

## Catch Word #68 – Moolah

### Transcript

- Robin: Hello everyone this is Robin.
- Maura: and Maura.
- Robin: And we're back again with the Catch Word podcast at Culips.com.
- Maura: That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com.
- Robin: And we're going to take an expression and break it down for you, talking about similar expressions and ideas.
- Maura: Yeah exactly, it's our Catch Word episode. And if you want to know more information about this episode or any of our episodes, you can go to our website and become a member and check out our Lipservice, where we have the transcript, more explanations, and a quiz.
- Robin: Absolutely, so sign up and have some more fun with us. So today's Catch Word—what is the theme, Maura?
- Maura: Today's theme is money, a topic that I think everyone is interested in.
- Robin: Absolutely, I'm definitely interested in this theme.
- Maura: Yeah, you might hate money or love money, but you have a feeling about it and you use it. Yeah, and in English there are so many slang terms for money.
- Robin: So many.
- Maura: Yeah, but we're going to mention a few of the more popular ones.
- Robin: And to start with, what do we have?
- Maura: Well, one of my favourite slang terms for money is **moolah**.
- Robin: **Moolah**.
- Maura: Yeah, like, "Robin do you have any **moolah**?"

- Robin: **Moolah.** “Actually I don’t have any **moolah**. Could you lend me some **moolah**?”
- Maura: “Sure, I’ll lend you five dollars.”
- Robin: OK, now this is an interesting word.
- Maura: Yeah, so, we use the word **moolah** just like money, so you can replace the word *money* with **moolah**.
- Robin: Absolutely, and it’s used usually in sorts of funny or non-serious contexts, so you don’t ask your boss for some more **moolah**. You might want to ask them for a salary increase or something like that.
- Maura: Yeah, any slang terms for money are only for casual situations with friends and family. If you are a professional and you work in finance, you probably don’t use the slang terms for money when you’re at work. So what’s another slang for money Robin?
- Robin: We also use a popular expression called **dough**.
- Maura: Yeah **dough**, spelled d-o-u-g-h.
- Robin: D-o-u-g-h—that funny spelling in the English language.
- Maura: Yeah, but it’s just pronounced *doe*.
- Robin: **Dough**, so the *g-h* has no pronunciation.
- Maura: And this word is also used just like **moolah**, you can replace *money*. So I can say, “Hey Robin, I can’t go to the movies with you tomorrow because I don’t have any **dough**.”
- Robin: OK. And I could always say, “**Well** I’ll lend you some **dough** so you can go to the movies.” or “I’ll lend you some **moolah** so you can go to the movies.”
- Maura: Yeah, good. Like we said, there are many, many more words that are slang for money, but Robin, are there any other ones that you want to mention?
- Robin: One word that has become quite popular, that a lot of people use as a slang term for money, is **loot**.
- Maura: **Loot**.

- Robin: **Loot.** An interesting word because it can be a verb and it can be a noun. But we use it as a noun to describe money. So we use **loot** the same way that we use **dough** and the same way that we use **moolah**.
- Maura: Right, so you can just replace **loot** for *money*.
- Robin: But its origin... the word actually comes from stealing. So to loot is to rob or to take something that isn't yours. But right now, we just use it as money, as **dough**, as **moolah**.
- Maura: Right, and if you want to see more slang terms for money, check out our Lipservice and we'll have a list there of even more terms.
- Robin: Absolutely.
- Maura: Now, I also wanted to talk about the other words or slang terms for our money, for our coins.
- Robin: We have a lot of those terms in Canada and America. Can you describe some of them?
- Maura: Well, the first one is the one-cent coin, which I think a lot of people know, is called a **penny**. And this is the same in Canada and the USA.
- Robin: OK, so we call one cent a **penny**.
- Maura: And then we have a five-cent coin, which is also called what?
- Robin: Well, in Canada, we refer to the five-cent coin as a **nickel**.
- Maura: Yeah and this is the same in the US as well. Do you know why we call it a **nickel**?
- Robin: Umm, I'm not entirely sure, could you tell me?
- Maura: It's because of the material that the coin is made with.
- Robin: OK, so it's made of the metal **nickel**.
- Maura: Right. **Nickel** is one of the metals used to make this coin, which looks like a silver colour, and that's why we call it the **nickel**.
- Robin: How about for the ten-cent coin? What do we call that in North America?

- Maura: The ten-cent coin is called a **dime**.
- Robin: A **dime**, that's an easy one to remember. And twenty-five cents?
- Maura: And twenty-five cents is a **quarter**, because it's a quarter of a dollar.
- Robin: OK, that makes sense. There's four quarters in a dollar, so we call it a **quarter**.
- Maura: Right, and all of these coins use exactly the same names in America. So we can talk about a Canadian **nickel** or an American **nickel** and it works in both countries.
- Robin: And actually, if you're travelling in Canada and you happen to use an American **penny**, **nickel**, **dime**, or **quarter**, often it works. They often accept it and **vice versa**; if you go to the States sometimes they accept the quarters, and nickels, and dimes from Canada as well.
- Maura: Yeah. Probably, often, the cashier doesn't even realize that it's a Canadian coin or an American coin if you're in the wrong country, because they look kind of similar.
- Robin: Absolutely, they look almost identical.
- Maura: They're the same size but the images that they have on the coin are different.
- Robin: If you want some more information on that, you can check it out in our Lipservice.
- Maura: OK, so, we went over the names of coins that we said are the same in Canada and America, but in Canada we also have two more coins for one dollar and two dollars.
- Robin: And the first one, for the one-dollar coin is, it's called a **loonie**.
- Maura: Yeah, it's such a funny name, I love it: a **loonie**. And this name comes from one of the images on the one-dollar coin.
- Robin: Absolutely, from the **loon**, from the bird, the bird symbol that appears on the one-dollar coin.
- Maura: Right, so, a **loon** is a type of bird that we have in Canada. And, like you just said Robin, there's a picture of the **loon** on the one-dollar coin. And I

remember when the one-dollar coin came out, but I don't really remember how this coin got its name.

Robin: Neither do I, in fact.

Maura: It probably just started naturally.

Robin: And the two-dollar coin. It has a similar name, doesn't it?

Maura: Yes, it rhymes: **loonie**, **toonie**.

Robin: OK. So **loonie** and **toonie**. **Twoo-nie**. *Two-* obviously because it's two dollars and then it sounds the same, the rest, *-nie*. So toonie because it's a two-dollar coin.

Maura: Yeah, the **loonie** came out first—because it hasn't been that long, that Canada has had a dollar coin. We used to have a dollar **bill** like the US, and then a few years after that we got the **toonie**, so the name just rhymed with **loonie**. So right, we're talking about dollars, the **loonie** and the **toonie**, but we also have a very common slang term for dollars.

Robin: And that is **bucks**.

Maura: Right, so instead of saying one dollar, I can say one **buck**.

Robin: Or five **bucks** if you have five dollars, or a hundred **bucks** if you have a hundred dollars. The use is endless.

Maura: Yeah, and it doesn't have to be a **bill**, you could say thirteen **bucks**. It can be an odd number too.

Robin: And this is an expression that you can hear both in Canada and the United States.

Maura: Right, right. But you don't hear these slang terms especially in the UK, because they don't have dollars, so their slang is completely different. OK, let's look at a few additional expressions that are also connected to **moolah**.

Robin: Absolutely. Often in a household there is somebody who makes the money, who makes the **dough**, that is, who brings home the salary, who feeds the family.

Maura: Right, and we have an expression for that, which is **the breadwinner**.

- Robin: **The breadwinner.** It's a compound word, here we have the word **bread** and **winner**.
- Maura: Yeah, so it's like the person who brings home the food for the family and the food is represented by the word **bread**.
- Robin: So in this case **bread** stands for money and **win** is to make money, to win money in this case is to make money.
- Maura: So to call someone a **breadwinner** isn't that common anymore. It's more of a traditional way to talk about the person who provides for the family and in the past it was traditionally the man.
- Robin: Along those lines, there are some other expressions that we use that are related.
- Maura: Yeah.
- Robin: Could you give me one of them?
- Maura: Another one about money is **to bring home the bacon**.
- Robin: **To bring home the bacon.**
- Maura: Yeah, so again the word **bacon** represents food, so you're providing for your family. **To bring home the bacon** is to bring home the money and the food for your family.
- Robin: So I think that about does it for our expressions. Shall we do a recap?
- Maura: Yeah, sure.
- Robin: So we started off talking about expressions for money, including **dough**, **moolah**, and **loot**.
- Maura: Right, and then we also gave you the slang terms for our coins. So we had **penny**, **nickel**, **dime**, **quarter**, which are the same in the US, and then for Canada only, we had our **loonie** and **toonie**.
- Robin: And also both in the US and Canada, we have **bucks** for dollars.
- Maura: Right, that one's very common. And we ended by explaining two expressions associated with money. The first one is **the breadwinner**.

- Robin: And the second one, ***to bring home the bacon.***
- Maura: There are so many expressions to do with money. This is really just a small taste of all the expressions we have about money.
- Robin: Absolutely. So if you want to get more details, remember check out our Lipservice. And I think that about does it for now.
- Maura: Yep. So thanks for listening, as always, and we'll talk to you next time. This has been Maura.
- Robin: And Robin.
- Maura: Bye!

## Detailed Explanation

### Moolah

As we say in this episode, **moolah** means money. This word doesn't really sound English, and the spelling is strange. The origin of this word is unknown. Some claim that it is a Fijian word for money, and others say that it is possibly connected to other languages.

**Moolah** can also be spelled **moola**.

### Dough

**Dough** is another slang term for money, just like **moolah**. This is a word with a strange spelling and pronunciation. The *o-u-g-h* in this word is pronounced like *o*.

**Dough** rhymes with *though*, *blow*, and *toe*. They all have different spellings but the same pronunciation at the end.

Some other words that end in *o-u-g-h* have a different pronunciation, like *cough*, in which the *g-h* is pronounced as an *f* sound, or *through*, which rhymes with *new*.

The actual meaning of **dough** is a mixture containing flour and water or milk that is the base for bread, cake, and other baked goods. Bread, which is made from **dough**, is also a slang term for money.

### Well

You might have noticed the word **well** a lot in our podcasts or in other cases when native English speakers are talking. In addition to its usual meaning, people often use this word with no meaning to begin new sentences. For example, "**Well**, I don't know." This word is used a couple of times in this episode with no change to the sentence meaning.

This word is also often mispronounced when it is being used this way. **Well** is often pronounced as *wool*. Have you ever noticed this before when listening to a native English speaker?

### Loot

The third slang term for money that we talk about in this episode is **loot**. The actual word **loot** can be a noun or a verb. **To loot** something is to steal something, usually in war or in politics, and the **loot** is the item or items that were stolen.

Over time, words often change and begin being used for other things. **Loot** can also mean money now.

Some other slang terms for money:

bread

dinero

cash (this means actual money, not cheques, etc.)

clams

green

capitol (this is also a financial term)

There are also a couple of slang terms for thousands of dollars that are quite well known:

\$1000 is 1K, \$2000 is 2K, etc.

\$1000 is also a grand, \$2000 is two grand, etc.

Remember that all these slang ways to speak about money are not professional, so they should only be used in casual situations.

Terms for coins

Terms for one-cent, five-cent, ten-cent, and twenty-five-cent coins are used all the time. Most people do not usually say, for example, "one-cent coin." They would use the common term (penny) for it.

Penny

**Penny** is used to speak about a one-cent coin. This is used in Canada, the US, the UK, and Australia. In the UK, a penny is only called a penny, not a *cent* or *one cent* as it is in the other countries mentioned above, because the British system doesn't use cents. In the UK, the word for more than one penny is *pence*. In the other countries, it's pennies.

Nickel

**Nickel** is used to speak about the five-cent coin. This coin started being called a **nickel** after it started to be made with the material **nickel**.

Dime

**Dime** is used to speak about the ten-cent coin. This origin of this word is in the Old French word *disme*, which means a tenth. The spelling of the word changed and so did the pronunciation when English speakers began using it.

Quarter

**Quarter** is used to speak about the twenty-five-cent coin. The word **quarter** always represents something worth one quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of a whole, and twenty-five cents is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the value of a whole dollar.

Vice versa

**Vice versa** is a term that is said after one statement, and it is related to this first statement. Saying **vice versa** means that when the order is changed for two items in the first statement, or when things are put the other way around, the statement is also true. It sounds complicated, doesn't it?

Here is a simple example:

Jon likes Cindy and **vice versa**. Using **vice versa** here means that the inverse is also true, that Cindy also likes Jon.

Robin uses the expression **vice versa** to talk about using coins in Canada and the US. He says that sometimes you can use American coins in Canada and **vice versa**. This means that the inverse of the first sentence is also true: sometimes you can use Canadian coins in America.

Here is one more example:

Sally can translate from German to French and **vice versa**.

In this case, the use of **vice versa** means that Sally can also translate from French to German.

Images on the coins in Canada and America

American and Canadian coins are almost the exact same sizes and colours, and this is why they can sometimes be used in the other country. However, the images on the coins are not the same. All Canadian coins have the image of the Queen of England on one side, just like coins in the UK. American coins have the images of past American presidents.



Canadian  
quarter (25c)



American  
quarter (25c)

On the other side of standard Canadian coins we have a maple leaf on the **penny**, a beaver on the **nickel**, the Bluenose sailboat on the **dime**, and a caribou on the **quarter**. Sometimes Canada issues special limited edition coins that have other images on them.



Canadian penny (1c)



Canadian nickel (5c)



Canadian dime (10c)



### Loonie

The one-dollar Canadian coin was first made and used in 1987. As we explain in this episode, this coin is called a **loonie** because of the bird, a loon, featured on one side.

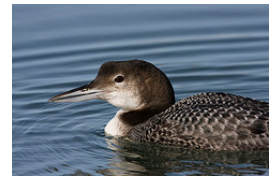


Photo: Kevn Cole

Here is a photo of a loon:



### Toonie

The **toonie** came out in 1996, almost 10 years after the **loonie**. **Toonie** rhymes with **loonie** and is worth two dollars; this is the only explanation for the slang term.

**Toonie** can also be spelled **twoonie**, **twoney**, **tooney**, and other variations. As is the case with many slang terms, there is no official spelling.

### Bill

This word has a few different meanings, and two separate meanings related to money. A **bill** is the word used for paper dollars. For example, a five-dollar **bill**, a one-hundred-dollar **bill**. **Bill** can also be used as the copy of charges you need to pay to a certain place. You can get a **bill** at a restaurant after you have eaten, or at a hotel that you rented a room in.

### Bucks

One dollar is one **buck**, two dollars is two **bucks**, and so on. **Buck** is definitely the most popular slang word for dollars in the US and Canada. There are a few possible origins for **buck**.

One possible origin is the connection with animals. A **buck** is the name for the male of many animals, including deer and rabbits. In the past, buckskins (the fur and skin of animals) were used for trade with the same value as money.

### Breadwinner

**Breadwinner** refers to the person in the family who earns the money to support the family. *Bread* means money and to win the bread is to provide for the family. The exact origin of this term is unclear, but some people think that in the past there was actually someone who would literally win bread for the family.

**Breadwinner** is a traditional word but you might still hear it in some situations, or in films or television shows. Traditionally, the **breadwinner** was the man, when women did not work usually outside of the home. Today, men and women both work, so the term **breadwinner** lost its popularity. The **breadwinner** now refers to a man or woman who earns the most money in a household, which helps to provide for the family.

Here are a couple of examples with **breadwinner**:

Justin: So, are you the **breadwinner**?

Shannon: Yes. My husband is a student.

Ursula: Who is the **breadwinner** in your family?

Brenda: Both of us work. We don't have one **breadwinner**.

### To bring home the bacon

This expression also talks about supporting a family. The person who **brings home the bacon** is also the breadwinner. In this case, the **bacon** represents the food or money that the family needs to survive.

Here are a couple of examples with **to bring home the bacon**:

Josh: I guess you'll really be **bringing home the bacon** when you start your new job.

Kiley: Yes, and I'm looking forward to it!

Donna: Does your partner bring home the bacon or do you?

Ivan: We both do, although she makes a little more than me. We share everything though.

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

**1. Which of the following is NOT a slang term for money?**

- a) cookies
- b) moolah
- c) dough
- d) bread

**2. What is the literal meaning of *to loot*?**

- a) to give
- b) to deal
- c) to steal
- d) to make

**3. What is a five-cent coin called in Canada?**

- a) a penny
- b) a nickel
- c) a dime
- d) a quarter

**4. Why is the Canadian dollar coin called a loonie?**

- a) because Canadians are crazy
- b) because there is a moon on one side
- c) because there is a loon on one side
- d) because a bird is worth one dollar in Canada

**5. What is the slang for the Canadian two-dollar coin?**

- a) twooer
- b) toonie
- c) toast
- d) toboggan

6. Wally: Do you have 10 dollars I could borrow?

Camille: Sorry, I only have 5 \_\_\_\_\_.

**Please fill in the blank.**

- a) stones
- b) bucks
- c) bigs
- d) rocks

7. Who was traditionally the breadwinner in the past?

- a) the husband
- b) the wife
- c) the children
- d) the baker

8. To bring \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Please fill in the blank.**

- a) home; bread
- b) home; cookies
- c) me; bacon
- d) home; bacon

**Answers:** 1.a 2.c 3.b 4.c 5.b 6.b 7.a 8.d