

Catch Word # 1 – Turn

Transcript

Robin: Hello all. This is Robin

Maura: and Maura at Culips.com, bringing you **Catch Word**. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Robin: Each week we take one word and talk about its different meanings. We talk about verbs, and nouns, and even slang.

Maura: We look closely at one word. Today's word is
... (Music)...

Turn

Robin: **Turn**, like **turn** a street corner.

Maura: Exactly. So to **turn** is when you change directions.

Robin: What's another example that we can think of here? You're changing positions. You can do it with your body too.

Maura: You can **turn** your body to the left or to the right.

Robin: OK.
...(Music)...

Robin: Ah, there's that sound. I guess, what's the next one?

Maura: **Turn up**.

Robin: OK. You can **turn up**. For example, we can **turn up** for class.

Maura: Right. So "to **turn up** for class" means that you are there. You go to class.

Robin: You show up for class. You go to class. Exactly. Exactly. What's another example that we have?

Maura: If we listen to the radio, we want to listen to it louder, we **turn up** the volume.

Robin: **Turn up** the volume. Do you have that problem with your next door neighbor? I know I do.

Maura: Sometimes.

Robin: Alright. I guess, we can also similarly **turn down**...the radio.

Maura: I wish my neighbor would **turn down** his radio sometimes, at night.

Robin: Indeed. Indeed. And you know what? Actually, last week, I met this wonderful person. I asked them out on a date. But they **turned down** my invitation.

Maura: Oh no. They **turned** you **down**.

Robin: Yeah. They **turned** me **down**.

Maura: That means they said 'No'.

Robin: Yeah. It happens quite often....What is another one we have here?

Maura: We have **Turn on**.

Robin: **Turn on**.

Maura: So what's a **turn on** for you, Robin?

Robin: Hmmm. Well. I have to say that I like long hair.

Maura: Oh. So it's something special that you like about, usually a person.

Robin: Yeah. Usually a person.

Maura: OK. Cool. We can also **turn on** what?

Robin: We can **turn on** our TV, our Radio, our iPod.

Maura: Right. So it's like to put the power on.

Robin: And as we can **turn on** things, we can also **turn off**.

Maura: So we can **turn off** the TV, **turn off** the radio. What about the other meaning for **turn off**?

Robin: This is probably why I didn't get...that invitation didn't go through. Maybe I **turned** her **off** somehow.

Maura: Right. So a **turn off** is something bad that you don't like...could be a bad smell.

Robin: Are you saying I smell?

Maura: No. No. No....OK. We're gonna stop there for today.

Robin: As usual, we try to keep the podcast short so that is all the time we have for this word, this time. If you want to quiz yourself, check out our transcripts or read our notes and explanations at Lipservice at Culips.com

Maura: Thanks for listening. This has been Maura

Robin: and Robin with the Catch Word podcast.

Maura: Bye.

Detailed Explanations

Here are some **Turn** definitions for you

Turn

1 -to move to the side, to change directions

Like we said, to change directions with our bodies.

2 -to change

We also use it to talk about change. In some cases, change and turn are synonyms.

Example:

The leaves **turn** red in the fall. or The leaves change in the fall.

A turn (noun)

The meaning is similar to the definitions above but used as a noun. It can be used with the verbs, “to take” or “to make.”

Examples:

His condition took a turn for the worse.

I made a turn on Queen Street.

Turn up

1 -To make something more powerful.

Like we said in this episode, to **turn up** the volume. In this case, you are giving more power to the volume.

2 -To arrive somewhere, somewhat unexpected

Like we said in this episode, to show up for a class, to attend class.

3 - To find something after it was lost. The item is not usually found by looking for it

Example:

“Hey, I think I lost my cell phone. I can’t find it anywhere.”

“That’s too bad. I hope it will **turn up** soon.”

Pronunciation Alert: **Turn up** sounds a lot like turnip. A turnip is a root vegetable. Its common colours are white and purple, and it is round, bulbous.

Turn down

1 -To reduce intensity of power

Like in this episode, we talked about volume of music. You can also **turn down** the lights. A synonym for **turn down** is lower. You can say, "Can you please lower the lights?"

2 -To reject or refuse something.

Like we said in this episode, unfortunately Robin got turned down.

Examples:

She turned down the job.

The idea was turned down.

Turn on

1 -To start something or to put the power on

We use **turn on** for cars, lights, anything that needs electricity, batteries or a kind of power to work. Like we said in this episode, to turn on the radio.

2 -To do something that excites another person, usually in a sexual way

Example: He really **turns me on**.

A turn on (noun)

In this episode we talked about Robin's **turn on** being 'long hair.' A turn on can be anything that you like in another person.

3 -To betray someone

Example: We had been getting along so well and then he **turned on** me.

***Note of Distinction**

Look at the placement of the pronoun in these two examples. The placement of the pronoun changes the meaning of turn on. They have very different meanings!

To **turn** a person **on** – meaning 2 – to excite someone

To **turn on** a person – meaning 2 – to betray someone

Turn off

The opposite of **turn on**.

1 –To close and stop using. To stop giving power to something so it is no longer usable.

Like in this episode, to turn off the radio or tv. We can turn off a vacuum, a telephone or a

toaster; anything that needs a source of power to work.

2 –To find displeasure in something, often about another person

Examples: I liked his work, but the last part **turned** me **off**.

A turn off (a noun)

Just like the verb above, it is something that you do not like, or does not attract you to another person.

Examples: When people talk about themselves too much, I find it **a turn off**.

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

1. Which is the correct use of 'turn up'?

- a) He didn't turn up for class
- b) Some people turned up fried dumplings
- c) Yesterday I ate five turn up
- d) Turn up! It's time to go to bed

2. Which is NOT correct use of 'turn down'?

- a) I turned down the job offer
- b) I asked her out, but she turned me down
- c) Turn down your sheets at the end of the exam
- d) Turn down the music, it's too loud

3. 'His cute accent turns me on' means:

- a) It's unbearable
- b) It gets you upset
- c) You like it very much
- d) It makes you sad

4. Which of the following is NOT correct use of 'turn off'?

- a) Bad smells are such a turn off
- b) I wanted to date him, but his attitude turned me off
- c) The oven was on, but now it's a turn off
- d) Turn off the TV for me, will you?

Answers: 1.a 2.c 3.c 4.c