

Simplified Speech #028 – Things we can't leave home without

Episode description

What are the items that you can't leave home without? That's the topic of conversation in this Simplified Speech episode. Join Andrew and Morag as they talk slowly and naturally about the items that are a big deal to leave behind.

Fun fact

Did you know that the average person spends 153 days over their lifetime looking for misplaced items? Don't be a statistic—be organized and keep track of the important items you can't leave home without!

Expressions included in the learning materials

- A bummer
- To be bummed
- To suit [someone or something]
- To pop to [somewhere]
- A big deal



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.

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Hey everybody. My name is Andrew.

Morag: And my name is Morag.

Andrew: And we're back with another Culips episode.

Hey Morag.

Morag: Hi Andrew.

Andrew: How are you?

Morag: I'm doing all right. A little tired this morning, but pretty good. How 'bout you?

Andrew: Ugh, I'm a little bit annoyed at myself.

Morag: Hmm, why?

Andrew: Well, I went to take the bus this morning, and I forgot my traffic card at home.

Morag: Ooh.

Andrew: A traffic card is the card that I use to pay my bus fare.

Morag: So it's like my STM or my Metropass bus pass.

Andrew: Exactly the same. I think many cities use this type of payment system for public transportation.

Morag: But you left yours at home. That's a pain!

Andrew: Yeah, because ... Now, this is not **a big deal**. The bus isn't super expensive, but I have to take a bus and then transfer to the subway. And if I do it with my card, the transfer is free. But since I forgot my card, I had to pay two times each way. So today, I paid double the amount that I should've paid, and it's just kind of annoying.

- Morag: That's a **bummer**.
- Andrew: But there's good news because thinking about this inspired today's episode. And today, we're going to do a Simplified Speech episode. In Simplified Speech episodes, we have a completely natural, unscripted conversation, but we speak slower than we usually do. And we do this really to help out the beginner and intermediate listeners out there who request this type of content.
- OK. So, Morag, can you tell everybody what our episode topic is today?
- Morag: Sure, our episode topic is the things we don't leave home without. So stuff you can't forget, or you'll have a bad time like Andrew did.
- Andrew: Yeah, my traffic card.
- Morag: Oh no! Yeah.
- Andrew: I'm actually pretty intrigued. What are some items that you always take with you before you leave the house?
- Morag: You're basically asking what's in my purse.
- Andrew: Uh, yeah.
- Morag: Well, so the main things ... Say, even if I weren't carrying a bag or a purse for some strange reason, I would always have my keys because I have to get back into my house.
- Andrew: Mmhmm.
- Morag: My wallet because you need to pay for things. And my phone, yeah, for everything else.
- Andrew: Mmhmm.
- Morag: How 'bout you, Andrew?
- Andrew: I have four things I can think of off the top of my head. The first is my wallet, second is my phone, the third is my headphones, and the fourth is my backpack.
- Morag: Ah, are your keys somewhere in there, or do you not lock your door?
- Andrew: I'm all digital. I have a digital door lock, yeah.
- Morag: What?

Andrew: Yeah!

Morag: Whoa!

Andrew: And I have a keypad where I enter a PIN number, and it opens my door,

Morag: You are living in the future.

Andrew: This is life in Asia.

Morag: Wow.

Andrew: It's in the future. And to be perfectly honest with you, I get paranoid about losing things, OK. I'm always tapping my pockets to make sure my wallet's still there. My phone's still there. And it's been a difficult adjustment to realize that I don't need to carry keys with me anymore.

Morag: That would be tough because I too tend to tap my pocket to make sure that my keys are still there, or the pocket in my purse that I keep my phone. If I'm not listening to music through my phone, probably once every half an hour or so, I'll make sure it's still there, yeah.

Andrew: Yeah, so this has been an adjustment for me. And actually, something else just came to mind, a fifth thing that is the newest addition to my don't-leave-home-without-it collection. And this is an extra battery for my phone.

Morag: Oh!

Andrew: Yeah, so I have ...

Morag: You have a Samsung?

Andrew: No, sorry. What I mean is a portable battery, so ...

Morag: Ah.

Andrew: When my phone is getting low, if I don't have a charger handy, I can just plug in this portable battery and give my phone a boost.

Morag: Hmm, that's cool.

Andrew: They're super popular over here in Korea. I'm not sure about Canada.

Morag: Not so much, but I think they're gaining popularity.

Andrew: Hmm.

- Morag: I just thought of a couple of things that are seasonal must-haves, seasonal things I can't live without.
- Andrew: OK.
- Morag: In the winter, I always make sure that I have gloves, even if it's not that cold at the moment, because you never know. And lip chap and hand cream.
- Andrew: Oh yes, lip chap. I get really **bummed** if I realize that I've left home without lip chap.
- Morag: Mmhmm.
- Andrew: Hate not having it handy.
- Morag: I get really **bummed** if I leave my headphones at home.
- Andrew: Yes.
- Morag: Or at work. I did that yesterday. I forgot my headphones at work when I was coming home, and then I had nothing to listen to when on the metro. It was so sad.
- Andrew: I lost my headphones last weekend when I was 6 hours away from where I live.
- Morag: Oh no!
- Andrew: I had to take a 6-hour bus ride with no music, with no podcasts. Ah, it was terrible.
- Morag: That sounds like torture.
- Andrew: But I did have a nap, so it was OK.
- Morag: That ... Yeah, that's all right. But napping with music is so lovely.
- Andrew: Mmhmm, it's true. It's true. Morag, I have one final question for you.
- Morag: Mmhmm.
- Andrew: How do you carry your things?
- Morag: Hmmm ...
- Andrew: Do you wear a backpack, a purse, a book bag? What do you use?
- Morag: I have a nesting system.

- Andrew: Whoa, a nesting system. I'm ...
- Morag: Mmhmm.
- Andrew: You've piqued my interest here. What is this?
- Morag: I have a series of bags that fit one inside the other.
- Andrew: Hmm.
- Morag: So I have my very small bag that can fit my keys, wallet, and phone. That lives inside my purse. And then when I have to carry something larger, the purse fits inside my backpack.
- Andrew: OK.
- Morag: I always have the one bag, and then almost always have my purse. And then most times too, I'll have the purse inside the backpack. So there you go—a nesting system.
- Andrew: It's like one of those Russian dolls.
- Morag: Yeah, a bag inside a bag inside a bag.
- Andrew: I like it. I just use a plain and simple backpack. It only has two pockets, one small pocket on the front, one bigger section in the back. And this seems **to suit me** just fine. But one thing that I'm getting more and more picky about is buying clothing with pockets, especially coats, OK?
- Morag: Hmmm.
- Andrew: I'm not talking about cargo pants, guys.
- Morag: Yeah.
- Andrew: OK? I'm not a cargo pant guy, but coats with a nice set of pockets, I am likely to buy that coat.
- Morag: I agree with you. My winter coat especially, it's important to have a good amount of pockets. The one that I have right now, there's one larger pocket on the inside that can fit a book, which is, you know, important.
- Andrew: Mmhmm.
- Morag: And then a tiny, zippered pocket on one side of the breast of the jacket. And it's good for any tiny little items. So if I just need **to pop outside**, you don't need to carry anything. It's great.

- Andrew: Yeah! Well, Morag, you know, this was really interesting. I feel like I know you a little bit better now. I know about your nesting bag system.
- Morag: OK.
- Andrew: I might have to steal this technique in the future.
- Morag: It's very handy. It came about because I used to lose things a lot. So constantly moving your things from one container to another is not so great, but moving the containers themselves, hmm, safer.
- Andrew: Well, guys, that is it for us today.
- Morag: If your goal is to improve your English, we would love to help you. And the best way to study with us is to become a Culips member. Membership gets you access to our learning materials, which include transcripts, detailed vocabulary explanations, and quizzes for all our episodes. So visit our website, Culips.com, to learn how to become a member.
- Andrew: And if you have any questions, comments for us, well, you could send us a message. A great way to do that is through our Facebook page, Facebook.com/CulipsPodcast, or you can email me directly at Andrew@Culips.com, or you can leave us a comment on our brand-new comment section on the website, Culips.com. So whatever way works best for you, get in touch.
- Morag: Thanks for listening, everyone. We will be back soon with another Culips episode.
- Andrew: Bye.
- Morag: Bye.
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Detailed Explanations

A bummer

A **bummer** is a noun that means an unpleasant or disappointing situation or experience. **Bummer** is a very informal, slang term and should be avoided in formal or work situations. In other words, don't use **bummer** unless you're talking to a friend or family member.

"That's a **bummer**," "What a **bummer**," or "**Bummer**" are common phrases that you can use to respond sympathetically to someone who has just described an unpleasant or annoying situation. For example, in this episode, Morag responds to Andrew's story about forgetting his transit pass by saying, "That's a **bummer**." By using this phrase, she's affirming that Andrew's mistake that morning made for a frustrating situation.

Be careful: Tone is extremely important when using this expression. If your tone is abrupt or comes across as unsympathetic or sarcastic, the phrases discussed above—"That's a **bummer**," "What a **bummer**," or "**Bummer**"—can sound dismissive or rude.

Here's one more example with a **bummer**:

Jacob: Aw man, I work late tomorrow.

Julia: **Bummer!**

To be bummed

Bummed means annoyed, upset, or disappointed. It is the adjectival form of the noun a **bummer**. If you get or are **bummed**, you feel disappointed, unhappy, or sad. So a **bummer** situation makes you feel **bummed**! Like a **bummer**, **bummed** is a very informal term and should be avoided in formal situations.

In this episode, Andrew and Morag both mention some things that get them **bummed**. Andrew says he gets really **bummed** if he leaves home without lip chap. Morag says that she gets **bummed** if she forgets her headphones at home. In other words, when they forget these items, they feel sad and disappointed.

Here's one more example with **to be bummed**:

Sally: I can't believe that I didn't get that job. I really thought I had a good chance.

Jesse: Don't feel bad. You'll find something else.

Sally: You're probably right, but I'm going to be **bummed** about it for a while.

To suit [someone or something]

To suit [someone or something] is a verbal phrase with a couple of related meanings.

First, **to suit [someone or something]** can mean to be correct or to be appropriate for someone or something. For example, imagine that you just painted your room. If your friend comes over and comments that the new colour really **suits the room**, they mean that the colour looks good and was a good choice. This use of **to suit [someone or something]** can be used to refer to people, objects, or situations.

Second, **to suit [someone or something]** means to work well or to be convenient for someone or something. When someone says that something **suits them**, they mean that it is convenient and meets their needs. This is the way **to suit** is used in this episode. When Andrew says that using a backpack **suits him** just fine, he is saying that carrying a backpack is convenient because it does everything that he needs a bag to do.

Here are a couple more examples with **to suit [someone or something]**:

Kyle:	Welcome to the party!
Sophia:	Thanks, your place looks lovely. I really like the music you're playing.
Kyle:	I appreciate the compliment. I tried to pick music that would suit the party . You know, something you can dance to.
Sophia:	Good call!

Mark:	I haven't seen Geoff in the longest time. Do you still talk to him?
Elaine:	We just had a chat last week.
Mark:	How's he doing?
Elaine:	He's doing well. He has such a crazy job, though. He's a night receptionist at a hotel, and he starts work at 8:00 p.m. and doesn't leave until 6:00 a.m.
Mark:	I could never work those hours!
Elaine:	Me neither, but it seems to suit him . He told me that he likes having the days free to work on his photography.
Mark:	To each their own, I guess!

To pop to [somewhere]

The expression **to pop to [somewhere]** means to go somewhere and stay there briefly, or to go somewhere quickly.

It's important to remember that **to pop** is almost always preceded by a preposition. When specifying a location, use one of the following prepositions: to, out to, or over to. That is, if you specify the place you're going to visit quickly, you can use **to pop to [somewhere]**, **to pop out to [somewhere]**, or **to pop over to [somewhere]**. For example, if you are planning to visit the gym quickly, you could say, "I'm going **to pop to the gym**," "I'm going **to pop out to the gym**," or "I'm going **to pop over to the gym**." All three phrases mean the same thing!

If you don't specify the location, you can use one of the following prepositions: out or in. That is, if you don't specify the place you're going to visit quickly, you can use **to pop out** or **to pop in**. For instance, if you need to run to the store, but don't specify the term store, you would say, "I just need **to pop out**."

In this episode, Morag says that she likes jackets that have zippered pockets that she can store important items in if she needs **to pop outside**. In other words, she finds those jackets convenient for occasions when she needs to leave the house briefly or quickly for only a short period of time.

Here are a couple more examples with **to pop to [somewhere]**:

Nora:	Do we have everything we need to make dinner?
Joe:	I think so, but let me check. Oh no! I was wrong. I totally forgot to pick up garlic.
Nora:	That's OK. I can pop to the grocery store , and be back in 15 minutes.
Joe:	Awesome, thanks!

Francesca:	Georgette's party is tonight, right?
Steve:	That's right.
Francesca:	Do you still want to go? I'm feeling pretty tired.
Steve:	We don't have to stay for the whole thing. Why don't we just pop in for a little bit?
Francesca:	Sounds like a plan.

A big deal

A big deal is a noun that means a person, thing, or situation that is very important.

In this episode, Andrew says that it wasn't **a big deal** that he forgot his transit pass. In other words, he's saying that it wasn't an important or momentous event; it was simply annoying.

You may also hear people use **big deal** as an interjection. When used as an interjection, **big deal** means not impressive. Imagine that you're proud of biking to work one day. You tell someone about your accomplishment, and they respond, "**Big deal!**" This is their way of communicating that they think biking to work is not important or impressive.

So if you want to comment that something or someone is important, you can say, "It's **a big deal**" or "they're **a big deal**." But remember, if you only say, "**big deal**" that means you think that whatever you're commenting on isn't important.

Here are a couple more examples with **a big deal**:

Bernard:	I always see that guy wearing sunglasses inside the office. What a weirdo! Who is he?
Ashley:	Mr. Beauregard? He's actually a big deal around here.
Bernard:	Who is he?
Ashley:	He owns the whole company!

Carl:	I have no idea how I'm going to be able to finish all the work I have to do for my classes this week.
Megan:	I know that feeling. I have two papers to write this week and three books to read!
Carl:	Big deal! I have four papers to write, two presentations, and an exam!
Megan:	OK, you win! I guess my workload isn't too intense compared to yours.

Quiz

1. If something is convenient for you, it _____ you.
 - a) suits
 - b) dresses
 - c) wears
 - d) ties

2. The adjective bummed means _____.
 - a) disappointed
 - b) sad
 - c) upset
 - d) all of the above

3. If something is a big deal, it's _____.
 - a) important
 - b) convenient
 - c) lucky
 - d) expensive

4. Which of the following is the best example of a bummer?
 - a) Jen went to a party.
 - b) Veronica ate a watermelon.
 - c) Kim found her favourite lip chap.
 - d) Juna lost her keys.

5. Which of the following phrases means to go somewhere for a brief amount of time?
 - a) to pop out
 - b) to post near
 - c) to pipe in
 - d) to perk up

Quiz Answers

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

Episode credits

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