

Chatterbox #3 – Dark Knight

Transcript

Maura: Hello this is Maura...

Harp: And Harp...

Maura: With the **Chatterbox** podcast at Culips.com and in the Chatterbox podcast what do we do, Harp?

Harp: We chat!

Maura: So we chat and we talk about lots of different topics.

Harp: Exactly, lots of cultural things or some sort of interesting news item.

Maura: Whatever's popular, whatever's happening?

Harp: Exactly.

Maura: And if you want to read the transcript for this podcast because sometimes we talk fast, you can go to our website...

Harp: Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Maura: And click on Lipservice for that and lots of other fun stuff. So today we're going to talk about a movie.

Harp: It's not just a movie; this is the summer **blockbuster** of 2008. And unfortunately I haven't seen it, so Maura is going to be our expert. But what movie is that Maura?

Maura: You know, I was going to say it's the Batman movie but that's not even the name. The name is *The Dark Knight*.

Harp: *The Dark Knight!*

Maura: Right, so it is the new Batman movie and honestly they make a new Batman movie every **couple** years, you know?

Harp: I can think of at least five from since when I was young.

- Maura: Yeah, I remember the last one a long time ago with Jack Nicholson as the Joker.
- Harp: Yup.
- Maura: But really I haven't watched one since, I'm not really that into it.
- Harp: Did you watch the first one of this series, the *Batman Begins*?
- Maura: Nope, not even.
- Harp: Oh, that was a very good one.
- Maura: Oh really?
- Harp: Really good, it's the only superhero that I've ever liked.
- Maura: Well you'll probably like this one because this one has received more **buzz**, you know?
- Harp: Yup.
- Maura: Everyone is talking about it. It's crazy. It's like if you haven't seen it people are wondering why not, like you have to see it.
- Harp: Exactly. So you were telling me that you went on Tuesday night to watch the movie, which in Canada, Tuesday night is the big night to watch movies because it is **cheap**. So how much did you pay for the movie?
- Maura: It was only five dollars.
- Harp: Wow, that's amazing.
- Maura: Yeah, some other theatres for **cheap night** it's still, like, ten dollars but this place was really good
- Harp: And just so you can compare it, a normal day, like if you go to the movie on a Friday it's, I think, thirteen dollars to watch the movie.
- Maura: At least ten, yeah. It's gone up since we were young already.
- Harp: Yup, I remember when it was like one or two dollars.
- Maura: Really? I don't even remember.

- Harp: Yeah, when we were really young.
- Maura: Yeah, so it was “**Cheap Tuesday**,” which is why we went ‘cause I wanted to get a discount, you know. But it was really busy still.
- Harp: It’s been five weeks. This is the fifth Tuesday that *The Dark Knight* has been out and it was **packed**?
- Maura: Yup. We went, like, two weeks ago and it was already sold out so we decided to come back. This time we went an hour before the movie started and we got a ticket no problem and we went into the theatre. I thought, “Yeah, it’s not going to be busy anymore,” but then the closer it got to the start time of the movie there were so many people. Like literally people were coming in and trying to find seats together if there were two of them, they couldn’t even find two seats together.
- Harp: Wow, that’s crazy!
- Maura: Yeah it really was, but we were lucky because we were there first, so we had great seats.
- Harp: Excellent. So now what did you think of the movie?
- Maura: Well, it was actually pretty good. Like I said, I haven’t seen the other Batman movies ‘cause I’m not into that kind of movie normally, a lot of action and violence. It’s not my thing but because of the **buzz** and people asking about it. I decided, “OK I want to go see it,” and it would be a good movie to see on the **big screen**. Yeah, it was pretty interesting, pretty good and there is also Heath Ledger in it.
- Harp: Yes, there’s the interesting story or the sad story of how his life ended when he was quite young. How old was he?
- Maura: I think he was just 28.
- Harp: Yeah, not even 30 and I don’t know much of the story around that but this was his last movie.
- Maura: Right, so that is interesting. He died tragically. Probably because of a drug overdose, an accidental drug overdose. But right, so, this movie comes out after he’s died. He’s arguably a very, very

talented actor so there's that part of it. So he was really great in the movie too.

Harp: They say he might get nominated for an **Oscar**.

Maura: Right. So right away there is **Oscar buzz** and I guess that's only happened once before, where someone's won an **Oscar** after they died.

Harp: Really? I don't ever remember this. Do you remember who that was?

Maura: No, but I think it was, like, **before our time**.

Harp: Ok. **Back in the olden days**.

Maura: Yeah, he's a really good actor and it is quite sad that he died so tragically.

Harp: Have you seen any of his other movies?

Maura: Yeah, actually I saw *Brokeback Mountain*, which was also pretty controversial.

Harp: Very controversial, I would say.

Maura: There was also **Oscar buzz**. Unfortunately they didn't win, but I saw that movie when I was in Thailand and there they have these awesome theatres. Not for every movie but special theatres that cost a bit more and you have like a huge couch to yourself and you get blankets too.

Harp: You get a blanket?

Maura: Yup.

Harp: I need to go to Thailand just to watch a movie.

Maura: Yeah, it was really, really cool.

Harp: That's amazing! Do you know the interesting thing is that I saw *Brokeback Mountain* in France? So we both saw it internationally. That is so interesting.

Maura: But in France it was pretty much like it is here?

- Harp: Yeah, and to tell you the honest truth, I don't like theatres that much. I prefer to watch a movie at home in my pyjamas, **curled up** on the couch. You know, you can lie down. And in the movie theatre you have to sit up and you have to wear jeans or normal clothes. We talk about pyjamas a lot.
- Maura: I think you talk about pyjamas a lot. So now's about time when Harp wants to get into her pyjamas and watch a movie. I think we should end it here.
- Harp: Exactly, that is good, yeah. I need some pyjama action.
- Maura: Yeah, *The Dark Knight*, I don't know if it is playing where you are but it is a pretty good movie especially if you like comics like Batman, especially if you like action movies and even if you don't, like me, it's still a pretty interesting movie.
- Harp: Yeah, so I have to watch it as well, but I want to hear what you think about it and I'll tell you all what I think about it on the blog.
- Maura: Cool. OK, so that's about it for this Chatterbox at Culips.
- Harp: Check out the Lipservice, too, at the website.
- Maura: This has been Maura...
- Harp: And Harp...
- Maura: Bye!
- Harp: Bye!

Detailed Explanation

We recorded this episode about one month ago. *The Dark Knight* is still playing in theatres now. It broke the record for the biggest opening weekend for a film. *The Dark Knight* earned \$155.3 million in the first weekend it opened.

Blockbuster

A **blockbuster** is a major hit or a big deal. It can be used in other situations, for example “a **blockbuster** trade” in hockey (when a really good hockey player switches to another team), but typically it is used to refer to movies. A **blockbuster** movie is one that everyone is talking about; your colleagues, friends, family and even strangers. Some major **blockbusters** from the past are *Titanic*, *Spiderman*, *Harry Potter* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

When a movie is a **blockbuster** everyone wants to see it very soon after it is released, and usually they will wait in long line-ups to see it. *The Dark Knight* is one of the biggest **blockbusters** of 2008.

Couple

A **couple** usually means two, but sometimes more. When you are referring to people, for example a boyfriend and girlfriend or a husband and wife, they are a **couple**. But you can see “a **couple** of people” walking down the street, this means that there are at least 2 people but there could be 5 people. **Couple** is a very general way to talk about “some people.”

More than around about 5 people would no longer be a **couple** but maybe “a few” or “several.” We say “a few” or “several” to refer to more people in general. “**Couple**” doesn’t only to refer to people, but to things as well.

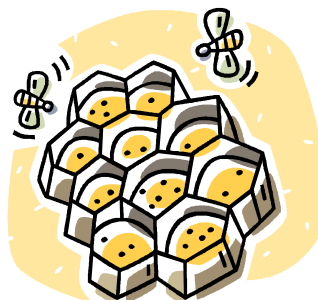
Here are two examples:

I ate a **couple** of hot dogs.

I saw a **couple** of my movies this summer.

Buzz

Buzz is an interesting word because it has a **couple** of meanings that are related. The literal meaning of “**buzz**” is “noise.” Bees make a **buzzing** noise. Bees are the little black and yellow flying bugs that make honey. If electronics are not working properly they may **buzz**. Sometimes when it is really quiet we can hear a



light **buzzing**. It is not a very distinct noise.

In this episode, when we say **buzz** we are referring to exciting rumours or gossip. *The Dark Knight* is a movie that everyone started talking about, even before it was in theatres. People talked about it a lot and got excited about it. This is **buzz**.

It probably comes from the noise a lot of people make when talking at the same time. If you think about a group of people talking who are far away from you, you can hear them making noise (similar to a bee **buzzing**) but you can't hear the exact words.

When you hear **buzz** about something, a movie or a new store, you are hearing lots of things about it. People are talking about it. You may hear specific or general things about it.

Companies are always trying to create **buzz** about a new product. When Pepsi launched their new commercial with Britney Spears there was a lot of **buzz** about the new drink.

Cheap

"**Cheap**" is an easy word to describe because it is the opposite of "expensive." It is a very relative word. That means it can change on the situation or someone's personal opinion of what is **cheap** and what is expensive.

For example, my friend bought a pair of shoes today. They were some special-edition Adidas sneakers. I asked him how much they were and he said they were **cheap**, only \$175. I was shocked, because for me a **cheap** pair of shoes is about \$30 or \$40. In my opinion, he has expensive taste, but for someone who likes name brands and spends thousands of dollars on fancy shoes he bought his shoes for **cheap**.

In many places in Canada, **cheap** night at the movies is Tuesday night. This is because people usually go to the movies on weekends so the movie theatres want people to go to the movies in the middle of the week when they normally wouldn't go.

Packed

Packed describes a place when there are a lot of people in one area. For example, the club was **packed** there was no room to dance. When we say a place was **packed** it means that there were a lot of people.

To **pack** means to put things in either a box or a suitcase. When you **pack**, you are going somewhere. For example, when you move to a new home you **pack**

your things into a box or when you go on a trip you **pack** your suitcase with your clothes. In the same way as **packed**, you have many things (clothes) in a small space (your suitcase).

Big Screen

When people talk about the **big screen** it is a very literal expression. Movie theatres have big screens. The small screen is their TV at home. More and more it is popular to buy big screen televisions to watch at home. TV screens are getting bigger but they are still not as big as the ones in a movie theatre. When people say the **big screen**, they are speaking about the movie theatre.

Often people like to see movies with a lot of action on the **big screen**, or in a theatre, because there are exciting stunts that look more amazing on the **big screen**.

Oscar

An **Oscar** is a specific award that is given in the movie industry. It is a very big deal in Hollywood and it is a big honor for a movie to simply be nominated for an **Oscar**. There are a lot of different awards but the most exciting awards are Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Supporting Actor and Actress.

Earlier I explained **buzz**, as exciting rumours that everyone is talking about. There is **Oscar buzz** around Heath Ledger's performance as the Joker in The Dark Knight. A lot of people believe he will be nominated and win the Best Supporting Actor for his performance.

Before our time

This expression means "before I was born". **Before our time** refers to something that happened before we were born or before we were old enough to remember.

In this episode we say that someone won an Oscar after they had died **before our time**. This means that we were not alive or were very young children when this happened.

We can also say, "it was **before your time**" or **before my time**. You can change it to fit the situation.

Back in the Olden days

This is a fixed expression that is used to describe a time in the past. When people talk about the past they can be very nostalgic and often they remember the past as being better than it was.

When someone says “**back in the olden days**” they could be referring to a **couple** of years ago or a long time like 50 or 60 years ago. Often times older people use this expression with younger people.

For example I am talking to someone who is now a teenage and I want to talk about my time as a teenager, I would say “**back in the olden days**” we used to play in the park not on a computer. This can imply that playing in the park is better than being at a computer.

We also have the expression, “Back in the good old days.” This expression is used in the same way.

To curl up

“**To curl up**” usually means to get comfortable. If you **curl up** on a couch or **curl up** with a book, this means that you get comfortable and cozy. Cozy means comfortable and warm.

When you **curl up** you are warm, probably under a blanket. Maybe you are in your pyjamas watching a great movie or having a cup of tea.

Some 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!

Harp says, “I can think of at least five from since when I was young.” She could say, “I can think of at least five from when I was young.” Or “I can think of at least five since I was young.”

Maura says “The closer it got to the start time of the movie there were so many people.” The end of this sentence doesn't match the beginning. “The closer it got to the start time of the movie, the more people came” or “the more packed the theatre got.”

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

1. The Dark Knight was the most popular movie of the summer. Because it was so popular, what do we call it?

- a) a buster
- b) a blockbuster
- c) a block party
- d) a blocker

2. This summer everyone was talking about The Dark Knight. There was a lot of _____ about The Dark Knight.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) blockbuster
- b) buzz
- c) Oscar
- d) cheap

3. Which day of the week is the cheap night at most movie theatres in North America?

- a) Tuesday
- b) Wednesday
- c) Thursday
- d) Monday

4. Heath Ledger was in the movie The Dark Knight. He gave such a good performance that there is already _____.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) Oscar
- b) blockbuster
- c) Oscar buzz
- d) awards

5. How can we describe a movie theatre that is full with lots of people?

- a) action
- b) buzz
- c) packed

6. Some people like to go to movie theatres and some people like to stay at home to watch movies. Some people like to go to theatres and some people like to _____ and watch a movie.

- a) curl up on the couch
- b) curl into a ball
- c) couch surf

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