

Simplified Speech #030 – The beach

Episode description

Do you like the beach? That's the topic in this Simplified Speech episode. Join Andrew and Suzanne as they talk about everything under the sun. From beachcombing to nude beaches, you'll be sure to laugh!

Fun fact

Canada has the longest coastline in the world, bordering the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, and Arctic Ocean.

Expressions included in the learning materials

- On the DL
- A dry [something]
- Jam-packed
- Sketchy
- To dare





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.

Andrew: Hey everybody! My name is Andrew.

Suzanne: And I'm Suzanne.

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

Suzanne: Hello, Andrew. How are you?

Andrew: Suzanne, I'm doing well, but I'm in a little bit of pain right now 'cause I got a sunburn recently.

Suzanne: Oh, ouch!

Andrew: Some people in the world are tanners. Some people are burners. And I'm just a pale dude who burns easily. And I forgot to put my sunscreen on, and this is the result—a really painful sunburn.

Suzanne: What! You didn't put sunscreen on? Andrew, if you're a pale burner, you have to know to put on sunscreen. I'm acting like your mom now.

Andrew: Yeah, thanks mom. Well, what happened was I was at the beach, and I had sunscreen on, but then I went swimming and I think all the sunscreen came off. I came back out and lied on the beach and boom—burn.

Suzanne: Oh man, I'm sorry.

Andrew: I'll survive. It happens every year. Don't worry. I'm used to it by now. Suzanne, the reason that I told you this story is actually because my sunburn is the motivation for this episode topic, which is beaches, the beach.

Suzanne: Yeah, not the movie, the actual beach.

Andrew: Not the Leo movie, no. The actual place, the beach. So today, we're going to do a Simplified Speech episode. Now, I'm wondering guys. Do you have problems understanding what native English speakers say? Well, if you do, don't worry because Suzanne and I and the rest of the Culips team we're here to help.

Suzanne: Yes.



- Andrew: Simplified Speech is the series where we have a 100 percent natural conversation in English, but we speak at a slightly slowed down speed. So by listening to us, you can become an expert English listener with our Simplified Speech series.
- Suzanne: And you can also download the study guide for this episode on Culips.com. And now the study guide includes the transcript for this episode, plus detailed vocabulary explanations, real-world examples, and a quiz. Following along with the study guide is the best way to study with this episode. So visit Culips.com to get your copy right now, so you could study with us!
- Andrew: OK, Suzanne, let's get into it. Let's talk about the beach.
- Suzanne: Yes.
- Andrew: I love the beach. How about you?
- Suzanne: I love the beach too, so much.
- Andrew: I think it's my favourite place to go in the summer. If I have a day off or a long weekend, or heck, even an afternoon that's free, I'm gonna try and get to the beach.
- Suzanne: It's true. It's one of the things that I don't like about Montreal. Because it's not surrounded by the ocean, it's just surrounded by rivers, which are beautiful, but it's not the same. I really miss the beach.
- Andrew: Yeah, I love Montreal. Don't get me wrong. I love it. It's one of my favourite places in the world.
- Suzanne: Me too.
- Andrew: But to be honest with you, the beaches in Montreal suck. There really are no beaches in Montreal.
- Suzanne: Yeah, they really, really suck. When you have lived in BC like you have, right?
- Andrew: Yup.
- Suzanne: And you have the Pacific Ocean near you. And like me, I lived in New York where I had Long Island beaches like Montauk and the Long Island Sound right there on the Atlantic Ocean. It's very difficult to live in a place where you don't get to see the ocean and the beaches whenever you want.
- Andrew: Absolutely. So Suzanne, I probably went to the beach, oh, 20 or maybe 30 times this summer.



Suzanne: Wow.

Andrew: How often did you go to the beach?

Suzanne: Not even once.

Andrew: Oh my God.

Suzanne: I know! Did you know that I used to go like every weekend? At least when I lived in New York.

Andrew: Wow.

Suzanne: I know. This is really depressing. So Olivier and I decided we would like to take a week of vacation soon. We have a plan to go to Mexico near the Caribbean Sea.

Andrew: Lovely.

Suzanne: So we will have a week on the beach, thank goodness.

Andrew: Thank goodness, indeed. That'll be amazing. But hey, didn't you go to Costa Rica this year?

Suzanne: That was last summer.

Andrew: Ah, last summer. OK.

Suzanne: Oh, I'm sorry I was on the beach, yes. I went to Îles de la Madeleine, which is like all beach.

Andrew: Ah.

Suzanne: And, uh, Cape Breton, but it wasn't warm. It wasn't super warm. Yeah.

Andrew: So when you go to the beach, what kind of things do you do? What do—'cause you're American, Suzanne—what do Americans do when they visit the beach? And I'm curious if it's different than what Canadians do. It's probably the same.

Suzanne: I don't know if I'm a prototypical American, but I will do my best.

Andrew: OK.



Suzanne: So when we go to the beach, we bring a towel and a cooler full of some beers, or food and things like that. Um, and sometimes an umbrella just to have some shade. And we lay on the beach. Then we go into the water and just, like, ride the waves, I guess. We also bring, like, little shovels and buckets, and we can sometimes make sand castles, or you know, like big sand formations. Sometimes we bring snorkel gear, and we'll put on goggles and fins, and we'll go in the ocean to search for fish or little treasures.

Sometimes we walk along the beach, and pick up shells and rocks that are special or have a little glint in them.

Andrew: Little sparkle.

Suzanne: Little sparkle. What else do we do? Read a book.

Andrew: I love reading a book on the beach.

Suzanne: Yeah.

Andrew: Or I also like to take a nap on the beach.

Suzanne: Yes.

Andrew: And this is where it can be dangerous to be a pasty guy because this is often when the sunburn occurs—is when I fall asleep on the beach. But it's just so lovely to lie out in the sun.

Suzanne: I know. It's true and that is one of my favourite things to do—is take a nap on the beach and just hear the sounds of the seagulls chirping and the waves crashing.

Andrew: Now, Suzanne, you mentioned just a moment ago walking along the beach and looking for shells and rocks and interesting things. But we have a special word for this, it's called beachcombing.

Suzanne: Oh yeah, that's right.

Andrew: Beachcombing. Yeah, so maybe guys if you're reading a book sometime, you'll come across this word beachcombing. This is what it means, just looking for things on the beach, beachcombing. Well, Suzanne, it sounds actually like Canadians and Americans do pretty much exactly the same things on the beach. I would say maybe the one exception is that it's illegal to have any drinks in Canada, so no alcohol on the beach. But of course, you know most people do it anyways. They just have to do it **on the DL**, on the sly, and always looking around to make sure no policemen are gonna come and give them a ticket.



- Suzanne: That's it. You have to be real careful. Yes, I think it's the same for us. That we have what's called **dry beaches**, and some alcohol is allowed, but most of the time it's not. So you have to be careful.
- Andrew: Gotta to be careful. Now, Suzanne, we're going to wrap this episode up here pretty soon, but I wanna get your opinion on two specific type of beaches before we go.
- Suzanne: OK.
- Andrew: One is kinda funny and one I think ... I know what your answer will be already because you're a dog owner, right? Suzanne, you got a beautiful dog, Skoshi.
- Suzanne: Yeah.
- Andrew: And so, in some places in Canada, and I'm sure in the USA too, there's special beaches for dogs called dog beaches. Have you heard of these before?
- Suzanne: Well, I guess. I know in Canada there are more rules about this.
- Andrew: OK.
- Suzanne: In the US, you can bring your dog on almost any beach, I think. I've never heard of dogs not allowed on a beach. Maybe in New York, but it's kind of rare. But in Canada, yes, there are only some places you can bring a dog, especially in Quebec.
- Andrew: I ask you this because when I was in my hometown of Kelowna this past summer, I went to the beach almost every day to go swimming in the big lake that's in my hometown. And the beach that I like to go to that is closest to my house has a section where it's fenced off, and it's just for dogs and their owners.
- Suzanne: Oh, wow.
- Andrew: And it was really hilarious because the beach is quite large, but there's just this small section for dogs and their owners. So whenever I would look in there, it was really **jam-packed** with dogs and people, and they're all sorta squished in this special area. But the dogs loved it! They're all playing with each other and swimming together.
- Suzanne: Yeah, that's great.



- Andrew: Actually, for me, I like it too because I don't really wanna swim with a bunch of dogs that I don't know. So to have them in their own special section made me feel a little more comfortable.
- Suzanne: I hear you. Yeah, that makes sense. Some dogs you don't know if they're going to do something **sketchy**.
- Andrew: Suzanne, the final question—and I'm not gonna ask you if you've ever visited one of these beaches, but I just wanna know what you think about them.
- Suzanne: You can ask that question because I have, without knowing that it was a nude beach. Is that what you were gonna ask?
- Andrew: Suzanne read my mind. This guys is another type of beach that we have in Canada and also the USA, and definitely in Europe.
- Suzanne: For sure.
- Andrew: I think France is famous for having nude beaches.
- Suzanne: Yeah, they get naked.
- Andrew: Right so, yeah um, well, Suzanne, I will **dare** to ask you. Have you visited a nude beach?
- Suzanne: Yes, I have. I was 17, and I was in San Francisco um, Palo Alto, actually, near, um, kind of ... I was doing a summer, um, like, intensive training in an acting workshop kind of.
- Andrew: OK.
- Suzanne: At Stanford University. And one of the guys in the workshop lived in Palo Alto. So on the weekends, we would take his car. And you know, go to a beach or do something kind of fun like that, outside of campus. And one time, we went to a beach. It was gorgeous. I don't remember the name, so I can't warn you about it. But I needed to use the bathroom, but the hike up the cliff was really steep and kind of far for me to go to a real bathroom, so I decided to climb over a dune.
- Andrew: A pile of sand.
- Suzanne: A big pile of sand, like huge. Like yeah, and just pee just there.
- Andrew: OK, just out in nature.
- Suzanne: Yeah, then I covered it up with the sand kinda like a cat. It was like a big litter box in a way. Then this is going, taking a different turn than you



thought. Um, anyway, as I'm coming out of the, like over the top of the dune, once I finished my business, I suddenly saw this older man, maybe 60 something years old, walk by with no clothes. And I got so scared that I ran back down and hid behind the dune because I didn't want him to see me seeing him.

Andrew: Of course.

Suzanne: So I jumped out finally, and ran back to my friends and our blanket.

Andrew: Mmhmm.

Suzanne: And I said, I think their names were Bill and Sam, I mean how much more, like, American, right, English names can you get.

Andrew: Mmhmm.

Suzanne: I said, "Bill, Sam, oh my gosh! What's happening? Why is that man naked?" And they started laughing and they said, "Oh yeah, it's clothing optional here." So clothing optional isn't a totally nude beach, where you have to be naked. It means you don't have to wear clothes if you don't want to. And I guess that man didn't want to.

Andrew: Suzanne, that's a hilarious story. Thanks for sharing it with us, and guys that'll be it for us for today. If you have any questions or comments for us, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're on Facebook at [Facebook.com/CulipsPodcast](https://www.facebook.com/CulipsPodcast) or you can email us directly at Contact@Culips.com.

Suzanne: Yeah, it's been really great talking with you today, Andrew, and thank you everyone for listening. We'll be back with another episode soon. Bye.

Andrew: Goodbye.

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Detailed Explanations

On the DL

In order to understand **on the DL**, you first need to understand the meaning of DL. The abbreviation DL is short for down-low, which means quiet, secret, or discreet. So **on the DL** means to keep an action or a piece of information secret. That is, if something is done **on the DL**, it is done in secret.

In this episode, Andrew explains to Suzanne that most people in Canada bring alcohol to the beach, but it's **on the DL**. In other words, most people bring alcohol to the beach, but they keep the alcohol hidden or secret from other people on the beach. They keep the alcohol hush-hush.

The expression **on the DL** means the same thing as on the down-low. Both expressions are used in casual conversation as slang for in secret. If someone asks you to keep something **on the DL**, they are asking you to keep something a secret and not tell other people.

Although not common, in North America, **on the DL** can be used to refer to a man who engages in sexual activity with another man. However, this use of **on the DL** is not common, and should avoid being used in casual conversation, as it may be seen as offensive.

Here are a couple more examples with **on the DL**:

Cameron:	Should we bring some wine to the park for our picnic?
Amy:	Great idea! But I'm not sure that we're allowed to drink wine at the park. There might be a bylaw against it.
Cameron:	Why don't we just keep it on the DL ?
Amy:	OK, let's do it!

Sara:	If I tell you a secret, do you promise to keep it to yourself and not tell anyone?
Mindy:	I promise to keep whatever you tell me on the DL .
Sara:	I think that I'm in love with Doug. I don't know how it happened, but I find myself thinking of him all the time.



Mindy: You want my advice? Stay away. You have a boyfriend and a good life.

A dry [something]

Typically, the adjective dry means liquid- or moisture-free. However, dry can also mean alcohol-free. When referring to alcohol, if someone is dry, they have not consumed alcohol. Likewise, if an event or place is dry, there is no alcohol, either by choice or restriction.

You can use **a dry [something]** when referring to an event or place that is alcohol-free. Just replace the word something with the event or place. For example, in this episode, Suzanne mentions **dry beaches**. In other words, alcohol is not permitted on these beaches.

So **a dry [something]** means something is alcohol-free or does not have alcohol. You can use the expression **a dry [something]** to describe any situation, occasion, activity, or location where alcohol is not allowed or is prohibited.

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

Kenny: Are you gonna go to the office Christmas party?
Will: I think so. I just have to double-check with my wife first.
Kenny: Apparently, because a few people drank way too much last year, they've decided to make it **a dry party**.
Will: Oh well, it should still be fun, even without any drinks.

George: I'm really worried how my mom's gonna handle being around alcohol at our wedding. She's only been sober for a few months.
Cassie: If you're that worried, why don't we make it **a dry wedding**?
George: You would do that for me?
Cassie: Of course! I love you, and if it will help you to enjoy our wedding day more, let's do it! We can get alcohol-free beer and champagne, and just ask the bartender to only serve virgin drinks.
George: Thanks Cassie. You have no idea how much this means to me.

Jam-packed

When something is **jam-packed**, it is completely packed or full. To jam means to forcibly squeeze something into a tight space, and to pack means to fill something up. So if something is **jam-packed**, it is completely and utterly full, crowded, or packed. There is no more room, not even a small space. It is filled to capacity.

In casual conversation, the adjective **jam-packed** is often used to emphasize how crowded or busy a place, like a concert, or how full a thing, like a jar of sauce, is. For example, in Canada, apple-picking is a popular fall activity. Canadians will go to orchards, and pay to pick their own apples. Because it is customary to pay per bag of apples, they will try to get as many apples as possible inside their bags, cramming and packing the apples in as tightly as possible. In other words, their bags will be **jam-packed** with apples.

So if an object is very full or a place is very crowded, it is **jam-packed**. The expression **jam-packed** can be used to emphasize that something or somewhere is very packed.

Here are a couple more examples with **jam-packed**:

Jennifer:	Want to come with me to the mall on Saturday?
Suzanne:	I would, but it's always jam-packed on Saturdays. Why don't we go Wednesday night?
Jennifer:	I can't wait until Wednesday. I really need new shoes. Mine broke.
Suzanne:	Fine, you've convinced me. I'll go.

Sydney:	There's nothing I love more than sitting here by the lake enjoying the view and the fresh air.
Mike:	I would too, except it's jam-packed with noisy kids! I have a hard time relaxing with so many kids around. Everywhere I look, there are kids!
Sydney:	I'm sorry. Here, take my headphones. At least, they'll help to block out the noise.
Mike:	Thanks!



Sketchy

When used in casual conversation, **sketchy** is slang for potentially harmful or suspicious. In other words, the adjective **sketchy** means fishy or shady. If something is **sketchy**, it seems untrustworthy or unsafe.

Sketchy can be used to describe something, someone, or somewhere that seems suspicious, untrustworthy, or dangerous. For example, imagine that you see a man pacing outside an apartment building and yelling and swearing to himself. The man's behaviour is scary and suspicious because it's not normal. Because the man's behaviour is suspicious, the man could be dangerous, and you could describe the man as **sketchy**.

In this episode, Suzanne mentions that you never know whether a dog is going to do something **sketchy**. In other words, you can never be sure whether a dog might do something potentially harmful, like bite someone.

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

Kendra:	Where are we? I don't like the look of this neighbourhood. It looks rough and dangerous.
Sean:	It definitely looks very sketchy , like someone is going to jump out and rob or hurt us. Let's get outta here!
Kendra:	The sooner the better! Wanna just make a run for it?
Sean:	Yeah, let's just run! Ready, set, go!

Toby:	What do you think of the new guy, Ted?
Sandra:	He's really weird and gives me the creeps.
Toby:	How come?
Sandra:	He keeps staring at me and making all these inappropriate comments. There's something sketchy about him. I'm gonna do my best to just avoid him.
Toby:	Me too.

To dare

The verb **to dare** means to have the courage or boldness to do something, or to challenge someone to do something that requires being courageous or bold.

To dare can mean to be brave enough to do something. For example, in this episode, Andrew **dares** to ask Suzanne if she's visited a nude beach, a beach where people don't wear clothes and walk around naked. Because Andrew is unsure if it is appropriate to ask Suzanne if she's visited a nude beach, he uses the expression **to dare** to emphasize that he is being bold and brave by asking the question.

To dare can also mean to challenge someone to do something or complete a task that requires being brave and taking a risk. The challenge or task can be anything, from asking a girl on a date to skydiving. So if someone **dares** someone to do something, they are provoking or trying to get the other person to do something that involves being bold.

Here are a couple more examples with **to dare**:

Griffin:	I've been thinking a lot about moving to Korea. I've always wanted to live there.
Liz:	Really? It's not easy to immigrate to a new country. There's a lot of uncertainty and unknowns. You'd have to learn a new language and culture.
Griffin:	I know all these things, which is why I've never dared to move before. But I keep thinking that we only get one life, and I think that I'm brave enough to try.
Liz:	In that case, I'll do what I can to help you move!

Mandy:	My steak is delicious! Do you want a piece?
Phil:	No, thanks. My mom and dad have been vegetarians my whole life, so they've always served dishes without meat at home. So I've never had beef or chicken before.
Mandy:	What do you mean you've never tried steak? You can't be serious. Here, take a piece. I dare you to try it.
Phil:	No, I'm good.
Mandy:	You're missing out.





Quiz

1. What does to be on the DL mean?

- a) to be loud and obnoxious
- b) to be short and low
- c) to be secretive
- d) to bring alcohol

2. If something is jam-packed, it is _____.

- a) completely empty
- b) completely full
- c) an object
- d) a place

3. True or false: If Cody is serving alcohol at his dinner party, he is having a dry dinner party.

- a) true
- b) false

4. Mary is excited because Jim dared to ask her out on a date. In other words, Jim was _____ enough to ask her on a date.

- a) brave
- b) secretive
- c) appropriate
- d) challenging

5. True or false: Sketchy can be used to describe a thing, a person, or a place.

- a) true
- b) false

Quiz Answers

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

Episode credits

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