

Simplified Speech #062 – Old school cool

Episode description

Are you the kind of person who likes to research and buy all of the latest technologies, or do you long for the days before smartphones when the world was full of record players and film cameras? In this Simplified Speech episode, Andrew and Jeremy discuss the differences between digital and analog technology and reminisce about the old school gadgets of the past.

Fun fact

Emile Berliner invented the first flat disc record in 1888 in France. Vinyl records became extremely popular in the middle of the 20th century, but popularity rapidly declined after the introduction of tape cassettes and CDs. However, since 1993 vinyl sales have actually been increasing yearly due to music lovers' nostalgia for the unique sound and experience that can only be had by listening to vinyl.

Expressions included in the study guide

- Gym rat
- Old school
- Hip
- Digital/analog
- Out-of-date
- To pop into one's mind



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: Hey, everyone. My name is Andrew, and you are listening to Culips. Welcome back to another episode of the Culips English Podcast. This is Simplified Speech #062. For anyone who may be new to Culips, Simplified Speech is our series where we chat about an interesting topic using completely natural everyday English, but we speak at a slightly slower speed than we do in our everyday lives. So, if you're an intermediate level learner, then we think this series will be perfect for you.

OK, in this episode I'm joined by my trusty sidekick, Jeremy, and since we both love technology, we have a conversation about some **analog** technology—so some old technology that's still in use today. And you're gonna learn some great vocabulary in this episode, for example, the expression **old school** and **old school** cool. You'll also learn how native speakers talk about this kind of topic. So there's lots to learn in this episode. And, without waiting any longer, let's get right to it.

Hey there, Jeremy, how are you?

Jeremy: I'm feeling really good, actually. I just got back from the gym.

Andrew: The gym? Oh, awesome, were you pumping some iron?

Jeremy: Yes, I guess so. I'm not a **gym rat**, but I do lift weights.

Andrew: Oh, wow, that's really cool.

Jeremy: **Gym rat**, that's a good expression.

Andrew: **Gym rat**, that is a good expression. So somebody who lifts a lot of weights and is at the gym all the time is a **gym rat**.

Jeremy: Yeah, like someone who lives at the gym, almost. I'm not that serious.

Andrew: Jeremy, you're from California?

Jeremy: Correct.

Andrew: There's a famous beach, Muscle Beach.

Jeremy: Yes.

- Andrew: Have you been there before?
- Jeremy: No, actually. I know where it is, it is not very far from here. But it's a big tourist attraction.
- Andrew: Oh, really? OK.
- Jeremy: So I don't like going there. Parking is difficult or expensive. There's always lots of people there.
- Andrew: Good to know. I can avoid it, if I visit California one day.
- Jeremy: Oh, you should go there, if you're visiting, you should go there.
- Andrew: And I can show off my muscles.
- Jeremy: First go to the gym, maybe, before.
- Andrew: OK, good plan, good plan.
- Jeremy: What are we going to talk about today?
- Andrew: Yeah, we are going to talk about **old school** cool.
- Jeremy: **Old school** cool. Oh, I like the title.
- Andrew: Yeah, how do you like that title, it's good, right?
- Jeremy: Yeah, yeah.
- Andrew: What I mean by **old school** cool is **analog** electronics and **analog** devices that we still use these days because they're **hip**.
- Jeremy: So **analog** is the opposite of **digital**.
- Andrew: That is right. So I think it's really easy to illustrate the difference by thinking about cameras. A **digital** camera everybody knows because they have one in their phone. It takes a **digital** picture by capturing light and changing it into bits and zeroes and ones. **Digital** information, right?
- Jeremy: Yes, yes.
- Andrew: Whereas an **analog** camera uses film and it captures the image using film, and then you have to go to the store and develop the film, and then you have your photos afterwards.
- Jeremy: Maybe another way to explain the difference would be **digital** means there is a chip inside and **analog** means no chip. Or maybe even no battery.

- Andrew: Oh, yeah, no electronics perhaps even, yeah.
- Jeremy: Because digit in the word **digital**, digit means number. Digit relates to numbers.
- Andrew: That's right.
- Jeremy: So ones and zeroes, therefore chips.
- Andrew: That electronic information.
- Jeremy: Now, **old school** that's another term. If I were learning English, I would be confused by that term, I think.
- Andrew: It's very confusing. **Old school**. So we're not actually talking about attending a school from the past, right? Like some schools are 100 years old, we're not talking about going to that kind of building. **Old school** is just a slang expression that means something retro.
- Jeremy: Retro.
- Andrew: Or vintage.
- Jeremy: Vintage, yeah. Something that is from the past, kind of. But I wouldn't say that something from the 1800s is **old school**.
- Andrew: It has to be **hip**.
- Jeremy: Yes, and also it's still cool. It's still something that people value or think is interesting or, like you said, **hip**.
- Andrew: For example, hip hop music, you often hear referred to as, like, it's almost a genre, in fact, **old school** hip hop.
- Jeremy: **Old school** hip hop, **old school** rap.
- Andrew: **Old school** rap, yeah.
- Jeremy: As a genre, I think, yeah.
- Andrew: Yeah, or you could talk about, like, **old school** style, maybe, as well.
- Jeremy: Like Converse All Stars, the shoes.
- Andrew: Yeah, it's kind of an **old school** look from the 70s.
- Jeremy: My dad had those for his basketball shoes in college.



Andrew: Oh, nice.

Jeremy: So they are by definition **old school**.

Andrew: Literally.

Jeremy: Yeah, literally **old school**.

Andrew: Hey, guys, just a quick reminder here that the study guide for this episode is available on our website, C-U-L-I-P-S.com, Culips.com. It's written by the awesome team that we've assembled here at Culips, and it's designed to help you improve your English fluency. So to give it a download, just visit Culips.com. You can find all the details on our website.

The reason why I thought we should record this episode topic today is because my girlfriend got some photos developed with her **analog** camera, and it was so fun to look through the photos and look at the pictures that had been printed out at the photo shop. And it's such a different experience than looking at **digital** photos on a screen, you know?

Jeremy: My wife also likes to take photos with an **analog** camera and get them developed.

Andrew: Yeah.

Jeremy: It's very different.

Andrew: It's very different. Now, I personally don't have an **analog** camera, but I have used them in the past and I do really admire the aesthetic, the look that comes with an **analog** camera.

Jeremy: There's something different about the lighting, I think. The colour of the photo and, also, with a **digital** camera you can take effectively infinite photos and there's no repercussions. There's no negative effects of taking 100 photos of the same thing. You can delete them all.

Andrew: Right.

Jeremy: But if you take 100 photos on an **analog** camera, that will be very expensive.

Andrew: Yeah, especially these days because, well, since they're not quite as popular as they were in the past, the price of film has gone up tremendously. And even it's difficult sometimes to find a photo store that can develop the photos for you. You have to look around for one.

- Jeremy: True. Yeah, my wife found some place on the internet that does it. So she does it online.
- Andrew: Smart choice.
- Jeremy: There's no more stores that will do it.
- Andrew: Another style of **analog** camera that is **old school** and also popular still is the Polaroid or instant camera.
- Jeremy: Yes, yeah, that's very true.
- Andrew: And the advantage of that is that you get the results immediately. Similar to a **digital** camera in that you can see your result immediately, but it's still **analog** and printing the photo out on photo paper. And I love Polaroids. But they're so expensive, they're really expensive, yeah.
- Jeremy: I think there's something tactile about it. Something that you can feel with your hands. It's very enticing, and I think people really like that. But also, because it costs money, you have to be a little more careful. Each time you click, that's \$1.75. \$1.75 or something like that, right?
- Andrew: That's exactly what goes through my mind when I take Polaroids, like, "Oh, I hope this turns out well."
- Jeremy: What are some other **analog** technologies that you still use or that you think are **hip**?
- Andrew: Well, what immediately comes to mind is vinyl records. Vinyl records, LPs.
- Jeremy: Yes, LPs, true.
- Andrew: Yeah, similar to what you just said, Jeremy, I think people like LPs because of the tactile elements of them. Like, you can hold up a record and you can see the grooves where the record has been cut and you can almost visualize the music. And there's something about the large size of the record and the artwork and the booklet inside the album. All of these visual elements make it a really warm experience, as opposed to listening to music on a computer or on your phone, which is not warm at all.
- Jeremy: Well, I guess we could say it is akin to seeing you in person, giving you a hug, saying hello, versus talking to you on Skype.
- Andrew: Yeah, exactly.

- Jeremy: Even though, if we haven't seen each other for a long time, Skype or, you know, some kind of video chat is nice. But it's not as warm and as real, as genuine as meeting in person, you know, giving you a nice hug or a handshake or something, those kind of experiences.
- Andrew: Let's hope in the future that in-person meeting between people doesn't become an **out-of-date** technology in that everybody lives online. Let's hope that the original **analog** technology of people getting together stays popular.
- Jeremy: It is possible, though, that some day, some young person learning English will listen to this podcast and say, "Wow, they're so **old school**, gosh."
- Andrew: They actually used to meet in person? What?
- Jeremy: So expensive.
- Andrew: OK, so thinking about LPs, Jeremy, do you happen to own any? How do you listen to music?
- Jeremy: I do not own any. I listen to music on my phone or computer. So **digital** music, but I do have a good friend who is very, very into music and very into high-quality speakers.
- Andrew: Oh, wow, OK.
- Jeremy: He has told me that he can hear a distinct difference between an MP3 on a phone or a computer, a CD and a record. He says the records have a certain quality to their sound that makes them very unique. He can tell the difference right away because he's very sensitive.
- Andrew: I completely agree with your friend. I also have a small collection of records, maybe about 50 LPs or so. And I love listening to music on vinyl. To me, it's the best way and, unfortunately, I don't have a really good stereo, but I have friends who have amazing stereos and they have **analog** amplifiers. And when you fire up these guys, wow, they sound amazing to hear the warmth of vinyl. It's an experience that can't yet be replicated with **digital** music, I think.
- Jeremy: Perhaps someday, but for now **analog** technologies are still holding on, still holding their own against the wave of digitalization.

Andrew: Yeah, so some of these **old school** technologies are still around, and these are the ones that immediately **popped into our minds**, photography with **analog** cameras and music with LPs and records. But there might be some that we're forgetting about, Jeremy. And, guys, if you can think of another example of an **analog** technology that's still in use today in your country or really anywhere, definitely send us a message. Our email address is contact@Culips.com, contact@Culips.com, and we would love to hear what you have to share with us.

So that wraps up another addition of Culips. We hope that you found this episode educational. Make sure to subscribe and to give us a 5-star review on Apple Podcasts. And if you wanna stay up to date with what we're doing here at Culips, follow us on your favourite social media platform. Could be Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, or Twitter. We're on all four of them, just search for the Culips English Podcast and you can find us that way. That's it for us, we'll be back soon, with another new episode and we'll talk to you then. Goodbye, everybody.

Jeremy: Take care.

Detailed Explanations

Gym rat Noun

A **gym rat** is a person who spends most of his or her free time at the gym working out. **Gym rats** usually have all the best exercise gear and are obsessed with getting in shape.

During this episode, Andrew also mentions the phrase pumping iron. Pumping iron is a slang term for weight lifting. Often you will see **gym rats** pumping iron as part of their exercise routine.

Here are a couple more examples with **gym rat**:

Tyler:	Hey, have you seen Pat lately? I haven't talked to him in ages.
Greg:	Oh, he's been exercising at the gym nonstop, like 3 hours a day, every day.
Tyler:	Really? I didn't realize he was such a gym rat .
Greg:	He wasn't, but then he met this girl who said she likes muscular guys. Now he's made it his mission to muscle up and get the girl to go out with him.
Tyler:	Such a weirdo. At least he'll be in shape after this, even if the girl turns him down.

Rita:	Wanna go to the gym with me today?
Linda:	No, I hate the gym. It's full of crazy gym rats who judge normal people like us, and it smells like dirty socks.
Rita:	C'mon, it's not so bad, and no one will be judging you.
Linda:	They do! Last time I went to the gym, some guys laughed at me because I couldn't do more than five push-ups before collapsing to the floor.
Rita:	Then those guys are jerks and you shouldn't pay any attention to them.
Linda:	Whatever. I'm still not going.

Old school

Adjective

The term **old school** refers to anything from an earlier era or generation that is still considered kind of cool. This could include things like music, clothing, language, dance styles, etc. For example, nowadays smartphones and virtual reality games are considered modern-day technology, but **old school** technology includes things like vinyl records, CDs, Walkmans, flip phones, and more.

Old school is similar to the term old-fashioned, but one has a more positive feeling to it, while the other one feels more negative. Old-fashioned refers to something that is old and out of style, like shoulder pads in women's clothing. However, **old school** refers to things that are old but are still in style; they are still considered cool, like arcade games from the 80s or mom jeans.

Here are a couple more examples with **old school**:

Mikey:	Oh, man! Are you playing Mario Kart on a GameCube? How old school !
Remmy:	Yeah, it's great! The graphics kind of suck, but I like the layout of this version so much more than the newer ones.
Mikey:	Me too! Mind if I join?
Remmy:	For sure! But don't complain if I kick your butt!

Charlize:	Whoa, girl. Look at that jacket! It's so old school . I love it!
Freddie:	I spotted it in the vintage store downtown last week. Isn't it cute?
Charlize:	Definitely. I am seriously jealous.
Freddie:	Well, we could drop by the store again after work and see if we can find a similar one for you. How about it?
Charlize:	I'm in!

Hip Adjective

Hip has a variety of meanings, but in this episode we'll introduce the adjective **hip**, which means cool or trendy. Anything that is cool and in style is considered **hip**, especially things related to clothes, hair styles, and entertainment. The slang word **hip** was really popular a few decades ago, but now even the word **hip** is considered old-fashioned—kind of an oxymoron, isn't it? Old school things that are considered **hip** are also called retro or vintage. Retro, vintage, and old school cool are all words to describe things that are old, but still **hip** and in style.

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

Linda:	Hey, Karly. What do you think of this shirt? Doesn't it make me look young and hip ?
Karly:	Ugh, Mom! Don't say hip ! It makes you sound old.
Linda:	What? Why?
Karly:	Hip is such an old-fashioned word, Mom.
Linda:	Then what should I say?
Karly:	I don't know. Cool? Trendy? Instagramable? Anything is better than hip .
Linda:	I just don't understand young people these days.

Hector:	Hey, Dad, what's that?
Roger:	Oh, I bought a motorcycle!
Hector:	Yeah, I know what it is, but why did you buy it?
Roger:	Ah, I felt like doing something hip , you know? I'm not getting any younger, and motorcycles are awesome!
Hector:	If you say so ...

Digital/analog Adjective

Digital and **analog** are antonyms of each other. **Digital** refers to objects or technology involving the use of computer technology, while **analog** refers to objects that do not use computer technology. **Digital** devices are the standard of modern society, while **analog** devices are considered out-dated or old school.

Here are a couple more examples with **digital/analog**:

Dongik: You know what I really regret not learning?

Kat: What?

Dongik: How to read **analog** maps. I hate relying on GPS all the time.

Kat: You could start learning now.

Dongik: Yeah, but I'm lazy.

Therese: I'm thinking about whether or not I should buy a **digital** watch or just an old school **analog** watch.

Rhonda: Why do you need a watch? That's what phones are for.

Therese: It's nice to have a way to check the time without taking my phone out of my purse or whatever.

Rhonda: Then I recommend a **digital** watch. They aren't as pretty, but you can use it to track your running, too.

Therese: Good idea! I'm gonna browse through some different options today. Thanks!

Out-of-date Adjective

Out-of-date is a synonym to the word old-fashioned. To be **out-of-date** means that something is old, out of style, a bit useless, and no longer necessary. An example of **out-of-date** technology is the tape recorder. These days, everyone uses digital media and occasionally people continue to use CDs. **Out-of-date** can also be written as **out-dated**.

Here are a couple more examples with **out-of-date**:

Marvin:	We really need to upgrade our systems at the office. All of that out-of-date technology is slowing down our business and losing us potential customers.
Rashid:	I agree. I looked over the budget, and I think we have enough to buy a few new computers with updated software.
Marvin:	Well, get on it. I wanna see these new devices up and running by Tuesday morning at the latest. Got it?
Rashid:	Got it, sir. Tuesday morning.

Mina:	Heather, you have to come over here and help me arrange Minnie's closet.
Heather:	What's wrong with it?
Mina:	Everything is so out-dated and boring. She really needs a makeover.
Heather:	Oh, I love makeovers! I'll be over in a few!
Mina:	We're gonna turn this fashion disaster into a fashion dream!

To pop into one's mind

Phrasal verb

If you suddenly think of a brilliant idea or thought, then you can say that idea has **popped into your mind**. Imagine a kernel of corn sitting in hot oil that suddenly pops open and becomes popcorn. That is similar to the expression **pop into one's mind**. An idea or thought that just suddenly pops up unexpectedly is said to **pop into one's mind** or **one's head**.

Here are a couple more examples with **to pop into one's mind**:

Poppy:	What should we write about for our essay? It's due on Wednesday.
Zendaya:	I have no idea. We are gonna fail!
Poppy:	Wait! A brilliant idea just popped into my mind ! How about we write about the effects social media has on attention span and memory loss?
Zendaya:	That could be interesting, especially since everyone we know is addicted to social media.

Garret:	Distract me, please!
Vince:	Why? What's the matter?
Garret:	This annoying song I heard on the radio today just popped into my head and I don't want to think about it.
Vince:	OK, OK. Close your eyes. Breathe deeply. Relax. Boo!
Garret:	Ah!
Vince:	Did I scare you?
Garret:	You idiot! Yes!
Vince:	Is the song gone?
Garret:	Yes ...
Vince:	Then mission accomplished.

Quiz

1. Which is NOT a synonym for the phrase out-of-date?

- a) old-fashioned
- b) obsolete
- c) worn-out
- d) untouched

2. Which is an example of analog technology?

- a) GPS
- b) film camera
- c) virtual reality
- d) CD player

3. True or false? Hip is an out-of-date slang word that means cool.

- a) true
- b) false

4. What is a gym rat?

- a) a rat that lives at the gym
- b) a person who smells really bad after exercising
- c) a person addicted to working out
- d) a name for a sweat towel used during exercise

5. If one suddenly has an idea, then that idea:

- a) popped into one's mind
- b) burst into one's mind
- c) exploded in one's mind
- d) vanished from one's mind

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. What is one of your favourite analog devices? Why?
2. What old school fashion or music do you like and why?
3. Would you consider yourself a gym rat? Do you have any other obsessions besides exercise?
4. What is something that you like that others might consider old school or out-dated?
5. What song often pops into your mind these days?

Quiz Answers

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

Episode credits

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