

## Simplified Speech #037 – Netflix

### Episode description

In this episode, Andrew and Morag talk about Netflix—the extremely popular TV and movie streaming service. Find out which shows the Culips hosts think you should watch!

### Fun fact

Although Netflix is famous for its online streaming services, it started off as a DVD sales and rental company. In fact, you can still order DVDs by mail through the company.

### Expressions included in the study guide

- To bounce off the walls
- The funny thing is
- Hands down
- A pitch
- A guilty pleasure
- Hot and fresh
- To rep
- A redneck





## Transcript

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

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

Hey, everybody. My name is Andrew.

Morag: And my name is Morag.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips. Hey there, Morag. How are you?

Morag: Hey, Andrew. I'm doing all right. How are you today?

Andrew: I'm doing pretty well. Actually, Morag, I'm kind of energized right now. Actually, before this recording session, I was feeling really, really sleepy. So I did something that I never do—hardly, hardly ever do—and I had an energy drink. This is probably a terrible idea, but I'm shocked it worked so well. I feel really awake right now, so.

Morag: That's great, but you're gonna be **bouncing off the walls** for a couple hours.

Andrew: Maybe, maybe. You know, I'm an online chess player, so after this recording session, if I'm still awake, I'm just gonna play some chess until I get sleepy. I think that's my plan.

Morag: Not a bad plan, although, I would say, another way to go about it is maybe watch some TV. Chess is activating for the mind, but if you just put on a good TV show, you can chill out.

Andrew: Morag, I don't have a TV, but I do have a Netflix account. And recently, one of our Culips listeners wrote to us and asked us about Netflix. He was curious about what shows we watch on Netflix, and so that's what we're going to talk about today. Today, we are doing a Simplified Speech episode. And Simplified Speech is our series where we have 100% totally natural conversations in English, but we speak a little bit slower than we do in our everyday lives. And yeah, today, our topic is Netflix. So, Morag, I'm curious. Do you have a Netflix account?



- Morag: I do have a Netflix account, Andrew. **The funny thing is** that, when I suggested to you to watch TV, I actually meant Netflix because that's what I think of as television now. So I definitely have a Netflix account. And I do watch almost all of the movies and television series, or online series that I consume, I watch through Netflix.
- Andrew: Yeah, it's interesting how Netflix has really replaced the TV in many, many people's homes these days, including both of ours.
- Morag: Yup.
- Andrew: So we're Netflix watchers! What's good on Netflix? What've you been watching recently?
- Morag: Well, this might sound a little strange, but my most-watched Netflix shows are SpongeBob SquarePants, **hands down**.
- Andrew: SpongeBob.
- Morag: SpongeBob and Star Trek.
- Andrew: SpongeBob and Star Trek, wow.
- Morag: They will never do you wrong. Those are wonderful television shows.
- Andrew: Well, I feel like they're very opposite shows. Are they not?
- Morag: Yeah, for anyone who does not know SpongeBob, SpongeBob SquarePants is technically a children's show. But it's a very ... I don't know. Absurd, absurd is the word. It's an absurd children's show, so it bears rewatching and just having fun with it as an adult. It's still very strange and amusing and lighthearted. And the original Star Trek is so funny.
- Andrew: So Star Trek has many, many different incarnations, and you're watching the original series. From when was it, the 1960s?
- Morag: 1967–1968. I will watch all of them, but Star Treks go on and off of Netflix. They don't stay on Netflix all the time. So if you like science fiction and you haven't watched a Star Trek before, and you see it on Netflix, go and take a watch. But they're not always there. But for modern, current things, I've been watching Riverdale.
- Andrew: Riverdale?
- Morag: It's a soap opera.
- Andrew: I was gonna say I think my sister watches Riverdale. But I don't know what it is. It's a soap opera.



- Morag: In essence, yes.
- Andrew: OK.
- Morag: Here's **my pitch** for Riverdale.
- Andrew: OK.
- Morag: It is the universe that uses the characters from the Archie comics. At least the first season borrows the storyline of the first season of Twin Peaks.
- Andrew: OK.
- Morag: And then, pretty much, and then you roll that all together and have it produced by The CW as a teen drama with musical numbers. It's bizarre. It's so bad it's good.
- Andrew: Ah, it's so bad it's good. It's one of those shows. That's an excellent expression actually to describe **a guilty pleasure**—a TV show that you enjoy and you find entertaining, even though you know that the quality is low. There's no artistic value. It's not going to win any Emmy Awards, but still, you like it—so bad it's good.
- Morag: I think that might be a lot of my tastes though. I like camp. I like things that are over the top and are funny for that reason.
- Andrew: What do you mean by that expression, camp? That's another good expression, if something is camp. What does that mean? Or campy?
- Morag: Camp and campy, these are more difficult kind of detailed expressions, but in short, they mean really excessive, over the top. Things, like, you know, storylines or visuals, or anything like that. It's sort of just like an excess. Camp is deliberately exaggerated and overly theatrical in style, and it's done usually for humour or comedy.
- Andrew: So, Morag, the listener that wrote us, he asked specifically about shows that we recommend that are on Netflix. And, you know, because I live in Korea and I'm studying Korean pretty intensely, I actually don't watch too much English content on Netflix these days. I watch a lot of Korean movies and Korean shows. So I'm not up to date with what's **hot and fresh** on Netflix. But I know Stranger Things is a pretty popular drama right now on Netflix. But I thought I'd go back a couple of years and talk about some shows that I've enjoyed in the past. And I'm going **to rep** a Canadian production called the Trailer Park Boys. Because if anybody is interested in learning about—how could I describe Trailer Park Boys—in learning about **redneck** Canadian culture or ...



- Morag: Or rural. It's not representative by a long shot of all rural, like, low-income, poor life. But it is a particular subculture of some parts of Canada. I believe, specifically, in the Maritimes is where this takes place.
- Andrew: Exactly, exactly. So Trailer Park Boys is really hilarious to me and to many of my friends too. We think it's a super funny show about three or four guys that live in a trailer park and live a life of crime, essentially. If you're easily offended, probably this show isn't for you because there's lots of swearing and lots of mature audience only content. But it's hilarious, and it's one of the shows that Canada is famous for, actually. We haven't produced a lot of high-quality TV, but Trailer Park Boys is an example of a successful Canadian show, successful internationally too. And yeah, it's funny. And it's a great place to hear some really creative English expressions, really creative Canadian English. And I would highly recommend it. I believe there must be over 10 seasons now. I haven't watched all of them. I think the show declined in quality probably around the fourth or fifth season. But the first several seasons, I think, are worth checking out.
- Morag: Even if you don't end up enjoying the type of humour, it's a really good way to hear accents that you get in the east of Canada. And there's some in Ontario as well. You'll hear some very, very different Canadian accents from the way that anyone on Culips speaks.
- Andrew: Morag, just before we wrap it up here, what do you recommend that our listeners watch on Netflix?
- Morag: One recommendation from Netflix. I think I'd have to go with the first couple season of Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt.
- Andrew: The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt, OK. It's a comedy, right?
- Morag: Yeah, I do really like comedy. And it's done by the same bunch of people that did 30 Rock, which I would have suggested if it were still on Netflix. It's a very awesome American comedy. It's a bit silly, a bit absurd. Set in New York City, though, you hear a lot of different types of speech and accents. And it is lighthearted, and there's about three seasons, so.
- Andrew: There you go. So I know a really, really popular TV series to study English with is The Big Bang Theory.
- Morag: Don't do it.



- Andrew: Don't do it. Nobody watches The Big Bang Theory. Most people think this show is terrible. So, if you study English with The Big Bang Theory and then try to have a conversation with somebody, they won't know anything about the show. So put down The Big Bang Theory, and pick up the Trailer Park Boys or the Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt. And I think you'll have more success and will be more hip.
- Andrew: OK, Morag. Let's wrap it up here. Thank you for listening, everybody. If you would like to get the study guide for this episode, please go to Culips.com, our website. The study guide includes the transcript, along with some detailed vocabulary explanations, real-world examples, and a quiz. So head on over to Culips.com to download that. If you wanna get in touch with us, the best way to do that is simply to send us an email to [Contact@Culips.com](mailto:Contact@Culips.com), [Contact@Culips.com](mailto:Contact@Culips.com). We will be back soon with another episode. So stay tuned, and we will talk to you then. Bye, everybody.
- Morag: Goodbye.
- 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

### To bounce off the walls

#### Idiom

If you are **bouncing off the walls**, you have too much energy, especially if you are in a smaller space. In this episode, Morag tells Andrew that he will be **bouncing off the walls** because he drank an energy drink.

So **to bounce off the walls** means to be very active, energetic, or excited.

Here are a couple more examples with **to bounce off the walls**:

Reba:	My little boy has too much energy when he comes home from school.
Fiona:	Mine too.
Reba:	I don't know what to do. He's usually <b>bouncing off the walls</b> .
Fiona:	Maybe look into signing him up for a sport. That's what I did, and it turned out great!

Mark:	Are you ready for the meeting?
Drake:	I just need a minute. I want to refill my coffee.
Mark:	Again? You've already had four cups. You'll be <b>bouncing off the walls</b> in there.
Drake:	I'd rather be <b>bouncing off the walls</b> than falling asleep in front of the boss.
Mark:	Good point.



## The funny thing is

Phrase, informal

If you want to set up a strange story or situation, you can start off by saying, “**The funny thing is**.” By using this phrase, you are telling other people that whatever comes next is, in your opinion, strange or unexpected. This phrase is often spoken rather than written.

Here are a couple more examples with **the funny thing is**:

Rita:	Wow, this hazelnut cappuccino is amazing.
Cathy:	I know, right?
Rita:	I can't stop drinking it. And <b>the funny thing is</b> I don't even like coffee.
Cathy:	Well, you do now!

Peter:	How are the guitar lessons coming along?
Cole:	I've been thinking of stopping them.
Peter:	Really? How come?
Cole:	I dreamed of playing the guitar all my life, but my parents enrolled me in piano lessons. I hated the piano! <b>The funny thing is</b> , now that I'm finally playing the guitar, I really feel like playing the piano again.



## Hands down

Adverb

**Hands down** means very easily or without question. In this episode, Morag says that SpongeBob SquarePants is the show she watches the most, **hands down**. By using the expression **hands down**, Morag is saying that SpongeBob SquarePants is by far her number one show.

**Hands down** has a similar meaning to another expression Morag says in this episode: by a long shot.

Here are a couple more examples with **hands down**:

Larry:	Did you watch the game last night?
Georgia:	I did. It was a massacre!
Larry:	I know. Winnipeg beat Ottawa <b>hands down</b> . It wasn't even a competition.
Georgia:	I really hope Winnipeg continues playing like they did yesterday.

Pat:	I think that between McDonald's Big Mac and Burger King's Whopper, I'd go with the Big Mac—all day, every day!
Bob:	No way! The Whopper is far better, <b>hands down</b> .
Pat:	Well, the burgers my wife makes at home are way better than both.
Bob:	Really? Invite me over for hamburgers, and I'll bring the beer!



## A pitch

Noun

**A pitch** is an attempt to sell something to someone. You can use **a pitch** or **a sales pitch** to describe any speech, presentation, or attempt where you try to sell an actual product or try to convince someone to accept an idea.

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

Brad:	Wow, Jeff is a really good salesman.
Fanny:	Totally. And <b>his pitch</b> was great. I fell in love with everything he was saying.
Brad:	He convinced me too! I'm thinking of investing in his company this coming winter.
Fanny:	Didn't you hear what he said? Don't wait! Buy now!

Kyle:	I like the product, but I'd like to hear <b>your elevator pitch</b> .
Beth:	What's <b>an elevator pitch</b> ?
Kyle:	It's <b>a short sales pitch</b> . Imagine you walk into the elevator and see your boss, who is going to the ninth floor. You have an idea that you really want to tell your boss, but you only have until the elevator reaches the ninth floor to explain yourself. That's <b>an elevator pitch</b> .
Beth:	OK. I'll work on coming up with <b>an elevator pitch</b> after lunch.



## A guilty pleasure

Noun

**A guilty pleasure** is something that you like and enjoy even though it's not necessarily of good quality or good for you. In other words, **a guilty pleasure** is something that makes you feel guilty (remorseful or ashamed). You feel guilty because something bad is giving you pleasure.

The expression **a guilty pleasure** is often used humorously.

Here are a couple more examples with **a guilty pleasure**:

Harriet:	You look really good. How do you stay so fit?
Daphne:	Clean eating and a lot of exercise.
Harriet:	Do you have any <b>guilty pleasures</b> ?
Daphne:	No way! I never cheat on my diet.
Harriet:	That sounds boring. <b>Guilty pleasures</b> make life better. Every Saturday, I sleep in until noon, and then make myself a ton of pancakes covered in Nutella and strawberries. It makes me so happy.
Daphne:	Well, to each her own.

Geoff:	How can you watch that show? It's garbage.
Idris:	That's why I watch it! It's called <b>a guilty pleasure</b> . And look at all the time you spend watching cricket. Don't tell me that's not a waste of time!
Geoff:	Cricket is the sport of gentlemen.
Idris:	You're still doing the same as me: sitting on the couch, eating food, and watching TV. If <b>my guilty pleasure</b> is a waste of time, so is yours!



## Hot and fresh

### Idiom

In this episode, Andrew admits that he does not know what is **hot and fresh** on Netflix these days. In this instance, **hot** means popular and **fresh** means new.

You can also use the expression **hot and fresh** to refer to food that has just come out of the oven. When used literally, **hot and fresh** means warm and just made. **Hot and fresh** bread tastes so much better than bread that's been sitting on the counter all day!

Here are a couple more examples with **hot and fresh**:

Jill:	You listen to current music, right? What's <b>hot and fresh</b> these days?
Emily:	There's the new Justin Timberlake single.
Jill:	You think he's <b>hot and fresh</b> ? He's been around for so long.
Emily:	Yeah, but his new song has an original sound, and it's pretty popular. You should give it a listen.

Barry:	The party starts at 8 o'clock, but I'd like to prepare the pizzas before.
Vicky:	Around what time?
Barry:	About 7 p.m. So if you want to be the first to eat some <b>hot and fresh</b> pizza straight from the oven, come around then.
Vicky:	Sounds good. Want me to bring anything?
Barry:	Just yourself!



## To rep

Verb, informal

**To rep** is short for to represent, which means to act or speak on behalf of someone or something. For example, all the Canadian athletes at the 2018 Olympics are there representing Canada.

In this episode, since he is Canadian, Andrew feels that he needs to mention a Canadian show on Netflix **to rep** his country. You can **rep** your country, your city, your family, your circle of friends, your company, or any group you associate with.

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

Brook:	Nice hockey jersey. Why the Vancouver Canucks?
Xavier:	'Cause I'm from Vancouver. I have <b>to rep</b> my hometown.
Brook:	Oh, that's right. How are the Canucks doing this year?
Xavier:	Not good at all. That's why they need my support!

Vance:	Here comes Charlie. He's a nice guy, and he's pretty funny.
Greg:	How so?
Vance:	Because he always talks about <b>repping</b> the 4-1-6.
Greg:	What is 4-1-6?
Vance:	That's the telephone area code for Toronto.
Greg:	Oh, so he's representing Toronto?
Vance:	You got it!



## A redneck

Noun

**A redneck** means a rural or poor, white person. The term **redneck** is derogatory. For some, it's a big insult. For others, it's just a way of joking around with friends.

In this episode, Andrew mentions that the Trailer Park Boys is representative of **redneck** Canadian culture, and the show is meant to lightly poke fun at this culture. When used as slang to describe someone, the person in question does not necessarily need to be white, poor, or rural.

Be careful: do not use this word in public or formal situations. You should only use it with close friends.

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

Jarrett:	I heard you were thinking of moving down south.
Fred:	I'm thinking about it.
Jarrett:	You do know it's mostly a bunch of <b>rednecks</b> down there, right?
Fred:	That's all right. I like <b>rednecks</b> . I get along with them, and they play good music.

Burt:	There's a barbeque rib festival downtown. Wanna check out what they got?
Josh:	You're such <b>a redneck</b> ! I'm tired. Let's just order some sushi.
Burt:	But ribs are so good, especially at a festival.
Josh:	Fine. Is there a dress code, like a baseball cap or checkered flannel shirt?
Burt:	You're so silly!



## Quiz

**1. Which of the following is NOT a good example of a guilty pleasure?**

- a) paying your monthly bill
- b) eating a whole cheesecake
- c) staying up late on weekends
- d) binge watching Trailer Park Boys

**2. True or false: You can only use the term redneck jokingly.**

- a) true
- b) false

**3. If you begin a story by saying, "The funny thing is," the events in your story will be \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a) thoughtful
- b) unfunny
- c) unexpected
- d) uneventful

**4. To bounce off the walls means to be \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a) made of rubber
- b) a carpenter
- c) energetic
- d) domestic

**5. True or false: The expression hot and fresh applies only to food.**

- a) true
- b) false



## Writing or Discussion Questions

1. What guilty pleasures do you have?
2. Which of the Netflix shows mentioned in this episode would you like to watch?
3. Describe a time when you were bouncing off the walls.
4. Are you good at sales pitches? Talk about a time when you were really good at convincing someone to either buy something or accept your idea.
5. What things in your life do you like to rep?
6. What games or sports do you play that you know you can always win hands down?



## Quiz Answers

1.a    2.b    3.c    4.c    5.b

### Episode credits

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