

Simplified Speech #039 – Gettin' around

Episode description

In this episode of Simplified Speech, Andrew and Suzanne discuss the various ways of navigating a city. Should you travel by public transportation or go your own way? Find out how our hosts get around.

Fun fact

The London Underground holds claim to the oldest subway system in the world. When it opened in 1863, the trains were driven by steam locomotives!

Expressions included in the study guide

- Wanna
- Gettin' around
- To opt
- I hear you
- You're good
- Weirdo
- Luddite



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.

Suzanne: And I'm Suzanne.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips.

Hello, Suzanne.

Suzanne: Hello, Andrew. How are you?

Andrew: I am well, how are you?

Suzanne: I'm doing pretty good. I am watching my dog watch the squirrels and it's always funny to see Skoshi, my dog, observe squirrels and, really, almost like he's hunting them, you know?

Andrew: If you let Skoshi outside, does he chase the squirrels?

Suzanne: Oh yeah.

Andrew: Yeah?

Suzanne: Yes. You have to be careful, I have a friend whose dog brought two squirrels into the house.

Andrew: Oh.

Suzanne: He hunted them and brought them in. Yeah, gross.

Andrew: Cats do that sometimes, too, right? They'll catch a mouse and then bring it back to their owner as a present.

Suzanne: Yeah.

Andrew: It's like, hey, mom, look what I got you, a dead mouse.

Suzanne: No thanks, I'm good.

Andrew: Yeah, I'm OK, it's all right.

Well, Suzanne, today we are going to do a Simplified Speech episode. And for all the listeners out there who don't know, Simplified Speech is our series where we have totally natural English conversations, but we speak at a slightly slower pace than we do in our everyday lives. And, guys, if you **wanna** get the study guide for this episode, just head on over to our website, Culips.com, and you'll be able to download that.

Suzanne: Yeah. That's awesome.

Andrew: OK, Suzanne, what are we gonna talk about today?

Suzanne: So today we're gonna talk about how we get around. **Getting around.**

Andrew: **Gettin' around.**

Suzanne: **Gettin' around** the town.

Andrew: How do we get around, yeah. So what do we mean by **gettin' around**?

Suzanne: Well, it's kind of how we move throughout our day in the place where we live. So do you drive, do you walk everywhere, do you ride a bike or maybe a scooter, or the subway, the metro? How do you get to where you need to go?

Andrew: Yeah, that's exactly right. It's all about transportation, **getting around**. So, Sue, I'll ask you first: how do you get around? I know when I lived in Montreal, I would sometimes run into you on the subway, but are you still a subway rider?

Suzanne: Yeah, I do take the subway, or the metro, when I'm needing to go downtown or to a really busy, dense area of Montreal because, to be honest, finding parking is a pain in the butt. It's really annoying.

Andrew: Yeah.

Suzanne: And it can get expensive, too, with tickets. So whenever I'm going to those areas, I tend to take the public transportation, so the metro, the subway, or buses. Yeah.

Andrew: OK, so when you're going downtown or to a place where it's hard to find parking, public transportation is your go-to option?

Suzanne: Yeah and I live ... I could walk downtown, but it would take about 45 minutes to an hour and, when it's cold out, I really don't feel like doing that. So I **opt** for the metro.



- Andrew: Now, do you own a car, or do you have access to a car?
- Suzanne: Yeah, so we do own a car, well, we lease it, but it's our car. We love it. And I do use the car a few times a week, like to go to band practice, like when I have to bring a lot of equipment, or maybe when we go grocery shopping, because we have a lot of bags to carry, or anytime we need to go buy some furniture or something like that, or just if we're lazy, honestly. That happens, too.
- Andrew: Yeah, well, you pretty much just listed all of the reasons that I would like to get a car one day, too.
- Suzanne: Yeah, but where you live, how do you get around your town, where you are?
- Andrew: Yeah, unfortunately, I don't have a driver's licence.
- Suzanne: OK.
- Andrew: I mean I know how to drive, I do have a Canadian driver's licence. Well, actually, that's a lie. I did, it expired and, since I'm not in Canada, I can't renew it. And Korea, where I live, they have an agreement with the Canadian government where you can simply exchange your Canadian licence for a Korean licence. But since mine has expired, I'm kind of stuck, you know, I can't get a Canadian licence, because I'm not in Canada, which means I can't trade it in to get a Korean licence. So I'm carless at the moment.
- Suzanne: **I hear you**, yeah.
- Andrew: But, it's all right. 'Cause Korea has pretty good public transportation, excellent buses, nice subways.
- Suzanne: That's great.
- Andrew: And I have a bike, so, you know I'm OK. I can get around just fine.
- Suzanne: Does it get too cold to ride the bike?
- Andrew: Well, Suzanne, let me put it this way: I used to ride my bike in Montreal in the winter.
- Suzanne: OK. Then **you're good**.

- Andrew: It's much milder here so, yes, sometimes in the winter or in the rainy season, this is when I would favour taking the subway and the bus. I tend to save my bike riding just for the nice weather. I'm not as hard core as I used to be.
- Suzanne: Yeah, yeah. It's funny, I think, in Montreal. So my boyfriend, Olivier, he also rides his bike up until Christmas break, right? So right before the holiday break, which is pretty cold sometimes in Montreal. So he'll ride his bike almost in protest.
- Andrew: Yeah.
- Suzanne: And I find a lot of people do that here. It's almost like you're saying I don't care winter, I'm gonna ride my bike anyway, you know? So I don't know, I can relate to being hard core here in Montreal more than other places.
- Andrew: A new way of **getting around** is using Uber or Lyft to take a private taxi ride with a driver. It's not really a taxi, but it's a private ride with a driver through the use of these apps. Have you ever used Uber to get around?
- Suzanne: Once.
- Andrew: Once? Just one time?
- Suzanne: I'm a **weirdo** in this realm of transportation, OK? Like, I'm what you would call a **Luddite** in that way, because I have not advanced with the technology. I just don't use this app.
- Andrew: And this is what a **Luddite** means, right? It's a person who is resistant to new technology.
- Suzanne: Exactly, yes. So we can go into that in another episode, but that's a whole other episode. But, yeah, and when I was in, I remember, I think it was Florida for a quick vacation over a year ago, I downloaded the Uber app and I used it then I deleted it.
- Andrew: Was your experience really bad?
- Suzanne: No, the guy was amazing. He was so kind, he really helped us out. But I heard so many stories of people getting their information stolen from these apps so, especially Uber, and so I just got scared and deleted my stuff because I was nervous about getting hacked, I guess. Yeah, that's the only time I used it. How about you? Do you Uber?
- Andrew: Well, I don't Uber, but I do take a taxi from time to time, and taxis in Korea are super cheap.

- Suzanne: Oh, nice.
- Andrew: Yeah, it's very, very affordable, unlike North America where taxis are ridiculously expensive. I can take a 20-, 25-minute taxi ride in Korea here for around \$10, let's say.
- Suzanne: That's great.
- Andrew: Yeah, the buses and the subway, they usually stop running around, well, sometimes the buses as early as 10:30 at night and the subway usually goes till a little bit after midnight. So on the weekend, if I'm out a little bit late, I usually will take a taxi to get home.
- Suzanne: Nice. That's convenient.
- Andrew: Yeah, it's very convenient, but no apps. Although I do have an app to call a taxi, so it's very much like Uber.
- Suzanne: Yes, yes, and just one more point before we get on out of here, there's this new kind of taxi here in Montreal called Téo.
- Andrew: OK.
- Suzanne: And they're all electric cars.
- Andrew: Cool.
- Suzanne: So they're all eco-friendly. And they also have an app, so you can order those taxis and feel like you're not adding more gasoline into the environment. So it's like good-conscience taxi-driving, Téo taxi.
- Andrew: I'll have to check it out next time I'm in Montreal.
- Suzanne: Yeah, they're cute cars, very quiet.
- Andrew: Well, Sue, I think that about brings us to the end of this episode. It was fun talking about **gettin' around** with you.
- Suzanne: Yeah, you too, Andrew.
- Andrew: And, everyone, one more time, I would like to remind you to visit our website, Culips.com. It's the place where you can find all of our previous episodes. I think we have over 450 episodes.
- Suzanne: Wow.
- Andrew: So, if you haven't listened to them all, then visit the website to get started.

Suzanne: Get listenin'.

Andrew: It's also the place where you can get the study guide for this episode and, Suzanne, some people might be interested in sending us an email. How can they do that?

Suzanne: Yeah, you can send an email to contact@Culips.com, or you can also find us on Facebook at Facebook.com/CulipsPodcast and leave us a message or a comment in the post for our podcasts. We love to hear from you.

Andrew: That's right, we'll be waiting for your messages and comments. Goodbye, everybody, we will be back soon with another episode and we'll talk to you then.

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

Wanna

Phrasal verb, informal

Wanna is short for the phrasal verb *want to*. It is mostly an oral expression and is very common. The hosts of this podcast say it frequently. It often replaces the longer question *do you want to*. There are other similar examples, such as saying *gonna* for *going to* and *kinda* for *kind of*.

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

Jean:	It's such a beautiful day. It's sunny and warm.
Britt:	I know, right?
Jean:	I always feel like I need to make the most out of a nice day like today.
Britt:	Hey, wanna head to my cottage? We can go for a swim then lounge on the patio.
Jean:	That sounds awesome.

Dino:	What do you want to do today? Wanna go bowling?
Sam:	Not really.
Dino:	Wanna go wall climbing?
Sam:	Nah.
Dino:	Wanna ...
Sam:	I'm really tired. Right now, I wanna take a nap. Talk to me afterwards.

Gettin' around

Idiom

As explained in this episode, **gettin' around** means how you go about the place you live. It could be about public transportation, like the subway or the bus, or private transportation, walking, biking, or driving your car. There is no big difference between **gettin' around** and **getting around**, although **gettin' around** is more friendly and informal.

Here are a couple more examples with **gettin' around**:

Brett:	I can't remember. Do you have a car?
Vicky:	I used to, but it died on me and I don't have the cash to fix it.
Brett:	Oh, that sucks. Gettin' around must be difficult.
Vicky:	It is. Public transportation around where I work isn't very good.
Brett:	Maybe you could car pool with a coworker.

Harold:	I heard you just got back from Tokyo. How was it?
Fiona:	Great! I highly recommend it.
Harold:	Is it easy enough getting around without speaking Japanese?
Fiona:	Sure. I had no problems. There are a lot of English signs in the subway or on buses. You should go!

To opt

Verb

To opt is to choose. In this episode, Suzanne says that, rather than walk outside in the cold for 45 minutes, she **opts** to take the subway. She chooses to ride the subway over walking outside. You can also say **to opt out**, which means to choose not to participate in something, like **opting out** of a contract or **opting out** of an activity.

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

Dirk: We have three choices for tonight: chicken wings, pork chops, or veggie burgers.

Hailey: I **opt** for the veggie burgers.

Dirk: You know what? Good call. I haven't had one in a while.

Hailey: Cool. I can make them. I have a secret family recipe.

Dirk: Great!

Taylor: You're bilingual, right?

Louise: I am—French and English.

Taylor: So when you call a company and you get an automatic voice asking you to press 1 for French or 2 for English, what do you choose?

Louise: I **opt** for the French. Those calls are usually business calls and my business French is stronger than my English.

I hear you

Phrase

In this episode, Andrew explains his driver licence situation. Suzanne responds by saying, “**I hear you.**” That does not mean that her ears can hear him. It means that she understands his situation. You can say **I hear you** when you confirm your understanding of something or when you agree with someone. Saying **I hear ya** or **I hear that** are also common variations.

Here are a couple more examples with **I hear you**:

Bill:	It's so hot and muggy today.
Fred:	I hear you. It's so humid!
Bill:	Any beer in the fridge?
Fred:	Yeah, but they're not very cold yet. I'll put some in the freezer to speed it up.
Bill:	I hear that!

Chris:	Hey, take a look at these. They're pictures of my friend trekking to the Everest base camp.
Eric:	What? That's crazy. How long did it take?
Chris:	I think he told me he walked something like 14 days in the cold and snow to get there.
Eric:	Wow, that's something else. I wouldn't do that.
Chris:	I hear you. It takes someone special to be able to do that.

You're good

Idiom

In this episode, Andrew tells Suzanne that, in Montreal, he used to bike in much colder weather than in Korea. To this, Suzanne tells him, "**You're good.**" She does not mean to say that he is talented or that he's doing well. She means it is no problem for him to bike in the milder climate of Korea. You can say **you're good** to someone else when there is no problem. You can also say it about yourself, as in **I'm good**, or about someone else, as in **she's good**.

Here are a couple more examples with **you're good**:

Arnie:	Can you look behind the car and see how much space I have left to park?
Dana:	Sure. You have about a metre between you and the wall.
Arnie:	OK, tell me when to stop.
Dana:	Sure. A little more, a little more. OK, stop.
Arnie:	Are you sure?
Dana:	Yeah, you're good .

Cay:	Before I go onstage, how's my makeup?
Darla:	You're good.
Cay:	Did you check on Heather's makeup? She was having difficulty.
Darla:	I did, but now she's good . No problem.

Weirdo

Noun, informal

A **weirdo** is someone who is strange. It is generally used in a joking manner. In this episode, Suzanne calls herself a **weirdo** for having used Uber only once. She says she's strange because she thinks everyone else uses Uber a lot.

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

Maria: Wait a minute, are you drinking maple syrup out of the container?

Aida: Sure. It's my pre-workout ritual.

Maria: You're such a **weirdo**! Nobody does that.

Aida: Clearly someone does. Me!

Maria: Umm ... Do you mind if I try some?

Bryan: So, any plans for the weekend?

Beth: Yeah, actually. I have a speed-knitting competition.

Bryan: A what?

Beth: A speed-knitting competition. It's a competition where people get together and knit something specific as fast as they can. Yeah, I'm a **weirdo** like that—but it's so much fun!

Bryan: I can't knit, but I can see how that could be fun.

Luddite

Noun

In this episode, Suzanne calls herself a **Luddite** because she is not advanced in Uber app technology. Originally, **Luddites** were people who were violently opposed to new technology, smashing machinery because it threatened their jobs as craftsmen. Nowadays, we use the word **Luddite** to mean anyone who is opposed to or not familiar with new technology.

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

Eddie:	What's that in your hand?
Steve:	This? It's my phone.
Eddie:	Really? You still have a flip phone? Everyone has a smartphone nowadays.
Steve:	I don't trust those phones—too many security issues.
Eddie:	Wow, I didn't know you were that much of a Luddite .
Steve:	This phone is just fine by me. You know, a lot of people are going back to simple phones these days.

Sunny:	Check out my new sound system.
Diana:	Sweet setup!
Sunny:	And everything is integrated. I've got my record player, my laptop, Bluetooth with my phone, and online services. I have music already playing before I walk through the door at night!
Diana:	Wow, you're like an anti- Luddite . Maybe you could hook up my place, too.

Quiz

1. Which one is false?

- a) wanna means want to
- b) hafta means have to
- c) iffa means if to
- d) gonna means going to

2. True or false: Calling someone a weirdo is always a terrible insult.

- a) true
- b) false

3. As used in this episode, if you say to someone “I hear you,” you _____:

- a) are understanding the other person
- b) are listening to the other person
- c) are hearing the other person
- d) are trying to comprehend the other person

4. Which of the following is NOT a common way of gettin’ around in the city?

- a) taking a shuttle bus
- b) getting a ride from your mom
- c) riding in a carriage
- d) riding the subway

5. If you are opting for something, you are:

- a) writing down an option
- b) ignoring an option
- c) selecting an option
- d) optioning the movie rights

Writing or Discussions Questions

1. What is your most common way of getting around town?
2. If you were incredibly rich, how would you get around?
3. In your opinion, which are the more eco-friendly transportation options?
4. When choosing a place to live, how much do you consider the commute you will need to do?
5. Have you ever been to a city and been blown away by how great their public transportation system was? What impressed you the most? Have you ever seen the opposite situation? What were the problems you noticed?
6. In cold weather, how do your transportation habits change?

Quiz Answers

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

Episode credits

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