

Simplified Speech #038 – Jeju Island

Episode description

Andrew tells Suzanne all about his recent trip to Jeju Island, South Korea, and his trek to the top of Mount Halla.

Fun fact

The last time that Mount Halla erupted was in the year 1007.

Expressions included in the study guide

- To be jam-packed
- To rough it
- A way away
- That stinks
- Smack dab in the middle
- Volcano vocabulary



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.

Suzanne: And I'm Suzanne.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips. Hey, Suzanne.

Suzanne: Hey, Andrew. How are you?

Andrew: I'm doing OK. I'm a little bit tired. I just got back from a 4-day trip.

Suzanne: Wow. Where did you go?

Andrew: I went to an island, a volcanic island called Jeju Island. Do you know where Jeju Island is, or have you heard about it before?

Suzanne: No, I don't think I've ever heard about it before.

Andrew: Well, it's an island off the south coast of South Korea, and it's actually Korean territory. It's a Korean province, fully a part of South Korea, but takes, from Seoul, about an hour to fly to the island.

Suzanne: Oh, wow.

Andrew: If you take a ferry, it can take 8 hours or so, I believe, from the southern tip of the coast. So it's **a little way away** from the coast of South Korea.

Suzanne: Yeah.

Andrew: But that's where I went for the last 4 days.

Suzanne: Wow, I can't wait to hear all about it.

Andrew: So that's what we'll talk about in today's Simplified Speech episode—my trip to Jeju Island. And just before we get into the details, I want to remind everybody that the study guide for this episode is available for download on our website, Culips.com. The study guide is great. It's amazing. It is **jam-packed** with helpful information, so visit our website, Culips.com, to download it today.

Suzanne: Nice.



Andrew: OK, Suzanne. So I was really excited to visit Jeju, Jeju Island.

Suzanne: OK. Yeah.

Andrew: Because I've been living in Korea, believe it or not, now for almost 5 years, on and off.

Suzanne: Wow.

Andrew: And I've travelled to every corner of the Korean Peninsula.

Suzanne: That's amazing.

Andrew: Not North Korea, but the southern part of the peninsula. But I hadn't visited Jeju Island yet, and I had heard so many good things from my friends who had visited there. So it was on my list of things to do. One of the hobbies I enjoy doing in Korea is hiking.

Suzanne: Yes.

Andrew: And Jeju Island is actually home to a mountain called Hallasan, and this is the highest mountain in South Korea.

Suzanne: Oh, wow.

Andrew: So the purpose of my trip was to climb Mount Halla.

Suzanne: This mountain is also **a volcano**?

Andrew: Yeah, it's not **active** now. But the whole island is really cool. There's volcanic rock everywhere. There's a lot of really, really interesting rock features. I visited a cave that was really, really impressive. It was a **lava** tube at one point. So **lava** is the hot, fiery, liquid rock that comes out of **a volcano**, right?

Suzanne: Right.

Andrew: And this cave was just, at one point, a tube of **lava** shooting through the earth. It carved out this cave in the solid rock.

Suzanne: Wow. Yes, OK.

Andrew: So this is one of the features. There's also really cool rock formations on the coastline. It's almost like pillars that are shaped like an octagon, and there's many of them together.

Suzanne: Wow.

- Andrew: So it's just a formation that I've never seen, and that I don't think you can see in too many places in the world. It's a really special rock feature. Yeah, these are just some of the things that remind you that you are walking on an island that was really influenced by volcanic activity at some point, a long, long, long time ago.
- Suzanne: And on this island, there are people living too, right? It's not just rock formations and nature. There are places to stay and people living there.
- Andrew: Oh yeah, I think over a half a million people live on Jeju Island. There are remote areas, absolutely, but it's inhabited. It's sometimes referred to as the Hawaii of Korea. It's located really south. It's warm. There are many orange trees all over the place. There are palm trees. It gets really, really hot and humid in the summer. And it's a massive tourist destination, so there are lots and lots of restaurants and hotels, and tons of museums. My mind was blown by how many museums, specialty museums, there are on the island, like really random museums, like the Hello Kitty Museum, and the Antique Automobile Museum, and the African Art Museum. And almost anything you can think of—there's a museum for that on Jeju.
- Suzanne: That's so funny.
- Andrew: Which is really funny to me. Yeah.
- Suzanne: And where did you stay? Did you camp out, or did you stay in a hotel or a hostel?
- Andrew: Yeah, actually, I went with one of my co-workers, and we rented a car and travelled around the whole perimeter of the island. And we just stayed in hotels overnight. So it was really convenient. There was no **roughing it** outside.
- Suzanne: OK, yeah.
- Andrew: But the purpose of our trip was to do the hike on Hallasan.
- Suzanne: Right.
- Andrew: The mountain, actually, occupies the center of the island. It's **right smack dab in the middle**, and so we saved the hike for our last day. And we did that for two reasons. The first being the weather looked like it was going to be clear and sunny on the last day. On a clear day, when you're at the top of the mountain, we heard that you can see all the way to the ocean and see the whole island. So we were excited about that, and also we thought, hmm, "Maybe we're going to be a little stiff and sore after doing the hike." So, you know, if we did it on our first day, and then maybe we'd feel too sore to walk around and do other sightseeing things afterwards.

- Andrew: So that was our goal. And unfortunately, on the last day, when we went to do the hike, it was really cloudy. It was rainy.
- Suzanne: Oh no.
- Andrew: Even though the weather forecast said it was going to be beautiful, it was terrible. It was really overcast, foggy, rainy when we started out, but by the end, it had cleared up a bit. And it wasn't that bad but ...
- Suzanne: And was it a difficult hike?
- Andrew: It was a difficult hike. One thing that I hadn't anticipated—because when I was looking at the weather forecast, the temperature on the island was 13,14,15 degrees—but an important lesson I learned, is you need to check the mountain temperature, not the island temperature.
- Suzanne: Yes, because it can be a lot colder on top of the mountain.
- Andrew: Yeah. So, my co-worker and I, we randomly met some people the night before the hike. And they mentioned that they had actually hiked Hallasan a couple days ago, and so we asked them how was it. And they told us about their experience, and one thing they said was, "Definitely, definitely buy crampons because there is a lot of snow on the mountain."
- Suzanne: What are crampons?
- Andrew: Crampons are also called *eisen* here in Korea. They are spikes that you attach to your shoes.
- Suzanne: Oh, right.
- Andrew: So that you can walk in the snow and ice, without falling over. And maybe you've seen many people in Montreal wear these around town in the winter time too.
- Suzanne: Yeah, yes. I wish I had them sometimes.
- Andrew: When I heard that information, I got a little bit worried because I thought maybe there would be a little bit of snow on the top of the mountain, which is about almost 2 kilometres high. I think it's about 1900 metres. But I wasn't expecting snow for the whole hike. But that's what we got.
- Suzanne: There was snow on the whole hike?
- Andrew: The whole hike.
- Suzanne: Wow.

- Andrew: Yeah, it took us 6 hours to do the return trip, and the temperature was about minus 3 for most of the way up. So it was cold and snowy, and we weren't expecting that. But it was still beautiful and a great hike. And one of the cool things about Hallasan is, like we mentioned, it's **a volcano, a dormant volcano**. So there's **a huge crater** on the top, and there's actually **a crater lake**. Of course, it was covered in snow and frozen over, so we didn't see the lake. And it was cloudy, so we didn't see the ocean.
- Suzanne: It reminds me of Crater Lake in Oregon. It's like a big huge mountain with that crazy coloured lake. **That stinks** you couldn't see down into the lake because, when there are **craters**, I find those lakes are multicoloured and pretty impressive colourwise.
- Andrew: Absolutely, from the pictures I've seen, it looks really, really beautiful.
- Suzanne: Yeah.
- Andrew: I guess I'll just have to go back again in the summertime.
- Suzanne: Yes. That's true, when there is no snow all the way up.
- Andrew: But to you, Suzanne, and to our listeners as well, I think Jeju maybe isn't too famous to people outside of Korea. I know there's a lot of tourists who visit from China. Maybe in the Asia region, it's well known. But to other people ... I know I certainly hadn't heard about it before I moved to Korea. And I didn't see too many Western tourists there while I was travelling. But it is awesome. So if you ever plan on coming to Asia, Sue, hit up Jeju Island.
- Suzanne: I will put that on my list for sure. Thank you so much, Andrew. Sounds amazing!
- Andrew: Yeah, well, it was fun to talk about my trip. And I have put a couple pictures on our Facebook page, which is [Facebook.com/CulipsPodcast](https://www.facebook.com/CulipsPodcast), so if you wanna see some pictures, check those out now. And I'll make sure to upload another couple of pictures talking about the cave and the rocks that I saw because they are worth checking out.
- OK, Sue. Well, that's it for my story.
- Suzanne: It was a great story.
- Andrew: One more time, our study guide is available for download on Culips.com. And that's also the place that you can listen to all of our back episodes. So yeah, check out the website, Culips.com.
- Suzanne: Yeah, you can always find us at [Facebook.com/CulipsPodcast](https://www.facebook.com/CulipsPodcast). And leave us comments or messages because we love to hear from you.

Andrew: That's it for us. We will talk to you next time. Goodbye, everybody.

Suzanne: 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

To be jam-packed

Adjective

In this episode, Andrew says that the Culips study guide is **jam-packed** with useful information. **Jam-packed** means full or loaded to maximum capacity. So when he says that the study guide is **jam-packed** with information, he means that the study guide is full of useful information.

Have you ever tried to fill up a suitcase with so many clothes that it was difficult to close? If so, you could say that the suitcase was **jam-packed**. It was absolutely full to the maximum with clothes.

Similarly, if a baseball game is sold-out, and the stadium is filled to capacity with fans, then it is **jam-packed** with fans.

So when a container or place is **jam-packed**, it is very, very full.

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

Steve:	I'm gonna go shopping at the mall this afternoon. Wanna join me?
Sarah:	No way. The mall will be jam-packed right now. I'd rather go when it's less busy.
Steve:	All right, no problem.
Sarah:	Have a good time. Don't spend too much money!

Patrick:	What should we have for dinner tonight?
Helen:	I was thinking of making an avocado salad with salmon. What do you think?
Patrick:	Sounds tasty to me.
Helen:	And jam-packed full of vitamins and nutrients too.
Patrick:	Nutritious and delicious!

To rough it Idiom

To rough it is an idiom that means to live without the comforts of home, like electricity, running water, and a warm bed.

In this episode, Andrew says that he stayed in hotels during his time on Jeju Island. This means that he didn't have **to rough it** while he was there.

The idiom **to rough it** is usually used to talk about camping and trips into the woods. You might also hear it used to talk about sailors who are away at sea or soldiers who are away on a mission.

So when you are away from all the comforts and conveniences of modern living (electricity, Wi-Fi, running water, etc), you are **roughing it**.

Here are a couple more examples with **to rough it**:

Tae:	I watched a movie last week about a man who quit his job and moved to the woods. Until he died, he lived his life as a hermit.
Camilla:	That's something I could never do.
Tae:	Why? Don't you like roughing it ?
Camilla:	I hate it!

Sam:	There's supposed to be a big snowstorm this weekend.
Lilly:	I heard that.
Sam:	You should go to the grocery store and stock up on food and candles. There's a good chance the power will go out.
Lilly:	Good idea. Better safe than sorry, right?
Sam:	Yeah. We might have to rough it for a while, at least until the storm is over.
Lilly:	I hope not!

A way away

Casual expression

In this episode, Andrew mentions that Jeju Island is **a little way away** from the coast of South Korean. In this expression, a way means a far distance. So when Andrew says that Jeju Island is **a little way away**, he means that the island is a little far away from the coast. It isn't very close to the coast.

The expressions **a way away** and **a ways away** have the same meaning (ie, far away) and are common in everyday conversation. Feel free to use either expression.

The expression **a way away** can also be used to talk about time and dates. When a future date is far away from the present time, that date is **a way away**.

To summarize, when a place is **a way away**, it is far away. When a date is **a way away**, it is far ahead in the future.

Here are a couple more examples with **a way away**:

Ralph:	Your birthday is coming up soon. Are you going to have a party?
Brenda:	I haven't even thought about it yet. My birthday is still a way away .
Ralph:	Really? I thought it was next week.
Brenda:	Nope, it's not until November.
Ralph:	Oops, I must be confusing your birthday with someone else's.

Joey:	How was your trip?
Christine:	It was awesome! I visited Nigeria.
Joey:	Amazing! I don't even know where that is. Is it near Kenya?
Christine:	No, Nigeria is a way away from Kenya. It's actually on the west coast of Africa.
Joey:	Oh, OK. Anyways, I want to hear all about your trip over coffee!
Christine:	Sounds like a plan!

That stinks

Idiom

In this episode, Suzanne says **that stinks** after Andrew mentions that he couldn't see the lake on the top of Mount Halla because it was frozen. In this context, the expression **that stinks** means that's too bad or that's unfortunate.

The word stink means smelly, and it's often used to describe things that physically have a bad smell, like a dirty bathroom or a garbage can. However, idiomatically, to stink is used to describe situations that are unfair, unlucky, or unfortunate.

You might also hear **that stinks** used to describe someone or something that is bad, terrible, or poor quality. For example, let's say a basketball player misses a free throw. A fan could comment on his bad throw by yelling, "**That throw stunk**," or "**That guy stinks**."

To recap, **that stinks** is an idiom that can be used in two situations: when something is unfortunate, or when something or someone is terrible.

Here are a couple more examples with **that stinks**:

Lindsay:	Wanna grab coffee tomorrow?
Dave:	I'd love to, but I can't. I have to work.
Lindsay:	That stinks!
Dave:	Yeah, we'll have to catch up another time.

James:	Can you change the channel, please?
Olivia:	Why? Don't you like this show?
James:	No, it totally stinks .
Olivia:	Well, I like it. It's almost over. Can I finish it?
James:	OK, fine.

Smack dab in the middle

Idiom

Smack dab in the middle means directly in the middle. In this episode, Andrew says that Mount Halla is **smack dab in the middle** of Jeju Island. In other words, it is exactly in the middle of Jeju Island.



In this satellite image of Jeju Island, you can see that Mount Halla (the dark green area) is exactly in the middle, or **smack dab in the middle**, of the island.

It is common to modify and strengthen the expression **smack dab in the middle** by adding the word right before the word smack. For example, if a boxer hits his opponent **right smack dab in the middle** of the face, he hit his opponent 100% in the middle of the face.

Smack dab in the middle is a casual expression. You can use it in everyday conversation, but you should avoid using it in formal situations.

Here are a couple more examples with **smack dab in the middle**:

April:	Do you wanna go bowling?
Frank:	Sure, we haven't gone bowling in forever.
April:	Remember the crazy strike that I got the last time we went?
Frank:	Yeah, you hit the pins smack dab in the middle . That was awesome!

Thomas:	Don't forget. There's a holiday next week on Wednesday.
Abby:	That's right. Thanks for reminding me.
Thomas:	Having a day off right smack dab in the middle of the week is so great.
Abby:	I wish every week was like that.
Thomas:	Yeah, me too.

Volcano vocabulary

Technical vocabulary

Here's a brief summary of all the scientific words about volcanos that Andrew and Suzanne used in this episode:

- **Lava** means hot, liquid rock.
- **A crater** means a circular-shaped depression caused by volcanic activity.
- **A volcano** means a mountain with a hole on the top. Occasionally, lava will shoot out from the hole.
- **An active volcano** means a volcano that is currently erupting or may erupt soon.
- **A dormant volcano** means a volcano that is not active. Sometimes dormant volcanos are called sleeping volcanos.

Quiz

1. Which of the following is NOT a definition of to stink?

- a) to smell bad
- b) to be exciting
- c) to be unfortunate
- d) to be terrible

2. What does jam-packed mean?

- a) stuck
- b) deep
- c) comfortable
- d) full to capacity

3. Which of the following situations could you describe as roughing it?

- a) staying at a luxury resort
- b) flying first class
- c) going camping
- d) going to a spa

4. In the expression a way away what does way mean?

- a) close
- b) far
- c) near
- d) immediate

5. Which of the following expressions means in the direct middle?

- a) smack dab in the middle
- b) off-kilter
- c) topsy-turvy
- d) smack on the right

Writing or Discussion Questions

1. Do you like hiking? Would you ever travel somewhere so that you could go hiking?
2. If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?
3. Do you enjoy roughing it? Explain why or why not.
4. In this episode, Andrew recommends visiting Jeju Island. Describe an area near your home that you'd recommend to visitors.
5. In this episode, Andrew mentions that he has lived in Korea for 5 years on and off. On and off means to start and stop doing something repeatedly. Can you think of anything you've done on and off?

Quiz Answers

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

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