

Catch Word #9 – Wave

Transcript

Robin: Good afternoon everyone, this is Robin...

Maura: And Maura, with the **Catch Word** podcast...

Robin: At Culips! And, as you know, each and every week we take one word or expression, phrase (something like that) and we break it down, and we talk about its various meanings.

Maura: Exactly!

Robin: And today this very special word that we have is ...

Maura: **“Wave.”**

Robin: **“Wave.”** Now, what’s a **wave**?

Maura: Well, right now I’m saying hello to you and I’m **waving**, but you can’t see me, so I’ll explain it, which means that my hand is moving back and forth, it’s opened, and it’s saying “hello” or “goodbye.”

Robin: So it’s moving side to side, and back and forth. You could be moving it up and down too, and in that sense, it’s like those things that we find in the ocean and the sea, and the water.

Maura: Right! So, **waves** are also part of lakes or oceans. Right! How would you describe a **wave** in the ocean?

Robin: Well, sometimes if the water’s flat there are no **waves** but whenever you have, like I said, those little bumps, those things are called **“waves”** and there’s a very popular sport that we use these things for and what is that sport? Can you guess?

Maura: I believe it is surfing.

Robin: Surfing, that’s it!

Maura: Right! So in Canada we don’t get really big **waves** for surfing. It’s more like Australia or Hawaii where people use the **waves**.

Robin: Tahiti...

Maura: We can also “**wave**” when we’re thinking about sports because if you go to watch a big game in a stadium where you have a lot of people, you can do this thing called “**the wave**”

Robin: “**Wave.**” It’s called “**the wave**”

Maura: Yes, not a wave, it’s “**the wave**” or “**the wave.**”

Robin: OK, definitely, and when you’re doing this, what happens is you have a bunch of people, a group of people, and usually there is one person encouraging them all to stand up and throw their hands in the air.

Maura: Right!

Robin: And then they sit right back down.

Maura: Right! And then people right beside them stand up and do the same thing and it goes all the way around, and looks like a **wave**.

Robin: All the way around the stadium. That’s “**the wave,**” eh?

Maura: Yeah, it’s kind of a cheer, right, to encourage your team.

Robin: And when people are doing this I think everyone’s pretty much on the same **wavelength**.

Maura: Yes, exactly! So a **wavelength** is like when people are thinking the same way or, yeah, looking at something in the same way.

Robin: Right, so we were on the same **wavelength**, so we decided to work on this project.

Maura: Exactly.

Robin: Exactly.

Maura: Yeah, if we think of us all with Culips. We were all interested in it; we all wanted to do the same kind of thing. We were on the same **wavelength**.

Robin: And we still are, so OK, that’s important for you to know.

Maura: Should we do one more?

- Robin: Yeah, let's do one more, "**make waves.**"
- Maura: Yes, well, what happens when you **make waves**?
- Robin: Well the image I guess would be if I dropped a stone into some water that isn't moving.
- Maura: Right!
- Robin: It's going to **make** some **waves**.
- Maura: Right, so it changes the water and does something different, so we can apply this to anything where someone makes a change, right?
- Robin: This new invention I came up with, this time machine, is going to **make** some serious **waves**.
- Maura: Right. Did you come up with a time machine?
- Robin: Yeah, I did.
- Maura: Wow!
- Robin: Yeah, I did, I'm working on the patent right as we speak.
- Maura: All right, so we will finish up there so Robin can go work on his time machine.
- Robin: Indeed, indeed. Well thank you for joining us once again at Catch Word, and we're looking forward to seeing you again next week.
- Maura: And as we're saying goodbye, we're **waving**.
- Robin: We're **waving**. So, take care everyone, we'll see you soon.
- Maura: Bye!

Detailed Explanation



A wave (with the hand)

Here is a photo of the **wave** that I was trying to describe to you in this episode. A person uses one hand to say “hello,” or “goodbye,” to another person. This is usually done when the person **waving** is far from the person to whom they would like to say hello or goodbye.

You can also simply **wave** to get someone’s attention. If you are meeting a friend at a busy restaurant and they don’t see you right away, you can **wave** to show your friend where you are. It’s a nice quiet way of getting their attention.

Other than being used in saying hello and goodbye, you can simply **wave** your hands in the air. You can **wave** a flag. You can **wave** anything. It is done with your hands when something is moved back and forth, from side to side.

A wave in the ocean

In a large body of water, like an ocean, sea, or lake, we almost always see **waves**, some little, some large, but the water is always moving. We described them in this episode as bumps in the water. Far from the shore (where the water and land meet) **waves** can often look like little bumps.

Waves can also be huge! At the shore, they can come crashing down, and the water at this point looks white as it hits the beach.

Surfing is the biggest sport associated with **waves**. There is a lot of surfing in Australia, Hawaii and California. When you surf, you ride the **waves**.

“The wave”

“**The wave**” is a big action. It really should be seen. Go to our Culips blog where I have posted a video of people doing “**the wave**” for you to see.

“**The wave**” must be done with lots of people! It is almost always done in a stadium or some other place where a lot of people are seated in rows. It starts at a specific spot. Everyone in this spot stands up at the same time and puts their arms in the air. “**The wave**” slowly moves to the right around the stadium as people stand up and then sit down again.

Check out the video! You’ll see what I’m talking about!

The other important question is why people do “**the wave**,” but it is hard to answer. Some people think “**the wave**” is done to encourage the sports team that you are watching and to build excitement in the stadium. Other say “**the wave**” is just something to do so the audience doesn’t get bored!

I tried to find out how “**the wave**” started, but no one knows for sure. We know that it started in the early 1980s in North America and by the mid 1980s it was already popular.

On the same wavelength

I will not bore you with the scientific definition of **wavelength**. Most English speakers do not fully understand it!

The **wavelength** that we were talking about was used in the expression “**on the same wavelength**.” To be **on the same wavelength** as another person means that you are feeling the same or thinking the same thing, or that something is common between you.

Speaker 1: I totally feel like eating a pig pizza for lunch today.

Speaker 2: We must be **on the same wavelength** because I would love pizza too.

In this episode, Robin said “...and when people are doing this I think everyone is pretty much on the same **wavelength**.” Robin was talking about people doing “**the wave**,” and because everyone was doing the same thing, they were also **on the same wavelength**.

To make waves

To “**make waves**” is to “cause trouble” or to “cause change.” A person **makes waves** when they do something that is not socially acceptable. A person can **make waves** when they ask a lot of questions about something that most people accept.

Here are a couple examples:

The boss hates it when a new employee starts **making waves** by wanting to change the way things are done.

In this example, the boss doesn’t like it when someone causes trouble for him at work.

Speaker 1: Did you see his new paintings?

Speaker 2: Yeah, he is really **making waves** in the contemporary art scene.

In this example, the artist is creating a new kind of art that may not be socially acceptable, or is changing the way people think about art.

*Unfortunately Robin never created a time machine! At least not yet, anyway!

More waves

There are more than just the definitions we mentioned. “**Wave**” can be used in different situations to talk about something moving up, or down, or around.

Here are just couple of other examples:

The tree branch was **waving** in the wind.

A **wave** of panic went through the group.

Wavy

We can make “**wave**” into an adjective: “**wavy**.” We use this to describe something that is not straight, for example, hair. People can have curly hair or straight hair. **Wavy** hair is between curly and straight. Hair that is not totally straight, and not totally curly, is called **wavy** hair.

Quiz (see the answers at the bottom of this Lipservice)**1. What does it mean when people wave?**

- a) I'm hungry
- b) How are you?
- c) Hello or goodbye
- d) Thank you

2. What is a wave?

- a) Movement in water
- b) Movement in dirt
- c) Movement in air
- d) Movement in fire

3. What sport is often associated with waves?

- a) Ping pong
- b) Tennis
- c) Race car driving
- d) Surfing

4. Where do people usually do "the wave"?

- a) Stadiums
- b) Movie theatres
- c) At home
- d) On the street

5. What does "to make waves" mean?

- a) To go to the mall
- b) To make changes
- c) To paint a picture
- d) To jump around

6. When two people are thinking alike, they are _____.

- a) Surfing
- b) On the same wavelength
- c) Making changes
- d) Standing up

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

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