

Simplified Speech #045 – Attending summer camp

Episode description

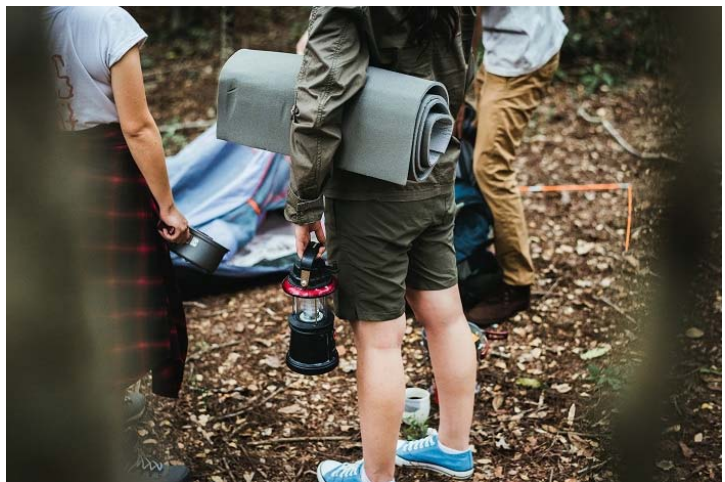
Attending summer camp is a very North American experience. Join Andrew and Morag as they share their memories of attending summer camp.

Fun fact

Throughout the world, there are all kinds of summer camps. You can go to an English camp, a music camp, a theatre camp, even a weight loss camp!

Expressions included in the study guide

- To pay the price for it
- No kidding
- Bunch
- Back in the day
- To empower
- To launch [something]



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. What's new?

Andrew: Morag, I did something really stupid last week and I'm **paying the price** for it now.

Morag: Oh no, what happened?

Andrew: Do you know what screen baseball is?

Morag: No.

Andrew: OK, I thought this might be something that is just here in Korea, maybe it's in other Asian countries too. But, as far as I know, we don't have screen baseball in Canada. But what it is is a really fun game. It's like half video game, half batting cage. So there's a big screen and you go and you hold a real baseball bat. You stand in front of the screen and, on the screen, a video game-like looking pitcher throws the ball, but then out of the screen a real ball comes.

Morag: Whoa.

Andrew: And you gotta hit it. You gotta hit it, and it's actually super fun. I'm not a massive baseball fan, but this game was really fun because you play with your friends. You make teams and, just like a real baseball game, you have to wait in the dugout, which is really just a row of seats, until it's your turn to bat.

Andrew: But, like I said, because I'm not a very good baseball player, I wasn't very good at hitting the ball and I struck out several times. And after striking out, you know, probably for the fourth or the fifth time, I got a little frustrated and I kind of threw my bat. But it awkwardly bounced off the ground and hit me in the leg and, as our listeners might know, I have a standing desk, so I'm standing right now and my shin is sore because of this stupid mistake.

Morag: Aw. Well, yeah, those sorts of games can be quite dangerous.

Andrew: Really dangerous.

Morag: I had a friend who broke her hand on a punching game.

Andrew: A punching game? Oh, Morag, you wouldn't believe the amount of students that come into my classes on Monday morning with a cast on their arm or on their foot. And I say, what happened to you? And they tell me, oh, on the weekend I got a little drunk and I went to the arcade and I hit the punching machine too hard.

Morag: You know, I'm gonna tell my friend, and I think she'll feel a lot better because that's not so common here in Canada.

Andrew: Anyway, Morag, we're not here today to talk about stupid mistakes that I've made, although that might be a good idea for an episode, because there is a long list of stupid mistakes I've made in the past.

But, anyway, today we are going to continue our discussion about our summer vacations when we were kids. And the last time, in the last Simplified Speech episode, we talked about camping. We used to camp, right, with our parents and grandparents. But today we're gonna talk about a different kind of camping experience that we both had, and that is going to a summer camp.

But, just before we start talking about that, I'd like to remind all of you lovely listeners that there's a study guide for this episode, and you can download it from our website, Culips.com. So go check out the study guide.

OK Morag, maybe we should start by defining what kind of summer camp we're talking about. Do you mind giving us the rundown?

Morag: Well, there's actually a couple of different types of summer camps, and they are more or less common in different parts of the country.

- Morag: So here in Quebec and also in Ontario, the most common type of summer camp is the type that you might be familiar with from American TV and movies, the type where kids go and stay in a different location in a camp, where there is just a **bunch** of kids and camp counsellors to look after them. And they're usually a bit further into the country, and they stay there for sometimes the whole summer. Was that the sort of camp that you went to, Andrew?
- Andrew: Yeah, that's exactly the type of camp that I went to, although I only stayed there for a week at a time. Maybe 2 weeks, maximum. It wasn't a whole summer.
- Morag: I think that the whole summer thing is very much more common in Ontario and Quebec, whereas in BC we tend to have like 1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks, maybe. But similar idea.
- Andrew: Depends how bad your parents wanna take a break.
- Morag: Yeah, **no kidding**. But then there's the sort of camp that I went to.
- Andrew: OK, and what was that?
- Morag: Those are, well, there's two types of those, too. They're day camps, so I would either go to, say, like, the YMCA or some other sort of, like, community organization. And you would just go, get dropped off in the morning and you'd go do activities. So I went to a horse-riding camp for a week. So every day we would go on a bus and get taken to a stables and we would learn how to ride horses and come back and, at the end of the day, get picked up by our parents. Or there's also some that are kind of in the middle, where it's, like, you go to a park, just a regular park in the city, and you will have camp counsellors there. But it's the same thing, where you get dropped off in the morning by your parents and get picked up sort of around the same time as like regular school.
- Andrew: Right. Yeah, the day camp. Actually, now that you mention it, I remember attending day camps, as well. I went to a hockey day camp, so my parents would drop me off at the rink in the morning and I'd practice hockey all day and then go home at night.
- Morag: They were actually pretty fun. I remember getting to try some pretty interesting activities, like horse riding was one of them. I remember doing I think it was some canoeing and hiking and a **bunch** of outdoor activities. There's also one that's, like, crafts oriented or something, oh, this is really going deep. This is back in the memory banks.
- Andrew: **Back in the day.**

Morag: Yeah.

Andrew: I remember going to summer camp, and this is the first type of camp that we talked about. The one where I would stay there for a week and I remember it being kind of an **empowering** thing, because it was really one of the first times that I was away from my parents for an extended period of time. So it's kind of scary at first, but once you adjust to it, it's pretty fun.

Just like I mentioned in the last episode, when I went camping with family I would make friends for a week and we'd be best friends for a week and then I'd never see those kids again. And it was kind of like that at summer camp, except I would see them again the next year. So you'd make these friendships, they would be really intense, and then you wouldn't see that person for a year, then you'd meet them again at summer camp. So that was kind of fun.

And where I grew up in Kelowna, there's a huge lake in the middle of the valley that Kelowna is situated in, and so the summer camp that I used to go to had a lot of different water activities, like water skiing, tubing, of course swimming, and there was also this thing called the blob. Do you know what the blob is?

Morag: I am not familiar with the blob.

Andrew: OK, there might be an official name for it but, at the summer camp I went to, it was just called the blob. And so you can imagine a summer camp that's situated on a lake, OK? And there are three docks that surround a swimming area, that is kind of mapped out on the lake. And off of one of these docks there is a high dive, OK? A high diving board so you have to climb up a ladder in order to jump off this diving board. And under the diving board there's a huge air mattress. I don't even wanna call it a mattress, it's more like a huge air bag. So what you do on the blob is one kid would swim out and sit at the edge of this air bag, OK? And then another kid would climb up and jump off the high dive onto the air bag, and the effects would be that the student or the kid that was sitting at the edge of the air bag would get **launched** into the air and just go flying through the air and then land in the lake. This was a really fun thing to do but also super terrifying, and I remember seeing a lot of kids get injured on the blob.

Morag: That sounds like something you couldn't have anymore.

Andrew: Yeah, I think it's probably disappeared.

Morag: I think that sounds about right.

- Andrew: I remember one of the camp counsellors was a guy that was quite overweight, he was a fat guy, and they took one of the smallest kids in the camp and put her on the edge of the blob. And then this guy jumped and she went flying, she **was launched** into the air so far and so high and I remember that being a real terrifying, traumatic thing. And I was a small kid, too, so I was hoping that they wouldn't do that to me.
- Morag: Oh my gosh.
- Andrew: It looked painful. Yeah, I think these days you'd have a lawsuit on your hands before you knew it, if you were the camp. So, this thing probably disappeared from modern camps.
- Morag: Although it does sound kind of amazing. Like, I think as an adult I would probably take a turn on the blob.
- Andrew: Yeah, these days, if you're grown up and wanna do it, hey, why not, why not? Morag, is there anything else that stands out in your memory from your time at a day camp or a summer camp?
- Morag: I just remember a lot of bee stings and sunscreen and water balloons, you know?
- Andrew: Water balloon fights.
- Morag: Yeah, water balloon fights were pretty great. Watching slightly bad movies, like Cool Runnings. I remember that.
- Andrew: Well, it's funny that you mention movies, because summer camp is kind of a theme of many comedy movies. Not so much these days but, back in the 90s, I remember there being lots of different camp movies.
- Morag: There are also a good number of horror movies set in summer camps. So it's definitely in the North American imagination as this ideal of, like, coming of age, summer camp, figuring stuff out as a kid or teenager. There's a lot of movies like that.
- Andrew: Yeah, it's true, it's true.
- Well, Morag, I think we'll wrap it up here. We'll leave it at this for today. But thanks for sharing your summer camp experiences with us all.
- Morag: And thank you for enlightening me about the blob.

Andrew: Once again, everyone, we have a study guide available for this episode. And to access it, all you have to do is visit our website, Culips.com. Sign up and become a Culips member, and it's yours. So if you would like more information about what's in the study guide or if you would like to try some free samples of our study guides, just visit Culips.com and you can get all the info that you need to know. We're also on Facebook and on Twitter, so if you use those social media sites, you can find us there. And if you'd like to send us an email, just send one to contact@Culips.com, C-O-N-T-A-C-T@Culips.com. We will be back soon with another brand-new Culips episode, and we'll talk to you then. Bye, everybody.

Morag: Goodbye.

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To pay the price for it

Idiom

Andrew starts off this episode by talking about screen baseball and how he had **to pay the price for it**. He's not talking about the price to play baseball; he's talking about a consequence. He did something stupid and, as a consequence, he now has a sore leg. The sore leg is the price he paid for being too frustrated and losing his temper.

You can shorten the expression and say something like "I'm really paying for it now" without mentioning price.

Here are a couple more examples with **to pay the price for it**:

Georgina: Wow, last night was crazy! I had so much fun.

Peter: I don't feel good.

Georgina: That's no surprise. You had a little too much fun.

Peter: Really? I don't remember.

Georgina: Well, you're **paying the price for it** now.

Wesley: Did you hear Brianna is going to break up with Nate tonight?

Tom: Good for her!

Wesley: Why do you say that?

Tom: Because he treated her poorly the whole time they dated, so now he's going **to pay the price for it**.

Wesley: Are you saying this because you like Brianna?

Tom: No!

No kidding

Phrase

No kidding is an expression that means seriously or honestly. To kid is to make fun of something. If you are not kidding, that means you are telling the truth. People most often use this expression to agree with what someone else is saying, but it can also be used to question whether what was said was accurate.

Here are a couple more examples with **no kidding**:

Fred:	How was your trip to New Zealand?
Dana:	It was amazing! Thanks for suggesting it. It's so beautiful.
Fred:	Yeah, no kidding . And so green!
Dana:	I know. I'm already making plans to go again.

William:	I had a pretty good day on the golf course yesterday.
Carlos:	Really? What did you shoot?
William:	I shot a 75.
Carlos:	Really? No kidding ?
William:	Seriously. It was my best game ever!

Bunch

Noun

A **bunch** is a group of things or people. We usually use **bunch** to mean many. Saying a **bunch** of songs means many songs. You can use **bunch** as a more technical term when talking about flowers, as in a **bunch**—or bouquet—of roses.

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

Cole:	Did you get any job interviews yet?
Harry:	Not yet. I'm still waiting.
Cole:	What have you done so far?
Harry:	I sent out a bunch of résumés.
Cole:	That's good, but you need to be more proactive. You need to walk into offices and ask for an interview in person. That's much better.

Joan:	I heard you played a concert in a park last weekend.
Yuna:	We did. It was just a short, impromptu show.
Joan:	Was anyone there?
Yuna:	Yes, a bunch of people! We didn't expect that.

Back in the day

Idiom

Back in the day is an expression people use when talking about the past. A personalized variation of this expression, *back in my day*, is also common.

Here are a couple more examples with **back in the day**:

Sandra:	See this? I just bought a retro Nintendo console. I can play all the old games I used to have. Did you used to play Nintendo?
Willa:	All the time.
Sandra:	Were you any good?
Willa:	Back in the day , nobody could beat me in Tetris, Super Mario Bros., or Zelda.
Sandra:	Oh, you say you were good, but that was a long time ago. How about we have a little competition?

Hector:	I'm thinking of studying another language. Can you speak any other languages?
Iona:	No, but I did study Mandarin throughout high school.
Hector:	Could you speak it at any point?
Iona:	Back in the day , I knew basic sentences and vocabulary, but it's all gone now. I miss it.
Hector:	I'm sure a lot of it would come back to you ... If you helped me study Mandarin!
Iona:	Hmm, I could give it a shot. Let's do it.

To empower

Verb

In this episode, Andrew talks about how **empowering** it was to be away from his parents for a long period of time. **To empower** means to make someone stronger or to give them more confidence. Andrew felt he had more control over his own life at the time.

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

Beth:	I heard your son is taking jiu-jitsu classes.
Gail:	He is. He was always very shy and didn't like playing hockey or soccer. I figured he could try something else.
Beth:	Yeah. I think that will be empowering for him.
Gail:	Exactly. His teachers have told me that he's already more confident in class.

Terry:	What are some of the greatest moments you had when you were a teenager?
Caleb:	Definitely when I first got my driver's licence. That changed everything!
Terry:	I can imagine.
Caleb:	It was so empowering because I could drive when I wanted to, go where I wanted to, see who I wanted to.
Terry:	I bet you got into a lot of trouble.
Caleb:	Just a little!

To launch [something]

Verb

To launch [something] is to send something off into the air, whether by rocket power, by air pressure, or by throwing.

Here are a couple more examples with **to launch [something]**:

Rita: Quick! Change the channel.

Eddie: Why?

Rita: They're **launching a new rocket** that's going to fly past Jupiter.

Eddie: Is that interesting?

Rita: Of course! Give me the remote before we miss it!

Jill: Hey, why isn't Chuck here tonight?

Dave: He had a bit of an accident.

Jill: What happened?

Dave: He was skateboarding in the park. At one point, he caught an edge and got **launched** off the top of the railing and fell from really high up.

Jill: Did he break anything?

Dave: Luckily, he didn't, but he's in no condition to leave his house.

Quiz

1. Which is NOT the opposite of the verb to empower?

- a) to enslave
- b) to limit
- c) to forbid
- d) to attempt

2. What is the main difference between a day camp and a summer camp?

- a) your friends
- b) where you sleep
- c) the activities
- d) the season

3. In Andrew's summer camp story, what is the blob?

- a) a sea creature
- b) an overweight boy
- c) a kind of air bag
- d) a kind of canoe

4. True or false: It is correct to say back in my day.

- a) true
- b) false

5. Which of the following is the best example of a bunch of people?

- a) a couple of lovers
- b) a soccer team
- c) a violin quartet
- d) a dozen roses

Writing or Discussions Questions

1. What did you usually do during your summer breaks when you were a student?
2. What sounds more interesting to you, a day camp or a summer camp? Would you rather go to the camp in the morning and come back home in the afternoon or spend a few weeks at the camp? Why?
3. Morag mentions that she went horseback riding. Have you ever been horseback riding? What other animals have you ridden? Are there any animals you really want to ride?
4. What is an experience in your life that you felt was empowering?
5. In what situation would you use an expression like back in the day?

Quiz Answers

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

Credits

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