

Simplified Speech #056 – Jeremy's trip to Korea

Episode description

Do you like visiting places you used to live? It can be such a fun experience! In this Simplified Speech episode, Jeremy talks to Andrew about his adventures and feelings coming back to Korea and visiting family.

Fun fact

In this episode, Jeremy talks about eating king crab. Do you know how big a king crab can get? The largest one ever caught weighed 15 kilograms and was 2 metres long from tip to tip!

Expressions included in the study guide

- A first
- It's very nice to be back
- It wasn't as [adjective] as I thought
- Jet lag
- Time difference
- Unspoken rule



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.

Jeremy: And this is Jeremy.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips.

Good morning, Jeremy.

Jeremy: Good morning, Andrew.

Andrew: How's it going?

Jeremy: Pretty good, how about you?

Andrew: I'm doing pretty well, Jeremy, and I'm really happy because we're finally here together in the same room, in the same place recording. And this is a **first** for both of us.

Jeremy: Yeah, normally I am in America, in California, and Andrew is here in Korea. But right now I am visiting Korea and we got the chance to meet up.

Andrew: Actually, it's been about 3 years since I've recorded in person with another Culips' host.

Jeremy: Wow.

Andrew: When I lived in Montreal, we exclusively recorded together, me and Suzanne and Morag. But since I've moved to Korea, everything's done on Skype, so I'm really happy to be back. It's a different vibe when you record in person, so this is great.

Jeremy, today we are going to do a Simplified Speech episode. And for all of our listeners that don't know what Simplified Speech is, it's an episode that features a totally natural English conversation, but we speak a little bit slower than we do in our everyday lives.

- Andrew: And since you're here in Korea visiting, Jeremy, I thought we could talk about your trip. I thought that would make for a cool episode.
- Jeremy: I agree, good idea.
- Andrew: All right, so let's get to it. But just before we do that, actually, I wanna remind everyone that there's a study guide for this episode available on our website, Culips.com, and if you visit the website, you can find all of the information that you need to know on the website.
- Jeremy: Go check it out.
- Andrew: Go check it out, please.
- OK, Jeremy, so you're back in Korea after ...
- Jeremy: Three years.
- Andrew: Three years, OK. How does it feel to be back?
- Jeremy: It feels really nice, very familiar. I still remember how to ride the bus, how to take the subway, so it doesn't feel unfamiliar. **It's very nice to be back.**
- Andrew: OK, have you noticed any big changes since you've been gone?
- Jeremy: Not too many, actually. Normally Korea changes so fast, so I expected there to be a lot of changes. But when I got here, I realized everything is pretty much the same. Sometimes restaurants will change, like if there used to be, like, a kal-guksu place here, now it's, you know, something else. So that kind of thing, but other than that, not too much.
- Andrew: OK, interesting! Kal-guksu is noodle soup, right?
- Jeremy: Yeah, what would we say in English? Like a hand-cut noodle soup.
- Andrew: I love it.
- Jeremy: Yeah, it's so good.
- Andrew: It's very delicious.
- Jeremy: It's so good.
- Andrew: I notice the same thing with restaurant turnover in Korea, it's very fast. Even when I go on vacation for 2 weeks and I leave and then I come back, there might be new restaurants in the neighbourhood.
- Jeremy: It changes so fast.

- Andrew: Yeah, so you've been back here visiting family, right? That was the purpose?
- Jeremy: My wife's family, some of my wife's family lives here and we went on a short family vacation to the east side of Korea.
- Andrew: Wow.
- Jeremy: And that was very, very nice.
- Andrew: Let's talk about that a little bit, because the east side of Korea, on the East Sea, is one of my favourite places in the country.
- Jeremy: Oh, nice.
- Andrew: The ocean is really clear and beautiful, and it's less populated than some of the other areas of the country. The air is cleaner, as well. Lately in Korea we've been having some really polluted air, which has been problematic. But I hear that it's better on the east coast.
- Jeremy: Yeah, it was. As we were driving, we noticed the air getting clearer and clearer and clearer as we went along, so definitely I think that is true.
- Andrew: Did you drive here?
- Jeremy: I drove for the first time, I drove in Korea, actually.
- Andrew: Wow.
- Jeremy: **It wasn't as scary as I thought.**
- Andrew: I don't have a driver's licence in Korea, so I'm not able to do that. But I wanna get my licence so I can drive.
- Jeremy: Yeah, we got international drivers' licences, so we can drive here.
- Andrew: OK, and what did you do on the east coast? Did you go the beach or go hiking or eat something delicious?
- Jeremy: Yeah, it was, in traditional Korean style we went to eat different things in different places.
- Andrew: OK.
- Jeremy: So in Korea, every area is kind of famous for a certain kind of food. So we went to an area that was famous for big crabs, I guess, daegae, they say. And it's called Uljin, we went to Uljin.

- Andrew: That's the name of the area?
- Jeremy: The name of the area, yeah.
- Andrew: OK, and you ate king crab, big crab?
- Jeremy: King crab, I guess, or big crab, I don't know. Dae is big in Korean, so daegae, big crab.
- Andrew: Big crab.
- Jeremy: But it was very nice and, yeah, like you said, the water was much clearer, the air was clearer. It was just beautiful.
- Andrew: OK, so would you say that was the highlight of your trip thus far?
- Jeremy: Yeah, definitely. That was the highlight so far.
- Andrew: OK, it's been a kind of trend on Culips that I always talk about the worst part of my trips.
- Jeremy: I see, I see.
- Andrew: And for whatever reason, our listeners tend to like my travel nightmare stories. I get lots of emails from people saying, "Oh, tell me about the nightmare from your last vacation." So now I talk often about the bad parts of my trip. So I gotta ask you if you've had any travel nightmares, or what was the worse part of your trip so far?
- Jeremy: No nightmares, really. It was difficult getting over **jet lag**. The **time difference** is quite big between California and Korea. We know, because we have to schedule our recordings accordingly.
- Andrew: Just wait till you go back, then it will be really bad. I find coming to Korea is OK, but when I go back to Canada, that's when the **jet lag** hits me. So make sure you have a day or two to rest when you get back.
- Jeremy: Yeah, I will need to do that.
- Andrew: OK, so **jet lag** was an issue.
- Jeremy: Yeah, and because of that, my son, who is a year and a half old or so, he had some trouble getting over **jet lag**, adjusting. So he had trouble, so we had trouble. He was more tired and crying. And so I think it's not really a nightmare story, but the hardest part of the trip thus far has been carrying my heavy son around Korea and trying to keep him quiet on the subway. In Korea, there is sort of an **unspoken rule** that everyone should be quiet on the bus and subway, but babies don't know that.

- Andrew: Well, I think most people will give you a break. I think most people understand that it's hard to control a baby and their emotions.
- Jeremy: Impossible.
- Andrew: Impossible, even, and probably many other parents will understand what you're going through.
- Jeremy: Yeah, hopefully, please, I hope you understand, everyone. I hope you can relate.
- Andrew: And, Jeremy, I should mention that for another **first** here for Culips, we are video recording this podcast. And we're gonna make it available to all Culips subscribers. So if you're a Culips member, we're gonna give you this video somehow. I'm not sure how yet. But I just noticed on our camera that the dead battery light has turned on, so we should probably wrap this up before my battery dies.
- Jeremy: All right.
- Andrew: So thank you, everyone, for listening. Once more, I would like to remind you to visit our website, which is Culips.com. It's the place you can listen to our past episodes, get the study guide for this episode, and also sign up to become a Culips member so you can get this bonus video and watch us right now.
- Jeremy, it was a pleasure.
- Jeremy: Thank you, same. Same to you.
- Andrew: We'll talk to you soon, everyone. That's it for us. Bye.
- Jeremy: Bye.

Detailed Explanations

A first Noun

Most people use the word first as an adjective, as in first date or first try, but you can also use it as a noun. **A first** means the first time something occurred. In this episode, Andrew mentions that it is **a first** for both he and Jeremy to be recording in the same room.

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

John:	Hey, I saw a picture of you online. You were holding a large snake. Was it real?
Greg:	Yes, it was.
John:	I didn't know you liked snakes.
Greg:	I usually hate snakes! But we were at a theme park and everyone was doing it, so it was definitely a first for me. You should try it.
John:	Um, no thanks!

Patty:	Do you see Ben over there?
Keira:	By the table with the large cake?
Patty:	Yes. He's really fit and always eats well.
Keira:	I heard. Do you think he's going to try the cake?
Patty:	I doubt it. Wait ... what? That's a first ! He just cut himself a large piece and finished it immediately.
Keira:	I guess his diet is finished.

It's very nice to be back

Idiom

It's very nice to be back is a pleasant way to saying you are happy to come back somewhere. Jeremy says this when talking about his feelings of being back in Korea. Another great time to use this sentence is when someone has invited you to their house again and you want to show them how happy you are about it.

Here are a couple more examples with **it's very nice to be back**:

Zack:	Welcome! Come in. Did you find the house all right?
Tina:	Yes, I remember it well from the last time.
Zack:	Come in, come in. I'll take your coat for you.
Tina:	Thank you. It's very nice to be back here. Thanks for the invitation.
Zack:	Of course. Are you hungry?

Ahmed:	Hello, miss. I am Ahmed. I will be your driver to the hotel.
Nadia:	Hello, Ahmed. I'm Nadia. Nice to meet you.
Ahmed:	Likewise. Is this your first time in Cairo?
Nadia:	No, actually. I came here in 2006. It's so very nice to be back.
Ahmed:	Very good. Welcome back!

It wasn't as [adjective] as I thought

Idiom

In this episode, Jeremy says that driving in Korea for the first time **wasn't as scary as he thought**. Saying **it wasn't as [adjective] as I thought** is a way of expressing how your expectations beforehand were different than the reality. Jeremy thought driving in Korea would be scary, but it turns out that **it wasn't as scary as he thought**. You can use this structure in many ways, as in **it wasn't as hot as I thought** or **it wasn't as loud as I thought**.

Here are a couple more examples with **it wasn't as [adjective] as I thought**:

Clarisse:	Didn't you just come back from Paris?
Oliver:	I did. Just got back yesterday.
Clarisse:	Did you go to the Louvre? I love that museum.
Oliver:	Yeah, it was great. I saw some of my favourite paintings.
Clarisse:	Did you see the Mona Lisa?
Oliver:	I did. It wasn't as big as I thought.
Clarisse:	I know, right? Everyone says that.

Fiona:	How did your son enjoy the fishing trip?
Dave:	You know, I was pretty surprised by what he said.
Fiona:	What did he say?
Dave:	He said it wasn't as boring as he thought it would be.
Fiona:	That's good for you! So will you go out with him again?
Dave:	We already have next weekend booked.

Jet lag

Noun

Jet lag is a feeling of being extremely tired or sick because you have flown to another part of the world and your body has not yet adjusted. **Jet lag** affects everyone differently. Some people don't suffer very much, whereas other people get very sick crossing just a few time zones.

Here are a couple more examples with **jet lag**:

Mihae:	You've flown from Korea to Vancouver before, right?
Zoe:	Yeah. A few times.
Mihae:	How long is it?
Zoe:	About 9 or 10 hours.
Mihae:	Is there anything I should know? How should I prepare myself?
Zoe:	I suggest you get as much sleep as you can on the plane. The jet lag is rough for a couple of days.

Hans:	Welcome to Berlin! So nice to meet you finally.
Victor:	Nice to meet you, too, Hans.
Hans:	How was the flight? When I fly from the United States, I'm always worried about jet lag .
Victor:	Actually, I changed my plans. I flew to London first and spent a week there. So my jet lag is long gone. I'm ready to enjoy Berlin!

Time difference

Noun

In this episode, Jeremy mentions the large **time difference** between California and Korea. With daylight savings time, Korea is 16 hours ahead of California. This can affect your jet lag while travelling by airplane. You also should know the **time difference** when calling people far away. You don't want to call them in the middle of their sleep!

Here are a couple more examples with **time difference**:

Wilson:	I was wondering, do you know your blood type?
Ronda:	My blood type? Not at all. I think my mom knows, though. Do you want me to give her a call?
Wilson:	Doesn't she live halfway across the world? Isn't it her nighttime now?
Ronda:	That's right. I kept on forgetting about the time difference we have.

Otto:	Hey, do you know if there's a time difference between Korea and Japan?
Erik:	Not sure. Just ask your phone!
Otto:	OK. Hey, Google, are Korea and Japan in the same time zone?
Erik:	What does it say?
Otto:	It looks like there isn't a time difference between the two.

Unspoken rule

Idiom

In this episode, Jeremy says that there is an **unspoken rule** that we should be quiet on public transportation in Korea. It is an **unspoken rule** because it is not an actual rule. It is a social custom that people don't actually talk about but that everyone knows. You can also call it an unwritten rule.

Here are a couple more examples with **unspoken rule**:

Craig:	Hey, what's that in your hand?
Naoko:	It's a bottle of wine for Jimmy's housewarming party. What are you bringing to the party?
Craig:	Oh. I didn't know I was supposed to bring something.
Naoko:	Really? It's pretty much an unspoken rule that you should bring a gift when going to someone's housewarming party.
Craig:	OK. I'll think of something.

Brian:	I really enjoyed playing that hockey game with you guys. Thanks for inviting me.
Thomas:	No problem! It was fun. Can I give you a little word of advice?
Brian:	Sure.
Thomas:	There's an unspoken rule that you never talk politics or religion in a locker room.
Brian:	Oh! I didn't know that. I think I mentioned something about the president.
Thomas:	Don't worry about it. Just keep it in mind for the next time.

Quiz

1. Which of the following is a good example of a first?

- a) getting married again
- b) putting your fist in the air
- c) finally winning a soccer match against your rivals
- d) flying overseas

2. How long was it since Jeremy had last been to Korea?

- a) 1 year
- b) 6 months
- c) 3 years
- d) it's his first time

3. What wasn't as scary as Jeremy thought it would be when visiting Korea?

- a) meeting relatives
- b) driving for the first time in the country
- c) eating king crab
- d) bringing a young child on the subway

4. What is an unspoken rule?

- a) an informal rule that people should know without needing to announce it
- b) an important rule that is written down but not said
- c) a rule that is said softly
- d) a rule that is not important

5. In which situation would you not say it's very nice to be back?

- a) visiting your childhood home
- b) attending a music festival you just heard of
- c) going back to Australia
- d) walking into your kindergarten classroom

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. How do you feel when you visit a place you haven't been for a long time?
2. Do you find things change quickly in your hometown?
3. What's the worst jet lag you have experienced?
4. What kind of tricks do you have or have you heard to combat jet lag?
5. What's an example of an unspoken rule that you think is ridiculous?
6. What are memorable firsts that you have had later on in life?

Quiz Answers

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

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