

Close Up #8 – Happy Valentine's Day

Transcript

Hello everyone out there! This is Maura with your Culips podcast, and this time we're doing a **Close Up** podcast – the new and improved Close Up podcast at Culips. If you want the transcript, or Detailed Explanation, or quiz, you can go to our website, Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com, and find out lots of interesting stuff about this episode.



This episode we're going to look at the history of **Valentine's Day** because **Valentine's Day** is coming very soon. Then we're going to listen to a conversation where two friends discuss how they feel about **Valentine's Day**. It's a real conversation – not scripted. So first, what is the history of **Valentine's Day**?

The history of Valentine's Day

This day has an interesting and surprisingly **religious** history! It is actually named after **Saint Valentine**. In the past, **Christianity** named people Saint Valentine, and so this day is possibly the day for two or even three **Saint Valentines**. No one is really sure because it was so long ago!

So, how did this **religious** day become a romantic love day? Again, no one really knows for sure. Here are a couple of theories:

- One theory is that **Saint Valentine** was supposed to be executed or killed. Before he was killed, he wrote a note to a girl he loved. He signed it, "From your Valentine."
- Another theory is that the **Christian** church decided to celebrate **Valentine's Day** because it was connected to a pagan celebration of **fertility**, or making babies.

No one knows for sure, but we know what it is now. Now, it's a day of love, to start new love or to celebrate a relationship you are already in. The modern-day idea of **Valentine's Day** seems to have started in the 1840s when the first **Valentine's Day** cards were really produced.

Now everyone has different feelings about **Valentine's Day**. Some people love it and some people don't. Some people celebrate it and other people do not celebrate it.

Earlier, I asked Harp and Robin to talk about **Valentine's Day**. Let's hear what they have to say. We'll listen to the **whole** conversation and then we'll break it down.

Harp: But one time my boyfriend bought me flowers and I was living in France and he was living in Canada and he sent them to me and that was really romantic.

Robin: Really?

Harp: Yeah.

Robin: Did you cry?

Harp: I didn't cry, but I was very happy.

Robin: OK, OK.

Harp: It was unexpected, but typically I don't celebrate **Valentine's Day**. **How about you?**

Robin: Typically, I really like **Valentine's Day**. It's a good occasion to go out and have dinner, and sit by some candles and drink with somebody that you care about.

Harp: So, now you are really private, but is there somebody special in your life and that you're **gonna** share **Valentine's Day** with this year?

Robin: No!

Harp: You wouldn't tell me if there was.

Robin: Hey, can I ask you another question? Do you believe in love at first sight?

Harp: Um ...

OK, let's listen to the first part again.

Harp: But one time my boyfriend bought me flowers and I was living in France and he was living in Canada and he sent them to me and that was really romantic.

Robin: Really?

Harp: Yeah.

Here, Harp is talking about a traditional **Valentine's Day**. One person, usually the man, **sends** the other person some **flowers**.

This is **romantic**. Harp even thinks that it was **romantic**. **Romance** is when someone is focused on expressing love and passion. On **Valentine's Day**, many people become **romantic**.

Robin: Really?

Harp: Yeah.

Robin: Did you cry?

Harp: I didn't cry, but I was very happy.

Robin: OK, OK.

Harp: It was unexpected, but typically I don't celebrate **Valentine's Day**. **How about you?**

Harp says the flowers from her boyfriend were unexpected. So, Harp didn't know or didn't expect to get flowers. It was a surprise. Harp liked getting flowers and thought it was **romantic** because it was a surprise.

Getting flowers was unexpected because typically Harp doesn't celebrate **Valentine's Day**. Nope, she doesn't like it. "Typically" means "normally" or "usually." Harp usually does nothing special on **Valentine's Day**.

And did you catch the last thing she says? It was a bit fast. She asks Robin, "**How about you?**" or "**How'bout you?**" Harp talked about what she thought of **Valentine's Day** and now she is asking Robin what he thinks about it.

Robin: Typically I really like **Valentine's Day**. It is a good occasion to go out and have dinner, and sit by some candles and drink with somebody that you care about.

Robin says that **typically** he likes **Valentine's Day**. He thinks it's a good time to **go out**, which means to go to a restaurant or to a bar or to the movies - anything out of your home. To go out.

He also says Valentine's is a good occasion **to sit by some candles**. This is another **romantic** activity that people might do on **Valentine's Day**. They turn the lights off and light some **candles**. In some restaurants, you can eat dinner by **candlelight**.

Harp: Now you are really private, but is there **somebody special in your life** and that you're **gonna** share **Valentine's Day** with this year?

Robin: No!

Harp: You wouldn't tell me if there was.

Robin: Hey, can I ask you another question? Do you believe in love at first sight?

Harp asks Robin if there is **anyone special in his life**. She doesn't ask if he has a girlfriend, she asks more generally, "**Anyone special in your life?**" So, "**someone**" or "**anyone special in your life**" means some kind of **romantic** relationship, but it is not specific.

Robin says, "No." Very short and with no details.

Harp says that even if there was **someone** who was **special in Robin's life**, he wouldn't tell Harp. Robin would say "No, there is no one special!" even if he was **seeing someone special**.

And then Robin asks Harp one more thing:

Robin: But, yeah. Hey, can I ask you another question? Do you believe in love at first sight?

Harp: Um ...

Robin asks Harp he she **believes in love at first sight**. Interesting question!

Because it is an interesting and serious question, he asks first, “**Can I ask you another question?**” When we have an important question that we want to ask someone and we want their full attention, we can ask them first, “**Can I ask you a question?**”

So, Robin does this and then he asks Harp, “**Do you believe in love at first sight?**” But I am not going to show you the answer this week. On **Valentine’ s Day**, next week, we will upload the second part of this conversation and then you can find out what Harp and Robin think of “**love at first sight.**”

To be continued ...

So, that is today’s episode. We learned a bit about the history of **Valentine’ s Day** and some ways people often celebrate it. We also learned that Harp does not like **Valentine’ s Day** so much and that Robin is a bit of a romantic guy.

If you have special plans for **Valentine’ s Day**, and even if you don’t, we hope you have a great day!

So remember to check out our website, Culips.com, for more information in Lipservice.

This has been Maura and I will talk to you again next week. Bye!

Detailed Explanation

Classic Valentine's Day activities

On **Valentine's Day** in North America, couples often do something special, like have dinner at a restaurant or see a movie. Many couples spend quality time together. They also exchange gifts. The traditional gifts are flowers, chocolates, and jewelry.

Many people, like Harp, do nothing special on **Valentine's Day**.

For children, **Valentine's Day** means exchanging **Valentine's Day** cards with everyone in their class. And usually classes have about 30 students! **Valentine's Day** also means that we eat candy, especially cinnamon hearts. These are little sweet candies that, of course, taste like cinnamon.



Happy Valentine's Day

This is the only expression that we use with this special day. "**Happy Valentine's Day**" is the only real fixed expression we have.

Religious words

The history of this day is unknown. We are not sure where exactly the tradition comes from. But we know that it seems to come from religion. We can say that **Valentine's Day** was originally a religious holiday, specifically connected to **Christianity**.

Here is a list of some of the major world religions and the names we use to refer to their members.

Christianity	-	Christians	-	He/she is Christian.
Catholicism	-	Catholics	-	He/she is Catholic.
Islam	-	Muslims	-	He/she is Muslim.
Buddhism	-	Buddhists	-	He/she is Buddhist.
Judaism	-	Jews	-	He/she is Jewish.
Hinduism	-	Hindus	-	He/she is Hindu.

A **saint** is a person who is very spiritual and religious, and has done important things for **Christianity**. The religious organization then decides that this person is so important that there are to be called a **saint**. To become a **saint** is a great honour for a religious person.

Fertility

“**Fertility**” is the ability to reproduce. We use “**fertility**” to talk about a person’s ability to have babies. In the past, people would wish, pray, hope and celebrate in hopes of becoming more **fertile**, or to be able to have babies.

“Infertile” means that you cannot have babies.

“**Fertility**” can also be used to talk about the ability of things to reproduce. It is used when talking about farming. For example, “this soil is **fertile**” means that this soil, or earth, is good and so will be good for growing fruits or vegetables.

Whole

Here is a quick note on the pronunciation of this word. “**Whole**” and “hole” are pronounced the same way. There is no need to make a “w” sound when saying “**whole**.”

And

The very first thing Harp says is, “But one time my boyfriend bought me flowers and I was living in France and he was living in Canada and he sent them to me and that was really romantic”.

This is a run-on sentence, which means it is too long. When we speak, we often make run-on sentences, but it is not acceptable to do this in writing.

It is a run-on sentence simply because there are too many “and’s.”

“But one time my boyfriend bought me flowers **and** I was living in France **and** he was living in Canada **and** he sent them to me **and** that was really romantic.”

How ‘boutu?

Harp also says, “How about you?” very quickly. When we speak quickly we cut out sounds. This question is more like, “How ‘boutu?”

We drop the “a” in “about” and the “you” becomes attached to the end of “about”. We should never write it like this, but we almost always say it like this.

Gonna

Again Harp contracted two words. Instead of saying going to, she says gonna.

Harp says, “you’re **gonna** share” instead of saying “you’re going to share.”

Remember we should never write it like this.

Quiz (see the answers at the bottom of this Lipservice)**1. What are the origins of Valentine's Day?**

- a) the poet Chaucer
- b) a note signed, "Valentine"
- c) a fertility festival
- d) we don't know for sure

2. What does "fertility" mean?

- a) the ability to produce offspring
- b) the ability to party
- c) children
- d) people

3. Where was Harp when her boyfriend sent her flowers for Valentine's Day?

- a) in Canada
- b) in France
- c) in India
- d) in Korea

4. Did Harp cry when she got the flowers?

- a) Yes!
- b) No, she was too tired.
- c) No, she screamed.
- d) No, but she was very happy.

5. Does Robin like Valentine's Day?

- a) Yes
- b) No

6. What are some Valentine's Day activities?

- a) going out to dinner
- b) eating dinner by candlelight
- c) buying someone chocolates
- d) all of the above

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