

## Real Talk #032 – Lost wallet

### Episode description

Have you ever lost your wallet in public? It's a terrible feeling, and it could be even worse if you're in a country where you don't speak the local language. In this Real Talk episode, Andrew and Suzanne discuss ways you can use English to help find your lost items. Listen up! They might come in handy some day.

### Fun fact

In this episode, Andrew talks about a trip to Busan, Korea's second largest city. It is home to the popular Haeundae Beach, considered by many to be Korea's premier beach. You should go and visit!

### Expressions included in the study guide

- Trusty
- To be peeved
- An upgrade
- Nonspecific
- An acquaintance
- To ad-lib



## Transcript

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Note: The words and expressions that appear in **bold text** within the transcript are discussed in more detail in the Detailed Explanations section that follows the transcript.

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Andrew: You're listening to the Culips English Podcast. To download the study guide for this episode, which includes the transcript, detailed vocabulary explanations, real-world examples, and a quiz, visit our website, Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Hey, everybody. My name is Andrew.

Suzanne: And I'm Suzanne.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips. You are listening to Real Talk by Culips, and this is the series where we teach you the English expressions that you need to know for real-world situations. And, today, I'm joined by my **trusty** cohost Suzanne.

Hey, Suzanne.

Suzanne: Hey, guys. Hey, Andrew, how's it going?

Andrew: I'm doing not so bad. How about you?

Suzanne: I'm doing good. And, today, we're going to teach you how to report a lost item. That can happen to the best of us and, Andrew, I think you have a really fun story about the inspiration behind this topic.

Andrew: Yes, indeed I do. And, you know, we call this series Real Talk for a reason. It's because the situations that we look at in Real Talk actually occur in real life all of the time and, in fact, many of these episodes are based on my own personal life, trying to navigate living aboard and living using my second language, which is Korean. And, well, this last summer both my best friend and my brother came to visit me here in Korea. And they didn't come at the same time. In fact, they actually came about 3 months apart and, during both of their visits, we took a road trip down to the seaside city of Busan.

Suzanne: Nice.

Andrew: Which is Korea's second biggest city, it's on the ocean. It's fabulous, it's a nice place. And, oddly enough, when I was there with my best friend, he lost his wallet, and then when I visited with my brother, he lost his cell phone. And both of these incidents happened on the same street.

Suzanne: That's crazy.

- Andrew: Yeah, so when this happened, I kind of got stressed out because both my best friend and my brother don't speak Korean, so it was my responsibility to try and find their items and talk to people and talk to the police and file a report and jump through all of these hoops, you know?
- Suzanne: Yeah.
- Andrew: In doing this, I realized, you know, they don't teach you this situation in textbooks. So I thought it would be a good one for us to talk about here, how to handle a situation when you lose an item. So how to make a report, or how to describe the item you lost. All of these things that you need to do when this happens to you. So that's what we'll do here today.
- Suzanne: Yeah, did they find their stuff?
- Andrew: Well, yes and no. Yes and no. Actually, my friend found his wallet. And it was actually a little bit annoying because, after we left Busan, I went back to where I live and he was flying back to a different country, and when he was at the airport, he texted me and was like "Yo, Andrew, you'll never believe it, I just found my wallet in my backpack."
- Suzanne: No!
- Andrew: And I was like, ah, I was talking to the police, filing reports, talking to people that worked at the bank where he was using his ATM card, doing all this stuff for him, and then he ended up finding it in his backpack. So I was a little **peev**ed at that. But it's all right. At the end of the day, he still found it, so that was nice. And my brother's situation, actually, he lost his cell phone but he knew where it was and that was in the back seat of a cab.
- Suzanne: OK.
- Andrew: And we couldn't call it because he didn't have a roaming plan.
- Suzanne: Right, he's out of his country, yeah.
- Andrew: And he had a Canada phone number, so obviously that's the first thing you would do, right? Is just call the phone, but he had all his international roaming and stuff turned off because he didn't wanna deal with any extra fees. So when I tried to call it, it just didn't work at all.
- So we tried calling the taxi cab company and that didn't work and, actually, it really sucked because we had just gotten out of the taxi and were running, literally running, to catch our train 'cause we had to get back to where I live in Gwangju.

- Andrew: So, you know, I'm trying to do this and also we're really stressed about getting our train and navigating to the train station. So he told me, "Yo, bro, you know, just forget it, it's like a really old phone, I was thinking about getting a new one sometime soon anyways. This just inspired me to do that."
- Suzanne: Yeah, that's good.
- Andrew: So, we never got his phone back but, yeah, it was an old phone. He was ready for an **upgrade**. But he did tell me that the trip back to Canada wasn't the most pleasant without a phone to kill time on at the airport.
- Suzanne: Totally. Listen to your podcasts.
- Andrew: That's right, that's right.
- Suzanne: Speaking of podcasts.
- Andrew: Yeah, so we'll get into it a little deeper here. Suzanne, what is our plan for today?
- Suzanne: So, today we're gonna learn how to handle that kind of difficult situation of losing something, right? So what to do when you lose something in English.
- Andrew: Right.
- Suzanne: So first we're going to listen to a conversation where a man forgets his wallet in a taxi and then calls the taxi company, just like your brother, right? To make a report about the lost item.
- Andrew: Excellent. And then after we listen to the conversation, we'll take a look at it in more detail and break down some of the key language and vocabulary and expressions that we hear. Does that sound good?
- Suzanne: Sounds great.
- Andrew: But just before we listen to that conversation, I do wanna let all of the listeners know that we have a study guide for this episode. And we here at Culips think that the best way to study with us is with our study guide. And we design it to help you get the most out of each episode that we create. And, in the study guide, you'll get a transcript, detailed vocabulary explanations, real-world life examples of how to use that vocabulary, a quiz, some prompts, and more. All of the detail about how to you can access the study guide are available on our website so, to learn all about it, just visit [www.Culips.com](http://www.Culips.com).
- OK, so let's get started by listening to the conversation now.

Guy: Hi, I was just riding in a cab downtown along 7th Avenue and I realized that I forgot my wallet in the back seat.

Dispatcher: Oh no, that's too bad. Let's see if we can find it for you. Do you know who your driver was?

Guy: No, I can't remember.

Dispatcher: You were travelling on 7th Avenue, you said?

Guy: Yup, that's right.

Dispatcher: And what does your wallet look like? Can you describe it for me?

Guy: Well, it's a brown leather wallet. It's made by Fossil and there's about \$50 inside, plus all my bank cards and ID.

Dispatcher: OK, so I'm gonna put out an announcement to all the drivers in the area and hopefully one of them will respond right away and we can return it to you shortly. If not, and a driver finds your wallet in his car at the end of the night, he will turn it in to the lost and found here at the office. In that case, you can come down here and pick it up. We'll give you a call and let you know either way.

Guy: OK, great, thanks so much.

Dispatcher: Could I get your name and phone number?

Guy: Sure. Chris Smith and my number is 604-554-5555.

Dispatcher: OK, we'll let you know.

Guy: OK, thanks again. Bye.

Suzanne: So, in this example, we heard a conversation between a person who just rode in a taxi and the taxi dispatcher. When he got out of the car, he realized that his wallet was missing, so he quickly called the taxi office to report his wallet as missing.

And now we're gonna take a closer look at the conversation and talk about some of the ways the taxi rider made this report.

Andrew: All right, very good. So Suzanne, when the taxi passenger called the taxi office to report his wallet as missing, he said the exact sentence, "I realized that I forgot my wallet in the back seat." Let's listen to this part of the conversation just a couple more times.

Guy: And I realized that I forgot my wallet in the back seat.  
And I realized that I forgot my wallet in the backseat.

Andrew: OK, and I think it's very natural for English speakers to report items as missing using these words that express a degree of uncertainty. I realized I forgot my wallet or I think I forgot my wallet or I noticed I don't have my wallet anymore. Could you think of why we might do this?

Suzanne: Yeah, because the wallet might have been stolen, it might have been lost in a different place. We're not totally sure where it went missing, so maybe we're gonna say, "I think I may have left my wallet in the car" or, "I realized my wallet was missing when I got out of the cab." So this way, we're not blaming the cab company right away, but we are showing a degree of certainty that it happened within this time period.

Andrew: Yeah, because you never know, right? Like your wallet may have been stolen as you were hopping out of the car.

Suzanne: Yeah, sure. I got my wallet stolen in the subway.

Andrew: Oh no.

Suzanne: And I mean, I didn't even realize it. I thought it was on the street, but I realized, no, I think it was on the subway.

Andrew: Where was that, in Montreal or?

Suzanne: No, that was in New York.

Andrew: Yikes. So the point here is that these style of sentences are very, very common in this situation. I realized that I forgot my wallet, I noticed I forgot my wallet, I think I forgot my wallet. But, in a more official context, like maybe if you're visiting the police station to file a report, you could say something like, "I'd like to report a missing wallet." "I'd like to report a missing cell phone." Like this.

Suzanne: Yeah.

Andrew: And when you're making a sentence like this, you're leaving the possibility open that it may have been lost or it may have been stolen, right? You're just saying that your wallet's gone, I don't know what happened to it.

Suzanne: Exactly and,, yes, that's amazing. Yes.

Andrew: Suzanne, I wanted to mention that in North America, and maybe in other countries as well—I'm not really sure, but definitely North America—most large public places will have a lost and found office, right?

Suzanne: Yeah.

Andrew: And if you lose something, it's a good idea to go to that office to see if they have your item so that you could, you know, make a report to go and see if they have your item or, if they don't, you could make a report and just let them know to be on the lookout for your missing item. So, places like shopping malls or universities or sports arenas, they'll all have a lost and found office.

Suzanne: Yeah, and a lot of times when you go to those places, they will have you describe your item, just to be sure that they're giving the right item to the right person. So be ready to explain your item in a specific way, so that you can be reunited with your lost item.

Andrew: And, Suzanne, you once told me a story about losing your iPad, and you had to go report your iPad as missing. What happened to you then?

Suzanne: So I was in Costco and my boyfriend put my iPad on top of some oranges and we lost the iPad. And I went to the lost and found and the gentlemen didn't give it to me right away even though I described the object, because everyone can describe an iPad. It's kind of **nonspecific**, so he asked me what the code was to open the iPad. He opened the iPad and said put in your code and I did and it opened. And so he said, "OK, you're lucky we got it to you. Don't do that again." So, in that case, the code made it a very specific, you know, way that I can identify my personal iPad.

Andrew: Because, you know, there are a lot of dishonest people out there. And one thing that a guy that I used to know from university when I was doing my undergrad, what he would do is go to the library, the campus library, and go to the lost and found office and say, "I lost my computer charger."

Suzanne: No way.

Andrew: And he would take a bunch of computer chargers and then go and sell them and be like, "Yeah, you know, it's a black computer charger." Or, "It's an Apple computer charger, I forgot it when I was studying." So there's people out there like that guy that I knew in university. I wouldn't have called him a friend but he was an **acquaintance**, and there's people like that who will do these things. So you really need to know how to describe your item as specifically and as detailed as possible because, if not, they might be reluctant to give you the item. In the case of chargers, there's not a lot of detail that you can really give, so.

Suzanne: Right. Exactly, there's no code.

- Andrew: There's no code, there's no unique features, but definitely on a wallet or phone or a laptop, there's some ways that you can identify it to make it known that it's actually yours.
- Suzanne: Yeah.
- Andrew: So, Suzanne, just before we wrap it up there, I thought it would be fun if we role-played and **ad-libbed** a couple of situations with a lost item, OK? So I was thinking that I could be the person at the lost and found office and you could be?
- Suzanne: The loser.
- Andrew: The loser, yeah, you're the loser, OK. And you lost your sunglasses. So let's pretend that you are looking for your sunglasses and you come to the lost and found office to do that, OK?
- Suzanne: All right.

- Guy: Hello.
- Girl: Hi, I think I lost my sunglasses in the mall somewhere.
- Guy: Oh no, OK. Well, let me see if we have any. Could you tell me what they look like?
- Girl: They're Marc Jacobs, brown, like kinda tortoiseshell brownish, square-ish lenses, they're not round or anything. They're rounded square, they have like a little silver button on the ends of the arms.
- Guy: OK, well, let me just go and take a look and I'll see if we have anything that fits that description.
- Girl: Thanks so much.
- Guy: You know, I'm not actually seeing anything here. We have a pair of Oakley's but those are not them, obviously. All right, could you just write down your contact information for me here and if anybody turns them in, I'll give you a call.
- Girl: That's great, thank you so much, and I'll write down the description, the glasses too.
- Guy: Great, thank you.
- Girl: All right, thank you so much.



- Andrew: OK, so that is exactly what this type of situation would sound like. I think that was really well done, Suzanne, we sounded completely natural there, don't you agree?
- Suzanne: Totally, those are my actual sunglasses, so I used my true experience.
- Andrew: Have you lost them before?
- Suzanne: No, no, actually I didn't lose those. I'm good with sunglasses. Not so good with keys.
- Andrew: Well, speaking of keys, I wanted to role-play one last situation, and so let's talk about lost keys at a movie theatre, OK? And we'll switch roles this time, so now, Suzanne, you are the lost and found office person and I am the loser, OK?
- Suzanne: All right.

- Guy: Excuse me?
- Girl: Sure, yeah?
- Guy: Yeah, you haven't happened to have a set of keys turned into to you lately, have you? I've lost mine in the theatre last night.
- Girl: Last night?
- Guy: Yeah, I came to watch a movie last night and I realize that I must have dropped my keys sometime while I was watching the movie.
- Girl: Do you know which movie theatre you were in, or the movie you were watching and what time it was at?
- Guy: Yeah, I was watching the Green Book at 9:00, I don't remember what theatre it was in though, no.
- Girl: I can look that up, that was in theatre 14. OK, that's great. And do you have any kind of identifying factors on your keys or anything specific that would make them stand out a little bit?
- Guy: Yeah, I keep them on a carabiner, it's an orange carabiner and, yeah, it's supposed to help me not lose my keys but obviously doesn't work very well.
- Girl: Yeah, that's like one of those clips when you go climbing, kind of?
- Guy: Yeah, exactly, one of those loop things. Yeah.
- Girl: OK, great, is there specific colour?

Guy: Yeah, it's orange and there's only two keys on the key ring.

Girl: Oh, OK, well, let me go take a look in the back for you, see if it was turned in.

Guy: Sure.

Girl: All right, you're in luck.

Guy: Oh yeah?

Girl: Do these look like your keys?

Guy: Those are them. Yeah, amazing.

Girl: I'm so glad we could help you out.

Guy: Thank you so much.

Andrew: Well, everyone, that about wraps it up for us today. Thank you for listening, as always. And, one more time, I wanna remind you about our website, Culips.com. It's an awesome website, it's got tons and tons of back episodes that you can listen to. And if you want to sign up and become a Culips member and get access to our study guides, then that's the place that you can do that, as well.

Suzanne: Yes, and also don't forget that we are on Facebook at Facebook.com/CulipsPodcast. And you can get in touch with us directly by emailing [contact@Culips.com](mailto:contact@Culips.com) and, also, now on Instagram, so we're at Instagram.com/Culips\_English.

Andrew: Yeah, come check us out on Instagram, give us a follow, and check out some of the cool pictures that we post up there.

Suzanne: Yeah, and videos.

Andrew: And videos, yeah. All right, everyone, we'll be back soon with another brand-new episode, so we'll talk to you then. Bye.

Suzanne: Bye.

## Detailed Explanations

### Trusty Adjective

At the beginning of this episode, Andrew refers to Suzanne as his **trusty** cohost. **Trusty** is another way of saying trusted, as in Andrew trusts Suzanne's abilities as a cohost. This is a way of complimenting someone. You can also say **trusty** about objects, like your **trusty** car. In this sense, you trust that your car is dependable and won't break down.

Here are a couple more examples with **trusty**:

Miguel:	I heard you're driving up to Winnipeg next week.
Paddy:	I am. It should be fun.
Miguel:	What car will you be driving?
Paddy:	My <b>trusty</b> Hyundai Sonata.
Miguel:	That old thing? Isn't it 20 years old?
Paddy:	Older than that. But it has never let me down yet. I'll be fine.

Otto:	Don't you sometimes get scared living alone?
Gwen:	But I don't live alone. I live with my <b>trusty</b> guard dog, Sparky.
Otto:	Oh, that's right.
Gwen:	He's a pretty big dog. I don't think anybody wants to mess with him.

## To be peeved

Verb

**To be peeved** is to be annoyed at something or someone. In this episode, Andrew says he was a little **peeved** because he had to fill out reports and talk to police to find his friend's wallet, although his friend never lost it! That can be pretty annoying.

Here are a couple more examples with **to be peeved**:

Trent: Are you all right? You look upset.

Puong: Yeah, I'm a little **peeved**.

Trent: How come?

Puong: I specifically told the boss I couldn't work on Saturdays this month.

Trent: And he scheduled you for a Saturday?

Puong: Yes! I hate when he does that.

Yuri: Hey, you're late!

Liam: I know, I know. I'm sorry.

Yuri: What happened?

Liam: Actually, I'm a little **peeved** at myself. I was halfway to catching my bus when I realized I forgot my wallet at home. So I had to run back to get it. That's why I'm late. Sorry.

Yuri: That's OK. Hey, since you have your wallet, you can pay for lunch!



## An upgrade

Noun

When Andrew's brother lost his phone in a taxi, he wasn't too upset. Andrew says that his brother was ready for **an upgrade**, anyways. **An upgrade** is a better version of something you had. If you get a newer, better-quality cellphone, that's **an upgrade**. The same thing goes for a new computer, car, house, etc. The opposite of **an upgrade** is a downgrade, which is when you go from a higher-quality object to a lower-quality one.

Here are a couple more examples with **an upgrade**:

Chuck:	Did you get the video I sent you?
Paul:	I did, but I couldn't open it.
Chuck:	How come?
Paul:	I got a message saying that my computer can't open that type of file.
Chuck:	Oh, no wonder! You're still operating Windows XP. You definitely need <b>an upgrade</b> .

Kurt:	I see you're trying to sell your house.
Marta:	Yes. We put it on the market last week.
Kurt:	Any special reason?
Marta:	I feel we need a bigger house. The boys are growing up. They need more space. I figure it's time for <b>an upgrade</b> .
Kurt:	Well, I hope you don't move too far away.

## Nonspecific

### Adjective

**Nonspecific** means that something lacks distinguishing details or specific qualities. In this episode, Suzanne talks about how her iPad is **nonspecific** because it doesn't have features that makes it different from all the other iPads. If her iPad had some original stickers or a noticeable scratch, it would not be **nonspecific**, because only her iPad would have those details. **Nonspecific** is also an adjective that means general, especially in medical terms. If you have a general pain in your stomach and you can't describe it very well, it is called a **nonspecific** pain.

Here are a couple more examples with **nonspecific**:

Jill:	Did someone buy a chocolate bar just now?
Harry:	Yes. About 5 minutes ago.
Jill:	Do you remember what he looked like?
Harry:	Not really. He had a <b>nonspecific</b> look. I think he was wearing a white t-shirt and jeans. He had brown hair, I think. Why do you ask?
Jill:	I only saw him from behind. I thought maybe he was an old friend from high school.

Yvette:	How's your daughter?
Tania:	She's doing better now. But she was pretty sick last week before we went to the hospital.
Yvette:	What did the doctor say?
Tania:	He didn't find anything exactly. He said she had <b>nonspecific</b> flu-like symptoms and prescribed some antibiotics.
Yvette:	That's good. At least she's feeling better.



## An acquaintance

Noun

**An acquaintance** is someone you have met but who you do not consider a friend. Perhaps you have met this person more than once, maybe you remember their name, but this is not someone you hang out with regularly or who you contact on your own.

Here are a couple more examples with **an acquaintance**:

Liz:	Who's that over there? He's good looking.
Casper:	That's Mark.
Liz:	Do you know him?
Casper:	Not very well. I'd consider him <b>an acquaintance</b> .
Liz:	Do you know him well enough to introduce me to him?
Casper:	Um, sure. I can give it a try. Let's do it.

Samira:	Is this an actual picture of you and Johnny Depp?
Erik:	Sure. We're kind of friends.
Samira:	You're friends with Johnny Depp?
Erik:	Well, more like <b>acquaintances</b> .
Samira:	So do you hang out from time to time? What do you guys do?
Erik:	Um ... Actually, you caught me! This is just a selfie I took when I stopped him on the street.



## To ad-lib

Verb

**To ad-lib** is to improvise. In this episode, Andrew and Suzanne decide **to ad-lib** a couple of conversations. That means they did not follow a script. They simply came up with a spontaneous dialogue off the tops of their heads. **Ad-libbing** is popular in comedic movies and improvisational theatre, where actors create new lines of dialogue that were not written down as part of the script. Jazz musicians often **ad-lib** their solos.

Here are a couple more examples with **to ad-lib**:

Ren:	Have you ever seen the movie Anchorman?
Wendy:	I don't think so. Who's in it?
Ren:	The main actor is Will Ferrell.
Wendy:	Oh, I love him. He's really funny.
Ren:	I know. In this movie, he <b>ad-libs</b> almost all of his lines. You gotta watch it.

Carl:	Oh no. The boss wants me to conduct a meeting on the new project.
Sunny:	And?
Carl:	It's in 10 minutes!
Sunny:	No problem. You know this project inside and out. You should be able to <b>ad-lib</b> a short presentation, right?
Carl:	I guess so.
Sunny:	I'll be there, too. I'll help you out. We can <b>ad-lib</b> together.



## Quiz

**1. In Andrew's Busan story, did his friend actually lose his wallet?**

- a) yes
- b) no

**2. What does it mean if I say I'd like to report a missing wallet?**

- a) I know where I lost it
- b) I don't know where I lost it
- c) it could be A or B

**3. Which of the following does not mean to ad-lib?**

- a) to improvise
- b) to invent
- c) to create a new plan
- d) to follow the plan

**4. What is a good example of an acquaintance?**

- a) someone you have lunch with every weekend
- b) a friend of a friend you met twice
- c) your child's classmate
- d) your best friend's dog

**5. Which of the following is a good example of an upgrade?**

- a) getting bumped to first class when you bought an economy ticket
- b) buying a Porsche
- c) selling your old boat
- d) buying the iPhone 10

## Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever lost an important object in public? What happened?
2. What kind of measures do you take to make sure you don't lose something like your wallet or your keys?
3. How often do you upgrade your phone or your computer?
4. Some people have one or two good friends and many acquaintances. Some people have a large circle of good friends with few outside friends. Which situation best describes you?
5. When do you get peeved? What annoys you?
6. Are you good at ad-libbing? Why do you say that?



## Quiz Answers

1.b    2.c    3.d    4.b    5.a

### Episode credits

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