

Simplified Speech #057 – Hip hop

Episode description

In this lighthearted Simplified Speech episode, Andrew and Jeremy discuss hip hop and rap. If you're interested in hearing the differences between these words, or if you're simply a hardcore music fan, then plug in some headphones and enjoy.

Fun fact

Hip hop began in the 1970s as an underground urban movement in the Bronx, New York City. Hip hop is subdivided into a bunch of different music styles, including rap.

Expressions included in the study guide

- To make do
- Hardcore
- Lighthearted
- By no means
- A pickup game
- Out of place





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.

Hello, everybody. My name is Andrew.

Jeremy: And I'm Jeremy.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips.

What's up, Jeremy?

Jeremy: I'm pretty excited today, we're here in person. Normally we don't get to record these episodes in person. And I'm visiting here, where Andrew is living, so we're meeting up in person and I'm pretty excited about that.

Andrew: It's also exciting because we are, for the first time ever, video recording this podcast.

Jeremy: Yes, yes we are.

Andrew: So we're in a small apartment.

Jeremy: As those of you who are watching the video can see.

Andrew: We're in a small apartment, we're sitting on the floor, Korean style.

Jeremy: Korean style.

Andrew: So it's not a professional recording studio.

Jeremy: Not at all.

Andrew: But we're trying our best. We're **making do** with what we have.

Jeremy: Yup.

Andrew: And in today's Simplified Speech episode, we are going to talk about hip hop.



Jeremy: Hip hop.

Andrew: But just before we do that, I should mention that there's a transcript for this episode available on our website, Culips.com. It's available for all Culips members. And, if you're listening to this, you may be wondering where you can watch the video that we just mentioned. And if you're a Culips member, you'll be able to access the video through our website, as well. So, Culips.com is the place to navigate your web browser to if you wanna check out the transcript and the video for this episode.

Jeremy: Check it out.

Andrew: Check it out.

OK, so hip hop music.

Jeremy: Hip hop. Ch-ch-check it out. We will not be rapping in this episode. Don't worry, everyone.

Andrew: Actually, that's where I wanted to start, because we have these two genres: rap and hip hop. In your view, are they the same or are they different? Rap and hip hop?

Jeremy: That's a good question. I usually think of them as the same, but rap, to me, is more wordy, more word focused. Like, you know, a good rapper is someone who writes really good lyrics, they're intelligent, or they rhyme really well, or something like that.

Andrew: OK.

Jeremy: But hip hop is kind of, like, more music focused. So the lyrics don't have to be very good, but if it makes you wanna dance, like to hip and to hop, I guess to hop, at least—to me, that seems like hip hop.

Andrew: Interesting. I would agree with you that they're pretty much the same thing, in my opinion. And I would agree with you that I think hip hop is a little more melodic, maybe. Some of the beats feature more melody and they're a little more melodic, I guess is the best way to phrase it. Rap, to me, seems a little more **hardcore**. Maybe I associate gangster rap with rap, and then I think of more friendly and light music as being like hip hop.

Jeremy: **Lighthearted.**

Andrew: **Lighthearted**, more about fun.



- Jeremy: Yeah, I think the term hip hop—there was some DJ in New York, I can't remember his name but that, everyone knows that song, "Hip hop, a hippy to the hippy hop," that song kind of started it, I think. I think that's where the term came from.
- Andrew: But, ironically, I believe that song is called *Rapper's Delight*.
- Jeremy: It's true. All right, never mind. Maybe one of our listeners can help us with this one.
- Andrew: Right, we should mention that we are fans of hip hop music, but **by no means** experts. So don't take our opinion as being worth anything.
- Jeremy: Yeah, we are just talking about this topic, for those who like hip hop.
- Andre: Right, so let's talk about our experiences listening to hip hop.
- Jeremy: Sure, yeah.
- Andrew: Do you listen to much rap or hip hop these days? Or was it more when you were younger?
- Jeremy: I listen to Korean hip hop these days, sometimes, or rap, I guess. But when I was in high school and when I was younger, I played basketball. You did as well, right?
- Andrew: I played a lot of **pickup** with my friends, yeah.
- Jeremy: OK, well, if you play basketball, usually everyone, every basketball player usually likes hip hop. My theory was that the bouncing of the ball is kind of similar to the beat of a hip hop song. So there's something kind of similar there.
- Andrew: Connects the two.
- Jeremy: Yeah, yeah, very much so. And so I listened to a lot of rap when I was younger. Tupac, Dr. Dre, Eminem, but not so much lately. How about you?
- Andrew: Me as well. When I was younger, I was much more into rap music than I was. You mentioned Tupac, I was more of an East Coast guy. I liked Wu Tang, I liked Biggie.
- Jeremy: Biggie, I see. So you avoided Tupac?
- Andrew: But now as I have grown up a bit, I've gone back and listened to Tupac and, yeah, he's pretty good.
- Jeremy: You've matured, I see.



- Andrew: I get it now.
- Jeremy: Yeah.
- Andrew: Yeah, like you I also like Korean hip hop, Korean rap. I think there's a lot of talent in this country.
- Jeremy: Definitely.
- Andrew: Beenzino is one of my favourites.
- Jeremy: Oh, yeah, I like him. He's good.
- Andrew: Yeah, he's really good. I'm also like you in that, as I've grown older, I don't listen to as much music, in general.
- Jeremy: Yeah, same.
- Andrew: Not just hip hop or rap, specifically, but music in general.
- Jeremy: Maybe it's because we are language learners. So both of us are learning Korean, for those of you who don't know. And you have studied French as well, right?
- Andrew: Yeah, when I lived in Montreal, I was studying French.
- Jeremy: You have to, kind of, right?
- Andrew: Yeah, it's a bilingual city, you feel **out of place** if you don't know any French, yeah.
- Jeremy: I studied Spanish, kind of, for the same reason. And maybe, at least for me, I don't listen to music as much anymore because I listen to language instead. So podcasts like Culips, but in Korean and in Spanish.
- Andrew: Exactly, I feel guilty if I listen to music.
- Jeremy: Exactly, yeah, it's like junk food to me.
- Andrew: It's true. The one time that I always listen to music, though, is when I'm exercising, when I'm running. It really helps to have a beat and, you know, an up-tempo music.
- Jeremy: Yeah, definitely.
- Andrew: So hip hop is great for running.
- Jeremy: That makes sense.



Andrew: Yeah. And I feel like when I'm running, I'm so focused on the activity that even if I was listening to something in a different language, in Korean, it wouldn't click. So I feel guilt free when I'm running.

Jeremy: Yeah, yeah.

Andrew: That's one of the only times, yeah.

Jeremy: So I'm curious, I wonder if any of our listeners are similar to us in that they used to listen to hip hop, but they don't anymore. Or I wonder if anyone can help us and explain the difference between hip hop and rap.

Andrew: And, also, I'm very interested to find out about the popular hip hop or rap music in our listeners' countries, 'cause we have listeners from all over the world. And I'm sure that in Africa and South America and Europe, everywhere, really, there's gotta be some fantastic hip hop artists. So please send us your recommendations, because I'm gonna be jogging and I'm gonna need something to listen to.

Jeremy: You can also share your recommendations with others in our Culips Facebook group at [Facebook.com/CulipsPodcast](https://www.facebook.com/CulipsPodcast).

Andrew: Yeah, that's right, and we're all over social media, really, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, everywhere. So check us out, just search for Culips English Podcast and you're gonna find us.

Jeremy, I think we'll leave it at that for now. Thank you all for listening, we will be back soon with another Culips episode and we'll talk to you then. Bye.

Jeremy: Bye.

Detailed Explanations

To make do

Phrasal verb

To make do is to continue doing something even though you might not have all of the necessary materials or people to complete the task perfectly. For example, if you want to make a cake and the recipe calls for white sugar but you don't have it, you will have to **make do** with brown sugar instead.

To make do is almost always followed by with or without, depending on the sentence you are trying to make. In this episode, Andrew and Jeremy mention that they do not have a professional recording studio to make their Culips episode, but they are **making do** with what they have. In other words, Andrew's apartment is not the perfect place to record a video, but they are making the situation as perfect as they can without a recording studio.

Here are a couple more examples with **to make do**:

Theresa:	Where's Charlotte? I thought she was gonna help us study for the chemistry test.
Henrietta:	Yeah, she's got the flu and she can't come. We'll have to make do without her.
Theresa:	Aw, man. We're gonna fail without her help. We suck at chemistry and she's got the best grade in the class right now.
Henrietta:	Let's think positively. We still have 48 hours until the test. If we study our butts off, we can do it! Now let's focus!

Abdul:	Did you get the special glue I asked for?
Drake:	I couldn't find the specific kind you were looking for. You're gonna have to make do with this super glue I found. It should be fine.
Abdul:	Really? Well, it's better than nothing. Let's hurry up and finish building this. The competition starts in 2 hours and I don't wanna be late!



Hardcore

Adjective

If something is **hardcore**, then that thing is very intense and extreme. In this episode, Andrew and Jeremy tried to explain the difference between hip hop and rap. They agreed that rap is much more **hardcore** than hip hop, because it often has more intense lyrics and is somewhat harder to listen to than hip hop.

Hardcore also describes a group of people who have an intense interest and commitment to something. For example, **hardcore** rap fans will know all of the most popular and up-and-coming artists and all of the lyrics to their songs. **Hardcore** fans are the opposite of casual listeners.

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

Tyler:	Have you seen Alec? I haven't seen him in, like, 3 days.
Roger:	Oh, he skipped class this week to go to a rap battle competition in Ontario.
Tyler:	Alec raps?
Roger:	No, he's just a hardcore fan. He knows most of the people participating in it.
Tyler:	Wow, I had no idea!

Chelsea:	Have you ever been mountain biking?
Rochelle:	No, it looks really dangerous. I feel like I'm gonna break a leg just thinking about it.
Chelsea:	Yeah, it's a pretty hardcore sport. My brother does it, and I go to see his competitions sometimes.
Rochelle:	Can I come? I'd love to watch some cute boys on bicycles race down a mountain of doom!

Lighthearted

Adjective

Lighthearted is the opposite of the word we just discussed, hardcore. Something that is **lighthearted** is carefree and amusing. Let's look at an example of the difference between hardcore and **lighthearted**. A cut-throat, hardcore game of football is extremely competitive, with each team trying their absolute hardest to win. On the other hand, a **lighthearted** game of football is when a bunch of friends come together just for fun to kick the ball around the field and have a good time.

To be **lighthearted** is very similar to how it sounds. It is an adjective that describes something entertaining and cheerful that literally makes your heart feel lighter.

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

Howard:	What are ya doin'?
Sheldon:	Not much, just hanging out. Why?
Howard:	Wanna play a lighthearted game of chess with me?
Sheldon:	Ha! Lighthearted ? Yeah, right. The last time you asked me to play a " lighthearted " game of chess I almost lost my head when you threw the chessboard at me.
Howard:	Come on! I just got a little excited last time!
Sheldon:	You are the most competitive person I know. There is nothing lighthearted about you!

Yasmine:	I was really surprised by Coach today. I thought he was really gonna yell at us for losing the match.
Yolanda:	Yeah, me too. His lighthearted , carefree speech was really out of the blue.
Yasmine:	What do you think happened to him?
Yolanda:	Maybe he got hit in the head with a ball and has brain damage? Or maybe he won the lottery.
Yasmine:	Ha, yeah. Well, either way, I hope this new, nice side of Coach stays around. The grumpy version of him can disappear forever, if you ask me.



By no means

Phrase

By no means is a phrase meaning not at all. It is also possible to reword this phrase into a similar phrase, not by any means. **By no means** is used to emphasize a point. For example, in this episode, Andrew and Jeremy say that they are fans of hip hop, but that they are **by no means** experts. In other words, they really like hip hop but they are not hip hop experts.

Here are a couple more examples with **by no means**:

Coach:	OK, everyone, listen up. We are down 2-5 right now, but this is by no means the end of the game. If we work really hard in the second half, we can bring it back and crush the other team. Do you hear me?
Team:	Yes, Coach.
Coach:	I said, do you hear me?
Team:	Yes, Coach!
Coach:	Now that's more like it! Get out there and score some goals!
Team:	Yeah!

Viv:	I wanna quit this job.
Bailey:	You say that every day.
Viv:	I really mean it this time. I mean, don't get me wrong, this is by no means the worst job I've ever had, but it's boring, you know?
Bailey:	Well, not everyone has the luxury to choose a job that pays them a decent wage and stimulates their brain cells.
Viv:	Yeah, I guess so, but I think I deserve one. I gotta get out of this small town and see the world. How will I know what my options are until I see them for myself?

A pickup game

Noun

A pickup game is a casual game formed spontaneously by a random group of people or friends. There are no referees, judges, or scorekeepers. **Pickup games** are just meant to be played for fun, and are a great way to enjoy any sport without stressing over the competition and obligations that are associated with a professional game. **Pickup games** are most often played in team sports such as basketball, baseball, and football.

Here are a couple more examples with **a pickup game**:

Mom:	What did you do after school today, honey?
Miguel:	My friends and I had a quick pickup game of basketball in the park. Then I came home and started studying for this huge chem test I've got tomorrow.
Mom:	Sounds fun. Well, until you mentioned the studying part, at least. How about I make you something delicious for dinner to reward you for all that studying of yours?
Miguel:	Thanks, Mom! You're the best!

Fran:	What do you wanna do? I'm bored.
Anna:	I heard there's a pickup ultimate Frisbee game happening on Field 2 later. Wanna check it out?
Fran:	Ultimate Frisbee? Never played it. Have you?
Anna:	Yeah, I used to be on the team before I joined field hockey. It's really low-key, though. You don't have to worry about being a newbie. Wanna try?
Fran:	Sure, why not? I'm always happy to try anything at least once.



Out of place

Adjective

The phrase **out of place** is often used to describe someone or something that just doesn't quite fit in a certain situation. For example, a man might feel **out of place** in a women's dress shop. Or, in this episode, Andrew says that he felt **out of place** living in Montreal without learning French, because everyone there could speak the language.

Here are a couple more examples with **out of place**:

Kelly:	Are you ready to go to the party?
Gina:	Yeah, I guess so.
Kelly:	Why do you hate going to parties so much?
Gina:	I don't know. I just feel so out of place when I go to college parties. I'm much more comfortable in the dorms or, better yet, at the library.
Kelly:	Come on, Gina. You are such a party pooper. Let's go have some fun!

Drey:	What did you get up to last weekend?
Raffe:	Oh, man. It was awful. My girl made me take her shopping on Saturday.
Drey:	For real? How long?
Raffe;	Like, the whole day. It had to be at least 8 hours. I've never felt so out of place as I did when we went lingerie shopping. I didn't know where to keep my hands or what to look at without feeling like a perv.
Drey:	Why didn't she let you go to another store while she went shopping for that stuff?
Raffe:	She said we needed to bond more, or whatever, and we had to spend the whole day together.
Drey:	Man, it sounds like your girl is seriously needy.

Quiz

1. What is definitely NOT found at a pickup game?

- a) players
- b) spectators
- c) referees
- d) music

2. If Greg is by no means a weak opponent, then he is a(n) _____.

- a) weak opponent
- b) strong opponent
- c) unknown opponent
- d) cheating opponent

3. If you have no money to buy new clothes, which is NOT an example of making do?

- a) refurbishing old clothes
- b) buying new clothes on credit
- c) borrowing a friend's clothes
- d) selling old clothes to buy new clothes

4. Which is an example of something that is out of place?

- a) an architect at a construction site
- b) a palm tree in Florida
- c) a snowstorm in Egypt
- d) a panda in China

5. What does it mean to be lighthearted?

- a) to be weak and scared
- b) to be soft and caring
- c) to be boring and useless
- d) to be carefree and entertaining

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Do you listen to rap or hip hop? Who is your favourite artist and why?
2. Which hip hop or rap artist from your home country would you recommend and why?
3. What kind of music do you listen to when you exercise?
4. Are you a hardcore fan of anything or anyone? How so?
5. Do you enjoy pickup games? Which ones? How often do you play?

Quiz Answers

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

Episode credits

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