

## Chatterbox #1 –On Campus

Transcript

Harp: Hello everyone, this is Harp...

Maura: And Maura...

Harp: At Culips.com, that's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. Today we're bringing you a new podcast, it's called **Chatterbox**.

Maura: In this podcast, we **chat** or talk. A **chatterbox** is someone who talks a lot. So in this podcast, we're going to talk about different subjects - cultural things, experiences - and we'll bring up some new vocabulary too.

Harp: Exactly. Hopefully we'll use some idioms and some new things you may not have heard.

Maura: And if you want to know more about it, you can always check out our Lipservice at our web site and look at the transcripts or more explanations.

Harp: Exactly, so we're going to start off Chatterbox with talking about university. Yeah, it's going to be maybe a four-part series. We haven't decided yet but today we're going to start with discussing living **on campus**. And Maura is going to be the person telling us about it because she lived it.

Maura: Yes, it wasn't so long ago that Harp and I were in university.

Harp: Exactly, it just **feels like yesterday**.

Maura: **Feels like yesterday**. And I really had a really fun experience.

Harp: So can you describe to me what it means to live in **dorms** or to live in **rez**?

Maura: Yeah, so you live usually **on campus**, so you live at your university in a special building. And there's a lot of different living situations. You could have your own room, you could share a room with one other person or two people or three people. There's all different kinds of arrangements. All different kinds of rooms and usually you share a bathroom too.

Harp: Now is this **co-ed**? Do you share with boys and girls? Or only girls?

- Maura: It also depends on the university, depends on the residence. At my university, which was in Guelph, Ontario in Canada, they had a couple residences where it was all male or all female, the whole building. Where I lived, it was **co-ed** but the floors were divided by sex and so the bathrooms were also divided by sex but it wasn't locked. Do you know what I mean? So you could find a man in your bathroom and if I wanted to go into a men's bathroom, I could.
- Harp: I can see that leading to a lot of trouble!
- Maura: Actually, I see your point but there wasn't any trouble really. I don't remember any incidences.
- Harp: Now, do you think boys are dirtier than girls? Was the boys' bathroom dirty?
- Maura: Well it was more dirty for sure. But I don't know what it was like at every school but at our school there was a professional person who did the cleaning.
- Harp: Oh, that's nice!
- Maura: So maybe once a week they cleaned our bathroom, gave us new toilet paper, all that stuff. So it's pretty easy.
- Harp: That's nice!
- Maura: But, yes, I did notice the boys' bathroom being dirtier for sure.
- Harp: Boys are definitely dirtier in general - there are exceptions - but in general. Now OK, now more about the situation, the living situation. Did you have a kitchen?
- Maura: I did not have a kitchen. I know again there's all different kinds, sometimes you do have a kitchen, usually a shared kitchen. But where I lived there was a cafeteria and you had a meal card so you bought a certain amount of money or points and then you used the meal card every time you ate.
- Harp: Really? I imagine that to lead to a bad situation or what they call the **freshman 15**. Did this happen to you?
- Maura: The **freshmen 15**, that's funny. So the **freshmen 15**. So "**freshmen**" means your first year. We don't use it as much in Canada but we know what it is. It's more of an American term. But, right, a lot of people, when they go away to university their first year, they eat bad food and they gain 15 pounds.

- Harp: Exactly. Exactly.
- Maura: So, actually it never happened to me.
- Harp: You're lucky!
- Maura: But for other people, for sure, yep, they gained weight because the cafeteria food wasn't always great and you have a meal card, you know that's what we called it, a meal card, so you could buy chips or chocolate bars and it felt like it was free. It wasn't free but it felt like it was. So, yeah.
- Harp: I think that if it would have been me I would have gained the **freshmen 15**. For sure!
- Maura: There's lots of ice cream and stuff like that.
- Harp: So did you have a refrigerator at all? If you wanted to have maybe cereal in the morning?
- Maura: Yeah, we had a little refrigerator, exactly, and actually in the hallway there was also a little sink but we didn't have a stove or anything like that. But right, like cereal or things that you don't need to prepare, we could keep in our room.
- Harp: OK, interesting. Now you said that every university is different for rooms and so forth but how was your living situation? Did you share a room? Did you live by yourself?
- Maura: Well, I shared a room and it was funny because I thought, oh I wanted to meet people and be social and it does help you. But my friends with single rooms also met a lot of people, so it doesn't necessarily mean that you'll meet a lot of people. But, yeah, I had one roommate and we didn't become best friends but we never argued either. So it was kind of a good situation. And I have to say one thing: my room was really, really small.
- Harp: Really? Oh.
- Maura: I had visited a friend at the same university before I went, when I was in high school, and I saw that style and I was, I thought, oh that's so small. I don't want a room like that. But unfortunately you don't really get a choice. You can pick maybe your preferences, but you don't get a choice and so I was in a really, really small room. I mean, I seriously had my bed against a wall, probably I could walk 5 steps and I was at the other wall where my roommate's bed was.

- Harp: Wow, that's really small.
- Maura: Yeah, it was really small, but on the other hand, you were always out in other people's rooms talking or in class, and as long as you have a respectful roommate it's OK. And I'll say one more thing, that it is possible to change your room as well. There's a lot of people who quit or they have other problems. So yeah, you can try to switch if it's a big problem and you want to move around, it's possible.
- Harp: And now, where did you put your stuff? Where did you put your clothes?
- Maura: Well, I did have a big closet but unfortunately it took up, like, half of the room, right? But I had a really big closet and there was a dresser with drawers and stuff like that.
- Harp: OK, so you had storage space?
- Maura: Yup.
- Harp: Now in the topic of clothes. Where did you wash your clothes?
- Maura: There was also a room with washing machines so you could go down and just do your laundry there.
- Harp: And did you have to sit there when your clothes was washing? 'Cause I've heard that sometimes clothes get stolen or...
- Maura: Well, yeah, you never know. So, it's up to you if you want to take the risk but if it's busy and someone's waiting for the machine they might just take your wet clothes out and put them on top of the machine. You never know.
- Harp: Yeah, I wouldn't want someone touching my clothes. Especially when it's clean, when it's dirty, OK, who cares but once it's been washed...
- Maura: The other thing is if you're studying, why not just, you know, go down and study at the machine for an hour.
- Harp: Definitely, that can make sense. OK, now how about making friends. You said your roommate wasn't your best friend. But how did you make friends?
- Maura: There were a lot of activities.
- Harp: Did you have **frosh week**?

- Maura: Yeah, **frosh week**, so that's more what we call it in Canada. "**Frosh**" is when you're first year. It's a funny word, I don't know where it came from.
- Harp: I don't know.
- Maura: But right, **frosh week**, is the first week and there's lots of different activities. Really funny games, more like games for kids, you know. It's really crazy and weird outdoor games. Yeah, I met a lot of people I lived with in residence through those games and then usually different areas in residence have one person that's kind of in charge of them. Like a second year or a third year student. They are usually called the **resident advisor** or **R.A.** for short.
- Harp: Oh yeah, the **R.A.!** Yes I've heard of an **R.A.**
- Maura: So he organizes a lot of activities. Generally like a lot of people, you know, they're away from home too, they don't know anyone either. So everyone's kind of friendly and getting to know people.
- Harp: OK, now were there a lot of **dorm** parties?
- Maura: I wouldn't say there were any big parties in my experience. But there were a lot of **get-togethers**, you know, where there was like five people hanging out, and yeah, just hanging out **chatting**. That's what I loved - there was always someone around. But also, different residences have different reputations.
- Harp: Oh, OK.
- Maura: And you can know a little bit about them, like I said this one's all girls, this one's all boys but there's also ones that are like, this one's more of a party one. And I remember the one at my residence was called Johnston Hall and they were like the party residence. So maybe there were some big parties over there.

**Johnston Hall**

Johnston Hall's stone tower is the University of Guelph's best known landmark. A traditional style co-ed residence, Johnston is home to 315 students who live primarily in double and triple rooms.

Photograph by *Ccompscarad*.

- Harp: Imagine if you were a big studier and you got stuck there. That would suck.
- Maura: Yeah, yeah.
- Harp: OK, well, that's about all the questions I have for you today. Thanks so much 'cause I lived at home during university.
- Maura: Yeah, it's a really different experience, eh?
- Harp: Maybe we can talk about my experience next time.
- Maura: For sure.
- Harp: OK, so everyone, thanks for listening in, that was our first Chatterbox.
- Maura: Yes, and if you're going to university soon have fun. It's a good time.
- Harp: Yeah.
- Maura: We will see you next time when we continue the Chatterbox series with topics about university and go to our web site too, Culips.com
- Harp: Yes and check out the Lipservice with the transcripts from this podcast and Detailed Explanations, quizzes, all that good stuff.
- Maura: Yup. See you later, this has been Maura...
- Harp: And Harp. Bye everyone!

## Detailed Explanation

### To chat

“To **chat**” is the same thing as “to talk” but it is usually much more casual and informal.

Example:

*Dring dring (telephone rings)*

Jane: Hello?

Sarah: Hi Jane, it's Sarah. I was just looking at some pictures of us from university and I was thinking of all the good times. I just wanted to **chat** to see how you were doing.

Jane: That's funny. I was thinking to myself that it had been a long time since we **chatted**.

If you are talking with your boss about a work project it is not usually a **chat** but if you are talking with your colleague about your weekend you are having a **chat**.

As we mentioned in this episode, a **chatterbox** is someone who is very talkative. Maura and I are both **chatterboxes**.

### Feels like yesterday

In the episode, I mention that it “**feels like yesterday**” that I was in university. Yesterday is the day before today. This expression means that some time has passed, but university feels like it was not that long ago. In reality I have been out of university for four years but it feels I was there recently, not too long ago. I remember being in university so well, it **feels like I was there yesterday**.

This expression is used often when people are thinking back to a past event or a special time in their lives.

Example:

Bob: I can't believe that tomorrow is our 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. It **feels like it was just yesterday** we got married.

So in this example, although ten years have passed since Bob got married, for him it feels like it happened very recently. He can remember the wedding clearly. The time since his wedding has gone by quickly; it doesn't feel like ten years.

### Campus

**Campus** is the area that a university or college is on. Usually a university has many different buildings and locations within one area. This is called the **campus**.

When you live in residence, you live “**on campus**.” You could also call a friend on her cell phone and ask, “Are you **on campus**?” This means, “Are you at the university somewhere?”

When you live in the city in an apartment or house, it is called living **off-campus**.

In Montreal, there is a bar downtown called *Café Campus*. It is in French, but it translates to Campus Café. It is not **on-campus** but probably because of the name “**campus**,” a lot of students go there.

### Dormitories / Residence

When people go to school (usually college or university) in a city far from where their parents live, they often live in **dormitories**. **Dormitories** and **residences** are both used in this context but often when people talk about them, they use the slang words.

**Dormitories** are usually called “**dorms**.”

**Residences** are usually referred to as “**rez**” (notice that this is not “res” but “**rez**” probably because it is pronounced with a Z sound).

In general most students live in **dorms** or **rez** for their first and sometimes second year of school but for their third and fourth years they live **off campus**. I believe this has to do something with the large amount of partying or socializing that occurs when so many young people live in such close quarters. As students get older they usually want more independence and responsibility such as cooking for themselves (which is not possible in many **dorms** as Maura explained about her **dorm** with the cafeteria).

Often universities have **dorms** that are specifically for older students who are more mature and they usually have kitchens where the students can cook, if they don't have individual kitchens, they usually at least have shared kitchens.

### Co-ed

When there are both males and females at an event or place it can be referred to as **co-ed**. When a dorm or a school is **co-ed** that means that both sexes are allowed to live in that dorm.

Example:

This is a **co-ed** dorm (both sexes are allowed)



This is a girls only dorm.  
This dorm is for boys only.

\*Words that have a hyphen or dash (-) like in **co-ed** are also possible without the dash, **coed**. There is a trend toward not using the dash in general.

### Freshman 15

As we described in this episode, in the U.S. college and university system, people describe each year of study differently from how we talk about it in Canada. You may have noticed the American terms if you have watched any Hollywood movie that take place during college or university.

<u>Canadian</u>	<u>American</u>
First- (1 <sup>st</sup> ) year	Freshman
Second- (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) year	Sophomore
Third- (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) year	Junior
Fourth- (4 <sup>th</sup> ) year	Senior

Example:

In Canada: I'm in my **third-year** of university.

In the U.S.: I'm a **junior** in university.

So when students go away to university for their first year, or their freshman year, it is often the first time that they are away from home. The first year requires a lot of adjustment and students can often feel stressed out about school. They also may not have the time or place to cook healthy food. Students are usually eating a lot of junk food and fast food and they sometimes gain weight. This is what is referred to as **the freshman 15**. The 15 is a reference to 15 pounds. Canada officially follows the metric system for measurements, but we are still influenced by the American imperial system and refer to our weight in pounds instead of kilograms. We also use the term "**freshman**" only in this expression, **the freshman 15**.

### Frosh Week

In Canada, the school year starts at the beginning of September. There is a holiday called "Labour Day" on the first Monday of September, and then kids generally go back to school the next day. It is a Tuesday, but the actual date changes from year to year. During the week after Labour Day, universities and colleges across Canada have special activities for students who are new. They call this week "**Frosh Week**." First-year students get to play games, go to concerts and parties, and generally get to know all the other new students. It's a big party!

**Frosh Week** is open to students who live off-campus or on-campus (in "rez" or in dorms). Students in their first-year can also be simply called "**Frosh**".

#### R.A. – Resident Advisor

The **R.A.** is a student, who is not a freshman or a first-year student, who supervises and helps take care of the students living in **rez**. The **R.A.** also lives in the **dorm** and there is usually one **R.A.** for each area in a **dorm**.

#### A get-together

A **get-together** is like a small party. It is usually not planned far in advance and is very casual.

#### Our grammar mistakes

When English speakers talk casually, we make mistakes too. We often don't speak in perfect sentences. Here are some mistakes that we made. Oops!

Maura says "more dirty." When comparing two things, some adjectives use –ER on the end and other use "more" before the adjective. In this case, we should say "dirtier."

Harp says, "Now in the topic of clothes." This is a fixed expression that should be, "Now on the topic of clothes."

Harp says "And did you have to sit there while your clothes was washing?" "Clothes" is plural, so it should be, "...while your clothes were washing."

Harp says "I think that if it would have been me, I would have gained the **freshmen 15**." Lots of native speakers make this mistake. It is a complicated conditional. Harp should say, "I think that if it had been me, I would have gained the **freshmen 15**."

Maura says "And there's a lot of different living situations" and "There's all different kinds of arrangements". This should be "There are..." because "living situations" and "arrangements" are plural.

BUT so many native speakers say "There is" or "There's" all the time (for singular and plural) that it is now generally acceptable to say "There is" with a plural.

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

**1. What does it mean when someone has gained the Freshman 15?**

- a) They are taking 15 courses in their freshman year.
- b) They are a freshman and gained 15 pounds.
- c) They are a freshman and grew 15 inches.
- d) Their average score at school was 15 in their freshman year.

**2. I lived in a residence that was co-ed. What does that mean?**

- a) It was educational
- b) It was cooperative
- c) It was female only
- d) It was for males and females

**3. What is the name for the older student in residence and whose job it is to help out the younger students?**

- a) A.R. (advisor to the residents)
- b) R.A. (resident advisor)
- c) R.R. (resident referral)
- d) D.A. (dorm advisor)

**4. What is Frosh Week?**

- a) the first week at University
- b) the first week of exams
- c) a week of study
- d) the last week at University

**5. What is another word for residence?**

- a) dorm
- b) dormitory
- c) rez
- d) all of the above

**6. What is the name of the University grounds?**

- a) camp
- b) campus
- c) closet
- d) corner

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

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