

Simplified Speech #044 – Summer memories

Episode description

What do ice cream, air conditioners, and sunscreen all have in common? You can find them all in summertime! In this Simplified Speech episode, Andrew and Morag take a walk down memory lane by reminiscing about their childhood summer adventures. Join them in their trip to discover how they spent their summer vacations.

Fun fact

Here are two fun summer facts you're sure to enjoy. Number 1: Do you like ice cream? If so, July must be your favourite month, because it's National Ice Cream Month. Number 2: What do you think is the most annoying thing about summer? Besides the unbearable heat, mosquitos come to mind. These pesky bugs have been annoying Earth's inhabitants for more than 30 million years. Just imagine how many mosquito bites have been suffered during that time!

Expressions included in the study guide

- To take a walk down memory lane
- Strongest memories
- Circumnavigate
- RV
- Roughing it
- Stay tuned





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.

Andrew: What's new?

Morag: I just had to eject my cat from my room because he was tearing down some of the art on my walls so that he could eat the blue sticky tact behind. So I just had to throw him out, 'cause that's not acceptable behaviour.

Andrew: Sounds like a cat doing cat things.

Morag: I guess, yeah. Oh well.

Andrew: Well, Morag, today we're going to do a Simplified Speech episode. And for all the listeners that don't know, Simplified Speech is the series where we have totally natural conversations. We use everyday English vocabulary, but the only difference is we speak just slightly slower than we do in our everyday lives.

And you know, Morag, summer is here, it's hot, it's crazy, it's great. And I thought because it's summer, we could look back on our summers when we were children and reminisce, **take a walk down memory lane**. Does that sound OK to you?

Morag: Sounds like a great idea.



Andrew: Cool. So, just before we get into it, I wanna remind everybody that we have a study guide for this episode and it's available to download from our website, which is Culips.com. So if you'd like to get the study guide, just head on over to Culips.com and give it a download.

OK, Morag, what is the first thing that comes to mind when you think about your summer vacation as a kid?

Morag: The first thing would be going camping with my parents or grandparents. How about you?

Andrew: Actually that is my **strongest memory** as well. Going camping with my nana, my grandma, but I called her my nana as some families in Canada do. Going camping with my nana or my aunt and uncle is one of the **strongest memories** I have when I think of summer when I was a little kid. And then, when I got a little bit older, my parents got into camping as well, and we used to go camping as a family.

Morag: That sounds lovely. I would mostly go camping with my mom and grandparents, or my dad did crazy camping. Like he would go out into the wilderness. He **circumnavigated** Vancouver Island.

Andrew: Wow.

Morag: Yeah.

Andrew: **Circumnavigated**, that's a big word. That just means to go all the way around an island, right?

Morag: It means to go by water entirely around an island. And that's impressive for Vancouver Island, because it's huge and also open to the Pacific, so can be quite dangerous.

Andrew: Absolutely, those waters can be quite rough at times.

Morag: Yeah, he also, and some of his friends, would take us as kids, not to do stuff that crazy but on really longer kayaking trips into the wilderness, into small places and small islands off the coast of Vancouver Island. So that was pretty crazy summer camping as a kid.

Andrew: Wow, that is legit. Man, I'm jealous because the camping my family did was not that cool. It was fun, but wasn't that cool. We would just go to a campground and stay there, nothing too special, you know, like a provincial park, something like this.

Morag: Well, those are pretty nice, though, because usually there's a washroom.



Andrew: Hot showers.

Morag: Hot showers, yeah. All those nice things that you definitely do not get on a small, uninhabited island in the Pacific Ocean.

Andrew: I'm going to throw a really Canadian word out there for you.

Morag: OK.

Andrew: For everyone. Portage. Did you ever portage?

Morag: I actually have never portaged. Although I know many people that enjoy the activity.

Andrew: And portaging, could you explain it to everybody, what is portaging?

Morag: Well, portaging is an outdoor activity that is most common in Ontario and Quebec because there's lots of smaller lakes. But portaging is where you canoe along rivers or lakes and then when you get to the end, you pick up the canoe and you carry it to the next lake or river.

Andrew: Yeah, and the reason that I said this was a really Canadian word is because when Canada was being explored by Europeans, this is how they got around through Quebec and Ontario. And I imagine it was particularly tied to explorers from France.

Morag: Yes.

Andrew: Portage. I would imagine.

Morag: So, Andrew, the campgrounds that you went to with your grandparents and parents as a kid, were they the ones like the KOA or campground of America style, where you have, like, a dog park and, like, a shop and all that sort of craziness?

Andrew: Yes, I do remember staying at a KOA because, if I'm remembering correctly, I used to go every summer with my aunt and uncle to Harrison Hot Springs, which is a hot spring near Hope, BC. It's a little bit outside of Vancouver and, yeah, we would stay at a commercial campground and, yeah, there's a little store, there was a video rental place because people had VCRs and TVs in their **RV**. My parents never owned an **RV**, unfortunately—would have been fun—but my aunt and uncle and my nana did. So, yeah, there was a video rental store and, yeah, one of the things I enjoyed the most about camping was the temporary friends that you'd make. You know, there's all these kids running around the campgrounds and you'd make friends and they'd be your best friends for like 3 or 4 days, and then you'd never see them again.



- Morag: Ah, man. That sounds like fun. I didn't get that so much because of the, sort of, more isolated nature of the camping. But one of my favourite things was finding all kinds of objects that I wouldn't usually, like I remember finding a seal's jawbone and stuff like that.
- Andrew: A seal's jawbone?
- Morag: Yeah.
- Andrew: Wow, did you keep it?
- Morag: No, I don't think I was allowed to. I think that's dirty. But I also, like, picked mussels for the first time camping as a kid.
- Andrew: Wow.
- Morag: Yeah, lots of cool discovery.
- Andrew: Yeah, so it's interesting we both did the same thing during our summers as a kid, but they took very different forms. So you **roughed it**, you did some real camping, and my camping was quite comfortable and relaxed. And, you know, it's funny, I think as a kid I probably would have preferred to do the camping that I did. But now, I would prefer to do the camping that you did. So it's interesting how our perspective changes as we get older.
- Morag: Yeah, I think also it probably has a lot to do with what you're used to because, man, if I go camping now, do I enjoy having a hot shower.
- Andrew: Absolutely.
- Morag: Yeah.
- Andrew: Morag, I think we'll wrap it up here. In our next Simplified Speech episode, we're actually going to continue talking about camping, but a different kind of camping, and this is going to a summer camp. And this is another thing that both of us did when we were kids during our summer vacations. So, everybody, please **stay tuned** to hear our summer camp stories in the next Simplified Speech episode.

And, again, I would like to remind you about our study guide. You can download them, not just for this episode but for all of our Culips episodes, and they're an awesome way to study deeper with Culips and take your English to the next level. So if you wanna get the study guides, just visit Culips.com. We're also all over the web, we're on Facebook, we're on Twitter. You can find us there. And if you'd like to get in touch with us, simply send us an email. Our address is contact@Culips.com.



Andrew: OK guys, we will talk to you next time. Bye.

Morag: Bye.

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Detailed Explanations

To take a walk down memory lane

Idiom

To take a walk down memory lane means to remember a particular time or place from your past. Lane is another word for road. If you imagine your life as one long road, then **taking a walk down memory lane** is taking a walk through your memories and reflecting on events that happened along the way. This is like re-experiencing your memories.

In this episode, Andrew and Morag **take a walk down memory lane** when talking about the camping trips they took as kids.

This term was used in the Culips Chatterbox episode #175, Nostalgic Canadian kids' TV. Check it out if you want some more information on the term **to take a walk down memory lane**.

Here's one more example with **to take a walk down memory lane**:

Kelly:	Cheryl, are you OK? You've been staring at that book without moving for 5 whole minutes.
Cheryl:	Oh, yes, I'm fine. This is my family photo album, actually. I was just taking a walk down memory lane . There are a lot of good memories captured in this book.
Kelly:	Oh, let me have a look. Is that Keith?
Cheryl:	Yes, it is, although he's 30 years younger in this picture. Isn't he handsome?
Kelly:	Yeah, he was a hunk!

Strongest memories

Noun

When you want to refer to the memories that have the greatest impact on your life in some way, or the memories that you remember best, you call them your **strongest memories**. **Strongest memories** are the opposite of easily forgotten memories. Your **strongest memories** can be of a person, place, event, or anything else.

Morag and Andrew both say that their **strongest memories** of summer are of going camping with their grandparents.

Here are a couple more examples with **strongest memories**:

Jovan:	How long has it been since your mom died?
Lena:	She died when I was 7, so 21 years ago.
Jovan:	Wow, do you remember much about her?
Lena:	A little. The strongest memories I have of her are her singing me to sleep at night. She had a lovely singing voice.

Darcy:	When did your family come to Canada?
Asim:	We moved from Egypt to Canada when I was 10 years old.
Darcy:	What was it like when you first got here?
Asim:	Hmm. The strongest memories I have of that time are probably adjusting to the language barrier at school. I couldn't understand anything when I first started elementary school in Canada. It was rough.



Circumnavigate

Verb

To **circumnavigate** means to travel completely around something, usually by water. The most common uses of this word are in the phrases to **circumnavigate** the globe, Earth, or island.

For example, in the book *Around the World in 80 Days*, the main characters **circumnavigate** the globe in 80 days.

Here's one more example with **circumnavigate**:

Max: What is one of your favourite hobbies to partake in during the summer?

Larson: I have a boat, as you know. I like to sail to the nearby islands and **circumnavigate** them looking for coves to explore.

Max: Wow, that's interesting. Find any buried treasure?

Larson: Sadly, no. I did see some cool cave drawings, though. But I don't know if they're ancient or simply artistic graffiti!

RV Noun

An **RV** is a recreational vehicle, which is something like a house on wheels. **RVs** are usually quite large and include such things as a bed, bathroom, refrigerator, sink, table, shower, and storage space. Families often use **RVs** to take road trips, since sleeping and cooking in the **RV** can cut down on travel costs. Similar vehicles or names include camper vans or trailers.

Here's one more example with **RV**:

Fred:	I heard you bought an RV for your upcoming trip to Yosemite National Park.
Eugene:	You bet I did. It's a real beauty. This RV has everything we could ever need, including Bluetooth, Wi-Fi hook-up, video streaming, a built-in navigation system, and a bed that feels like sleeping on a cloud.
Fred:	You're really travelling luxuriously, eh?
Eugene:	Oh, yes. After the disaster of last year's vacation, I'm making sure this one is absolutely perfect. Nothing can go wrong!
Fred:	I hope you didn't just jinx yourself with that statement, buddy!

Roughing it Idiom

Roughing it means to live without the luxuries, comforts, or conveniences of one's home. **Roughing it** is usually used to describe camping, because you have to sleep in a tent instead of a bed and cook over a fire instead of using modern appliances.

Here's one example with **roughing it**:

Mikey:	Dad, where's my phone?
Dad:	I locked in the safe for the weekend.
Mikey:	What do you mean, "for the weekend"? Why can't I have my phone?
Dad:	We're going camping. We're gonna be really roughing it this weekend. No modern technology to distract you from nature.
Mikey:	Oh, man. This totally sucks. I'm gonna be bored out of my mind.
Dad:	No way! We'll build a fire, roast marshmallows, and tell ghost stories. It's gonna be a blast!

Stay tuned Idiom

To **stay tuned** means to keep listening to the particular radio, television, or other entertainment program that one is currently listening to. Usually broadcasters use this phrase when they take a short commercial break, or at the end of that day's episode. It's usually said in phrases such as **stay tuned** for more information or **stay tuned** for the next episode.

At the end of this episode, Andrew says that this Summer memories episode is over, but that you should **stay tuned** to hear the next Simplified Speech episode about summer camp.

Here's one more example with **stay tuned**:

Announcer: OK, everyone, it's now time for our commercial break. We'll be back in a few minutes with some of your favourite hit singles. We'll also be announcing the winner of this week's mystery prize, so **stay tuned**!

Quiz

1. What is the meaning of “roughing it”?

- a) hitting something
- b) making a rough, imperfect sample before making the final draft
- c) living without luxuries, comforts, or conveniences
- d) making something look older and more worn out

2. What is the name for a vehicle that people use when travelling and camping?

- a) RV
- b) SV
- c) CC
- d) CV

3. Why do broadcasters tell listeners to stay tuned?

- a) to make sure the listeners are focused
- b) to make sure the listeners keep listening to the content
- c) to make sure the listeners know the name of the song
- d) to find out how many listeners there are

4. Which of these is NOT an example of taking a walk down memory lane?

- a) thinking about your first kiss
- b) thinking about that family trip to Disney World
- c) remembering you forgot your lunch bag at home
- d) remembering what the cheer was for your middle school soccer team

5. Which is NOT an example of circumnavigate?

- a) circumnavigate the globe
- b) circumnavigate the island
- c) circumnavigate the Earth
- d) circumnavigate the wall

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. What is one of the strongest memories you have of your summer vacations when you were a kid?
2. How are your summers different now compared to when you were a kid?
3. Have you ever been camping? Do you like it? Why or why not?
4. If you have been camping, do you prefer roughing it or do you prefer “glamping,” which is a more glamorous, comfortable style of camping?
5. What are some TV shows, podcasts, or radio channels that you often stay tuned for? Why?



Quiz Answers

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

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