

## Catch Word #29 – Hold a Grudge

### Transcript

Harp: Hello everyone, this is Harp ...

Robin: And Robin ...

Harp: And we're here with the **Catch Word** podcast.

Robin: And in this podcast we take one word or expression and break it down. If you want to check it out on our website, go to the transcripts section under Lipservice.

Harp: Exactly! So the website is Culips, C-U-L-I-P-S.com, and if you click on Lipservice you'll find the transcripts, the detailed explanations, and even a quiz.

Robin: Can you tell us what today's expression is?

Harp: Today's expression is **"to hold a grudge."**

Robin: **"To hold a grudge."**

Harp: Exactly **"to hold a grudge."**

Robin: **"To hold a grudge."** OK, what does this expression mean?

Harp: So **"to hold a grudge"** is when you're **angry** at someone about something but it's for a long time. You hold the anger, you **hold a grudge** for a long time.

Robin: So something happens in the past and you're **angry** even in the present.

Harp: Exactly! So maybe something happened 10 years ago, but you're still **angry**, you're still **holding a grudge**.

Robin: OK, can you give me an example?

Harp: For sure. So, let's say, this is an example, not a true story. But let's say I have an ex-boyfriend and my friend decides she wants to date him and so she dates him for maybe a month. That's my ex-boyfriend, she is not allowed

to date him. I am still going to **hold a grudge** 10 years, 20 years later. I think it's an **unwritten rule** you can't date your friends' **exes**.

Robin: OK, so you would be **mad** 20 years later.

Harp: OK, maybe not 20 years, but I would **hold a grudge** for a while.

Robin: Well, all right, I don't know if I would do that, but I understand.

Harp: Can you give me another example?

Robin: Another example. I can give you an example of a very nice man who didn't **hold a grudge** over something a lot of people would **hold a grudge** for.

Harp: OK, what's the story?

Robin: I was watching the news and this man gave his friend this ticket with some numbers that he wrote down, he wanted him to buy a lottery ticket, but his friend **showed up** at the lottery ticket booth too late so he couldn't buy it, but all those numbers were the numbers that won so he would have won a whole bunch of money if his friend had bought a ticket but he didn't. But this man he was like, you know what, he's like my little brother, I can't **hold a grudge** against him. And he forgot.

Harp: Wow, that is a good man! I think I would have **held a grudge**.

Robin: You think so?

Harp: It's a lot of money that you could have won but maybe it's for the best.

Robin: Are there any other expressions that we can use?

Harp: Yeah, so you can say "**to hold a grudge**," "**to have hard feelings**."

Robin: "**To have hard feelings**."

Harp: Yeah, so they basically almost mean the same thing. "**To hold a grudge**" is when you have anger about something for a long time. "**To have hard feelings**" is when you are angry about something for a long time.

Robin: So exactly the same thing?

Harp: Exactly, feelings are emotions. So in this expression, they say "**to have hard feelings**," to be **angry** about something.

- Robin: To be **mad**, upset. Can you give me an example of a time where you had **hard feelings**?
- Harp: So you could say, for me I'm a very honest person so when one of my friends asks me something, I like to give them my honest opinion. Sometimes people don't want to hear the truth, they want to hear a lie or they want to hear that they did something OK. They just sometimes don't want the truth. I'm pretty honest so I give the person, my friend, the truth, but I always like to end the conversation by saying, so "**no hard feelings**?" So we use the expression "**no hard feelings**" to say don't be **angry** for a long time. Robin can you think of another example with "**hard feelings**"?
- Robin: Well, one time, I was feeling really bad, you know, a lot of things happened in my life and I was kind of upset and one of my friends came to talk to me and I **blew up** at them, I got really angry and I said some mean things and I think because of that, I think that person still **has hard feelings**.
- Harp: Hopefully that friend is listening and they will know that you are really sorry and maybe they won't **hold hard feelings** against you anymore.
- Robin: If you are listening, I am sorry.
- Harp: That's good, I am glad you got it out there. OK, so I think that explains it pretty well, the expressions, so "**to hold a grudge**," "**to have hard feelings**." Those are the expressions we talked about. So that is about it for today.
- Robin: Now this has been Robin ...
- Harp: And Harp ...
- Robin: And we are signing off.
- Harp: Bye everyone.

## Detailed Explanation

### Hold a grudge

“**To hold a grudge**” or “**to have a grudge**” is to be angry about something that happened in the past. The event that you are angry about could have happened a few days ago or many years ago! Most people know it is not good to **hold a grudge**, but if something really bad happens some people stay **mad** long after the event.

We can simply say, “She is **holding a grudge**” when we know the context of why she is **mad**. But if we want to say who she is **holding a grudge** about, we use the word “against.”

Here are some examples:

She is **holding a grudge against** me because I went on a date with her ex-boyfriend.

I can't believe that he **holds a grudge against** me after all these years.

Julie **has a grudge against** him because of what he said last week.

### Mad or Angry?

“**Mad**” and “**angry**” are synonyms. When someone **holds a grudge** they are **angry** for a long time. There are many adjectives to express anger. Here are some others:

- Upset (can also mean sad, depending on the context)
- Enraged
- Furious
- Infuriated
- Irate
- Outraged
- Riled
- Steaming

“**Mad**” can also have other meanings, like “crazy.”

### Dating exes of friends

Harp says that in her opinion it is not acceptable for someone to date a friend's **ex**-girlfriend or boyfriend, or “**exes**.” (“**Ex**” is slang for a past boyfriend, girlfriend, husband or wife.) This is generally true in North America or in western culture. Most people feel uncomfortable dating someone their friend dated.

There are also many exceptions. Some people *do* date their friend's **exes**. If the past relationship was short, sometimes a person might date a friend's **ex**. Or maybe, unlike Harp, the friend has no problem with you dating his or her **ex**. This also happens.

In any case, when it is not talked about it is generally not acceptable to date your friend's **ex**.

### Unwritten rule

Harp even says that she thinks that *not* dating your friends' **exes** is an **unwritten rule**. An **unwritten rule** is a rule that everyone follows although it is not officially a rule. It is not a law, it is not written. It defines social behaviour, which everyone follows.

Another example of an **unwritten rule** is not staring at a stranger (in Canada and other western countries). It is socially unacceptable to stare at a stranger in public.

### Show up

When Robin is telling the story about the man who forgot to buy a lottery ticket, he says that his friend **showed up** at the lottery ticket booth too late. "**To show up**" is "to arrive" or "to come," usually in a casual way.

Here are some other examples using "**show up**":

David always **shows up** five minutes before class starts.

Greg: Did Julian arrive on time?

Karla: No, he finally **showed up** at 10:00 p.m., two hours late.

Vicky: Are you going to the party tonight?

Harriet: I am not sure. I told them I might **show up**.

### To have hard feelings

Here is another expression that means "**to hold a grudge**." "**To have hard feelings**" about an event means that you are angry at someone about what happened in the past.

"**Hard**" is generally associated with something negative or bad. And "soft" is generally good. So as "**hard**" is "bad" in this case, "**hard feelings**" simply means "bad feelings."

Here are a few examples with "**hard feelings**":

Yasmina: Do you **have any hard feelings** about what happened?

Jon: I can't believe she said that.  
Oscar: Yeah, I still kind of have **hard feelings** about it.

Here are some other close synonyms for “**to hold a grudge**” or “**to have hard feelings**”:

- To be bitter
- To have animosity
- To have bad blood

### No hard feelings?

This is an expression that is used often at the end of an argument. It doesn't have a regular question structure, but it is a question. The proper full question form would be, for example, “Do you have any **hard feelings**?” or “Are there **no hard feelings**?”

We say “**no hard feelings**?” at the end of an argument or an upsetting situation to be sure that the other person is not angry anymore. If something has been resolved, asking “**no hard feelings**?” just checks to make sure the person does not have any more anger.

Using this expression “**no hard feelings**?” also signifies that it is the end of the argument. It is like saying, “this argument is finished.”

Some people might even shake hands as they say “**no hard feelings.**” Shaking hands shows that something has been resolved.

Here are a couple examples:

Janis: I am sorry I said those things about you. **No hard feelings**?  
Fran: OK, let's forget about it.

Henry: Sorry. I didn't mean for you to get so upset.  
Jan: Don't worry about it. **No hard feelings**?  
Henry: Yeah, I am really sorry.

### Coulda

Harp says in this episode “That's a lot of money that you **coulda** won.” This way of speaking is very natural for native English speakers, but “**coulda**” is not a real word.

“**Coulda**” is “could have” or contracted as “could've.”

You might also hear “**shoulda**” or “**woulda**.”

Blew up at them

“**To blow up at someone**” is to get really angry at someone suddenly, yelling and saying mean things. “**To blow up**” means “to explode.” So, for example, Jon suddenly gets angry at Pete and yells at him, this is like an explosion.

“**Blew**” is the irregular past of “**blow**.”

Here are a couple examples:

Ralph: He got totally mad and then **blew up at** the boss.

Victoria: What did he do after he **blew up**?

Ralph: He walked out of the building and no one has seen him since.

**Quiz** (see the answers at the end of this Lipservice)**1. What is a grudge?**

- a) new anger
- b) old anger
- c) new happiness
- d) old happiness

**2. We can say “to hold a grudge” or “to \_\_\_\_\_ a grudge.”**

**Please fill in the blank.**

- a) harbour
- b) harass
- c) have
- d) tell

**3. Harp says that dating ex-boyfriends or girlfriends of friends is not OK. She also says that this is \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Please fill in the blank.**

- a) a rule
- b) a social rule
- c) a written rule
- d) an unwritten rule

**4. “Jim showed up at 11 o’clock” What does “showed up” mean here?**

- a) arrived
- b) showed
- c) left
- d) slept



5. Which expression is the same as “to hold a grudge”?

- a) to hold a feeling
- b) to have soft feelings
- c) to have hard feelings
- d) to have a feeling

6. Which expression can we use at the end of an argument?

Todd: I am sorry for what I said.  
Veronica: Yeah, me too. I am really sorry.  
Todd: So, \_\_\_\_\_

- a) no hard feelings?
- b) no soft feelings?
- c) no feelings?
- d) do you have a feeling?

7. Which verb is used to describe when a person suddenly gets angry and yells at another person?

- a) to blow down
- b) to blow up
- c) to blow out
- d) to blow in

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