

## Simplified Speech #050 – Drinking water

### Episode description

Since most of the human body is composed of water, drinking water is very important to everyone. In this Simplified Speech episode, Andrew and Morag talk about water preferences.

### Fun fact

Lake Baikal in Siberia is the world's largest freshwater resource for drinking water. It contains 27% of all the fresh water found in lakes!

### Expressions included in the study guide

- Time flies when you're having fun
- I'm curious
- Hard/soft water
- Hardy
- Advisory
- School of thought



## 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 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. How's it going?

Andrew: Morag, I am so happy right now because, you may or may not know this, but this is our 50th Simplified Speech episode. So this is a big milestone for Culips. Fifty Simplified Speech episodes, wow.

Morag: That's crazy, awesome.

Andrew: The time really flies. I can't believe we've already recorded 50 of these things. That's wild.

Morag: No, definitely, **time flies when you're having fun.**

Andrew: Morag, in this episode we're gonna talk all about drinking water. Drinking water, so the type of water that you and I drink. And, at first, some people could possibly think this is a rather odd topic. But I think this will be an interesting conversation, actually.

Morag: All right, I'm excited.

Andrew: But just before we get into it, I would like to remind all of our listeners that there is a study guide available for this episode. And, guys, if you wanna check out the study guide, all you have to do is visit our website, Culips.com, and you can give it a download.

- Andrew: OK, Morag, drinking water. You're located right now in Montreal, Canada. And I'm **curious**, in Montreal, how do people drink water? Do most people drink tap water or bottled water? What's the deal?
- Morag: I think that most people drink either tap water or water that has been filtered right after it comes from the tap, so a home filtration system, like a Brita. I think that's the most common.
- Andrew: OK. And what about you personally, what's your preference?
- Morag: Oh, tap water all the way.
- Andrew: Nice. And do you use a filter or do you drink it straight from the tap?
- Morag: I use a filter for my plants, actually, Andrew.
- Andrew: A filter for your plants? So you give the plants the nice filtered water, but you just drink the straight tap water, am I understanding this correctly?
- Morag: Yup, that's about right.
- Andrew: Interesting, OK. So why do you do that?
- Morag: Well, when you give plants city tap water, you can see there's sort of minerals, I think, but a bit of the **hard water**, the hardness of the water sits on the top of the soil and it's not great for them. They're delicate little creatures.
- Andrew: Right.
- Morag: So I filter the water for them, but I'm a much **hardier** creature so, I'm fine with the tap water.
- Andrew: The minerals are OK for you?
- Morag: They are fine for me, A-OK.
- Andrew: Yeah, well, I am very similar to you because, when I lived in Canada, I also drank water straight from the tap. I didn't bother to filter it or boil it, just right from the tap. It tasted good and, you know, I lived in Canada for, well, almost 30 years and I had no problems, so I imagine it's safe.
- Morag: I think it's pretty good all across the country. I think occasionally there can be warnings in certain places if there are certain natural disasters that could cause a problem with the water, flooding, that kind of thing, but otherwise it's pretty delicious all the way across. I actually have preferences for tap water, do you, Andrew? Like regionally?

- Andrew: Regional preferences, no, I haven't really noticed a taste difference in the cities. But I will say that when you're in the countryside, sometimes the tap water can taste a little bit funky. And if you're really out in the middle of nowhere in Canada, a lot of times there will be boil water **advisories**.
- Morag: True.
- Andrew: Like you said, Morag, it's really totally fine to drink tap water in the urban centres in Canada, but in the more remote places usually you have to be careful. So I've noticed at taste differences in the countryside compared to the city. But what's your taste preference for tap water?
- Morag: I think that BC tap water is more delicious, more, say—no, seriously. Vancouver Island-ish, the lower portion of BC: delicious.
- Andrew: Delicious.
- Morag: Super delicious, yeah. But you can taste the recycled nature of the tap water in bigger cities. It's not bad, you can get use to it, but you can taste the difference between **hard** and **soft water**. So **hard water** has more minerals in it.
- Andrew: Morag, although I grew up drinking tap water in Canada, now that I'm living in Korea, I drink exclusively bottled water and it breaks my heart. I hate drinking bottled water.
- Morag: Exclusively?
- Andrew: Yeah, people have told me not to drink the tap water here.
- Morag: Oh no.
- Andrew: So all of the water that I drink comes from bottles and, actually, I have never seen a Korean drink tap water before. Everybody drinks bottled water here.
- Morag: Do you think that's cultural or is it actually dangerous to drink the water? Because I know there are a lot of places in the world where it is dangerous to drink the water.
- Andrew: To be honest, I hate drinking bottled water because I think the consumption of the plastic bottles that the water is stored in is just terrible for the environment. So when I came to Korea for the first time, I just drank tap water because I googled it and Google said it was safe. And it was fine, I did this for like 6 months.

- Andrew: But when some of my Korean friends found out, they freaked out and they said don't do that, you'll die, it's really unhealthy. So I got scared and I thought, well, maybe if it's bad for my health, it's a long-term effect, not a short-term effect. So I might not be noticing that I'm, you know, slowly poisoning myself or something. So I got spooked and I switched to bottled water.
- Morag: That makes sense. But, oh, so sad.
- Andrew: Yeah, yeah, I prefer tap, so, unfortunately, it's just a reality. And I know, for many people, it's a reality around the world.
- Morag: I mean access to safe and clean drinking water is a major problem in a lot of the world. We're both very lucky.
- Andrew: Morag, I got one question left here for you before we sign off for today. And it's about the temperature of your water that you like to drink. Do you like to drink ice-cold water or room-temperature or warm water? What's your preference?
- Morag: I think that there's something to the flavour of really cold water, it has none. And that's quite pleasant, but I tend to drink room-temperature water.
- Andrew: Me too.
- Morag: I've been definitely made fun of for that. I worked at an Indian restaurant for a while, and I remember my bosses were very unhappy, they thought I was doing something bad for my health because I wasn't drinking hot water or cold water, it was—room temperature was bad. So I know that there are different **schools of thought** on that one.
- Andrew: Yeah, oh man, that's a topic for a different episode, but there are definitely different cultural beliefs about water temperature. But I'm with you, I prefer to drink room-temperature water. And the reason for that is that I'm a chugger. So when I drink water, I drink a lot at once. I don't just have one little glass; I have, like, half a litre at one time. And if it's room temperature, I can do that amount, but if it's really cold then, you know, you get an ice cream headache or something. So I can't drink too much if it's really cold. So I just like it room temperature.
- Morag: I think same practice, exact opposite reasoning: I tend to sip the water and forget that it's there, so it stays neither hot nor cold.
- Andrew: There you go, it's kind of room temperature by default.
- Morag: Yes.

Andrew: All right, Morag, well, we'll wrap it up here for today. But just before we go, I wanna thank everybody for listening. And, once again, the study guide for this episode, which includes a transcript, and detailed vocabulary explanations, examples sentences, a quiz, and even some discussion questions, that study guide is available on our website, Culips.com.

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That's it for now, we'll catch you next time. Bye.

Morag: Bye.

## Detailed Explanations

### Time flies when you're having fun

Proverb

In this episode, Andrew says, "Time really flies." Morag answers back by saying the full version of the saying, **time flies when you're having fun**. There is a difference. The short version can be used anytime you realize that a lot of time has passed. Saying **time flies when you're having fun** is emphasizing the idea that we didn't notice how much time has passed specifically because we are having fun.

Here are a couple more examples with **time flies when you're having fun**:

Kerry:	Such a beautiful day!
Blake:	I know, right? How long do you think we've been hiking?
Kerry:	I don't know. Maybe an hour?
Blake:	Let me check. Wow! We've been out here for almost 3 hours.
Kerry:	It's true what they say: <b>time flies when you're having fun</b> .
Blake:	That's right.

Sunny:	I can't believe this is the last day of our trip.
Matt:	Is it Sunday already? I haven't checked the date all week.
Sunny:	Yeah, already Sunday.
Matt:	Well, <b>times flies when you're having fun</b> .
Sunny:	Indeed. We did have a lot of fun this vacation.

## I'm curious

### Phrase

**I'm curious** is a common phrase that native English speakers use to set up a question. Of course, all questions are asked to satisfy one's curiosity, but saying **I'm curious** is a friendly way of making the conversation more personal.

Here are a couple more examples with **I'm curious**:

Jihoon:	Wow, what is that?
Patty:	This is a very small Bluetooth speaker. It sounds pretty good, right?
Jihoon:	For sure. Say, <b>I'm curious</b> , how much does a speaker like that cost?
Patty:	I don't know! It was a birthday gift.

Catalina:	Are you OK?
Fred:	Yeah. It's just there's something on my mind.
Catalina:	Like what?
Fred:	<b>I'm curious</b> , if you wanted to go on a trip but your boyfriend had no vacation time, would you go alone?
Catalina:	Oh, I see. You want to go alone, but you think your girlfriend might get angry?
Fred:	Yeah.
Catalina:	I'm not answering that one! Your girlfriend might get angry at me.



## Hard/soft water

### Nouns

In this episode, Andrew and Morag talk about **hard water** and **soft water**. **Hard water** has a lot of minerals, such as calcium and magnesium, whereas **soft water** is treated water that contains only sodium as a mineral. Some people like **hard water** to drink because there are health benefits, but it might be bad for cleaning because the minerals don't mix well with soap. On the other hand, some people say **soft water** doesn't taste as good. Everyone has their own preference.

Here are a couple more examples with **hard/soft water**:

Rosalie:	When is the last time you cleaned your windows? They look filthy.
Lance:	I know. And I cleaned them last Wednesday.
Rosalie:	Oh. It looks like you're using <b>hard water</b> when cleaning.
Lance:	Um, I don't know what that means.
Rosalie:	Well, if you're using <b>hard water</b> , it might leave a bit of a residue on the glass. Here, I'll show you.

Minh:	What kind of water do you prefer, <b>hard</b> or <b>soft</b> ?
Alec:	Do you mean for drinking?
Minh:	Yeah.
Alec:	Definitely <b>hard water</b> . <b>Soft water</b> tastes a bit salty. Are you the same?
Minh:	Actually, I don't mind either.

## Hardy

Adjective

In this episode, Morag says that she is **hardier** than her plants. To be **hardy** is to be resilient and to have a strong body. So Morag means that her body can survive more bad things than her plants. **Hardy** can also be used with non-living things, such as a computer or a car.

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

Stefan:	Is that Mount Everest Base Camp?
Hannah:	Yes, it is. That's my father on the left.
Stefan:	Wow. When was this taken?
Hannah:	Last year.
Stefan:	Last year? Isn't your father in his 70s?
Hannah:	Yup. He's a pretty <b>hardy</b> fellow. He's thinking of going back this year.

Eddie:	Are you still driving that old car?
Jack:	Of course.
Eddie:	Isn't it over 20 years old?
Jack:	Yes, but it still runs well. It's so <b>hardy</b> that I never even have problems during the winter.

## Advisory

Noun

An **advisory** is an official announcement, usually for public safety. As mentioned in this episode, there often are **advisories** when tap water might not be drinkable.

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

Willis:	Wow, what's that sound?
Martin:	Sorry. It's the alarm on my phone.
Willis:	Alarm for what?
Martin:	The government just sent me a heat <b>advisory</b> . It says to stay inside if you don't have important things to do. Don't you receive these <b>advisories</b> ?
Willis:	No, I don't. I guess you have to sign up for them.

Malik:	Hey, Linda! I thought you were going to your hometown for the week.
Linda:	I was supposed to, but there are huge wildfires near my parents' home right now.
Malik:	Oh, no. Are your parents all right?
Linda:	Yeah. They received an <b>advisory</b> telling them to evacuate the area for safety. So instead of me spending the week over there, my folks are spending the week with me here!

## School of thought

### Phrase

A **school of thought** is a particular way of thinking. This phrase is common when talking about different ways of thinking in philosophy, psychology, economics, and art. You can also use **school of thought** when speaking of your opinion.

Here are a couple more examples with **school of thought**:

Spencer:	In art, I like the ancient Greeks. I love how they thought symmetry was the most important thing in art.
Nadine:	Yeah. They definitely made beautiful buildings.
Spencer:	Which <b>school of thought</b> attracts you?
Nadine:	I like the Realism movement, especially the painter Gustave Courbet.
Spencer:	Oh, right. He's pretty good.

Nelly:	I have a really long paper to write.
Clayton:	When is it due?
Nelly:	Next month. When do you usually start writing your papers?
Clayton:	Out of the two <b>schools of thought</b> , you know, getting it finished early or waiting until the last minute, I prefer waiting until the very last minute.
Nelly:	Does that strategy usually work out for you?
Clayton:	Nope. It's a terrible strategy, but it's just the way I do things.

## Quiz

1. **True or false? A government text message on your phone warning about fog is a good example of an advisory.**
  - a) true
  - b) false
  
2. **Regarding the difference between time flies and time flies when you're having fun, which of the following statements is true?**
  - a) the short version means it was certainly boring
  - b) the long version means it was certainly fun
  
3. **Why doesn't Morag give hard water to her plants?**
  - a) she doesn't have hard water at home
  - b) she saves the hard water for herself only
  - c) hard water is not good for her plants
  - d) hard water costs too much
  
4. **Which of the following is the opposite of hardy?**
  - a) delicate
  - b) flexible
  - c) natural
  - d) filtered
  
5. **Does the expression school of thought refer to an actual school?**
  - a) yes
  - b) no

## Writing or Discussion Questions

1. What would you do if you didn't have running water at home for a week?
2. What is the longest amount of time you haven't had running water at home?
3. What's the scariest government advisory you have ever received?
4. Every town or city has a different method for dealing with tap water. What kind of water do you have where you live?
5. When is a good time for you to use the expression time flies when you're having fun?
6. Would you describe yourself as a hardy person?

## Quiz Answers

1.a    2.b    3.c    4.a    5.b

### Episode credits

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