

## Chatterbox #18 – Pet Peeves

Transcript

Maura: Hello everybody, this is Maura ...

Robin: And Robin.

Maura: And we're coming to you from Culips with our Chatterbox podcast.

Robin: **Chatter, chatter, chatter ...**

Maura: Yeah, so if you want to know more about this episode you can go to our website Culips.com and check out our Lipservice.

Robin: And in the Lipservice you will find the transcript and detailed explanation. All the good stuff that'll help you along with your English studies.

Maura: Yes, all the good stuff. So today's episode is the Chatterbox episode.

Robin: And we have a topic – **pet peeves**.

Maura: Yes, **pet peeves**.

Robin: I love that expression, p- p- **pet peeves**.

Maura: Yeah, it's funny and if you haven't heard it before it probably sounds very strange, but it's two words, **pet** and **peeves**.

Robin: **Pet** and **peeves**.

Maura: Yes.

Robin: But does it have anything to do with animals?

Maura: No, nothing to do with animals, nothing to do with pets. So what is a **pet peeve**?

Robin: A **pet peeve** is something that bothers you, that irritates you subtly.

Maura: Right, so it's something that you don't like, that annoys you, that you complain about, like, "oh, I hate this," or "this really bothers me." Right it's only little things. So a little thing in your everyday life that bothers you.

- Robin: What are some common *pet peeves*?
- Maura: Well, a friend of mine really hates when people chew and eat with their mouth open.
- Robin: OK.
- Maura: Yeah ... when they are eating but their mouth is open and you can hear what's going on in there and maybe they are talking at the same time.
- Robin: That's definitely one of my **pet peeves** too.
- Maura: Yeah, so some **pet peeves** are really common and they bother or annoy a lot of people but **pet peeves** are kind of individual, like something that is my **pet peeve** that really bothers me, maybe is something that doesn't bother you Robin, right?
- Robin: Absolutely, it's all, it all depends on the person. (**clicking** sound)
- Maura: Robin?
- Robin: Yeah?
- Maura: What's that sound?
- Robin: Um, I don't know what you are talking about.
- Maura: Robin! Stop **clicking** your pen!
- Robin: Yes. I'm sorry. Yes.
- Maura: **It's driving me crazy!**
- Robin: I didn't know that it was one of your **pet peeves**, I'm sorry!
- Maura: Right, so that's another one that might bother some people.
- Robin: Or you know, **scraping your nails on a on a blackboard or tapping them on a desk.**
- Maura: Yeah, those kinds of repetitive behaviours, something that you do over and over again and you repeat. Some people, that's their **pet peeve**.

- Robin: Indeed.
- Maura: OK cool, so I think now everyone knows a little bit more about **pet peeves**. So let's listen to some of our **pet peeves**.
- Robin: So we'll listen in to some examples. Check it out.
- Maura: OK, I'll go first ... So my pet peeve is people who are **late** because I'm usually on time and I'm not patient so I hate waiting for people. You know, you arrive at the right time and you're just waiting and waiting for five, ten, fifteen minutes, twenty minutes, for the person to **show up**. That is something that really bothers me. OK, now next is Harp. Well where's Harp?
- Robin: Hey where's Harp?
- Jessie: Not here yet.
- Maura: **Ugh**, Harp is late? OK who's next then?
- Robin: I'll go next.
- Maura: Oh Robin.
- Robin: OK, my **pet peeve** is when you go to the supermarket and you buy an avocado because you want to make a nice sandwich, you want to take it home and make a nice sandwich. You bring this avocado home, you cut it open and it's all **rotten**, that's, **ugh**, that's the most disgusting thing that could possibly happen. That's my **pet peeve**. How about you Jessie? What's your **pet peeve**?
- Jessie: Well my **pet peeve has to do with** escalators. Those are the stairs that move. You get on and it'll take you up or take you down. And here in Montreal there's kind of a rule, **an unspoken rule**, that if you want to stand still on the escalator you stand on the right side, and on the left side people can walk up the escalator if they want to get up faster. So my **pet peeve** is people who stand together on the left side and the right side and no one can walk by them and then everybody has to wait. I hate that! How about you Moheb? What's your **pet peeve**?
- Moheb: Well, my **pet peeve** is **stickers**. You know when you buy something new and you're just so happy to have it, maybe it's a CD or something and you just need to get that little **sticker** off the corner. And you start scraping it with your fingernail and you try and you try and you try, and then it becomes really sticky and really, you know just really hard to

get off and when finally you get it off it leaves a really ugly mark on your brand new thing. **That really drives me crazy.** Oh, here's Harp!

Harp: Hi everyone! Sorry I'm late. Umm, my **pet peeve** is when I'm crossing the street and there's a car waiting to turn and they start **honking** at me. I'm crossing the street. I just want to get to the other side. But I get especially angry if it's raining or if it's cold outside. Because I think, you're just waiting in your nice warm car and I have to walk. It's my **pet peeve**.

Maura: So those are some of our **pet peeves**.

Robin: We'd be interested in hearing some of yours. So please write us at Culips. Um, post on our website.

Maura: Yeah, because **pet peeves** can be cultural a little bit. Maybe in other cultures there are other **pet peeves** and our **pet peeves** were very North American.

Robin: We'd like to hear yours. Anyways, this has been Robin ...

Maura: And Maura.

Robin: And we're **signing off folks**. Take care!

Maura: Bye.

## Detailed Explanation

### Pet Peeves

A **pet peeve** is a small thing that bothers or annoys you in everyday life.

Most people know **pet** to mean an animal that lives with you, but **pet** can also be used to talk about something that is your favourite or personally close to you. In this case, **pet** is being used like this.

And a **peeve** is an annoyance, something that bothers you. It can also be used as a verb, like, "I was really **peeved**."

So, a **pet peeve** can be literally translated as a personal annoyance.

### Chatter

The name of this kind of episode is Chatterbox, which means a person who talks a lot. The word **chatter** is also a word by itself. **Chatter** means to talk quickly, often without thinking about what you are saying.

For example, a teacher might say to a class, "Class, stop your **chattering**."

Also connected to this word with a similar meaning is **chit chat** or **chat**.

### It's driving me crazy!

This idiom is quite common. Have you already heard it? **To drive someone crazy** means to do something that really bothers someone. So when you are talking about a **pet peeve** this is an expression that can be used quite naturally.

When Moheb says what his **pet peeve** is, he uses this expression. He says, "**That really drives me crazy**," when he is talking about his **sticker pet peeve**.

There are many variations of this expression with **crazy** that have the same meaning. Here is a little list.

**It's driving me crazy.**

**That drives me crazy.**

That makes me crazy.

It's making me crazy.

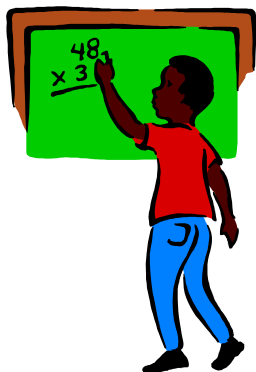
It's driving me insane.

That makes me go insane.



Scraping your nails on a blackboard/Tapping them on a desk

An action that bothers a lot of people is when one person **scrapes their nails on a blackboard**. This means that a person at a **blackboard** moves their **nails** down the **blackboard** and makes a loud, high, scraping sound. This sound really annoys some people and is therefore their **pet peeve**.



**Nails** means fingernails. **Blackboard** is the object teachers write on for the class to see. **Scrape** means to scratch or rub harshly on something.

The other **pet peeve** that Robin mentions is **tapping nails on a desk**. In this case, **to tap** is to touch something with one (or more) fingers and then touch again, and again, and again ... - that is **tapping**! If someone **taps a desk** repeatedly, it can become annoying.

Late

Maura's **pet peeve** is when people are late. This is very cultural! In some cultures it is normal to be late, in fact, a plan to meet at 6 o'clock means that no one will be there until at least 7. In other cultures, if the plan is to meet at 6 o'clock then everyone is there at that time, or even 5 minutes before.

Cultural Note:

Generally, in Canada and North America, if an event is supposed to start at a certain time, that is the time it will start, and so that is the time you are expected to be there. If you are having a dinner at someone's house, people usually come around the time scheduled, but can be up to 30 minutes late without being too rude. This also depends on the people preparing the dinner, because they might personally consider it rude.

If there is a party, generally people can come at any time after it begins. If the party starts at 9 o'clock, the guests can come any time after that. They are not expected to arrive at 9pm.

If you go to a concert or show, it usually starts a little bit late. The spectators arrive on time, but the show starts late!

Show up

**To show up** means to arrive. It is often used in a casual way to describe someone who is late. Like Maura says in this episode, you have to wait for the person to **show up** when they are late.

Here are a couple more examples using **show up** to talk about someone who is late.

Maryse: Where is Kyle?

Hank: He usually **shows up** 15 minutes late for everything, so he should be here by 2:15.

Viviane: You finally decided to **show up**, eh?

Pricilla: This time it wasn't my fault. I was stuck in traffic.

### Rotten

The avocado was **rotten**. Whenever you buy a piece of fruit or a vegetable it is not nice when it is already **rotten**. **Rotten** means that it is not fresh and is starting to decay, in other words, you do not want to eat something when it is **rotten**. In the case of the avocado, when you cut open an avocado and see that it is brown or grey on the inside this means it is **rotten**. Who wants a **rotten** avocado?



### Ugh!

This is a sound that means something is disgusting. And Robin says **ugh** when he is talking about something disgusting: an avocado that is **rotten**.

Another sound that we say when something is disgusting is **ew**. It has pretty much the same meaning.

Here are a couple of examples.

Tonisha: I had to take the garbage outside last night and it smelled so bad!

Eric: **Ew!**

Jason: **Ugh**, the milk in my fridge is way past its expiration date.

Yasmina: That sounds disgusting.

**Ugh** can also be a groan or grunt. Check out the description in the Corny episode.

### Unspoken rule

An **unspoken rule** is a social rule that people follow, but it does not need to be spoken about because everyone should know it. This includes specific ways of acting in certain situations, just like standing on the right side of the escalator.

There are **unspoken rules** about when it is appropriate to use a cell phone. There is generally an **unspoken rule** that you shouldn't date your friend's ex- boyfriends or girlfriends. **Unspoken rules** are not always followed by everybody, which is exactly what Jessie's pet peeve is about!

### Has to do with

If one thing **has to do with** another, it simply means that they are connected. Jessie says that her pet peeve **has to do with** escalators, and that means that there is a connection between those two.

Here are some examples.

Fiona: I need to talk to you. It **has to do with** work.

Alison: Alright. What is it?

(The connection is between what Fiona wants to talk about and work.)

Carl: Did you read the email from the boss?

Rob: No, what does it **have to do with**?

(The connection is between the email and the subject of the email.)

Brenda: But I don't understand what Jon **has to do with** our party.

Vicky: Since he is the owner of the house, we have to ask him about having it there.

(The connection is between Jon and the party.)

### Stickers/sticky

A **sticker** is a cohesive label or image. One side of a sticker has some kind of glue that sticks to something. It is best to explain **stickers** by giving examples.

The prices of products in a store are often shown by using **stickers**, and this is the kind of **sticker** that Moheb talks about. Some children also collect stickers with images of animals or other cute stuff. Stores sometimes have **stickers** in their windows promoting products on sale.

There can really be all kinds of **stickers**, but they are all sticky one on side so they can stay in the place you want them to – and maybe never come off!

### Honking

A **honk** is a sound. In this case, Harp is talking about cars. When a driver needs to get the attention of another driver he can use his horn, which makes a loud **honking** sound. When someone uses a car horn, the verb is **to honk**.

A **honk** is also what the sound of a goose is called. A goose is a bird found on farms and in the wild, usually with a long neck.

### Signing off

**To sign off** is a way to announce the end of something, especially a broadcast, like in radio or now in podcasts. Robin says this at the end of our podcast, to tell you that it is the end of the podcast.

### Folks

In this case, **folks** mean people generally, but in specific cases it can mean different kinds of people. **Folks** can be used to talk about specific groups of people. It can also be used to talk about someone's parents. It is almost always used in a casual, almost intimate way.

Here are some examples with the word **folks**.



Harriet: Hey **folks**! Welcome to the party!  
(people in general)

Bruce: Who are those **folks** that just came into the party?  
(specific people)

Guy: My **folks** are coming to visit this weekend.  
(parents)

**Quiz** (see the answers at the bottom of this Lipservice)

1. What does the word *peeve* mean?

- a) to have a pet
- b) to be bothered or annoyed
- c) to be happy
- d) to be worried

2. Which is **NOT** a synonym for the expression it's driving me crazy?

- a) That makes me crazy.
- b) It is driving me insane.
- c) It is making me insane.
- d) It is making me sane.

3. Viv: I hate it when he is late. It is my pet peeve.

George: I know what you mean. He always \_\_\_\_\_ 30 minutes late.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) shows
- b) shows down
- c) shows up
- d) shows in

4. What kind of fruit or vegetables are **NOT** good to eat?

- a) rotten
- b) ripe
- c) ready
- d) sweet

5. When do we make the sound *ugh*?

- a) when something is delicious
- b) when something is sweet
- c) when something is sour

d) when something is disgusting

**6. What is the unspoken rule that Jessie talks about in this episode?**

- a) People should not use elevators.
- b) People should not use escalators.
- c) People should stand only on the right side of escalators.
- d) People should sit in elevators.

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**Please fill in the blank.**

- a) has to
- b) has to do with
- c) is with
- d) had better

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

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