

Simplified Speech #058 – Love at first sight

Episode description

Have you ever looked across a crowded room, felt an instant connection, and known deep down that you had found the person you would one day marry? Well, then, perhaps you have experienced love at first sight! In this Simplified Speech episode, Andrew and Jeremy act as your Cupid guides, discussing the ins and outs of romance and love at first sight.

Fun fact

The validity of love at first sight is a much-debated issue: is it truly love, is it lust, or is it simply a strong attraction to another person? Whatever the case, studies have been done on the subject and some common facts have come to light. First, men are more likely to say they have experienced love at first sight compared to women. Second, it is possible for people to have multiple “love at first sight” experiences, and the number increases drastically for those with traditional standards of beauty and attractiveness.

Expressions included in the study guide

- Jacked up
- Love at first sight
- Trope
- Lust
- Happily ever after
- At first glance





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.

Hey, Jeremy.

Jeremy: Hey, Andrew.

Andrew: How are you?

Jeremy: I'm doing pretty well today. How about you?

Andrew: Jeremy, as you just noted, I'm **jacked up**. I just finished drinking a coffee. So I have the caffeine flowing through my veins and I'm feeling really good right now.

Jeremy: But you can't talk too fast because this is Culips, remember?

Andrew: I'll have to keep that in mind, especially because we're recording a Simplified Speech episode.

Jeremy: Especially, yeah.

Andrew: And Simplified Speech is our series where we talk slower than we do in our everyday lives.

Jeremy: Yes, true.

Andrew: So good reminder, I will keep that in mind. Today, the topic of our episode is love.

Jeremy: Love.

- Andrew: And we are going to try and answer the question: do you believe in **love at first sight**?
- Jeremy: **Love at first sight**. Do you think some of our listeners might not understand that phrase?
- Andrew: It's possible. For sure. Could you explain it for us?
- Jeremy: **Love at first sight**. So, the first time you see someone, you fall in love. This is **love at first sight**.
- Andrew: Right, the **first glance**, the first time you notice someone, immediately you fall in love.
- Jeremy: Like in the movies, there's a beautiful woman walking into the room and the man goes, "Wow," and they play music. That's a **love at first sight** type of thing, right?
- Andrew: Yes, I'm thinking of the movie Dumb and Dumber.
- Jeremy: Oh, why? I guess they do have that scene.
- Andrew: There's a **love at first sight** scene in the movie Dumb and Dumber. It also happens to be one of the only movies that I've watched several times, so it always comes into my mind.
- Jeremy: I see, I see.
- Andrew: Anyways, Jeremy, just before we give our opinions on this question, I want to let all of our listeners know that there's a study guide available for this episode on our website, Culips.com.
- Jeremy: Check it out.
- Andrew: Check it out. So just visit the website and you can download it.
- OK, let's get to it. **Love at first sight**.
- Jeremy: Would you like to go first?
- Andrew: OK.
- Jeremy: OK.
- Andrew: Sure, I'll go first.
- Jeremy: I'm married, so I have some restrictions on what I can say.



- Andrew: Yeah, well, I think maybe new love is over for you.
- Jeremy: Kind of.
- Andrew: Yes, and maybe for me, as well. But I don't think it's possible, to be honest with you. I don't think **love at first sight** is possible. And when I think of my life and the relationships that I've been in, it's never been a **love at first sight** situation.
- Jeremy: So you mean it takes a while for you to feel like you love them?
- Andrew: Yeah, exactly. I've found that love is kind of a slow-moving train and the more time you spend with someone, the deeper you get to know someone, then the more you can fall in love with them. But you mentioned the movies, and this is a **trope** in the movies. This is something you see again and again and again is **love at first sight**. I've never understood it because of course you can see an attractive person and be like, wow, what a beautiful woman. Or, wow, what a handsome guy. But that doesn't equal love to me.
- Jeremy: Yeah, I think love is deeper than that, but there are many people who will say that when they first saw someone, they knew they loved them. So, there are people that do believe in it. So maybe it's more like an experience that some people can have and some people don't have.
- Andrew: Yes, I think it's probably different for everyone, of course, so I'm only speaking from my perspective and not speaking for all of humanity.
- Jeremy: Of course, of course.
- Andrew: What about you? Do you believe in **love at first sight**?
- Jeremy: So, like I said, I'm married. And when I first saw my wife, she seemed different to me. But it wasn't like, oh, I love her, you know? That took a very long time to realize or to admit to myself. But there was something special about her when I first saw her.
- Andrew: OK.
- Jeremy: So I think some people can take that and think, oh, **love at first sight**. But love is very complicated sometimes. But other times it can be very simple. So I think for everyone it must be different.
- Andrew: Everybody is different, of course, yeah. Now, I've heard some people rephrase this expression **love at first sight** as **lust** at first sight. And **lust** is a different emotion, it's not really the same as love, it's more of a primal—
- Jeremy: Desire?



- Andrew: Desire, sexual thing, and I think **lust** at first sight is definitely possible.
- Jeremy: And maybe some people misinterpret **lust** for love.
- Andrew: Yes, especially in the beginning stages of a relationship, maybe you think you're in love with somebody, but it's really just that initial feeling that's not really the same as love.
- Jeremy: I think maybe that's why it must take time to realize that it is real love or true love and not **lust**. Sometimes, especially when we're very young, it's hard to tell the difference. They feel similar, right?
- Andrew: Yes.
- Jeremy: But with time, maybe you start to realize, oh, this is different, this seems special.
- Andrew: There's that famous pop song *What Is Love*.
- Jeremy: "Baby don't hurt me" is that the next line?
- Andrew: "Baby don't hurt me." I can't remember the singer of that song. But it doesn't matter. I think that's a question that came to mind just now, what is love? But we'll save that for a different episode.
- Jeremy: Another Simplified Speech episode, maybe the next one.
- Andrew: Yes, exactly.
- I guess to summarize: we both don't believe in **love at first sight**.
- Jeremy: I guess you could say that. I don't believe it's true for everyone.
- Andrew: Well, listeners, please let us know what you think. I'm sure that among our listeners, there are some people that have fallen in **love at first sight**, maybe got married to that person, maybe have children, maybe are living **happily ever after**. If you are one of these people, please send us a message. You can do that by emailing contact@Culips.com. Or even if you just wanna share your opinion, your answer to this question, do you believe in **love at first sight**? You can send us an email, and we'll be very happy to read them.
- Or you can share your opinion by visiting our Facebook page, which is www.Facebook.com/CulipsPodcast. Leave a comment, send us a message, anything you'd like. We're also on Instagram and Twitter and YouTube, so if you prefer those platforms, just search for Culips English Podcast and you'll be sure to find us.

Jeremy: Or you can go to Culips.com to listen to more of our podcasts or check them out in any podcast app.

Andrew: Yup. Stitcher, iTunes, you name it, we're there.

Thank you for listening, everyone. We'll be back soon with another new episode and we'll talk to you then. Goodbye.

Jeremy: Bye.

Detailed Explanations

Jacked up Adjective

To be **jacked up** means to be overly stimulated by something. People often get overly excited or **jacked up** because of caffeine, sugar, adrenaline, or drugs.

The phrase **jacked up** also means to be drastically increased. For example, **jacked up** prices are prices that have significantly increased over a short time period.

Here are a couple more examples with **jacked up**:

Rasheed:	What's the matter, honey?
Danette:	You are the matter! Why did you let Dionel eat ice cream for dinner?
Rasheed:	Well, um, it seemed like a good idea at the time—
Danette:	Well, now he's jacked up on sugar and it's impossible to put him down to sleep. It's your turn to try. I give up.
Rasheed:	Yeah, I'll go. Sorry, sweetheart.

Leslie:	Are you getting season tickets for the theatre again this year?
Mel:	No, I don't think we can afford it. They've really jacked up the prices since last year.
Leslie:	I know! I wonder why that is?
Mel:	Probably because the theatre was so popular last year. They figure people will pay a premium now for season tickets.

Love at first sight

Phrase

To experience **love at first sight** is to fall in love with someone the first time that you lay eyes on him or her. This expression is commonly used in movies, TV shows, and romance novels. Although it's a bit of a cliché and people are unlikely to truly fall in **love at first sight**, this phrase is still useful to remember, especially when talking about love and romance.

Here's one more example with **love at first sight**:

Ahmet:	Bro, are you all right? I went to the bathroom for like 3 minutes and now I come back and you look all crazy-eyed. What happened while I was gone?
Ty:	I think I saw an angel. She was the most beautiful girl I've ever seen. And her smile! It was pure heaven. This is what love at first sight feels like.
Ahmet:	Oh, boy, c'mon man. Be real. " Love at first sight "? That's crazy talk.
Ty:	No, really. I didn't believe it either, but it's happened and I can't un-feel it. I'm a changed man.
Ahmet:	Well, where is she? Did you introduce yourself? Get her phone number?
Ty:	Well ... No. She came in with some tall guy, ordered a drink, and left.
Ahmet:	You're saying she probably has a boyfriend? Well, that's the end of it, then.
Ty:	No! Fate will push us together. I'm sure of it!!
Ahmet:	Now you really have gone crazy.

Trope Noun

A **trope** is similar to a cliché, and is a common or overly used theme or plot, especially in books, movies, or TV shows. In this episode, Andrew says that love at first sight is a **trope** in movies. In other words, love at first sight is commonly seen in movies, especially romantic ones.

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

Chrissy:	I really hate Disney princess movies.
Lana:	What? Why?
Chrissy:	Because the “Prince Charming will save me” trope is so outdated. We live in the 21st century. Women don’t need a man to save them anymore.
Lana:	What about Elsa in Frozen? Or Mulan? They didn’t need a man.
Chrissy:	Yeah, I guess you’re right. They’re not all totally helpless.

Gene:	You watch Korean dramas, right?
Minji:	Yeah, I love them. Why?
Gene:	Why are Korean drama tropes so outrageous? Like getting amnesia, having an evil mother-in-law, or being totally helpless. Also, the main male character always has a shower scene.
Minji:	Well, that’s so you can see his amazing abs! As for the other things, I don’t know. They really have a flare for drama. It keeps people watching, I guess.

Lust

Noun

Lust is a strong desire for something. The term **lust** is often used to describe an intense sexual desire for someone, but it is also used to describe a strong desire for things like power, money, or fame. In this episode, Andrew and Jeremy discuss the difference between love at first sight and **lust** at first sight. They agree that love at first sight is pretty unbelievable, but it is common for people to feel **lust** or desire upon meeting someone for the first time.

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

Fred:	Congratulations on the promotion! I know you've been lusting after it for the past 2 years.
Niko:	Thanks, man. I worked my butt off for it.
Fred:	Yeah, I know. We've barely had time to hang out with you working all the time.
Niko:	Yeah, sorry about that. I should have a bit more free time now that the chase is over, but I will be getting more responsibilities with the new job and all.
Fred:	So, in other words, I'll see you about twice a year?
Niko:	Ha, yeah, pretty much.

Kelly:	I can't stand my boss. He's the greediest person I've ever met. His lust for money is infinite.
Victoria:	What did he do this time to get you so worked up?
Kelly:	He cut the donation to the children's orphanage out of the budget this year. We've been donating to that organization for 30 years!!
Victoria:	Wow, he really is a scrooge.
Kelly:	Yeah, and I'm the one that has to tell the orphanage that we won't be supporting them this year. It really sucks.
Victoria:	Good luck, sweetie. Just don't feel too guilty about it. It's not your fault that the company is so stingy.

Happily ever after Phrase

The phrase **happily ever after** is a common trope in fairy tales and romance novels. Ever after means from now on, so to live **happily ever after** means to live happily together from now on, with everlasting love. Romance novel reviewers often shorten this phrase to the abbreviation HEA when writing their reviews.

Here are a couple more examples with **happily ever after**:

Kat:	How's Derrik?
Sam:	Oh, I dumped him. It felt like our relationship wasn't going anywhere, so I decided to end it.
Kat:	Really? Again? At this rate, you'll date everyone in Toronto until you find the right person. Maybe your standards are too high.
Sam:	My standards aren't that high! I just want to find someone that loves and respects me. Is it too much for me to desire a happily ever after ?
Kat:	No. Everyone deserves a happily ever after , but I'm afraid you are too focused on finding the perfect Prince Charming type of man found in fairy tales instead of appreciating the real-life men right in front of you.

Tran:	Kevin, when are you going to settle down? Aren't you tired of dating countless women while barely remembering their names?
Kevin:	Nope. It suits me. I don't like to get too attached.
Tran:	I really think Maria messed with your head when she broke off your engagement last year. You're afraid of love now.
Kevin:	I'm not afraid of love. I just don't believe in that getting married, house with a white-picket fence happily ever after anymore. Is that so bad?
Tran:	No, I guess not—as long as you're happy.
Kevin:	I'm happy. Why wouldn't I be? I've got a great job, friends, and dates aplenty. What more could a man ask for?



At first glance

Idiom

At first glance is commonly used when you are describing your first opinion of something or someone; it is usually used to contradict that first opinion as wrong or inaccurate. For example, you could say: **at first glance**, the puzzle looked easy but, after I started working on it, I realized it was actually extremely difficult to solve. In this example, the first opinion was that the puzzle was easy, but that first opinion was inaccurate; the puzzle was, in fact, very difficult.

In this episode, however, **at first glance** is used to mean at first sight. Therefore, love at first sight and love **at first glance** have the same meaning, even though the former phrase is used much more frequently than the latter.

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

Amelia:	How was your date with Rafael?
Jasmine:	It wasn't very good.
Amelia:	What? Why? He seemed perfect for you.
Jasmine:	Yeah, at first glance he's really handsome and charming, but after talking to him for an hour I realized that he's rather arrogant and big-headed. We didn't get along.
Amelia:	That's too bad. Well, there are many fish in the sea. You'll catch a good guy soon, I'm sure of it!

Heath:	Did you buy that house you were raving about?
Gregorio:	Nah, man. At first glance , the house looked perfect, right? But it's a total scam. The outside looks amazing, but the inside is totally outdated, the plumbing is ancient, and there is zero insulation.
Heath:	Wow, what a bummer. Have you found any other places that caught your interest?
Gregorio:	I have a potential place I'm gonna check out after work today, but I won't get my hopes up this time. We'll have to wait and see.
Heath:	Good luck!

Quiz

1. What is a familiar trope in horror movies?

- a) love at first sight
- b) cliff-hanger endings
- c) the flashlight running out of batteries at the worst time
- d) a knight in shining armour

2. What is something that people do NOT typically lust after?

- a) money
- b) power
- c) fame
- d) overtime

3. Which of the following is an appropriate synonym for love at first sight?

- a) love at first vision
- b) love at first glance
- c) love at first appearance
- d) love at first instant

4. What does the abbreviation HEA stand for in book reviews?

- a) hero endures all
- b) happily ever after
- c) higher education application
- d) help everyone always

5. Which phrase has a similar meaning to jacked up?

- a) messed up
- b) mixed up
- c) wired up
- d) sussed out

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Do you believe in love at first sight? Why or why not?
2. What is your ideal type? What qualities about someone do you find most attractive?
3. Have you ever seen something that at first glance appeared to be great, but was actually awful? What was it?
4. What is your favourite genre of movie? What are some common movie tropes in that genre?
5. Do you think romantic chemistry or spark is important in relationships? Which is more important, physical attraction or trust and compassion?

Quiz Answers

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

Episode credits

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