

Chatterbox #9 – Rita in Montreal

Transcript

- Maura: Hello everyone out there, this time you're listening to Maura and I've got a friend here with me.
- Rita: Hi, my name is Rita.
- Maura: And we're bringing you the **Chatterbox** podcast at Culips.com, if you want to know more about this episode, and you want to see our transcripts or our quizzes, you can check out our Lipservice on our website. It's always there for you to help you understand our podcasts even more. Now this is the Chatterbox podcast and in this podcast we like to chat about anything cultural, anything that's happening and interview people sometimes about what's going on with them and what's happening in their lives. So we have Rita here with us.
- Rita: Hi everybody!
- Maura: And Rita is special at Culips because I am not from Montreal, I am not from Quebec. I am from another province called Ontario and Robin and Harp, they're not from Montreal either. There's a lot of people in this city who aren't actually from Montreal. But Rita is from Montreal.
- Rita: **Born and raised.**
- Maura: There's a lot of people in this city who aren't actually from this place.
- Rita: That is very true. A lot of my friends don't come from here.
- Maura: It's rare to meet someone and have them say that they are from Montreal.
- Rita: It's true, absolutely.
- Maura: Because it is such a great city. Yeah?
- Rita: Yeah, absolutely.
- Maura: Such a fun place to live. So, what was it like growing up in this fun great city, Montreal?

- Rita: It was great. I grew up in an **Anglophone** community, so a lot of my friends were English. I'm **first-generation** Italian Canadian. My parents came to Canada, to Montreal, in 1968 with my two brothers and my mom was pregnant with my sister.
- Maura: OK.
- Rita: But we had a lot of family here with us as well so it made that transition a little bit easier. I grew up in a great neighbourhood, it was very multicultural. I had Greek friends, I had Jewish friends, I had Italian friends. So it was just a lot of fun.
- Maura: That is something else that I think is really special about Montreal too, there are so many different cultures and often they live altogether. So they are not just living separately there's all kinds of cultures interacting together.
- Rita: Absolutely, absolutely. You can see anyone from anywhere, at anytime.
- Maura: Yeah. So that is interesting too because Montreal is in the province of Quebec which, of course, we all know or if you don't know, is a French-speaking place, but in Montreal there are English-speaking communities as well.
- Rita: There are a lot of English speaking people. I think most people on **the Island** are certainly bilingual. They speak French and English, it's to everyone's benefit. So I have never had any trouble communicating with anybody.
- Maura: It is an interesting dynamic. So did you speak French from when you were a young child?
- Rita: No, I actually, I'm not a very good student, so in school I didn't really pay attention, we had French for an hour each day. I learned my French more from working. When I started working when I was 16 or 17 I started mimicking what I heard and that's when I really began to learn French.
- Maura: So you learned it **on the street** as they say?
- Rita: **On the street** as they say.
- Maura: OK, OK. That is also really interesting that you are a **first-generation** Canadian because a lot of Canadians are from other countries actually.

So your parents came from Italy. So did you grow up with a lot of Italian traditions?

Rita: I feel really lucky that I grew up with all of these influences. My parents were still very much Italian, so very much the Italian sort of mentality, the way of life, the food certainly.

Maura: Delicious.

Rita: I also feel that I grew up Canadian with all my Anglo friends and as well Quebecois I feel like I grew up knowing a lot of French people in our life and our family life as well. So I've got the best of all three.

Maura: I'm jealous now.

Rita: There's only a few of us Maura.

Maura: So what are you doing now?

Rita: Right now I'm working on some new projects. I'm teaching English as a second language, I'm giving private courses, and just trying to keep busy and keep myself active before the winter comes.

Maura: Yes it is coming.

Rita: It makes us all slow down.

Maura: Have you ever **moved away** or left the city for a long time?

Rita: Do you know what? No. I think I'm the only one of my friends who has not actually lived in another place. I have travelled, but I have always stayed in Montreal, I live in Montreal. I have never lived in another country. I guess I prefer when students come to me, when the world comes to me.

Maura: That works well, too.

Rita: It works well for me.

Maura: And I think that says a lot about the city that you wouldn't want to leave because it is such an exciting place.

Rita: It really is such an exciting place, in the summer, of course because our winters are so long, everyone takes advantage of the summer and it is

one of the most beautiful times in the city. There's just a lot to do and a lot to see.

Maura: OK, cool, well thanks for telling us about Montreal **through a local person's eyes**.

Rita: It is absolutely my pleasure, any time.

Maura: OK, cool. So that's been our Chatterbox podcast today and like I said you can always get more information about this episode or about anything else at Culips C-U-L-I-P-S.com. See you next time.

Rita: Bye.

Detailed Explanations

Born and raised

This is a fixed expression, “**born and raised**.” A full sentence with this expression could be “I was **born and raised** in California.” But it has become so popular that when we have a context, or we know the place, we only need to say “**born and raised**.”

Maura talks about Montreal and then Rita says, “**born and raised**” which means that she was **born and raised** in Montreal.

Here is another example:

Jim: You're from Vancouver, right?
Paul: **Born and raised.**

First, “to be **born**” is when we come into the world as babies. The day you were born is your birthday. The place where you were born is where your mother gave birth to you.

“To be **raised**” is the way your parents teach you things when you are a child. Raising children includes all the rules your parents teach you and all the ways they tell you to behave.

*Of course, we have the verbs “to bear” (from **born**) and “to raise” (from **raised**). In the expression “**born and raised**” we use the verbs in a passive way. Have you already heard of active and passive sentences? We will just give you a couple of examples.

Passive – I was **raised** in Canada. (by my parents)
Active – My parents raised me in Canada.

Passive – I was **born** in China. (by my mother)
Active – My mother bore me in China. (This example is completely unnatural.)
 My mother gave birth to me in China. (More natural)

A quick explanation of a passive sentence is that the object of the sentence becomes the subject. OK! That's enough grammar.

All that to say, that when we say “**born and raised**” we are talking about the place where we were born and where we were raised or spent our childhood.

Anglophone

An **Anglophone** is someone who speaks English, specifically a native speaker. It doesn't give any information about which country they are from, only that the person speaks English.

We use these terms a lot in Montreal because we have **Anglophones** and **Francophones**, which are French-speaking people. We can also say **Spanophones** for Spanish-speaking people. In Canada we use the term **Allophone** to describe someone whose first language is neither French nor English.

First-generation

We use this expression often in Canada, and probably any country with a lot of immigrants uses the expression "**first-generation**," too.

If you are the **first generation** in your family to do something, then we can call you, "**first-generation**." We especially use this expression when talking about citizenship. Rita says that she is **first-generation** Canadian. Her parents were not Canadian citizens and neither were her grandparents. She is from the **first generation** in her family to be born in Canada.

Some other examples:

She is **first-generation** Japanese.

He is a **first-generation** student.

(The **first generation** in the family to go to University.)

A **generation** has varied meanings, but in this case one **generation** is the time of you and your siblings (brothers and sisters), another **generation** is your parents, and another **generation** is your grandparents. If you have children, or nephews and nieces, they are of another **generation** too.

There is a significant age difference between different generations. Different generations usually experience life differently. For example, the newest **generation** is very connected to technology in the western world.

The Island

Did you know that the city of Montreal is an island? Many people do not know this. Of course, it is not isolated and not tropical so many people do not think of Montreal as an island. But yes, you will see signs on the bridge coming into the city that welcome you to "The Island of Montreal."

Around Montreal, people sometimes call it “**the Island**.” That is what Rita says. She says, “I think most people on **the Island** are certainly bilingual.” She is talking about Montreal when she says this.

On the street

“**On the street**” or “**on the streets**” can be used in different ways. In this case, we say that Rita learned to speak French **on the streets**. This means that Rita did not learn French in school, she learned it from experience and from actually hearing and speaking it outside of the classroom.

In another way, if you say “She lived **on the streets**,” that means that she didn’t have a real house or apartment to live in. She slept **on the streets**, outside, in a city.

To move away

“**To move**” can simply be to change position, to **move** forward or to the right or to the other side of the room. It can also mean that you leave the place where you are living now and go to live in another place.

Some examples:

She is **moving** to China,

They **moved** to Great Britain last year.

“**To move away**” basically means the same thing. “**To move away**” implies that you are moving to a place that is far from the place you live now.

Here are some more examples:

I am **moving** to a new apartment next year. (In the same city.)

I am **moving away** to a new apartment next year. (Not OK!)

I am **moving away** to Bulgaria. (Far from Canada)

I am **moving** to Bulgaria. (This is OK too!)

We also have the verb, “**to move out**” which is specific to the place where you are leaving. We don’t know where the person is going. We only know where they are leaving.

Jon is **moving out** of this place in June.

(We don’t know where Jon is going to live, but we know he is leaving his place in June.)

Through a local person's eyes

We use this expression when we get another person's perspective that we do not have.

In this episode, Rita tells us about Montreal **through a local person's eyes**. Maura is not originally from Montreal so she does not have this experience or perspective. The only way she can experience it is through the stories of local Montrealers.

It is not a fixed expression with a "local person." We can simply say, "**to see it through his eyes**" or "**to see it through their eyes**." Or we can be specific in another sense, "**to see it through the eyes of a soldier**" or "**to see it through a soldier's eyes**." If we have never been a soldier, we can only get the perspective of a soldier through his stories.

Here are some more examples:

Lisa: I am not sure how to solve the problem with Bob. We just can't make an agreement.

Ken: You should try **seeing it through his eyes**.

Paul: Did you like the movie?

Gene: Yes, it was like **seeing** the world **through a woman's eyes**.

Announcer: Stay tuned for the new documentary, to **see through the eyes of a firefighter**.

Here at Culips, we try to **see** learning English **through the eyes of a non-native English speaker**.

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

1. Rita was _____ in Montreal.

Please fill in the blank with one of the following expressions.

- a) born
- b) raised
- c) raised and born
- d) born and raised

2. Sue's parents were born in China, but she was born in Canada. What is Sue?

- a) She is first-generation Canadian.
- b) She is first-generation Chinese.
- c) She is second-generation Canadian.
- d) She is first-generation Cantonese.

3. What do we call an English-speaking person?

- a) Francophone
- b) Spanophone
- c) Phone
- d) Anglophone

4. Has Rita ever moved away from Montreal?

- a) Yes, she has moved away to Asia.
- b) Yes, she has moved away to Italy.
- c) No, she has never moved away from Montreal.
- d) No, but she really wants to move away soon.

5. Which expression best describes Montreal?

- a) It is completely Anglophone.
- b) It is completely Francophone.
- c) It is multicultural.
- d) It has one dominant culture.

6. In this episode, we saw Montreal _____.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) through Rita's eyes
- b) in Rita's eyes
- c) through Rita's ears
- d) in Rita's ears

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