

Simplified Speech #036 – Online shopping

Episode description

In this Simplified Speech episode, Andrew and Morag talk about the wide world of online shopping. Join them! It might change the way you shop!

Fun fact

In this episode, Morag says that Amazon is one of the best ways to shop online. Apparently, a lot of people agree. Amazon's founder, Jeff Bezos, is currently the richest person in the world!

Expressions included in the study guide

- Perfect storm
- Name brand
- Knockoff
- To roll the dice
- More and more
- To meal plan
- To get sidetracked
- To get taken in



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: 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.

Morag: And my name is Morag.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips.

Hey there, Morag.

Morag: Hey, Andrew, how's it going?

Andrew: I'm doing pretty well, how about yourself?

Morag: I'm all right, getting ready for my day at work. But, to be honest, I am most looking forward to coming home and playing some video games.

Andrew: Morag, just before we started recording, you told me that you recently acquired a Nintendo Switch?

Morag: Yes, this is what I'm waiting to play, yeah.

Andrew: The new handheld console by Nintendo. What game are you looking forward to playing?

Morag: I'm currently playing *Zelda: Breath of the Wild*. It is a giant, beautiful game. It's just amazing, yeah, although I might end up getting some other game midway through because I've discovered how easy it is to just order things off Amazon. Like the whole Switch and everything came from online, and then if you want something, it can show up at your house in a day. It's dangerous.

Andrew: Yeah, online shopping is very dangerous. I agree with you there and, Morag, actually this is the topic for today's Simplified Speech episode. We're gonna talk all about online shopping and how we shop online.

So, everyone, if you don't know what Simplified Speech is, it's our series where we let you listen in to completely natural English conversations but we speak a little bit slower than we do in our everyday lives.

- Andrew: So, Morag, let's get started, let's talk about online shopping. So, you said just a moment ago that you bought your Switch online. Are you a frequent online shopper?
- Morag: I am a frequent online shopper. I buy a lot of things online. I don't know if that's good or bad, but it's very convenient.
- Andrew: Yeah, very, very convenient. And what site do you use? What are some of the good online stores in Canada, some of the big ones?
- Morag: The main thing that I use is Amazon. Canadian Amazon.
- Andrew: Amazon.ca?
- Morag: Amazon.ca because, if you're in Canada, using Amazon.com is not really an option. It just ends up costing more money, although everything on Amazon.ca already costs more money. It's not cheap to be Canadian.
- Andrew: Yeah, unfortunately when Canadians order something online that is shipped from the USA, we often have to pay an import duty tax on that item and extra shipping costs, as well. So it ends up being really expensive.
- Morag: And the base Canadian price is sometimes double or triple the American price.
- Andrew: It's true, and also the currency conversion, too. There are many—it's just the **perfect storm** of expensive products when you order from the States. But, yeah, I think Amazon.ca is probably the most popular place to shop online when you're in Canada.
- Morag: I would definitely say so, Andrew, although there's sort of semi-online shopping that I was wondering if you do. It's not getting things sent to you directly, but you can purchase things online to pick them up.
- Andrew: Ah.
- Morag: I know that a lot of stores in Canada do this, so if you needed a new vacuum or something from Canadian Tire or that kind of thing, you can usually buy and pick it up in the store. I never do this. Would you consider it online shopping?

Andrew: Yeah, it's online shopping. Sure. You're just not getting it shipped to your door, but you're picking it up at the store. I actually did this last summer. I bought a new camera, and the reason that I got it shipped to the store was I was only in Canada for my vacation time. So by the time the camera would have shipped to my house, or my parents' house, I would have left Canada at that point. So the actual camera was in a different store location in a different city, but they were able to ship it to the store in my hometown within a day. And then I went to the store to pick the camera up. So I was able to get the camera in one day, whereas if I had it shipped it probably would have taken a couple days and it would have been too long. I would have missed the boat on the camera. So sometimes I think this can be useful. Also, you don't have to talk to annoying salespeople.

Morag: Yeah, you already purchased your item, or items.

Andrew: Yeah, right? Give me what I ordered, and let me go, please. You don't get upsold, right?

Morag: Yup.

Andrew: OK, Morag, I have a question for you. Is there something you wouldn't buy online? Something that you think is a bad idea to buy online?

Morag: Personally, because I know a lot of people do this, I do not buy clothing online, unless I already own that exact piece of clothing from that exact manufacturer in that exact size. Because I don't know about anybody else, but I do not trust manufacturing or fit of things. This year, Wish came out of nowhere, which is sort of an online marketplace that is sweeping every– at least the United States and North America, and you can buy tons and tons of things. So much clothing for like a dollar, \$2, \$5. But you never know what it's actually going to look like or be when you get it.

Andrew: Wait, wait, wait. This is new to me. I don't know about Wish. So, you're saying that Wish is an online store where you buy clothes without knowing what they are? It's just random clothes?

Morag: No, Wish is an online marketplace. So you don't buy directly from them, you buy from sellers that go on their website, and it's almost entirely items from China. A lot of them are marketed as **name brand**, but they're **knockoffs**. And then a lot of times with clothing, you'll end up getting something that vaguely resembles the image that was there. So, I guess that's another type of online shopping I would not do. Although I do know many people who want a bargain, so they'll buy anything for a dollar or two, hoping that it's awesome. But, no, I buy books and games and household goods, mostly.

- Andrew: Yeah, me as well. Occasionally, I will **roll the dice** and buy clothes online but, like you, it's usually from a trusted brand, somebody that I'm familiar with the sizing or occasionally if there's a big sale. Like, some stores will have 90% blow-out sale online and then I think, well, it's 90% off, so.
- Morag: Worth a try.
- Andrew: Who cares, it's so cheap, I'll go for it. So I've done that before. You know, these days **more and more** people are ordering their groceries online, and getting them delivered to their house. And I haven't tried this yet, but I'm very, very curious about it.
- Morag: It seems like a great and easy way **to do meal planning** and not get **sidetracked** or **taken in** by snacks.
- Andrew: Yeah.
- Morag: Here in Montreal, I use a website called Lufa Farms, and so I get a delivery of organic, locally grown vegetables that I chose, and other things if you want to. That's the only way I've done groceries online—not full groceries. How about you?
- Andrew: I actually used the same farm service when I lived in Montreal, and it was great 'cause I got it delivered to, what's the name of that restaurant?
- Morag: Le Pick Up?
- Andrew: Yeah, Le Pick Up, there you go.
- Morag: OK.
- Andrew: Dépanneur Le Pick Up, yeah. So I have ordered vegetables from that same farm online, so I guess this is shopping for groceries online. I guess I have done it, now I just realized. Morag, have you seen the Domino's Pizza website for ordering a pizza online?
- Morag: No.
- Andrew: It's pretty cool, they have a pizza tracker. So if you order a pizza through Dominos, as soon as the order is placed there's an animation that pops up on your screen and it will tell you, like, Joe is making your pizza, and then 2 minutes later, Joe has popped your pizza into the oven, and then, like, 10 minutes later, your pizza has just been boxed.
- Morag: Wow.

Andrew: Then 15 minutes later, your pizza is on its way to your house. So it gives you a step-by-step of the pizza manufacturing process.

Morag: The future, we have arrived.

Andrew: Yeah, you can time it perfectly. You know exactly when it's going to arrive at your door. So online pizza shopping is quite fun, yeah.

OK, Morag, as fun as it is to talk about online shopping, I think that's all that we have time for today. The study guide for this episode is available on our website, Culips.com. Unfortunately, it's not free, but it is very affordable and if we've got you in the mood to do some online shopping, hey, study materials are a great thing to purchase online, and you can do that on our website, Culips.com. If you have any questions or comments or even a suggestion for a future episode, please drop us a line. Our email address is contact@Culips.com, and we are always very happy to receive emails from everyone. So please don't be shy and get in touch with us. OK, that's it for now, talk to you next time everyone, goodbye.

Morag: Bye.

Announcer: Do you like listening to Culips? If so, please show your support by leaving Culips a 5-star rating and a review on iTunes or Stitcher. This helps new listeners find the show, so don't delay, rate and review today.

Detailed Explanations

Perfect storm

Noun

A **perfect storm** is when various elements come together to make a very bad situation. However, more recently, people have been using **perfect storm** to have a positive meaning, such to describe a crazy but enjoyable party.

Greg: You don't look too good. What's up?

Fred: I just had a really bad day.

Greg: Really? What happened?

Fred: My alarm didn't wake me up this morning because my phone died. So I was running late for work. And sure enough, when I got to my car, it wouldn't start! So I had to take the bus. And, of course, the bus I was on got into an accident. I was really late this morning. My boss was not happy at all.

Greg: Geez, that sounds like a **perfect storm**.

Fred: Tell me about it.

Vanessa: How was your weekend?

Kylie: It was great. It was a **perfect storm** of adventure, drinking, and dancing.

Vanessa: Sounds like fun. Where did you go?

Kylie: I went to a ski resort up in the mountains with a few friends. It was great.

Vanessa: Cool. Invite me next time!

Name brand

Noun

A **name brand** is a product from a well-known company, often with a good reputation. Companies such as Nike, Microsoft, Apple, and Toyota offer **name brands**. High fashion clothes designers, such as Gucci and Louis Vuitton, could be called **name brands** or, more specifically, designer brands. Very expensive brands are called luxury brands.

Nomi: I'm heading to the flea market. Do you want to come along?

Barbra: Downtown? No, thanks.

Nomi: Why not? It's so much fun. You can find anything there.

Barbra: Except **name brands**!

Nomi: Oh, you're so fancy. Fine then, see you later!

Brent: Let's go get some groceries at Provigo. I love their no-name brand.

Norm: I'm not sure I trust those. I prefer brand names when it comes to food.

Brent: Don't worry. Their no-name brand is often a **name brand** but packaged differently. Like those cookies you like—the same factory probably makes both brands.

Norm: Fine. Let's buy both and do a test!

Knockoff

Noun, informal

A **knockoff** (sometimes **knock-off**) is a product that is meant to look like a **name brand** but is a fake. **Knockoffs** are cheaper in price and in quality and, because of licensing issues, they are often illegal.

Zelda: How do you like my new bag?

Debra: It's nice enough.

Zelda: I hope so. I paid \$500!

Debra: What? That's a rip-off!

Zelda: No way. It's totally worth it. It's a Dolce & Gabbana bag.

Debra: Really? Read the label. It says "Dolce & Banana." You bought a **knockoff**.

Zelda: Oh no!

Carl: Hey, do you know this website? It's awesome.

Daphne: Awesome? It only sells cheap **knockoffs**.

Carl: I know! That's why I like it. Why should I pay an insane amount of money for some stupid luxury brand? No thank you!

Daphne: To each his own.

To roll the dice

Idiom

When you are **rolling the dice** on something, it means you are taking a chance. **Rolling the dice** is a common method of actual gambling.

Garret: I was thinking of getting into the cryptocurrency market, like buying some Bitcoins or something. Do you know much about that?

Tory: Yes, but I wouldn't suggest it.

Garret: How so?

Tory: It's a huge **roll of the dice**. The market can change any time. And you really have to do your research.

Garret: I see.

Mark: We're late! And traffic is going to get really bad soon.

Pat: Don't worry. We still have time.

Mark: I think we should take Highway 40. There's usually less traffic than on Highway 20 at this hour.

Pat: If you want, but you're always **rolling the dice** with Highway 40. If you want my opinion, take Lakeshore Road.

Mark: Sure, that might be a good idea. But if we're late, I'm going to blame you!

More and more

Adverb

In this episode, Andrew says, “**More and more** people are ordering their groceries online.” By this, he means that an increasing number of people are ordering groceries online. You can use this form of comparative in other contexts, like how a child is getting taller and taller or the weather is getting colder and colder.

Harry:	My sister is going to open a hot yoga studio. I’m thinking of investing in it.
Betty:	Is hot yoga popular?
Harry:	More and more. It’s good to get into the market before there are too many studios in the city.
Betty:	Cool. If she has a good business plan, I might think of investing too!

Jill:	I heard you practising the piano yesterday. Do you think you’re getting better?
Fanny:	I am, but that means my teacher is giving me harder songs to play.
Jill:	That’s good!
Fanny:	It is, for sure. But it’s more and more difficult. I don’t know if I want to continue playing.
Jill:	Chin up. If anyone can, you can!

To meal plan

Verb

In this episode, Morag talks about how online grocery shopping is an easy way to do **meal planning**. **To meal plan** is to plan and prepare your food in advance. Many parents plan out their meals for the entire week. People who exercise a lot often plan their meals, paying special attention to the nutrients they eat and at what time.

Darcy:	Yasmine, do you want to play tennis with us on Sunday?
Yasmine:	Sunday? That's not a good day for me. That's when I plan out and cook our meals for the week.
Darcy:	Oh, that's a good idea. We really should do better meal planning at my house. We end up ordering too much fast food.
Yasmine:	I'm getting pretty good at it. Maybe I can help you.

Donnie:	Try this.
Orlando:	What is it?
Donnie:	Homemade chocolate fudge. You'll love it.
Orlando:	It looks good, but I can't. I'm going to the gym at 3:00, and I'm going to have a protein shake at 2:00.
Donnie:	Wow, you really do meal plan everything, don't you?
Orlando:	Nutrition is so important. Tomorrow is my cheat day. Offer me some fudge then!

To get sidetracked

Verb

Getting sidetracked is a big problem for many of us! That is when you are busy doing an activity and then something comes up that distracts you from what you were doing. For example, you might be working on a school project and need to look up a word online. However, you spend the next 20 minutes reading articles on the internet that have nothing to do with the word you searched in the first place. Darn internet!

Boss: Do you have that report I asked for?

Employee: Oh no, I'm sorry. I'll get it to you by 4:00.

Boss: I wanted it 2 hours ago!

Employee: I know, I'm sorry. But I **got sidetracked** when Bill from accounting needed my help. Don't worry. It'll be done by 4:00, trust me.

Willem: How was your father's speech yesterday?

Quentin: Good, but he did **get sidetracked** a few times.

Willem: How come?

Quentin: People in the crowd would yell things out and instead of continuing with his speech, he talked about what the people yelled out.

Willem: That is a problem. He needs to be more focused.

To get taken in

Idiom

To get taken in is to be fooled. If someone told you a false story and you believed them, then you **got taken in** by the story. You can also say that you **got taken in** if someone sold you a fake brand or if you believed someone when they made an empty promise.

Ken: Look at these! I just got tickets for the Rolling Stones concert.

Patty: Where did you buy those?

Ken: From that guy over there, on the street corner.

Patty: Oh, you just **got taken in**. There is no Rolling Stones concert.

Ken: Really? Hey, wait. Where did that guy go?

Nick: Wake up, wake up. It's free breakfast at McDonald's today. Let's go.

Bob: Free breakfast? Who told you that?

Nick: Johnny. He said it yesterday.

Bob: I think you **got taken in**. What's the date today?

Nick: April. Umm, April 1st.

Bob: Right—April Fool's Day. I'm going back to sleep. Don't bother me.

Quiz

1. Which of the following is NOT a good example of rolling the dice?

- a) gambling
- b) driving very fast
- c) ordering pizza
- d) buying a lottery ticket

2. Which of the following should you buy if you want a knockoff?

- a) Nike
- b) Reabok
- c) Adidas
- d) New Balance

3. You are building a birdhouse outside. You go into the kitchen for a glass of water and notice that your spouse is watching an interesting movie, so you decide to sit down and watch it too. You just got _____.

4. Which of the following is NOT an example of getting taken in?

- a) a magician stuns you with a card trick
- b) you buy a Rolax watch
- c) you still believe in Santa Claus
- d) you buy two pizzas for the price of one with a coupon

5. True or false: A brand name is an unlicensed product.

- a) true
- b) false

Writing or Discussions Questions

1. What are some of the things you buy online?
2. What are things you would never buy online?
3. Have you ever bought a name-brand knockoff? Why did you choose to do so?
4. When you go grocery shopping, do you plan your meals in advance? What is a good food to cook in advance?
5. What is the easiest way for you to get sidetracked while you are working?
6. Have you ever been taken in by a salesperson? What was the situation?

Quiz Answers

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

Episode credits

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