

## Simplified Speech #010 – First Jobs

### Episode Description

First jobs aren't usually glamorous, but they can make for some interesting stories! Join Andrew and Morag in this episode as they discuss their first experiences in the working world and some of the surprising ways their jobs **worked out** for them.

### Sample Dialogue

Andrew: We were able to cut our work down substantially. We delivered to the 10 houses that complained, and usually we would just **ditch the other newspapers**. We were bad. But...

Morag: That is incredibly funny, and really smart, but not what you were paid to do.

Andrew: No. But I justified it by the fact that they paid us such a small amount of money. It was almost a slave wage. It was really, really bad, so... I don't know. I kind of feel a little guilty, though, I have to admit.

### Expressions Included in the Learning Materials

- To go ahead with something
- Win/win
- To bring out the worst in someone
- To ditch something or someone
- To work out



## Simplified Speech #010 – First Jobs

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, I'm Andrew.

Morag: And I'm Morag.

Andrew: And you are listening to Culips.

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.

Hey Morag, how are you today?

Morag: I'm doing pretty well, Andrew, and how about you?

Andrew: I'm doing pretty well, too. I'm excited to be back here recording Culips episodes with you. It's always a fun time.

Morag: Yeah.

Andrew: Right on. Well, today we're going to do a Simplified Speech episode. And this is where we have a conversation about an interesting topic, but we slow down our speech speed—so we talk slower.

Morag: So we can be more clearly understood.

Andrew: Exactly.

Morag: I'm excited to discuss with you our topic today.

Andrew: Aha! And what is our topic?

Morag: Our topic is our first jobs.

Andrew: Ah, our first jobs.

Morag: Yeah. What was your first job, Andrew?

Andrew: Hmm, well, honestly, I've had a lot of jobs, but I think my very, very first job was a newspaper delivery boy.

Morag: Ooh, I know a couple people who did that. How did you find that job?

Andrew: Well, if you're asking how did I get the job, I, funnily enough, found the job in a newspaper classified ad. And if you're asking how did I like the job, well, let's just say I didn't like it very much.

Morag: No? How old were you when you got that job?

Andrew: Well, I was probably 11 or 12 years old. And my brother helped me with the paper route, and he would have been maybe 9 or 10 years old at the time. So my brother and I were pretty young when we delivered papers. And our neighbourhood was really hilly because we lived on a mountain, so it was pretty difficult. And, you know, I don't think we were the best paperboys, unfortunately.

Morag: No? Did you miss a lot of houses? Or how were you bad paperboys?

Andrew: Well, in a way, you could say we were smart paperboys, because my brother and I developed a strategy. And so what we did one day is we decided just to not deliver the papers to every house. We just didn't do it. And the next day, a couple of people called the newspaper office to complain that they didn't receive their paper. And then we knew, "Ah, we always have to deliver to the houses that complain. But the people that don't complain don't care." So in this way, we were able to cut our work down substantially. We delivered to the 10 houses that complained, and usually we would just **ditch the other newspapers**. We were bad. But...

Morag: That is incredibly funny, and really smart, but not what you were paid to do.

Andrew: No. But I justified it by the fact that they paid us such a small amount of money. It was almost a slave wage. It was really, really bad, so... I don't know. I kind of feel a little guilty, though, I have to admit.

Morag: To be honest, I never knew anybody who read the kinds of papers that you would have been delivering. So it's probably only those 10 people who really wanted them. You're fine.

Andrew: Exactly.

I have another funny story about the newspaper that I'll tell quickly 'cause I like it and I haven't thought of the story for a really long time.

Morag: **Go ahead.**

- Andrew: The newspaper that I worked for sometimes would get contracted to deliver some extra advertisements for companies. So sometimes this would be a flyer, but sometimes it was something better, like a sample, a product sample.
- Morag: Ooh.
- Andrew: And so one time, they gave miniature boxes of cereal that we were supposed to deliver to each house. But my brother and I just kept all the cereal because nobody knew that they were going to get a free box of cereal that day.
- Morag: That is pretty beautiful.
- Andrew: So we got a lot of Frosted Flakes.
- Morag: Ooh, that's a delicious cereal.
- Andrew: And it's one that my mom wouldn't let me eat 'cause it's too sugary. So it was a **win/win**.
- Morag: Well, it sounds like your first job was quite a time.
- Andrew: It was, looking back on it, it was quite funny.
- Morag: Yeah.
- Andrew: But enough about me, what about you? Can you tell me about your first job?
- Morag: Well, I guess if we're talking about the first time we ever got paid, it would be babysitting. Yup.
- Andrew: OK, you were a babysitter.
- Morag: Yeah, I would babysit for a couple people's kids in the neighbourhood, but I don't think I was much older than them. So I think I was about 11 or 12 maybe, yeah, 12, maybe 12 or 13, actually. And I was babysitting somebody who was 9. So that didn't always go so well because you don't have much authority when you're only 3 years older than someone.
- Andrew: It's quite funny to think. I'm wondering if the same thing happens these days.
- Morag: I don't know.
- Andrew: I think parents would be hesitant to leave their kids alone with a 12-year-old.
- Morag: Yeah, I think, I think I was wrong. I think I was 13, so technically a teenager, but still very much a kid. And I would—I remember there was one family, and I would be looking after a 4-year-old girl, a 7-year-old boy, and a 9-year-old girl.

- Andrew: Wow.
- Morag: Right?
- Andrew: So they really worked you hard.
- Morag: Yeah! Oh, ah, I remember the little kid never wanted to go to bed. It was so impossible. I don't know what they were thinking, or what I was thinking. The reason why I took that job was so that I could buy comic books.
- Andrew: Comic books, OK.
- Morag: Right, I wanted to have my own money to buy some comics. So why did you take your first job?
- Andrew: I also wanted to buy things. And so the first thing I remember buying is an electric guitar.
- Morag: Oh my gosh, that's a really large purchase.
- Andrew: Well, it was a very cheap electric guitar.
- Morag: OK.
- Andrew: And remember that I have a brother that is close to me in age. So a lot of times we would split purchases. We would buy something together, and share it. So I don't know if my brother was ever interested in guitar, to be honest, but I convinced him that he should be interested in guitar so I could get one faster.
- Morag: Well, that sounds like it **worked out** pretty well for you, because you still play the guitar.
- Andrew: Yeah, I still play the guitar and he doesn't, so...
- Morag: Oh, you sound like a smart and devious young kid, Andrew.
- Andrew: I know. This episode is really **bringing out the worst in me**. I'm telling all my evil ways.
- Morag: It's not so bad, not so bad.
- Andrew: So, if technically your first job was babysitting, what was your first real job where you were an employee of a company or business?
- Morag: My first real job was working at a pizza place. I started by answering the phones. I think I was 15 or 16. I started answering phones and taking people's orders, and I moved up and was promoted to be a cook.

- Andrew: Nice, so you worked your way up the pizza ladder.
- Morag: Yeah, the corporate pizza ladder.
- Andrew: And were you in high school at this time?
- Morag: I was. I was in high school, but, to be honest, my interest, or my reason for getting the job didn't—hadn't really changed. I still just wanted to buy comic books. Mmhmm.
- Andrew: OK, so you were working for the comics.
- Morag: I was working for the comics, yeah. I guess that's a theme. You were devious, and I really liked comic books.
- Andrew: There you go.
- Morag: Things we've learned.
- Andrew: So how old were you when you got this job? You were a high school student.
- Morag: Yeah, I think I was 15 or 16. I can't quite remember. It's been that long.
- Andrew: Now compared to your classmates at school, was this early to get a job or was this late to get a job?
- Morag: I think, strangely, it was a bit of both because the people who worked in high school tended to be working already by the time they were 15 or 16. But then the people who weren't working never got a job. Does that make sense?
- Andrew: Yeah.
- Morag: So I was one of the later people to get my job in high school, but many people I knew never had one in high school at all.
- Andrew: OK, yeah, same situation at my high school. Some people had to work, some people chose to work, and some lucky people didn't have to work at all.
- Morag: Mmhmm, I think I was in the mostly choosing to work one. How about you, Andrew?
- Andrew: Yeah, I chose to work, although I was strongly encouraged by my parents to work. It was kind of expected of me.
- Morag: Similar with me.
- Andrew: It was expected of me, but it differed from some of my friends, or, unfortunately, some of my friends had to work to help the family make money.

Morag: I had, yeah, a couple of friends like that too.

Andrew: This was a little bit different from me. My parents were more expecting me to work to learn some skills and some responsibility, and to make a little money for myself, but it wasn't a necessity for the family, per se.

Morag: No, well, that's lucky for you and for me.

Andrew: I think we're out of time for today.

Morag: You're probably right. It's been lovely to learn about your devious past.

Andrew: Well, I'm glad you enjoyed hearing about it. And I liked learning about your past, as well.

I want to thank everybody for listening today. And please remember to visit our website at [Culips.com](http://Culips.com). That's the place where you can learn about becoming a Culips member, and you can listen to all of our past episodes.

So until next time, take care, and we'll talk soon. Bye, everybody.

Morag: Bye, everyone.

## Detailed Explanations

### To go ahead with something

These learning materials will discuss two meanings of the phrasal verb **to go ahead**.

The first use of **to go ahead** is to put a plan into motion, or to start doing something. **To go ahead** with something is a flexible and useful phrase that you can use to talk about starting on any sort of plan or activity.

The second use of **to go ahead** is as a prompt or indication of permission. At one point in this episode, Andrew asks Morag a question to which she replies, “**Go ahead**.” So, Morag used **go ahead** is an alternative, informal way of saying “Yes, that’s fine. Please continue.”

Here are a couple more examples with both uses of **go ahead**:

Iain: Are you still coming to John’s tonight for dinner?

Belle: Sure am! What time do we need to leave?

Iain: In about half an hour. Will you be ready by then?

Belle: I’ll try my best! I’m going to **go ahead** and hop in the shower right now. I’ll get ready as quickly as I can.

Jerry: Hi Anna! How’s your week going?

Anna: Not bad. My old bike finally stopped working, though. I’m not looking forward to replacing it.

Jerry: That’s a shame. What’s wrong with it?

Anna: I’m not really sure, but the gears stopped working almost completely.

Jerry: One of my roommates is a bike mechanic. He might be able to give you a deal on fixing it up.

Anna: That would be awesome!

Jerry: If you’re cool with it, I could come by some evening this week and pick it up.

Anna: **Go ahead**! Just send me a text when you want to come by.



## Win/win

A **win/win** situation is one that benefits everyone involved.

There are many situations where one person has a better outcome than the other. These are not **win/win** scenarios! A **win/win** situation is one in which everyone is happy with the result.

For example, imagine you have an extra table in your house that you don't want anymore, but you don't want to throw it away. If you find out that your neighbour needs a new table and is willing to take your old table away for free, that is a **win/win** situation. You don't have to worry about getting rid of the table, and your neighbour gets a new table for free. Everyone benefits!

So, if something is **win/win**, it is the best scenario for everyone.

Here are a couple more examples with **win/win**:

Sophie: Do you like my new dress?

Tyler: It's gorgeous! It looks really expensive, though. Where did you get it?

Sophie: You know my friend Andrea? Well, she has way too much stuff. She was complaining about it the other day. That girl has no idea how to organize her things. Her whole apartment was a mess! So, I offered to come over and help her pick which things to get rid of, and to organize the rest.

Tyler: That was really nice of you! I hate doing that sort of thing.

Sophie: I think organization is fun! She obviously doesn't like doing it either, though. She was so happy I helped her out that she gave me some of the awesome clothes she didn't want anymore.

Tyler: Sounds like a **win/win**!

Hannah: Why do we have so many dishes? This is awful. I hate doing the dishes. Why did we think it was a good idea to clean the apartment, again?

Bruce: I like doing the dishes. I could do them after I finish vacuuming.

Hannah: Hey, I have an idea. What are your feelings about vacuuming?

Bruce: It's terrible.

Hannah: Why don't you do the dishes and I can vacuum? It'll be a **win/win**!

### To bring out the worst in someone

As we all know, no one is perfect. Everyone has both positive and negative qualities to their personalities. While someone might be generally kind and helpful, in some situations they might get really cranky and difficult to deal with. These situations, you could say, **bring out the worst in them**.

So, **to bring out the worst in someone** is to cause them to show the most negative parts of their personality.

For example, Andrew says that this episode is **bringing out the worst in him**. He says this because all his stories about being a paperboy involve him being sneaky and deceitful, which are not positive qualities.

Here are a couple more examples with **to bring out the worst in someone**:

Steve: Hi Grace, how have you been? I haven't seen you in almost a year!

Grace: Hey Steve! I'm doing pretty well.

Steve: Are you still dating Chris?

Grace: No, we broke up a few months ago.

Steve: I'm sorry to hear that. You guys seemed like such a great couple.

Grace: You might be right about the beginning of the relationship, but by the end we were **bringing out the worst in each other**. He was anxious all the time and I was constantly getting mad. I think we're a lot healthier as people when we're just friends.

Steve: Good for you guys. Breaking up is always hard, but it sounds like you made the right decision.

Hugo: Hey, how did your softball game go?

Lynn: I think I'm going to have to quit the team.

Hugo: Why? I thought you liked playing.

Lynn: I do, but people don't like playing with me. I think the competition **brings out the worst in me**. I get pretty aggressive and mean.

Hugo: Oh dear, that's surprising. You're usually such a sweet person!

## To ditch something or someone

At the simplest level, *to ditch* is to leave behind. There is a small difference in meaning between **ditching a person or activity** and **ditching an object**, but both refer to continuing along without the person or object that has been left behind.

**Ditching an object** is the same as getting rid of it or throwing it away. If you have some paper that needs to be recycled, you could say that you're going **to ditch it** in a recycling bin.

When you **ditch a person or activity**, however, you do not throw them away. When someone talks about **ditching someone**, they mean that they did not want to be around them anymore. If you **ditch an activity**, it's similar to **ditching a person**. If you **ditch work** for a day, it means you didn't go to work that day. So, **ditching a person or activity** is the same as not interacting or being engaged with that person or activity anymore.

Here are a couple more examples with **to ditch something or someone**:

Kate: Ugh, my little sister is coming over and she's bringing her annoying friends.

Joe: Oh no! I don't want to hang out with them. They're going to ruin our nice, quiet evening.

Kate: I know, but what can I do? She never listens to me when I tell her not to come over.

Joe: Can we try **to ditch them**? We can say we have drinks with friends and have to leave soon.

Kate: I can't **ditch my sister**. Apart from anything else, she would somehow find out. She's a sneaky one.

Joe: Fine. I guess we'll just have to hang out with them.

Mary: Alan, how old are your sneakers?

Alan: Um, I don't know. A couple of years?

Mary: I don't believe you. They look like you inherited them from somebody's granddad. You really should **ditch them**.

Alan: But they're so comfy! I don't want to get rid of them.

**To work out**

As an intransitive verb, **to work out** means to be successful or to function in an effective and suitable manner.

For example, if your friend is worried about her new job and you want to reassure her, you might say, “Your job will **work out**.” By saying that something will **work out**, you mean that the situation will develop into a success.

By the same logic, you can say that something didn’t **work out** if it was a failure. If someone asks you about a job interview that went poorly, you could say that it didn’t **work out**, meaning that you didn’t get the job.

Here are a couple more examples with this meaning of **to work out**:

Josh: Hey Natasha, come over here and take a look at this couch. Do you think it would **work out** for our living room?

Natasha: I don’t know, I think it might be a little too big. I mean, it’s huge! Would it even fit through the front door?

Josh: It’s so nice, though. I’ve always wanted a sectional couch like this. My buddy had to move a piano into his house by renting a crane. Maybe we could do that with the couch?

Natasha: Josh, that’s crazy.

Harold: Hi Jackie! How’s the new apartment?

Jackie: The space is beautiful, but I don’t know about my new roommates.

Harold: Oh yeah, what’s the issue?

Jackie: There’s nothing wrong with them, really. We just don’t have much in common.

Harold: That’s not so bad! I had a roommate once who was a disco fan who worked shifts. He was only awake and at home between 2 a.m. and 8 a.m., and would play loud music that whole time.

Jackie: Wow, that’s way worse. Maybe I’m being too picky. It’ll probably **work out**.

Harold: That’s the spirit!

## Quiz

**1. If you ditch something, where is it?**

- a) at your friend's house
- b) in the trash
- c) on your kitchen table
- d) any of the above, but not with you

**2. Three friends have an argument, but come to a resolution that is win/win. How many of them are pleased with the result?**

- a) none
- b) one
- c) two
- d) three

**3. Responding to a question by saying, "Go ahead" is the same as saying which of these?**

- a) never
- b) yes
- c) maybe
- d) not now

**4. True or false: If something works out, it proves to be successful.**

- a) true
- b) false

**5. If something brings out the worst in someone, what does it do?**

- a) It puts them in a good mood.
- b) It makes the flaws in their appearance more obvious.
- c) It reveals the worst parts of their personality.
- d) It makes them feel jealous.

## Quiz Answers

1.d    2.d    3.b    4.a    5.c

### Episode Credits

Hosts: Andrew Bates and Morag St. Clair  
Episode preparation/research: Andrew Bates  
Audio editor: Andrew Bates  
Transcription: Transcript Divas Transcription Services  
Learning materials writer: Morag St. Clair  
English editor: Stephanie MacLean  
Webmaster: Hussain Mohammed  
Business manager: Tsuyoshi Kaneshima  
Project manager: Jessica Cox