

Chatterbox# 7 – Jessie is on the Spot

Transcript

Harp: Hello everyone, this is Harp at Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com, and I'm bringing you the **Chatterbox** podcast. Today we have a very special guest...

Jessie: Hi, I'm Jessie.

Harp: So now Jessie's a new friend of ours. We hope she's going **to stick around** for a long time.

Jessie: Yeah, I think I will.

Harp: So today we're just going to do what we do best, we are going to chat and so with this podcast, as with all of the podcasts, you can go to the website and check out the Lipservice and at the Lipservice you'll find the Detailed Explanation, the transcript, and even a short little quiz. So let's get started. Are you ready?

Jessie: All right. I'm ready.

Harp: OK! So tell me a little bit about yourself. You're not from Montreal?

Jessie: No, I'm originally from **North Bay, Ontario** which is about four hours north of Toronto.

Harp: Four hours north, wow!

Jessie: **It is quite a ways.**

Harp: Is it cold up there?

Jessie: It is in the winter, it's not too cold in the summer.

Harp: Thank God. Imagine!

Jessie: You know, we don't really live in **igloos** or ride **dogsleds** or anything.

Harp: You don't?

Jessie: No, surprisingly, no.



Jessie in Nova Scotia, Canada

- Harp: All my hopes and dreams are just **shattered**.
- Jessie: I guess you'll never be visiting **North Bay** now.
- Harp: No, I am just joking. So, how long have you been in Montreal?
- Jessie: Right now I have been in Montreal only for about two months.
- Harp: OK, and what do you do here?
- Jessie: I'm a medical writer.
- Harp: Really?
- Jessie: Yeah.
- Harp: So what does that mean?
- Jessie: Well, basically what I do is I write about different medical subjects like diseases and different kinds of medicines, and we make educational computer programs for pharmaceutical salespeople.
- Harp: Interesting. Now, when we were talking before, we realized that we've had a common experience.
- Jessie: Yeah, that is true.
- Harp: Yeah, we have both done the teaching English in **Korea**. So how long were you there for?
- Jessie: I was there for one year.
- Harp: One year in **Korea**, and where in **Korea** were you?
- Jessie: I was near a town called Geung-jo.
- Harp: Which is in the south?
- Jessie: Yeah, it is way in the south of **Korea**.
- Harp: OK, so tell me about your year there.

Jessie with students in Korea

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- Jessie: Well, I had a pretty incredible year there. I experienced a lot of new things there: I met some really great people, saw some really **neat** mountains, and did some hiking. Overall, it was one of the best years of my life.
- Harp: I agree, I would say the exact same thing. Definitely! So now what did you think of the food?
- Jessie: I have to say that I loved the food!
- Harp: Really?
- Jessie: I did.
- Harp: I agree with you one hundred percent!
- Jessie: I really like spicy food. We had a lot of fish there because the town was near the ocean and I love eating with **chopsticks**.
- Harp: Were you good with **chopsticks** from the beginning?
- Jessie: I was pretty good.
- Harp: I'm impressed.
- Jessie: Because I had a little bit of practice from here in Canada already, and the expectations weren't very high. Maybe they've seen a lot of English teachers from Canada who aren't very good with **chopsticks** because it seemed like every time I succeeded in getting a bite of food to my mouth everyone was telling me that I was really great at using **chopsticks**.
- Harp: I think it is 'cause they saw people like me.
- Jessie: Maybe.
- Harp: Yeah, **I was ridiculous with the chopsticks** in the beginning.
- Jessie: Did you get your shirt pretty dirty?
- Harp: Yeah, I kind of sometimes put the **Kleenex** on the shirt so that it wouldn't get dirty.
- Jessie: One time I had to eat spaghetti with **chopsticks**.
- Harp: No!

- Jessie: That was the most challenging meal.
- Harp: And you did it?
- Jessie: I did it, but I got a little bit of tomato sauce on myself.
- Harp: I think I would have been more successful with just my fingers.
- Jessie: Probably!
- Harp: Now, what did you think were some of the differences or the similarities between **Korea** and Canada?
- Jessie: That's a good question. Well, I think that maybe there aren't as many differences maybe as there used to be because everything is so global now: like, I had used **chopsticks** lots of times before I went to Korea, and lots of people in Korea listened to a lot of American and Canadian music.
- Harp: Yeah, definitely.
- Jessie: One of the big differences was in the language, obviously, not just the difference between Korean and English, but the way the language is used.
- Harp: So did you speak Korean?
- Jessie: Um, I didn't speak very much, but I tried really hard. I learned kind of the basic words for "thank you," "please." I started learning some simple things like **colours** and numbers, and I actually learned how to read the characters, but I didn't always know what they meant.
- Harp: OK, so now you said that was one of the differences between maybe North American English and Korean, can you explain that?
- Jessie: Well, in Korean there are three different levels of formality in language. So, you will use one form of a word when you are speaking to your peer - to someone who is socially equal to you, and then you will use a different form of a word when you are speaking to someone who is younger than you or who is maybe your employee, and then you use a third form of a word when you are speaking to someone who is your boss or older than you, it's a big part of the culture, I think.
- Harp: Yeah, I agree, I think it was an interesting part. So did you do a lot of travelling around **Korea** when you were there?

- Jessie: Yeah, we tried to do as much travelling as we could on our weekends, on our holidays. Sometimes we took the train to Seoul and it was **neat** because here in Canada, if you want to take the train from one side of the country to the other that is going to take you days and days, but in **Korea** we could take the train from the south tip to Seoul, which is in the north, in about four hours.
- Harp: No, I know, and people thought that was really far in **Korea**. Did you find that?
- Jessie: Yeah, well one thing I liked to do was to show my students a picture of **Korea**, of the country, like on a map, and then to ask them to draw Canada beside it on the blackboard to the right size and it was really funny because when I actually showed them how big Canada was compared to **Korea**, they could not believe it. The distance from the very south of **Korea** to the very north is about the same distance as from Toronto to Montreal.
- Harp: Oh, wow! Canada is so huge!
- Jessie: It really is.
- Harp: OK, well that's great. It sounds like you had an awesome time in **Korea**.
- Jessie: I had a great time!
- Harp: I think maybe we should wrap up here.
- Jessie: All right!
- Harp: All right, so, thanks everyone for listening, that was the Chatterbox and this is Harp.
- Jessie: And this is Jessie.
- Harp: Bye everyone!
- Jessie: Bye!

Detailed Explanation

Stick around

The expression “**To stick around**” generally means “to stay.” “Around,” in this case, is used to mean the general area.

Harp says that she hopes Jessie is going to **stick around**. That means that Harp hopes Jessie is going to stay with Culips and work with us.

Here are some other examples of using “**stick around**”:

Julie: What do you want to do?

Sandy: I am not sure. Let's **stick around** here for now.

Ellen: That new guy is a great addition to our staff. He works so hard.

Ned: I know. I hope he **sticks around**.

Or on TV they sometimes use this expression before going to a commercial break.

TV host: You'll want to **stick around** because our next guest is really exciting.

“**Stick**” has many different meanings. One of the meanings of the verb “**to stick**” is “to become attached by adhesion.” Glue and tape are types of adhesives. You can **stick** things together with glue and tape. There is a little connection to the “**stick around**” expression here.

When something is attached, it cannot move or it must stay in the same place. This is similar to “**stick around**” because in this case, someone should stay in the same place.

North Bay, Ontario

Sometimes we talk about different places in our podcasts, so you might be familiar with some of them. But just in case you aren't familiar with these places, here is some more information.

Ontario is a province in Canada. Toronto and Ottawa are in **Ontario**. **North Bay** is a city in Northern **Ontario**. Actually, in some ways it is not very north, but because there are so many people living in the southern part of **Ontario**, the city of **North Bay** is considered to be in the north.

North Bay has a population of over 50,000. It is close to nature, with lots of trees, forests and rivers all around it. For people who love outdoor sports, this is a destination! And it is Jessie's hometown.



Map of Canada (Wikipedia.org)

It's quite a ways

When talking about how far her hometown is from Toronto, Jessie says, **"It's quite a ways."** This seems like such a strange expression as we have **"a"** (which is used for singular nouns) before **"ways"** (which is definitely plural).

"It is quite a ways" is an expression that means that a place is far away. As **North Bay** is four hours north of Toronto, it is quite far. It is quite far from any other big city.

Here is another example for you:

Shawn: Are we there yet?

Jill: No, we are still **quite a ways** from the beach.

Igloos and dogsleds

Canada is known as a very cold country, but it is actually not as cold as most people think. We have a pretty warm summer. People who have not travelled to Canada sometimes think that we live in **igloos**.

An “**igloo**” is a shelter that is made of ice and snow. The Inuit (native people who live in northern Canada and in the Arctic Circle) used **igloos** as temporary structures during the winter when hunting or travelling many years ago.

Some people also think we ride **dogsleds** for transportation in the snow. A “**dogsled**” is a **sled** that is pulled by **dogs**. Here is a photo of **dog sledding**.



Also, the Inuit sometimes travel by **dogsled**. Some other Canadians may also do this, but it is not common. We drive cars, take the bus or walk.

Shattered

“**To shatter**” is to break something into many small pieces. If you drop glass it can **shatter**. This is the literal meaning.

Harp uses “**to shatter**” in a more descriptive way. We often use “**shatter**” to talk about broken hopes and dreams, and this is how Harp uses it.

Of course, Harp is only joking. After Jessie tells her that they do not live in **igloos** or ride **dogsleds** in **North Bay**, Harp jokes that she is very disappointed that they do not. Harp’s hopes and dreams are **shattered** (Harp’s joke dream was to go to **North Bay** and ride a dogsled).

Neat

“**Neat**” means cool, fun, and interesting. It is a slang term for something good. It can also mean “clean” or “tidy.” In this case, Jessie says “**neat** mountains,” so she means cool and beautiful.

More examples for you:

Nice car. **Neat** design.
That is a really **neat** hat.

Ridiculous

Harp says “**I was ridiculous with the chopsticks.**” The word “**ridiculous**” comes from the word “ridicule.” “To ridicule” is to laugh at someone, usually in a mean way. If someone is **ridiculous**, they are causing laughter to be directed at them.

So Harp means that when she used **chopsticks**, she was not good and so people laughed at her. She **was ridiculous with the chopsticks**.

Chopsticks

“**Chopsticks**” are what is used for eating in many parts of Asia, especially Japan, China, and Korea. “**Chopsticks**” are two long thin pieces of wood or plastic used to pick up food to eat.

Most western countries do not normally use **chopsticks**, and so people from those countries are not usually good at using them.

Kleenex

“**Kleenex**” is a paper tissue that you throw away after using. The most common use of “**Kleenex**” is for your nose, if you have a cold. We also use “**Kleenex**” when we cry to dry our tears.

“**Kleenex**” is actually just a brand name, like Nike or Adidas. It is the name of a company that makes paper tissues. It is very popular to replace the brand name of “**Kleenex**” for “paper tissue” in North America.

Here are some comparisons:

We can say either of these and the meaning is exactly the same.

Do you have a **Kleenex**? Or Do you have a tissue?

Another example of when a brand replaces a product is “Q-tip.” “Q-tip” is the name brand for a company that makes cotton swabs. There are many other companies that also make cotton swabs.

Instead of saying, “We need to buy cotton swabs,” we say, “We need to buy Q-tips.”

This brand name replacement cannot be done with every item. There are only some items when the brand name has replaced the real name of the product.

Here is a short list of brand names we often use instead of product names:

Kleenex	paper tissue
Q-tip	cotton swab
Tylenol	pain-relieving medication
Xerox	copy
Windex	window cleaner
Band-Aid	adhesive bandage
Scotch Tape	tape
Chapstick	lip balm

Colours

There are some small differences between Canadian, American, and British spellings. Your dictionary should usually tell you the differences. Or, if you use a British dictionary, you will have the British spellings only.

“**Colour**” is spelled with a “u” in Canada. In America it is spelled without the “u,” like “**color**.”

Korea

There is **North Korea** and there is **South Korea**. Because it is almost impossible to enter and travel in **North Korea**, we often use the word “**Korea**” to talk about South Korea only.

When people talk about teaching English in **Korea**, they almost always mean South Korea.

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

1. What does it mean when Harp says, “We hope Jessie is going to stick around”?

- a) We hope Jessie is going to get stuck.
- b) We hope Jessie becomes round.
- c) We hope Jessie stays outside.
- d) We hope Jessie stays with Culips.

2. Igloos and dogsleds are used in what kind of climate?

- a) hot and sunny
- b) snowy and cold
- c) warm and rainy
- d) cold and rainy

3. Lisa: Are we close to her house yet? I thought we would be there by now.
Mel: No. It is still _____. We will be driving for another hour.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) way away
- b) a ways away
- c) away
- d) way way

4. I like your apartment. It is really _____.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) shattered
- b) neat
- c) not
- d) Kleenex

5. What is Kleenex?

- a) paper tissue
- b) cotton swabs
- c) cleaning supplies
- d) chopsticks

6. What does Harp mean when she says that she “was ridiculous with chopsticks”?

- a) She was good at using them.
- b) She found them interesting.
- c) She was not good at using them.
- d) She found them funny.

7. Which country spells colour without a “u” (color)?

- a) Canada
- b) United States
- c) England
- d) Korea

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