

Simplified Speech #064 – Summer foods

Episode description

Summertime! Every year when summer rolls around, people get excited about the warm weather and, of course, all the good foods to eat during the season. Find out what kind of summer foods our hosts Andrew and Kassy enjoy the most in this Simplified Speech episode.

Fun fact

In this episode, Andrew mentions very expensive Japanese grapes that go for over \$100 each. He wasn't kidding! In July 2019, a bunch of about 30 Ruby Roman grapes sold at an auction for \$10,900. That comes out to about \$360 per grape!

Expressions included in the study guide

- To be famous for [something]
- Don't quote me on that
- It's a [place] thing
- Homework
- Astronomical
- Ultra



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 there, everyone. My name is Andrew.

Kassy: Hi, and I'm Kassy.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips.

Good afternoon, Kassy. What's up?

Kassy: You know, I came to Seoul for the weekend, so that's been fun.

Andrew: Yeah, we're here together recording in Seoul, on an extremely, extremely hot and humid day.

Kassy: Yeah, it pretty much feels like I've been taking a shower while walking down the street.

Andrew: Yeah, it is so humid. I'd say this probably the most humid day of 2019 so far.

Kassy: Yes, I agree.

Andrew: Yeah, so bear with us everyone. We have the air conditioner on, because if we didn't have it on, we would melt. And there is also some construction going on in the neighbourhood. So if you hear some background noise, I apologize, but we can't really avoid it at this point, can we?

Kassy: Nope.

Andrew: So I was thinking, Kassy, that because it's such a hot and sweltery summer day, that we should talk about a summer-related topic. And what better topic than summer food?

Kassy: I love food.

Andrew: Me, too. So our topic for today will be food that we like to eat in the summer. And I'll share my Canadian perspective with everyone and, Kassy, you can share your American perspective.

Kassy: Sounds great.

Andrew: But before we get into that, I do wanna remind everyone that there is a study guide that we wrote to accompany this episode. And if you would like to check it out, just visit our website, Culips.com, and you can download it. It's got a lot of great stuff inside and we think that you'll find it really, really helpful. So visit our website, Culips.com, to give it a download.

All right, Kassy, let's talk about some of these summer foods. What first comes to your mind when you think of a food that you like enjoy in the summertime?

Kassy: Well, I'm from Pennsylvania, so **we're famous for corn**. So I love corn on the cob.

Andrew: That is actually the first thing that springs to my mind, too, corn on the cob. Such a classic summer food. Do you like to eat it with butter or salt or any other kind of condiment?

Kassy: I prefer just salt. But my family are really big butter people, so.

Andrew: Yeah, I'm a butter and salt guy, myself. Do you have a particular variety of corn that you like to eat?

Kassy: I don't know if there's a particular variety, but I like the sweet yellow corn.

Andrew: The sweet yellow corn, OK. I think that's called Golden Jubilee. But **don't quote me on that**, I may be wrong. My favourite type of corn is actually called Peaches and Cream.

Kassy: Peaches and Cream corn?

Andrew: It's called Peaches and Cream because some of the corn kernels are yellow, similar to a peach colour, and some are white, similar to cream colour. So it doesn't taste like peaches and cream, like a dessert. It tastes like corn, but it looks like that.

Kassy: I know the corn, but I've never heard that expression before.

Andrew: Oh, yeah?

Kassy: Yeah, maybe **it's a Canadian thing**.

- Andrew: Possibly, yeah, possibly. So I think of corn on the cob, as well. And perhaps we should explain what corn on the cob is. It just means corn in its natural form—on the corn cob is what we call that piece of corn. That's how it grows on the plant, right?
- Kassy: I have a question for you.
- Andrew: Yup.
- Kassy: In Canada, corn on the cob, what's the texture? Is it chewy or, like, a juicy, crunchy texture?
- Andrew: Yeah, it's more juicy and crunchy.
- Kassy: Ah, so it's like America.
- Andrew: Yeah, like American corn. And I think I know why you're asking this question, Kassy. And that's because we both live in Korea and the corn that's available here, the corn on the cob, is totally different texture-wise, isn't it?
- Kassy: Yeah, this one is chewy.
- Andrew: Chewy and not so sweet.
- Kassy: Yeah. I heard though that a lot of other countries have different-textured corn compared to America and Canada.
- Andrew: Oh, really? Interesting. OK, listeners, you have some **homework**, you have to write us an email and let us know what the corn is like in your country.
- Kassy: Yeah, I'm curious.
- Andrew: So I guess another food that comes to mind for me in the summer is, like, barbecue food. So having a barbecue with my family was something that I did all the time in the summer growing up. And we would barbecue fairly classic foods, I guess, hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, maybe grill some chicken, some vegetables. But eating those types of foods really seems like a summer thing to do for me.
- Kassy: Yeah, same. And included in that list, I would put side dishes like watermelon, potato salad.
- Andrew: Potato salad, yeah, Greek salad. So maybe our listeners don't know about these foods. Potato salad is kind of cold salad made from potatoes, and it also has, help me with the ingredients, is it mayonnaise that it's made with?

- Kassy: Yeah, I think it's mayonnaise, you know, salt, pepper, pretty common ingredients.
- Andrew: Yeah, and Greek salad, maybe our listeners from Greece who are listening will think this is funny because I don't know if it's actually Greek food or not. But Greek salad is just a vegetable salad with, like, cucumber and cherry tomatoes and olives, red onions. Yeah, so that's what I think of. Watermelon, you mentioned, super refreshing.
- Kassy: Yeah, and it's so cheap in America. You can get a giant watermelon for \$4 or \$5.
- Andrew: Yeah, the price of watermelons in Asia is really insane for us North Americans to see. When I first came to Korea, I thought, "Oh, I should open a watermelon importing business."
- Kassy: That would be a great idea. I would support it.
- Andrew: Because the price of watermelons here is **astronomical**. One watermelon, medium-size watermelon, how much are they these days? \$15, \$20ish?
- Kassy: I think so, about that.
- Andrew: Yeah.
- Kassy: And the specialty watermelons can be as much as \$100.
- Andrew: I've gone down YouTube rabbit holes before watching people unbox and eat luxurious fruit in Japan. They'll buy, like, a \$100 grape.
- Kassy: Grape?
- Andrew: Yeah.
- Kassy: That's one expensive bite of food.
- Andrew: Yeah, they'll be expensive raspberries or any type of fruit. I guess Japan **is famous for having these ultra luxury fruits**, but in Korea they have them to an extent, too.
- Kassy, are there any other summer foods?
- Kassy: Number one, ice cream.
- Andrew: Ice cream, yeah. How could we forget ice cream up until now?
- Kassy: Ice cream is the best. What's your favourite flavour, Andrew?

- Andrew: Ice cream? I love mint chocolate chip and I love chocolate and I love, like, the cookies and cream. Those are my three favourites. What about you?
- Kassy: Yeah, I love mint chocolate chip as well, and strawberry, classic, and my new favourite flavour is called pink star.
- Andrew: Pink star?
- Kassy: Strawberry ice cream with Pop Rocks.
- Andrew: Wow.
- Kassy: Yeah, so when you take a bite, your mouth just crackles.
- Andrew: Pop Rocks are the candy that explode in your mouth, right? Wow. OK, what's it called again? Pink star?
- Kassy: Pink star from Baskin Robbins.
- Andrew: From Baskin Robbins. OK, next time I'm there, I'll have to try it out. I had a pretty wacky ice cream recently.
- Kassy: What flavour?
- Andrew: It was perilla leaf flavour.
- Kassy: Perilla leaf?
- Andrew: Yeah, flavoured ice cream.
- Kassy: Ew. Was it good?
- Andrew: It wasn't bad, actually, yeah. I guess you have to enjoy perilla, the flavour. It's got a very unique flavour, doesn't it?
- Kassy: Yeah. Have you heard of Tofutti?
- Andrew: Tofutti? No.
- Kassy: Yeah, that's tofu ice cream.
- Andrew: Tofu ice cream. How was it?
- Kassy: I was not brave enough to try it, unlike Mister Perilla over here.

Andrew: OK, I'll have to try that next time. Yeah, there's a specialty ice cream store in this neighbourhood where you can get all sorts of weird and crazy ice cream flavours. So I tried Perilla and I thought it was pretty good. So maybe next time, I'll even go try something that's more adventurous.

OK, Kassy, so we've talked a lot about food, we've talked about corn on the cob and barbecue food, picnic foods, and fruit. I should also mention now that I'm thinking about fruit, that I love cherries in the summer.

Kassy: Me, too.

Andrew: I love cherries in the summer.

Kassy: Yes. Do you like the dark cherries or the ... What are they? The white cherries?

Andrew: The white cherries, yeah. The type of cherry that's my favourite is called a Bing cherry. That's the variety name.

Kassy: Like the ice cream flavour, Bing cherry.

Andrew: Yeah, it's that variety, and it's a really dark red cherry. Yeah. What type do you like?

Kassy: I didn't know the name before, but I also like the Bing cherry flavour the best.

Andrew: Bing cherry, yeah, it is the best. So for fruits we like watermelon and cherries, but what I wanted to ask you is about drinks in the summer. Is there anything aside from like ice water, do you drink ice tea or sweet tea? Or ice coffee? Are you drinking these things more in the summer than usual?

Kassy: I usually just drink water, but one thing I love to have in the summer occasionally is a giant, thick chocolate milkshake.

Andrew: Oh, a big milkshake, yeah. Yeah.

Kassy: How about you?

Andrew: I guess that I drink ice coffee much more in the summer, cold brew coffee. A couple of years ago I made the change, I used to exclusively drink hot coffee, even on the hottest summer day.

Kassy: Even like today?



Andrew: Yeah, even on a super humid day like today, I'd drink a hot coffee. But a couple of years ago, I switched and there's no looking back for me now. It's ice coffee all the way. It's just so much more refreshing. I don't know what I was thinking.

Kassy: Yeah, you must have been sweating through all of your clothes drinking hot coffee in this humid weather.

Andrew: Yeah, so now it's just ice coffee.

Kassy: Good choice.

Andrew: Thank you, thank you.

So those are the things, guys, that we like to enjoy in the summer. But I'm curious about in your country, we wanna know, first of all, about corn in your country. We'd also like to know about what types of foods that you like to enjoy in the summer. I'm sure every country has some different foods. Send us an email, let us know. Our email address is contact@Culips.com. And once again our website is Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

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All right, guys, we'll be back soon with another episode and we'll talk to you then. Goodbye.

Kassy: See you next time.

Detailed Explanations

To be famous for [something]

Idiom

In this episode, Kassy tells Andrew that Pennsylvania **is famous for corn**. **To be famous for [something]** is to be known for something in particular. Kassy applies this to her home state, but you can also say it informally. You can say your friend **is famous for being late**. This does not mean your friend is a famous person. It means that everyone who knows your friend knows that she is always late.

Here are a couple more examples with **to be famous for [something]**:

Jihoon:	Are you coming to the barbecue on the weekend?
Ian:	For sure. Do you want me to bring anything?
Jihoon:	No, don't worry about it. My wife and I will be cooking everything.
Ian:	Sweet! I heard your wife is famous for her lamb skewers . I can't wait to try them.
Jihoon:	Then show up early! They don't usually last long.

Amanda:	Hey, I'm heading to your hometown this summer. Is there anything special I should do while I'm there?
Kate:	There's a pretty cool blues festival that's worth checking out. And museums are free on Wednesdays.
Amanda:	Oh, great! I'll have to remember that.
Kate:	But here's a heads-up. The city is famous for its mosquitoes during the summer. Make sure you have repellent on you at all times.
Amanda:	Oh, I hate mosquitoes!

Don't quote me on that Idiom

At one point in this episode, Andrew thinks he knows the name of a variety of corn, but he's not sure, so he says, "**Don't quote me on that.**" That means he is not sure and does not want to be held accountable if he is wrong. Think of a news reporter who quotes witnesses all the time. If a witness is unsure or doesn't want to support what he or she said, the witness can say, "**Don't quote me on that.**" In regular speech between friends, it is usually informal.

Here are a couple more examples with **don't quote me on that**:

Jorge:	Who do you think is the best F1 driver of all time?
Max:	I would say it's Michael Schumacher, for sure.
Jorge:	Better than Lewis Hamilton?
Max:	Of course. I think Hamilton has won five championships, but Schumacher has won seven.
Jorge:	He's won seven? Really?
Max:	Don't quote me on that , but I think so.
Jorge:	Wow, that is a lot.

Reporter:	How are profits looking for the next fiscal quarter?
CEO:	Very good. Especially since we will be partnering with a major German company soon.
Reporter:	Really? Can I put you on the record?
CEO:	Unfortunately, no. Don't quote me on that. We will have a press conference next month, then you can ask me all the questions you want.

It's a [place] thing

Idiom

In this episode, Kassy is unfamiliar with an expression Andrew says. She says, “Maybe **it's a Canadian thing**.” This means the expression Andrew used might only be used in Canada and not other countries. You can also make it more specific by saying **it's a family thing**, meaning only your family does that.

Here are a couple more examples with **it's a [place] thing**:

Tatiana:	I was wondering, do you know Carrie?
Simon:	Sure. I went to high school with her.
Tatiana:	Oh, cool. Well, we went out for burgers and fries the other day. I noticed that she took out the tomato and the lettuce from the hamburger and ate them separately. Is that strange?
Simon:	Actually, that's normal for her. It's a Carrie thing . She's been doing that ever since I've known her.

Stefan:	Mike, why do you always pour me a drink with two hands on the bottle?
Mike:	Oh, right. I guess it's a Korean thing .
Stefan:	But you're not Korean!
Mike:	I know, but I did live there for 10 years. It's part of the etiquette. It feels inappropriate if I don't pour a drink like that.



Homework

Noun

Of course, we've all done a lot of **homework** throughout our time at school. However, you can use **homework** in a way that has nothing to do with school. Andrew asks the listeners to do some **homework** and send emails about what corn is like in their country. In this sense, **homework** means extra work. It's not just enough to listen to the podcast; Andrew wants you to write emails! You can also use **homework** to mean research. Sometimes a sports team will say they did a lot of **homework** on their opponents. That means they did research into how to beat the other team.

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

Harry:	Recently, I've been thinking of buying a new car.
Jin:	Really? What kind of car?
Harry:	Probably from a foreign automaker.
Jin:	Then you should really do your homework on that. Foreign cars are often expensive, especially when you need to order spare parts.
Harry:	For sure. I'll definitely do a lot of research before buying anything.

Joan:	How was your volleyball match yesterday?
Astrid:	We won! I was so happy, because they're a great team.
Joan:	Good stuff! What do you think was the key to your victory?
Astrid:	Honestly, we did a lot of homework on their strategy. It paid off. It felt like we knew what plays they were trying out on us.



Astronomical Adjective

In this episode, Andrew says the price of watermelon in Korea is **astronomical**. That means the price is very high. Astronomy is the science of physical things in outer space. When Andrew says that the prices are **astronomical**, he is saying the prices are so high, they are out of this world! You can use **astronomical** as an adjective for things that are extreme in a positive sense. If something is extremely small, for example, you shouldn't use **astronomical**.

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

Charlotte:	I'm going to Vancouver in a couple of weeks. Didn't you live there?
Mia:	Yes, I did. I miss it a lot. I would live there again if I had the chance.
Charlotte:	You're an independent contractor. Why don't you go back?
Mia:	The cost of housing is astronomical , especially downtown. I moved because I couldn't afford it anymore.

Jean:	Are you OK?
Penny:	I just sat through a 5-hour opera.
Jean:	How was it?
Penny:	Terrible. I hated every moment of it. But I had to stay because I was with my father and he spent a lot of money on the tickets.
Jean:	How did you manage to get through it?
Penny:	Let me tell you, it took an astronomical amount of patience just to survive. I'm going to decline the invitation next time.

Ultra Adjective

Ultra means beyond the ordinary or extremely. Andrew says that Japan is famous for having **ultra** luxury items. That means those items are not only luxurious, they are even more luxurious than other luxurious items. **Ultra** is one of the strongest adjectives you can use when talking about something in the extreme. **Ultra** is often combined with nouns, as in **ultrathin**, **ultrarunning**, and **ultraconservative**.

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

Cris: How was your science test yesterday?

Jackie: **Ultra** difficult. I don't think I passed.

Cris: Why was it so difficult?

Jackie: Probably because I didn't study at all.

Carlos: Are you going out jogging again?

Will: I need to. I'm training for a big race.

Carlos: Oh, really? What's the race?

Will: It's an **ultramarathon**.

Carlos: **Ultramarathon**? What is that?

Will: As you know, a regular marathon is 42.125 kilometres. This one is 150 kilometres.

Carlos: Yikes! Good luck with that.



Quiz

1. What does “don’t quote me on that” mean?

- a) you don’t like the person you are talking to
- b) you don’t fully believe in what you said
- c) you don’t like newspapers
- d) you are lying

2. Are the adjectives astronomical and ultra synonymous?

- a) yes
- b) no

3. Which of the following does not sound right?

- a) astronomical amount of money
- b) astronomical sum of money
- c) astronomically cold
- d) astronomically hot

4. True or false? To be famous for [something] means you are a famous person.

- a) true
- b) false

5. Which of the following is NOT a good example of homework?

- a) working on math problems on the weekend
- b) mapping out your route before driving to another city
- c) doing research on the stock market
- d) jogging to get ready for a marathon



Writing and Discussion Questions

1. What are the foods you associate with summer?
2. What are foods that you would only eat during the summer and not during other seasons?
3. Describe your ideal picnic. Where are you? Who are you with? What are you eating?
4. Are you famous among your friends for something? Like what?
5. Think of your friends. Who is really famous for something in particular and why?
6. Do you participate in anything that is considered ultra?



Quiz Answers

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

Episode credits

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