

Simplified Speech #069 – Talking about pets

Episode description

Do you have any furry friends at home? In this Simplified Speech episode, Andrew and Suzanne talk all about pets. Enjoy this episode requested by one of our very own Culips listeners.

Fun fact

Did you know that cats can jump up to seven times their own height? Also, the most popular breed of pet dog is the Labrador.

Expressions included in the study guide

- Time flies
- Right off the bat
- Up-and-coming
- Off-leash
- Fetch
- Dyed





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, everyone. My name is Andrew.

Suzanne: And my name is Suzanne.

Andrew: And you are tuned into Culips.

Hey, guys, welcome back to another edition of our Simplified Speech series, which is the Culips series where we have completely natural English conversations, but we speak slightly slower than we do in our everyday lives. And today I am joined by my cohost, Suzanne.

Suzanne, how are you?

Suzanne: I'm pretty good, Andrew. I feel a little wiped out. Have you ever felt a little wiped out?

Andrew: Unfortunately, I have felt wiped out before, more times than I'd like. But, yeah, for our listeners that don't know, Suzanne, wiped out means extremely tired, right?

Suzanne: Yes, it means you're really tired and drained of your energy. Maybe you exerted a lot of energy over the week and you're just exhausted. So wiped out is a good phrasal verb, right? For being exhausted.

Andrew: Yeah, for being exhausted.

Well, Suzanne, it's Thursday evening where we are recording here, so that means the weekend is coming up soon. So just hang in there and hopefully you can get some rest on the weekend. But, for now, we should get on to the topic at hand.

Andrew: So the topic for today's episode is actually a suggestion from one of our listeners. And I have the email here, Suzanne—I thought I would read it for everyone. It's from Kichelle, who is a listener from the Philippines, and Kichelle wrote, "If there's a topic that I want to suggest, I think it would be about pets. I have three dogs right now, who are so lovely and adorable, so I wanna know if you are also interested in pets? Or what kind of animals do Canadians want to keep as pets in their homes?"

So, Kichelle, thank you very much for this suggestion. I think it's a good one and, because of that, Suzanne, we're gonna talk all about pets today.

Suzanne: Yeah, that's awesome.

Andrew: But just before we do that, I wanna let everyone know that there's a study guide for this episode available on our website, Culips.com. It is jam-packed with good stuff, like a transcript and some detailed explanations and examples of all the important vocabulary that you'll hear us use today, and there's other awesome things inside there, too. So just visit Culips.com to give that a download.

OK, Suzanne, let's get into it here. I have a question for you, **right off the bat**. Is that OK?

Suzanne: Yeah, please, yeah.

Andrew: Why are you wiped out? What has made you so tired?

Suzanne: Oh, I'll tell you, and it has to do with my pets.

Andrew: It has to do with your pets, OK, perfect.

Suzanne: Yeah, so normally I just have one pet. I have my dog Skoshi, who ... I think a long time ago when you interviewed me, one of the first times I ever appeared on Culips, I spoke about my new puppy, Skoshi. Well, he's 5 years old now.

Andrew: Wow, **time flies**.

Suzanne: Yeah, and he has a best friend dog.

Andrew: A best dog friend.

Suzanne: He has a best dog friend, yes. And his name is Doug, like Doug, D-O-U-G, but in French they pronounce it Doug.

Andrew: OK, Doug.

- Suzanne: Like Dude, but with a G at the end. And he's a bigger dog and my friend is on vacation for the week and asked if we would watch him. So we're taking care of Doug for the week, and it's a little harder to take care of two dogs. Walking two dogs that are going in two different directions. Walking them and watching them in the dog park. So we have a dog park in our neighbourhood, and there are so many dogs. In fact, there are more and more houses and apartments being built in my neighbourhood in Montreal.
- Andrew: OK.
- Suzanne: It's kind of like an **up-and-coming** neighbourhood, and with the people come pets, and most of the time it's a dog. So the dog park is getting a little overcrowded during rush-hour time, during after-work time.
- Andrew: That's funny. I imagine, yeah, that after work and maybe in the morning before work the dog park is really busy.
- Suzanne: Totally packed. And it can be a little bit overwhelming, because they're just like people, our pets have personalities and, you know, some people speak English in the dog park, some people speak French. Some dogs hear and listen to French, some dogs listen to English. So it can be a little confusing for everybody, and when there's a lot of dogs and a lot of personalities of dogs and people, it can be a little intense. And tonight I had some dogs attacking my dog.
- Andrew: Oh no.
- Suzanne: And I had to separate them and I almost got attacked, and Doug is so cute because he, like, gets in there and kind of defends my dog, 'cause he's good friends. It's a tough, it can get a little tough in the dog park.
- What's cool is that those dog parks exist so there's a place for dogs in Montreal and a lot of North America for people to take their dogs and bring them **off-leash**. It can go **off-leash** and relax and run.
- Andrew: Get some exercise.
- Suzanne: Yes.
- Andrew: Yeah, because, as far as I know, it's illegal to walk your dog **off-leash** just on the street, right? Is that true?
- Suzanne: Yeah, it is illegal. And, in fact, a friend of mine was watching Skoshi and he had him with no leash in a park and he got a fine for ... I think it was, like, \$600.

Andrew: Wow. So it's a very serious offence to go around with your dog **off-leash** in a non-designated area.

Suzanne: Yeah, well, I think there have been some accidents where dogs have gotten upset and attacked people or got hurt.

Andrew: Yeah, makes sense.

Suzanne: You might have heard a ball just jumping around? That was one of the dogs right there, playing.

Andrew: Yeah, you got your dogs around you, hanging out. So you can even hear them playing with the ball right there beside you. That's very funny.

Here where I am in Seoul, South Korea, there is a park near my house, and in the park there are some zones. I wouldn't call them really dog parks, but they're kind of fenced-off areas where you can let your dog go **off-leash**, and they are organized according to the size of the dog. So there's a special zone for, like, very, very small, tiny dogs, like lap dogs, because, you know, Korea, there's not too much space here. There's a huge population and there's not very much land.

So this means that many people live in apartments. And so because of that, small dogs are really a popular pet because they're practical for living in a small apartment, having a small dog. But, some people still do have big dogs, but the big dogs and the small dogs, you know, they're not good to mix together. So there's these special zones, there's the tiny-dog zone, the medium-dog zone, and the big-dog zone. So I like big dogs, personally, so I like, whenever I'm in the park, riding my bicycle to hang out outside the big-dog zone and look at all the dogs run around for a little while.

Suzanne: Yes, that's the best. I have to agree, I'm not a small dog fan, although there are some I like. But for the most part, I prefer to run around and play **fetch** with the big dogs. But I wonder, dogs I would say are probably the most common pets in North America, but people also have, like, aquariums, like fish or turtles. I have a friend who has a land turtle and we have watched, not recently, but we have watched her turtle before. So, yeah, there are some people, I had a friend who also had squirrels. She took in some of the squirrels.

Andrew: What?

Suzanne: Yeah, recently. The summer.

Andrew: Inside her house?

Suzanne: Yes, inside a little cage. She helped them because they got hurt and she nursed them back to health.

Andrew: Oh, I see. Wow. That is an unusual pet, a squirrel. I've never heard of anybody having a pet squirrel before. My girlfriend actually just got a quite unusual pet herself. She bought a very, very, very tiny little snail and it lives in a kind of terrarium that she has, because she has lots of house plants in her place and she has this little terrarium and she got this little snail to live in the terrarium. And when I say little, I mean little, like maybe half the size of your thumb nail. So a very tiny, little snail. Its name is Naerami and it's kind of cute.

She gives it a little carrot and it will come down and eat the carrot and its little antennas go up and it gets excited when there's some carrot in the terrarium, so it's kind of cute. And apparently she had one of these in the past, too, and it lived for, like, 3 years or something. So it's a legit pet. It's not just something that will stay for a week and then pass on to the next life.

Suzanne: Yeah, which can happen with those goldfish, I know, for sure.

Andrew: Yeah, yeah, I remember when I was a kid, I had lots of fish. I don't think they lived to be 3 years old, that's for sure.

Suzanne: Yeah, but one fun pet, too, is, like, not iguana, it's a lizard. It's a kind of lizard, but it's a pretty desert-y lizard. My friend in California, she has a dog and a lizard, named, oh my gosh, what's her name? It's really funny, the lizard's name. It's a girl.

Andrew: The lizard's name? Liz the Lizard.

Suzanne: Yeah, my friend's name is not funny, it's the lizard's, oh no' I'm not going to remember. It's funny.

Andrew: OK.

Suzanne: It's a female lizard and she loves taking pictures.

Andrew: The lizard loves getting her picture taken?

Suzanne: Yes.

Andrew: Yeah, the lizard's not taking the pictures, right?

Suzanne: Sorry, bad English. Nope, posing for pictures.

Andrew: OK.

Suzanne: Oh, shoot, I don't remember. But that is a fun pet. She's really cute.

- Andrew: That actually reminds me of something, which is that these days many, many people have Instagram accounts for their pets.
- Suzanne: Yeah.
- Andrew: Actually, one of my cousins has a Corgi dog named Rick, Rick the Corgi, and he's popular on Instagram. He's got lots of followers, Rick does.
- Suzanne: Your friend doesn't, but Rick does.
- Andrew: Yeah, exactly. Do you have an Instagram account for Skoshi?
- Suzanne: I do not, but, you know, he's really cute. So I feel like he really should have an Instagram account. I should really, he's right there. He's super cute.
- Andrew: Do you follow other Duck Tolling Retrievers? I believe that is the type of dog Skoshi is, right? A retriever?
- Suzanne: Totally, he is. I do. I follow, I think it's called Maurice the Toller, and there's a few, and also I follow the hashtag Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers.
- Andrew: OK.
- Suzanne: And so it's so cute because when you look at all the pictures, it's like a different version of your dog, you know?
- Andrew: Right, right.
- Suzanne: They all look the same. So it's quite funny. I also follow, my friend has a poodle and her poodle is named Clara. And she has Clara Poodle Baby is her Instagram and she always has, her poodle always has a pink or purple tail. It's, like, **dyed**. So it's really funny and it's, like, all of her adventures around New York.
- Andrew: That's so fun.
- Suzanne: It's funny. I feel like people can really express themselves through their pets. And I think following Instagram or looking at pet videos and their unique personalities really helps other people to, like, relieve stress and may be kind of a distraction in the day when you have had a stressful day or stressful time.
- Andrew: Sure.
- Suzanne: I enjoy it.

Andrew: Yeah, it's super fun. Super fun. Myself, I don't actually have a pet but, one day, I would like to own a dog when I live an apartment that's a little bit bigger. Or if I get a house one day, I would love to have a dog. I'm not really sure what kind of dog I want. I know I would want maybe a medium- to large-size dog and probably, to be honest, I would just go get a rescue dog. I'm not really particular about what breed of dog I would want.

But there is one requirement, and that is that I want a dog that I can run with. I, speaking of Instagram, I follow a lot of runners on Instagram and some of them have dogs. And one of things that motivates them to get out and run is that their dog wants to go for a run every day. If you have an active dog, it can kind of encourage you to exercise more, I think because you know you gotta take care of your dog and dogs can run way better than humans can.

Suzanne: It's true. And it's, like, outer accountability, right? It's, like, they give you outer accountability, like, "Hey, I gotta go outside and run" and you're, like, OK.

Andrew: Right.

Suzanne: He's looking at me right now.

Andrew: Oh, I just said the magic word, run or outside, maybe that was the key word.

Suzanne: Yeah, he's staring at me now.

Andrew: Suzanne, I've got one more question for you and then we'll wrap it up. When I was a kid, I had a dog. Our family had a dog named Barkley. And if you ever said the word leash or, you know, even opened the closet and sort of put your hand near where the leash was, he got super excited 'cause he thought he was gonna go outside for a walk. Does Skoshi have any of these key words that triggers that?

Suzanne: If I say it, he's going to change into a different dog, and it's really funny. It's miam miam, which is kind of like in French, when something is yummy, you're like, "Mmm, miam miam." You know? So we started to call his food miam miam when it was time to eat, and that gets him excited or helps us to get him home if we're out and we're, like, "OK, we have to go home now, miam miam," and he's, like, OK.

Andrew: Nice.



Andrew: Well, Suzanne, I think we could talk about this topic for a long time. It's a huge topic, but we should probably wrap it up here before we go on for too long. So, once again, thank you for the message, Kichelle, and for suggesting this topic. It was fun to talk about and, guys, if you have any, you know, suggestions for future episodes, we would definitely love to hear them.

You can get in contact with us by sending us an email to contact@Culips.com or through our social media channels, as well. We're all over the place on social media, on YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter. All you have to do is just Google or search on those services for the Culips English Podcast and you can find us.

And let's see, what else, Suzanne? I guess we should mention that the study guide for this episode is available on Culips.com, too, so definitely check that out. I think that wraps it up for us.

Suzanne: You got it all, yeah.

Andrew: Yeah. Thanks for listening, guys, and we'll talk to you next time. Bye.

Suzanne: Bye, guys.



Detailed Explanations

Time flies

Idiom

Time flies is an idiom that means that time appears to go by extremely quickly. It is often used in the phrase “**time flies** when you’re having fun,” which means time feels like it goes faster when you are enjoying yourself and slower when you are not enjoying yourself.

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

Mom:	OK, Noah. It’s time to go home now.
Noah:	What? Already? It feels like I just got here.
Mom:	Well, time flies when you’re having fun. It’s already 6:00. We’ve gotta get home for dinner.
Noah:	Wow! It’s that late? Time really does fly!

Gary:	Hey, John! How have you been?
John:	I’ve been good. And you?
Gary:	Yup, all good on my end. How long has it been since we last saw each other?
John:	Wow, it’s gotta be at least 5 years ago now, I think.
Gary:	That long? Time really flies , doesn’t it?
John:	That’s for sure. It feels like just yesterday that we graduated college.

Right off the bat Idiom

Right off the bat is an idiom that means immediately or from the very beginning. In this episode, Andrew asked Suzanne a question **right off the bat**. In other words, he immediately started the episode with a question for Suzanne.

People assume that the phrase **right off the bat** is a reference to American baseball, where batters hit the ball and then immediately start running towards first base.

Here are a couple more examples with **right off the bat**:

Fred:	OK, everyone. Are we ready to start the meeting? Go ahead, Raj.
Raj:	Hello, everyone. Well, right off the bat I would like to congratulate you all for a job well done at last night's fundraiser. It was a total success.
Fred:	Yes, we managed to raise \$25,000 and garnered quite a bit of publicity.

Therese:	How was that family dinner you had to go to last night?
Ada:	Terrible, as always. Right off the bat , my father started grilling me about my job. Then my mom stepped in with her nagging about my single status and how she will never be able to experience the joy of being a grandmother.
Therese:	Wow, your parents don't mess around.
Ada:	Yeah, I'd barely taken my coat off before they started barraging me with questions and so-called helpful advice. I almost turned right around and left.
Therese:	Well, at least you survived. They may be insufferable, but they love you and they mean well.

Up-and-coming

Adjective phrase

Up-and-coming is a phrase that describes something that is getting better or more developed and will soon be popular and successful. **Up-and-coming** is often used to describe rookie sports players who quickly gain popularity and stardom or neighbourhoods that are becoming gentrified and popular to live in.

Here are a couple more examples with **up-and-coming**:

Daphne:	Where are you moving to?
Megan:	Oh, you are going to absolutely love it when you see it! I'm moving to Manayunk, this up-and-coming little neighbourhood in Philadelphia.
Daphne:	Oh, that sounds exciting!
Megan:	Yeah, it is! The town is so idyllic, and so many little shops and restaurants are starting to move into the area, as well. It's going to be the hangout spot for all of our future gatherings.

Jared:	Did you catch the Jets game last night?
Doug:	No, I didn't. Did I miss anything good?
Jared:	They won 5-2, but the most interesting part of the game was seeing their rookie player Pete Scott in action. He's a force to be reckoned with.
Doug:	Pete Scott? He's that up-and-coming player from the Bronx, right?
Jared:	Yup, that's the one. I heard he didn't even start playing until high school, but he became a success almost overnight. The kid's got a massive amount of natural talent.

Off-leash Phrase

A leash is a piece of rope or chain tied to an animal to keep it from running off. In this episode, Andrew and Suzanne talk about areas where dogs can play outside **off-leash**. **Off-leash** refers to the instances when dogs or other animals are able to roam free without being restrained. In cities, particularly, there are areas reserved for dogs to walk around **off-leash** so their owners don't have to worry about the dogs running away or disturbing other park-goers.

Here's one more example with **off-leash**:

Margaret:	How's it been since you moved to the city?
Lily:	It's been great for me so far. I love the fast-paced city life and my job is going well. It's been hard for Buddy, though.
Margaret:	Oh, really? Why? He doesn't like the new house?
Lily:	No, it's not that. He misses the freedom of the countryside. I used to let him outside off-leash all the time, but here in the city he doesn't have many opportunities to get out and stretch his legs like he did before.
Margaret:	Have you found a dog park?
Lily:	I have, but with my busy work schedule now, it's just hard to find the time to take him, you know?

Fetch

Noun or verb

Fetch has a few similar meanings. **Fetch** as a noun is a game that dogs play where someone throws them a ball, they chase after it, and then bring it back to the thrower.

Fetch as a verb has a similar meaning: to go get something and bring it back to the person who asked for it. **Fetch** as a noun is only used in references to pets, while **fetch** as a verb can be used in reference to pets or humans. For example, a man may **fetch** his wife's coat from the coatroom before leaving a restaurant.

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

Cora:	Look at this! I taught Fido how to play fetch !
Rafael:	That's great! He's such a smart puppy.
Cora:	I know, right? You wanna go the park and try it with him?
Rafael:	Definitely. I'll just go grab my coat.

Judy:	Honey, will you fetch my purse from the bedroom while I find the keys?
Jason:	Of course, darling. See you outside in a minute.
Judy:	Oh, make sure you get the blue one, not the black one!
Jason:	No problem.

Dyed Adjective

To **dye** something is to change the colour of it using a natural or synthetic substance. People most often talk about **dyeing** their hair or **dyeing** fabrics different colours.

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

Francine: Oh my goodness! Your new hairstyle looks amazing! I love the **dyed** hair.

Martha: You don't think the pink is a little too much?

Francine: No! It makes you look unique and edgy.

Martha: Thanks! I'll be the only 70-year-old woman around with hair **dyed** pink.

Sara: I'm looking for some extra soft blue-**dyed** wool. Do you sell it here?

Mackenzie: Yes, we do. How much would you like?

Sara: Can I have 10 balls of it?

Mackenzie: Sure thing. That'll be \$33.99. Cash or credit?

Sara: Credit, please.



Quiz

1. Which is not an example of something that can be up-and-coming?

- a) an actress
- b) a test
- c) a neighbourhood
- d) a business

2. What game do dogs play with a ball?

- a) skip
- b) dash
- c) fetch
- d) bingo

3. When time seems to go by really quickly, one might say:

- a) time runs
- b) time jumps
- c) time speeds
- d) time flies

4. True or false? To dye something is to change its colour.

- a) true
- b) false

5. What is the name of the object that people use to restrain their animals?

- a) leash
- b) sash
- c) cape
- d) retainer



Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Do you have a pet? What kind? What is it like?
2. If you could have any pet in the world, which one would you like to own?
3. What are the most common pets in your country?
4. Are there dog parks and other special services for pets in your country?
5. Are there any up-and-coming neighbourhoods where you live? Describe the neighbourhood.



Quiz Answers

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

Episode credits

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