

Real Talk #041 – How to meet new people at a party

Episode description

Do you dread social gatherings because you're never quite sure exactly what to say? Then tune in to this Real Talk episode, where Andrew and Jeremy introduce some great phrases to use when making small talk at a party, wedding, or similar event.

Fun fact

Most people love to share stories about themselves. The best way to make a good impression at any social gathering is to ask questions that will spark the interest of those around you. Then all you have to do is sit back, listen as the conversation flows around you, and pat yourself on the back for your great social skills!

Expressions included in the study guide

- The [something]
- Goof
- To mean business
- To break the ice
- Well
- A blast
- Singing [one's] praises



Transcript

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. The transcript has been edited for clarity.

Andrew: Hello, everyone. My name is Andrew.

Jeremy: And my name is Jeremy.

Andrew: And you are tuned into Culips.

Andrew: Hey there, everyone, you're listening to Real Talk by Culips, which is the series where we teach you English expressions that you need to know for real-world situations. Today we are going to examine and learn about how to meet and introduce yourself to new people at a social event, like a party. And there is a study guide for this episode. Inside the guide, there is a transcript, detailed vocabulary explanations and examples of all the key expressions we'll study today, and also a comprehension quiz. So you can download it and follow along as you listen. It's available for all Culips members. And if you would like to check it out, just visit Culips.com, sign up, become a member, and get that guide.

Andrew: And today I am joined by my cohost, Jeremy. Jeremy, why don't you outline for our listeners what we're going to learn today?

Jeremy: In this episode, we're going to learn some practical expressions that you can use when you go to a social gathering. This is very common in English-speaking countries, where someone will have a party or a dinner party, a birthday party, a wedding, or some kind of social event like this. And when you go to this event, you will usually have a mutual friend with most of the people that you meet.

Andrew: That's right, especially at an event where you might know some of the people there, like the host, right? The host is probably your friend, or else why would they invite you to the party? But you don't know the other guests.

Jeremy: Yeah, Andrew, this is a really great situation to talk about. I have personally been invited to a few weddings recently and I didn't know anyone at the wedding other than my friend, and maybe one or two other people. And so it was a little bit awkward at first, and I tried my best to meet people and make good conversation. But I can only imagine how difficult this would be for someone who is still learning English. So the expressions we will teach you all today will be very, very useful, I promise.

Andrew: Absolutely. So, everyone, we're going to listen to two short conversations today that take place at a birthday party. And the birthday party is for Robin, OK? So we're going to hear people talking at Robin's birthday party. The people that you'll hear talking are all guests at the party, but they don't know each other and they're meeting for the first time.

Jeremy: And before we start the first conversation, I think it's important to mention that Robin, the name Robin, can be a man's name or a woman's name. There are some names like this in English that are commonly given to men or women. But there are also lots of names that are only given to men or only given to women. So this one we can say is a unisex name.

Andrew: Yeah, interestingly enough, Jeremy, my name—Andrew—is exclusively for guys. But Drew, if you shorten the name to Drew—my sister, for example, always calls me Drew—then it is used for everyone. Like the famous actress Drew Barrymore, right? She goes by Drew. So there's an element of that to my name, for sure. But Jeremy, though, I've never met a woman named Jeremy.

Jeremy: But a lot of people mishear my name. I say hi, I'm Jeremy and they think I said Jamie instead of Jeremy, Jamie, right? They're very similar. And Jamie is a unisex name. It can be a man's or a woman's name

Andrew: Jeremy, let's take a listen to that first conversation right now.

Neil: Hello, I'm Neil.

Eric: Hey, Neil. I'm Eric. Nice to meet you.

Neil: Nice to meet you, too. So, how do you know Robin?

Eric: Oh, we work together at **the firm**.

Neil: Oh, really? Oh, that's great.

Eric: Yeah. How about you? How do you know Robin?

Neil: We're actually in the same yoga class. I guess you could say we're yoga buddies.

Eric: Oh, good stuff.

Neil: Yeah. You know, I've always wondered, what is Robin like at work? She's such a **goof** when we're together. Is she liked that at the office, too?

Eric: No, that's a side we don't see very often. She's really professional, always **means business**.

Neil: Hmm, is that so? Interesting. **Well**, it was nice meeting you, Eric. I'm gonna go grab a refill on my drink.

Eric: Oh, you bet. See you around.

Andrew: OK, so in that conversation, we heard Neil and Eric, two guests at Robin's birthday party meeting for the first time. And they introduce themselves to each other, just the standard, typical hi, hello. nice to meet you, nice to meet you, too. But then Neil asks an interesting question. He says, how do you know Robin? So how do you know Robin? And of course Robin is the host of the birthday party, remember? And, Jeremy, when would you use this kind of question? How do you know somebody? How do you know this person?

Jeremy: Yeah, I almost always use this question when I know that the other person knows my friend. When I know they know the person I already know.

Andrew: You know, they know, they know.

Jeremy: Yeah, this is very complicated sounding, at least. But this question is so important for this kind of situation.

Andrew: Exactly. It's super common, because it's something to **break the ice**.

Jeremy: What does that mean?

Andrew: To **break the ice** means to become comfortable with somebody else, to ease the awkwardness of a new situation.

Jeremy: To lower the tension, to ease the tension, right?

Andrew: Exactly, to **break the ice**. So, you know, meeting someone for the first time is a little bit awkward. You could imagine, at this birthday party, maybe they're all gathered in someone's living room or dining room. You have no options other than to interact with each other. So to try and **break the ice**, to try and become comfortable and make things easy and less awkward, you could ask this question, how do you know the host? Or how do you know this person, just to give you something to talk about right from the start.

Jeremy: And this is very important to mention also, this is very, very common in English. When we are having a conversation with a new person, we always try to find things in common. We are always thinking about what we have in common with that other person. So, for example, if I see Andrew on the street somewhere, and we don't know each other, but he is wearing the same shoes that I have on, the same pair of shoes, I might say to him, hey, nice shoes. Where did you get those? And he would say, oh, I bought them at this store. I got them on sale or whatever. And this is very common in the culture of countries that speak English. We like to comment about things that we have in common with other people.

Andrew: Exactly. We even have a term for it. We say finding common ground, finding common ground. So trying to search and talk about something that is relatable to everyone immediately.

Jeremy: So, for example, if you wear a baseball cap with a certain team logo on it in the United States, for example, someone might say something to you about that team. They will assume that you are a fan of that team or that you are from that city where that team is and they will want to start conversation with you about that sport or that team or something like that.

Andrew: It happened to me yesterday, actually. There's a band—a little bit different, but same, same idea—there's a band from the UK called The Smiths. The Smiths were one of my favourite bands when I was a high school student. And so yesterday when I was teaching, one of my students at the university was wearing a T-shirt of that band, of The Smiths. And I was shocked. I said, wow, you like The Smiths? They're such an old band. I didn't know young kids would be listening to them these days. But then she told me, I don't know them. I just like the design of the T-shirt.

Jeremy: That's so common in Korea, I think.

Andrew: Yeah, it is very common here, indeed. Jeremy, let's keep rolling. Let's keep moving through and examine some more expressions here. So Neil asked the question, how do you know Robin? And Eric, the other guy in this conversation, says they work together at **the firm**.

Jeremy: **The firm.**

Andrew: **The firm.** What does **the firm** mean?

Jeremy: This is something actually that's also very important to mention. The use of the word **the** is very, very important. I would say that the word **the** is the most important word in the English language.

Andrew: **The most important.**

Jeremy: Yeah, exactly. When this person says at **the firm**, he is implying that the other person probably already knows about this firm. Now, firm means company, in a way, but usually with respect to some business in a certain professional field, like law or accounting or something like that. So it's sort of a formal word for business, we can say. But using the word **the** here implies that the other person already knows that Robin works at a firm. And if I say I work at **the firm** also, it implies, oh, you know that she works there. I work there with her, too. So there is an assumption behind the word **the**.

Andrew: Yeah, it's a specific office, a specific firm, right? It's not just any one. It's the one that they both work at. So it's highlighting that unique business, that unique office.

Andrew: So moving on, the two guys chat about how they know Robin and they get to know each other a little bit. They learn that Robin is a **goof** and kind of silly when she does yoga, but she **means business** and is professional and serious at the office. And then the two end their conversation and they do it in a really interesting way that is very important to know. This is an important skill to know how to do, to end a conversation.

Jeremy: Yes.

Andrew: Jeremy, could you let us know how they achieve this?

Jeremy: So Neil says to Eric, he says, **well**, it was nice meeting you, Eric. I'm going to grab a refill on my drink. Now, the important thing to notice here is when he says, **well**, it was nice meeting you, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. This phrase here, this thing that Neil says, this is sort of a way of showing that he wants to end the conversation. And in real life, if you have a conversation with someone like this at a party, and they very quickly say, **well**, it was nice meeting you, I have to go do this over here, sometimes it means they don't want to talk to you anymore.

Andrew: Yeah, it is a way to end a conversation. So we usually say, **well**, it was nice meeting you. And then we say what we're going to do next. **Well**, it was nice meeting you. I'm going to get some more food from the buffet table. **Well**, it was nice meeting you. I have to take this call. You know, something like this. We give an excuse, as **well**.

Jeremy: In fact, I would say the important word here is **well**. Actually, today, I was talking to someone at work, and we were having a social conversation about our kids and random things. But we both knew we needed to get back to work. So I said, **well**, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. And after saying, **well**, it becomes obvious to the other person that this conversation is over and I should go do something else now.

Andrew: Two things, Jeremy, that come to mind now that you mentioned that. If we look at the beginning of the conversation, Neil says, so, so how do you know Robin? And so is a kind of word that we use to start a conversation with another person. So how long have you been here? So where are you from? So we can kind of glide into a conversation with so. At the opposite end, we can use **well** to wrap up and finish a conversation. These are kind of intro and outro words. One of my favorite comedy movies of all time, and especially when I was younger, is *Dumb and Dumber*. Have you ever seen that movie, *Dumb and Dumber*?

Jeremy: Definitely.

Andrew: There's a very famous scene that maybe some of our listeners will know about, where Jim Carrey's character goes into a 7/11 convenience store and he buys a big soda, which is called a Big Gulp. And he comes out of the convenience store and there's two other guys drinking these Big Gulp drinks. And he starts a conversation with him by saying, Big Gulps, hey? Like he's finding something in common with them like we were just talking about. And then they say, yup. And then Jim Carrey says, **well**, see you later. And then the conversation is finished.

Excerpt from *Dumb and Dumber*

Hey, guys. Oh, Big Gulps, huh? All right. **Well**, see ya later!

Andrew: So that kind of shows a couple of things that we've been talking about here. Just a funny, funny scene in that movie. So, Jeremy, let's now move on to conversation 2. Now, everyone, this is happening between the same two characters, Neil and Eric, but it's a little bit later on in the evening, during the course of Robin's birthday party. So let's take a listen to part 2 of the conversation now.

Neil: Hey, there again, Eric.

Eric: Oh, hey, Neil. Enjoying the party?

Neil: Yeah, it's **a blast**. Hey, by the way, I wanted to introduce you to my girlfriend. Eric, this is Allison.

Allison: Hi, Eric. Nice to meet you.

Eric: You as well. Wait, are you **the Allison**?

Allison: Mmm, not sure?

Eric: Do you work at the yoga studio as a teacher?

Allison: Ah, yeah, I do.

Eric: Then you are **the Allison**. I've heard so much about you.

Allison: Good things only, I hope.

Eric: Of course, Robin is endlessly **singing your praises**. She says you're the reason she fell in love with yoga.

Allison: Well, that's very kind of her to say. Neil was telling me that you work with Robin at **the firm**.

Eric: Yeah, that's right. We've worked together for the last 5 years or so.

Neil: We'll have to get you to come down to yoga class next time, Eric. You'd love it. I'm sure of it.

Eric: That's an idea. Sounds like it could be fun.

Andrew: So in part 2 of this conversation, we hear Neil and Eric talking again. And this time, actually, there is a third character. It is Allison, Neil's girlfriend. And so this is another very important skill that everyone needs to know how to do in English, and that is introducing someone to a different person, right? So Neil introduces his girlfriend to Eric. And what does he say to do that, Jeremy?

Jeremy: He says, Eric, this is Allison. So if, for example, I wanted to introduce Andrew to my friend, John, over here, then I would say, John, this is Andrew. Andrew, this is John. And then Andrew and John would say, oh, nice to meet you. Nice to meet you. And they would shake hands.

Andrew: Right. And sometimes people even shorten this a little bit. They'll say, Andrew, John. John, Andrew.

Jeremy: Very, very common.

Andrew: Yes. It always has that intonation pattern, too, which you guys can pay attention to. Andrew, John. John, Andrew. Like this.

Jeremy: This is also very important, I would say, in English-speaking culture. We feel that it is sort of rude not to introduce someone to someone else. For example, if Andrew and I are talking one day at a party, and I am standing with my other friend, who he doesn't know, if my friend is standing there for 2 minutes, 5 minutes, 10 minutes, 20 minutes, and I never say, oh, Andrew, this is my friend John. John, this is my friend Andrew, if I don't say that, John, John will be mad at me later. He will say, hey, why didn't you introduce me? Come on.

Andrew: Right. It is your responsibility as a polite person to make sure that everybody knows who everybody is and what everybody's name is in a group social situation.

Jeremy: Or at least with people that are talking to each other.

Andrew: Yeah. In a party, you don't need to introduce everybody. There's 20 people, that's ridiculous. But, you know, a small setting like that, Jeremy, that you just mentioned, yeah, if you are the person that knows everybody, then you should make sure that everyone gets introduced.

Jeremy: Basically, we like it when everybody knows everyone else. That is what is preferred. So we try to help make that possible. But you don't need to walk around with your friend and introduce them to everyone at the whole party. That is excessive and would be very strange.

Andrew: So then the conversation continues. And Eric asks, wait, are you **the Allison**? I've heard so much about you. Are you **the Allison**? And he stresses T-H-E, right? But here because Allison starts with a vowel, he says **the** and it's really, really stressed. Jeremy, why does he stress it so much? Why is she **the Allison**?

Jeremy: Like we mentioned in the last, with the last dialogue, the word **the** is very, very important in English. And when we use the word **the**, it implies that the other person knows what we're talking about, that the other person already knows that thing. So when Eric says, are you **the Allison**? He is saying, are you **the Allison** that I already know about? And if you are her, then you already know about yourself, too. It implies that he has heard about her before. It implies that Robin has already talked about her or told him about her. So Eric has already been informed about Allison before meeting her.

Andrew: Right. It's not just any person named Allison. It's a specific person, the specific Allison that Robin talks about to Eric, right? So Eric says, I've heard so much about you, indicating that Robin has talked a lot about Allison in the past.

Jeremy: I often use this example with my students. I'm sure most people who have watched Hollywood movies would know the name Tom Cruise. OK. It's a very famous person, very famous name. But let's imagine that I have a friend whose name is Tom Cruise, but he is not famous. So if I tell someone else, oh, my friend Tom Cruise came to see me blah, blah, blah, the person might say, ah, you're friends with **the Tom Cruise**? No way. And I would say no, no, no, he just has the same name. He's not **the Tom Cruise**. He's just a Tom Cruise.

Andrew: That's a great way to imagine the difference between these two articles, a and the. So, Jeremy, Eric says, I've heard so much about you. And Allison responds by saying, good things only, I hope. Good things only, I hope.

Jeremy: Yeah, very common.

Andrew: This is a super common, almost automatic thing to say, in this situation, right?

Jeremy: Yeah, I would say almost every time someone says that to me. Like, oh, Jeremy, I've heard a lot about you. Almost every time I say, good things, I hope, or, oh, no, I hope it's not all bad things or some comment regarding whether the things that were told were good or bad, embarrassing or flattering.

Andrew: Right. And, yeah, it's very, very, very common to talk like that in this situation.

Jeremy: **Well**, we're almost at the end of today's episode. But before we go, let's summarize what we've covered.

Andrew: All right, so today we learned about how to socialize with people that you've never met before in a small social setting, like a party or a wedding or a birthday party.

Jeremy: But not just any social setting, one where the other guests are mutual acquaintances or they know someone that you also know.

Andrew: That's right. We learn the expression so how do you know so and so? So how do you know Jeremy? So how do you know Andrew? Which is what you can say when you want to find out about how someone is connected to your friends or connected to the acquaintance that you both know.

Jeremy: We also learned about the importance of the word **the** in English and that the word **the** implies that both the speaker and the listener already know about the thing that is being talked about.

Andrew: And we learned about **well** to end a conversation or to wrap something up. And, Jeremy, you just said it. **Well**, we're almost at the end of today's episode, right? **Well**, it was nice meeting you. I'm gonna go now, right? It's a way to end the conversation in a polite way. OK, instead of just bailing and leaving, without wrapping things up. We like to wrap things up and finalize them when we're speaking English.

Jeremy: And finally, we learned the expression I've heard so much about you, which is what we can say when you meet someone for the first time but you already know some things about them. This is very common in this situation.

Jeremy: So that brings us to the end of this episode. Thank you all for listening. We hope you learned a lot with us today.

Andrew: Our website is Culips.com. And if you would like to get the study guide, including the transcript and practice exercises, for this episode, check out Culips.com to download it.

Jeremy: Becoming a Culips member is a great way to support us. But it's not the only way. You can also support by leaving us a five-star rating and a nice review on your podcast app, telling your friends about Culips, and following us on social media.

Andrew: Yeah, you can stay up to date with us by following us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, or Twitter, whichever one you prefer. Our email address is contact@Culips.com. And if you'd like to send us a message, feel free to do that. We love hearing from you. We'll be back soon with another brand-new Culips episode and we'll talk to you then. Goodbye.

Jeremy: Bye, everyone.

Detailed Explanations

The [something]

Definite article

The is the most frequently used word in the English language. It is called a definite article, because it goes in front of a noun when a reader or listener knows exactly what someone is referring to—this is because there is only one of that specific thing. For example, in the sentences “**The moon** is very bright” or “Mr. Lee is **the principal** of our school,” we use the definite article **the** before the noun because there is only one moon and there is only one principal in a school.

Oppositely, if one wants to talk about something more generally, indefinite articles such as a or an would be used. In the sentence “I live in a blue house on Maple Street,” the indefinite article a implies that there are multiple blue houses on Maple Street. However, in the sentence “I live in **the blue house** on Maple Street,” the definite article **the** implies that there is only one house on Maple Street that is blue.

Here are a couple more examples with **the [something]**:

Antoine: Dad, can I borrow **the car**?

Dad: Sorry, son. Your mom just took it to go get groceries for dinner tonight.

Antoine: Ah, all right. I really need to get a summer job so I can buy my own car.

Dad: That’s an excellent idea. Tell you what. If you raise half the money for a car, I’ll pay the other half. How’s that sound?

Antoine: Really? No way! Dad, you’re the best!

Jason: Wanna go to **the beach** after school?

Hank: Which one? **The one** near the park or **the one** off Lincoln Avenue?

Jason: **The one** near the park. It’ll be less crowded.

Hank: Cool. Let’s stop at home first, though. I wanna grab my sunglasses before we go.

Goof

Noun

A **goof** is a person who is always joking around and acting silly. Calling someone a **goof** is not a major insult, but it does imply that the person is a bit foolish or stupid. There are many variations of the word **goof**. The adjective **goofy** means foolish or silly. The phrase **to goof around** means to act silly or be playful. Calling someone a **goofball** is the same as calling someone a **goof**—you are calling them a silly or foolish person.

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

Isabella: What's wrong with Pepper? Why is she rolling in the grass like that? She's acting like such a **goof**.

Ryan: I think a bee might have stung her when she was sniffing around the flowers earlier.

Isabella: Aw, poor puppy. We should give her a treat to make her feel better.

Max: Look at this video of RJ doing a **goofy** dance when we went drinking last night.

Gary: What? RJ? He's so serious and he never dances. I have to see this!

Max: Yeah, he decided to let loose a little and I think he had one too many beers. He almost started dancing on the tables.

Gary: Dude, I cannot even imagine that. I wish I had been there!

To mean business

Informal phrase

The phrase **to mean business** signifies that one is very serious and determined to do something. **To mean business** is pretty much the opposite of the phrase mentioned above, to goof around. For example, you might have a friend who is always goofy and laid-back outside of work, but when he gets to the office he is totally serious and ready to get things done; he **means business**.

Here are a couple more examples with **to mean business**:

Caroline: You're new at school, right?

Lydia: Yeah, I just moved here last week. Today's my first day of school.

Caroline: You're really pretty. You've gotta be careful.

Lydia: Ha! Thanks, I think. Why do I have to be careful?

Caroline: You see that girl over there? That's Samantha. She's the queen bee of this school. She doesn't like people who are prettier than her. If you get on her bad side, you're in trouble—she **means business**.

Lydia: What will she do to me if I get on her bad side?

Caroline: You'll become a social pariah before you even know what happened. Just steer clear of her, OK?

Brandon: You're coming to the poker game tonight, right?

Tyler: You want me to? I remember taking all of your money last time we played.

Brandon: Ha, very funny. Tonight's different. I **mean business**. I'm gonna win back everything you took last time.

Tyler: Yeah, we'll see about that. How about we raise the stakes? The loser tonight has to buy three rounds the next time we go out.

Brandon: You're on!

To break the ice

Idiom phrase

To break the ice is to alleviate tension or to get the conversation flowing between people who have never met before. When we are strangers to each other, it is often hard to get a conversation going and start a new relationship. However, once someone starts the conversation, or **breaks the ice**, then a dialogue forms, information is exchanged, and a relationship begins to form. Learning clever questions to ask in order **to break the ice** is a great life skill to have.

Here are a couple more examples with **to break the ice**:

Remy: How did your date go last night?

Tristan: Not great. It took forever for us **to break the ice**.

Remy: Really? On a date?

Tristan: Yeah, I kept asking her questions and she was only replying with one-word answers for the first 30 minutes. We had nothing in common.

Remy: Ugh, that sounds awful.

Tristan: Yeah, it wasn't great. But after I started asking her about her work, she opened up more. I think she's kind of a workaholic.

Carly: Are you coming to the dance on Friday?

Meg: No way! I hate middle school dances. Everyone just stands around awkwardly for the first hour waiting for someone brave enough **to break the ice**. And the music sucks!

Carly: Yeah, but I'm going and so is Rachel.

Meg: I don't care. I'd rather get my eyebrows waxed off than go to some lame dance.

Carly: OK, suit yourself.

Well Adverb

Well is used in a variety of ways, but today's lesson focuses on **well** being used as a transitional word, like hey or anyways, to introduce the end of a conversation. To end a conversation politely, the speaker uses a transitional word such as **well** to signify that they are ready to finish talking and walk away.

Here are a couple more examples with the word **well**:

Veronica: Hey, Carol! Is that you? Oh my goodness, it's been forever!

Carol: Yeah, like 3 years, right? How've you been?

Veronica: Oh, great. Really great. I got a new job and bought a house. How about you?

Carol: Oh, yeah, I'm great too. I'm expecting a baby soon—as you can see.

Veronica: Yeah, I noticed that. Congratulations!

Carol: Thanks! **Well**, anyways, I'm actually late for an appointment, so I'd better get going. It was great seeing you, though.

Veronica: You too! Good luck with the new baby!

Dustin: **Well**, Rob, that was the last customer. Let's close this place up and head home for the night.

Rob: Really? We're closing 30 minutes early? I'm gonna clean this place so quickly!

Dustin: Ha! Do you have exciting plans for tonight?

Rob: Yeah, my friends and I are going to see that new horror movie.

Dustin: **Well**, then, let's stop the chatting and get this place closed up!

Rob: Yes, sir!

A blast

Idiom

To have **a blast** means to have a really good time. One can also describe something as being **a blast**. For example, you could say, "That rollercoaster was **a blast**!" In other words, the roller coaster was really fun.

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

Mom: How was the baseball game?

Adrian: It was **a blast**! They showed our faces on the jumbotron!

Mom: What's the jumbotron?

Adrian: C'mon, Mom! You know, the giant TV thing that they have at the baseball stadium? Dad and I were on there!

Mom: Wow, that's so exciting! Did the team you were rooting for win?

Adrian: They sure did! They won by a landslide. It was the best game ever.

Dad: How was the sleepover at Kelly's last night?

Ginny: We had such **a blast**! We had pizza and watched scary movies and did makeovers and stayed up all night.

Dad: All night, huh? Are you tired?

Ginny: Nope! I had enough soda to keep me awake for 3 days.

Dad: Oh boy, I can tell you're gonna be a hyper one today. Well, I'm glad you had fun.

Singing [one's] praises

Idiom

To **sing [one's] praises** is to speak highly of someone by saying good things about them because of their attitude or something good they have done. Parents often **sing the praises of their children** because they are proud and they want everyone to know how amazing their kids are. Bosses also **sing the praises of diligent employees** when giving referrals to future bosses or when offering someone a promotion at work.

Here are a couple more examples with **singing [one's] praises**:

Melanie: How did the meeting go? Did you get that promotion you were hoping for?

Vince: Yeah, I did! It was amazing! The bosses were **singing my praises** and saying how important I was to the company and how much they appreciate all of my hard work. I didn't know they liked me that much.

Melanie: Oh, that's amazing news! Congratulations! You totally deserve it. We should celebrate.

Vince: For sure. Let me change out of this stuffy suit and we'll go somewhere nice.

Francine: Well, I think that concludes our interview for today. You seem like a great fit for our company. Welcome to the team!

Genevieve: Really? I got the job? Thank you so much for this opportunity.

Francine: Yes, and thank you for coming in for the interview. We've been trying to fill this position, and Carrie really **sang your praises**. She said you would be a perfect fit for the job, and I believe her.

Genevieve: I won't let you down, Francine. I may not have a lot of experience, but I'm really passionate about this company and I'm a fast learner.

Francine: I'm sure you are. Anyways, let's head down to human resources so we can start writing up your paperwork and then get your photo taken for your employee ID.

Quiz

1. Which phrase has a similar meaning to “it’s a blast”?

- a) it sucks
- b) it’s all right
- c) it’s so much fun
- d) it’s not so bad

2. Why might you be called a goof?

- a) you are really grumpy
- b) you are super smart
- c) you are always lazy and tired
- d) you are always doing funny, silly things

3. What is the difference between “let’s go to a park after school” and “let’s go to the park after school”?

- a) the first phrase is talking about any park, while the second is talking about a specific park
- b) the first phrase is talking about a specific park, while the second is talking about any park
- c) both phrases have the same meaning

4. True or false? When breaking the ice at a party, it is common to talk about how you and the other guest know a mutual friend or acquaintance.

- a) true
- b) false

5. Why might someone sing your praises?

- a) they need something from you
- b) you’re a great friend
- c) you lied to someone
- d) you always help yourself first

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Do you enjoy social gatherings? Why or why not?
2. What is your favourite way to break the ice?
3. Do you like people with goofy personalities? Why or why not?
4. When was the last time that you had a blast doing something? Describe it.
5. When was the last time someone sang your praises? Why? What did you do to deserve it?

Quiz Answers

1.c 2.d 3.a 4.a 5.b

Episode credits

Hosts: Andrew Bates and Jeremy Brinkerhoff

Music: *Something Elated* by Broke For Free,
Sleepless Aloha by Reed Mathis

Episode preparation/research: Andrew Bates

Audio editor: Andrew Bates

Transcriptionist: Heather Bates

Study guide writer: Kassy White

English editor: Stephanie MacLean

Business manager: Tsuyoshi Kaneshima

Project manager: Jessica Cox

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