, sometimes I'll get my mom flowers, or my mom really likes hanging baskets.
- Suzanne: Oh, it's, like, a hanging plants in baskets?
- Andrew: Mmhmm, so it's a basket that you can hang, usually in the backyard, and it's filled with different types of flowers. And she likes these because they are nice all summer long. If you buy a bouquet of flowers, they die after, you know, a week.
- Suzanne: This is true.
- Andrew: So this is nice. It's **the gift that keeps on giving** for the spring and summer.
- Suzanne: That's wonderful. That's a really, really good gift.
- Andrew: Another gift that I like to give my mom—and this is a bit of a joke—but it's me, because I was born on Mother's Day.
- Suzanne: Oh, really?

Andrew: Mother's Day changes every year, right? Sometimes it's on the 8th, sometimes it's on the 9th, depending. It's on the second Sunday of May, and that changes every year. But the year I was born it was Mother's Day; my birthday is May 12th. So my mom always jokes with me, "You don't need to buy me a present. You were the best Mother's Day gift I ever got." So that's a nice thing for her to say.

Suzanne: Ah, your presence is present enough.

Andrew: Bata-ching!

Suzanne: I was born the day before Father's Day, so I understand.

Andrew: Speaking of Father's Day...

Suzanne: Yes.

Andrew: I feel like Mother's Day gets the spotlight, and Father's Day is kind of an afterthought for a lot of people.

Suzanne: Mmm.

Andrew: Do you feel they're treated equally?

Suzanne: No, I don't feel like they're treated equally. I think, in the past, moms have always done the work within the household, so carpooling and cooking and taking care of the kids. And, in the past, men, or fathers, have been the ones who **bring home the bacon** or, you know, go out and bring home the money and provide for the family, so their contribution to the family is not as obvious on a daily basis to the kids. But now it is more equal because more moms are working and more dads are staying home, and there is a shared experience and a shared raising of the kids and taking care of the house. So now, I think, it's becoming a little more equal. I do think that Mother's Day tends to get more fanfare than Father's Day. Sorry, dads.

Andrew: Yeah, sorry, dads. Yeah, even this episode is for the moms, not for the dads. But it's true, on Mother's Day we say nice things to our moms, we spend time with them, we really make it a day. But Father's Day, it's kind of like, "Hey, Dad, happy Father's Day, here's a tie," or "Here's a wallet," and then that's it, day is over.

Suzanne: Yeah.

Andrew: There's no special celebration.

Suzanne: Ah, poor dads.

- Andrew: What about this idea? Parents' Day: how would you feel about that?
- Suzanne: I like that.
- Andrew: Maybe if we did a Parents' Day, the dads would get a little more recognition.
- Suzanne: Yeah.
- Andrew: The classic question that Canadian kids ask their parents is, "We have Mother's Day, we have Father's Day, why don't we have a Kid's Day, a Children's Day?" And what is the response that every parent tells their kid when they ask this question?
- Suzanne: Kid's Day is every day.
- Andrew: Yeah, every day is Kid's Day.
- Suzanne: Yes.
- Andrew: So, Suzanne, we're almost finished for today but, before I let you go, I just want to ask if you have a memorable Mother's Day story that you could share with us.
- Suzanne: I do. I do have an interesting Mother's Day story. One year I surprised my mom at a restaurant in Texas.
- Andrew: OK.
- Suzanne: I flew in from New York City and my father picked me up from the airport. And my sister and her husband were also in on the secret and we were texting, and my father and I got to the restaurant first.
- Andrew: OK.
- Suzanne: And then my sister and her husband came in and we had a great table by the window in our own little room upstairs in this really cute restaurant, very quaint. So I had a good hiding spot and she turned the corner and I had my iPhone, and she came in, I said, "Surprise!" and she **freaked out**. Her mouth and face were so surprised, and I snapped a picture of her in her surprised face.
- Andrew: At that exact moment. Nice. And you still have the picture?
- Suzanne: I have to find it, but if I find it we should post that picture of Emily.
- Andrew: Of your mom, Emily.
- Suzanne: My mom on the Facebook page. What do you think?

Andrew: Yeah, I think that's a good idea, I really want to see this picture. I'm sure she was very surprised.

Suzanne: She was shocked and overjoyed.

Andrew: She was happy to see you.

Suzanne: Yes. I would even say kind of **floored**.

Andrew: **Floored?** Wow.

Well, Suzanne, I think that's all the time we have for today.

Suzanne: OK, well it's been good talking to you, Andrew.

Andrew: Yeah, this was fun, and I want to thank all of the listeners out there for listening. Please continue to support Culips. And if you want to find out more information about who we are and what we do, visit our website, Culips.com, or you can find us on Facebook at facebook.com/CulipsPodcast. Thanks for listening, everybody. We'll be back with another episode soon. Talk to you then. Bye.

Suzanne: Bye.

Detailed Explanations

Mani-pedi

Mani-pedi is a contraction of *manicure* and *pedicure*. A **mani-pedi** is when you get a manicure and a pedicure at the same time.

A manicure is a treatment for the hands and nails that improves the look of the hands by smoothing the skin, trimming the nails, and cleaning the cuticles. At the end of a manicure, the nails are painted a colour of the customer's choice. A pedicure is the same treatment as a manicure, but for the feet.

In this episode, Suzanne talks about taking her mom out for a **mani-pedi** on Mother's Day. A spa treatment—such as a **mani-pedi** or a massage—is a common Mother's Day gift.

Here are a couple more examples with **mani-pedi**:

Paul: Oh man, I just remembered that it's Mother's Day this Sunday. I haven't made any plans!

Lana: You should really fix that! What do you usually do for your mom?

Paul: Well, I usually take her out for lunch. I don't think that would work this time, though. Her favourite restaurants get pretty booked up on Mother's Day.

Lana: Why don't you get her a spa treatment? I know my mom loves getting a gift certificate for a **mani-pedi**. I can give you the number of the place I know, if you like.

Paul: Great idea, Lana! I'll definitely take that number.

Gerry: How was your weekend?

Susan: Pretty lovely! My mom came to town and we spent the whole weekend hanging out.

Gerry: Cool. What did you guys do?

Susan: We had a lot to catch up on, so we mostly hung around my apartment, made food, and talked. But on Saturday, she took me out to a nail salon and we had **mani-pedis**. It was kinda weird but also really nice. I've never had either a manicure or a pedicure before. I think it was the most girly thing I've ever done!

Gerry: Well, I'm glad you guys had a good time. It's good to get out of your comfort zone!

The gift that keeps on giving

In this episode, Andrew remarks that a hanging basket is a **gift that keeps on giving** because, unlike a bouquet of flowers, the plants in a hanging basket will keep on producing flowers. This expression is easy to picture if you think about this example. Andrew gave his mother flowers, but in a way that she will continue to get new flowers over time.

You can also use **the gift that keeps on giving** for things that aren't actually gifts. For example, because of the long-term love and joy that they get from their relationships, some people say that their children or pets are **gifts that keep on giving**.

Fun fact: *The gift that keeps on giving* is an expression that originally came from a 1920s' marketing campaign for the phonograph!

Here are a couple more examples with **the gift that keeps on giving**:

David: Wow, your lunch smells amazing. What is it?

Liz: Just some chilli I made. It's super easy! Well, it is if you have a slow cooker.

David: I've always wanted a slow cooker, but haven't gotten around to buying one.

Liz: You should ask for one as a Christmas or birthday gift. I got mine from my aunt a couple of years ago, and I don't know how I ever lived without it!

David: Whoa, I didn't know any kitchen equipment could be so life changing!

Liz: I've saved so much money and time over the years! A slow cooker is really **the gift that keeps on giving**.

Hannah: I'm not sure what to get my little sister for her birthday. She asked me to get her an iTunes gift certificate so she could buy some music, but I think that's kinda lame. I want to get her something more meaningful.

Jack: Well, it sounds like she's into music. Does she play an instrument?

Hannah: No, but I know she has always wanted to learn how to play the guitar.

Jack: Maybe you could get her a cheap guitar and some lessons? If she gets into playing, it could be a **gift that keeps on giving**.

Hannah: Great idea!

To bring home the bacon

To **bring home the bacon** is to make the money required to live.

In this expression, bacon is used as a metaphor for food in general, which is arguably the most important thing people need to survive. So if you **bring home the bacon**, you make the money that buys the necessities for your family.

This expression is often used to identify the family member who makes the majority of the money that their family uses to live. In this episode, Suzanna mentions that it's traditionally the father who **bring home the bacon**, or makes the money that allows the family to prosper.

Here are a couple more examples with *to bring home the bacon*:

Ian: How's the new baby?

Megan: Wonderful and completely exhausting! I had no idea it was possible to love anybody so much or to sleep so little. Either way, I'm not looking forward to going back to work.

Ian: It's only been a couple of months. Don't you have a while longer before you need to go back?

Megan: Well, Ted was let go from his job last month and hasn't been able to find anything yet.

Ian: That's awful! I'm really sorry.

Megan: It's all right. Someone has to **bring home the bacon** for this family, and it might as well be me.

Donald: How's the new job?

Betty: It's terrible! I didn't think it was going to be amazing, but I also had no idea I would be so bored all the time. Data entry is not my thing.

Donald: Sorry to hear that. But there has to be something good about it, no?

Betty: My boss is really mean, the office is loud and has no windows, and I have to commute for 45 minutes each way. I can't think of anything.

Donald: But are you at least making enough money?

Betty: Ah, I guess you're right. It does **bring home the bacon**.

Brunch

Brunch is a meal that is eaten instead of both breakfast and lunch. Not quite breakfast, not quite lunch, **brunch** is a special weekend meal for many North Americans.

Brunch is one of the most popular meals to eat at restaurants. It's often only available on Saturday and Sunday before 3:00 p.m. In some cities, **brunch** is such a popular meal that it's common to wait for half an hour or more before getting a table at a **brunch** restaurant.

Typical **brunch** food is similar to breakfast food, only fancier and in a larger quantity. It is also common to have both breakfast and lunch food available for **brunch**. Unlike at breakfast, it's acceptable to drink certain alcoholic beverages, such as mimosas and Caesars, at **brunch**.

Now that you know all about this wonderful meal, here are a couple more examples with **brunch**:

Val: Hey, Gabe, do you want to get **brunch** with me?

Gabe: That sounds great—I'm starving. What kind of **brunch** food do you like?

Val: My favourite thing is eggs benedict! I'm pretty sure hollandaise sauce is the greatest human invention. It's so tasty.

Gabe: Oh man, I totally agree. Do you know about Shine? They make the best eggs benny that I've ever tasted.

Val: No, I've never been. Let's go!

Fred: It was your birthday last weekend, right? Did you have a good time?

Angie: I had a great time! I slept in until noon—which was fantastic—and when I got up my boyfriend surprised me with homemade **brunch**!

Fred: Surprise **brunch**! That's an awesome birthday gift.

Angie: It was really sweet of him. He made my favourite breakfast food, shakshuka. It's this Tunisian tomato and egg dish that takes a long time to make, but is the most delicious thing in the world.

Fred: You're a luck lady, Angie.

To freak out

To freak out is a phrasal verb that means *to become highly emotional*.

When you hear that someone **freaked out**, context is very important because it can be used in both the positive and negative senses.

In its positive sense, **to freak out** means to be very loudly excited and surprised. However, **freaking out** is more often negative. In the negative sense, **to freak out** is to suddenly become very upset or angry.

So, in either the positive or negative sense, **to freak out** means that someone has a strong emotional reaction.

Here are a couple more examples with **to freak out**:

Douglas: Come see what I got Mom for Mother's day.

Leanne: I hope it's something good!

Douglas: It's awesome—just come check it out. You know how her cellphone has been dying, right? Well, I got her a new one!

Leanne: Oh my god, she's going to **freak out**! That's a crazy expensive gift for Mother's Day, but she's going to love it. I know she's needed a new phone for a while now, but didn't want to spend the money.

Douglas: I know. I'm awesome and will totally win favourite child of the year for this.

Leanne: No way! Mom's love can't be bought!

Douglas: We'll see about that.

Benjamin: How's your brother doing?

Isil: Not so great. He's been having a hard time lately.

Benjamin: What happened?

Isil: He failed one of his classes and totally **freaked out**. He dropped out of school for a while and is back living with our parents.

Benjamin: Whoa, I hope things turn around for him!

To be floored

To be floored is to be completely surprised or shocked. **Being floored** is a very strong version of being surprised.

One of the other meanings of **to be floored** is to be knocked to the floor. When you use **to be floored** to mean *to be surprised*, it's as though you're saying something was so shocking that it knocked you to the floor.

In this episode, Suzanne tells a story about when she and her sister surprised their mother with a Mother's Day meal. Suzanne mentions that her mother was not just surprised, she was **floored**. So, Suzanne means that her mother was incredibly shocked.

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

Oliver: Did you hear? My little sister is having a baby!

Abby: Whoa, you're going to be an uncle! How does it feel?

Oliver: I'm really excited for her, but when she told me, I was totally **floored**. She's my little sister, you know? When I picture her in my mind, she's still 12, but now she's having a baby. It's nuts!

Abby: Yeah, my brother and his wife had a child last year, and it was shocking to hear the news. I guess we're all adults now!

Gail: Harold, I heard your mom won the lottery. Is that true?

Harold: It is! It's the craziest thing—I was totally **floored** when I heard the news.

Gail: Me too! When I heard that it was someone in town, that was surprising enough, but to find out it was your mom was nuts. How much was it?

Harold: \$50 million!

Gail: Oh my god!

Quiz

1. What are you doing if you are bringing home the bacon?

- a) getting the groceries
- b) cleaning the house
- c) earning money
- d) cooking dinner

2. True or false: *The gift that keeps on giving* refers to a gift that no one likes, so they keep giving it to other people.

- a) true
- b) false

3. Brunch: Not quite ____ and not quite ____.

- a) breakfast, lunch
- b) bread, honey bunch
- c) brilliant, a hunch
- d) brown, a punch

4. What happens when someone freaks out?

- a) They remain calm and collected.
- b) They take a nap.
- c) They quit their job.
- d) They have a very strong emotional reaction.

5. What are you feeling if you're floored?

- a) extreme sadness
- b) extreme surprise
- c) mild surprise
- d) boredom

Quiz Answers

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

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