

## Simplified Speech #071 – Quitting Jobs

### Episode description

In another listener-requested episode, Andrew and Suzanne talk about quitting jobs. Quitting a job is never easy; it requires preparation, courage, and a leap of faith. Andrew and Suzanne talk about why they quit certain jobs in the past and how they felt afterward.

### Fun fact

Have you ever heard of ghosting? Ghosting is a phenomenon in which two people form a connection, get acquainted, and communicate frequently, and then suddenly one of the members of the relationship drops all contact with the other person unexpectedly and with no warning. This phenomenon is most often witnessed in dating, but these days ghosting is becoming common in the workforce as well. Instead of formally quitting, sometimes these days employees simply stop coming to work and block their boss' phone numbers to avoid the awkward situation of a formal resignation.

### Expressions included in the study guide

- To snag [something]
- Fit of rage
- Unhinged
- Leap of faith
- Hot head
- To boss [someone] around
- Jerk



## Transcript

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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.

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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, everybody. My name is Andrew.

Suzanne: And I'm Suzanne.

Andrew: And you're listening to Culips.

Hello, everyone, welcome back to another edition of the Culips English podcast. Today, we have a Simplified Speech episode planned for you. And, if you're not familiar with our Simplified Speech series, it's just a series where we have completely natural English conversations that are unscripted and unplanned, but we speak a little bit slower than we do in our everyday lives. And, today, I'm joined by Suzanne.

Suzanne, hello. How are you?

Suzanne: Good, Andrew. How are you?

Andrew: Suzanne, I'm doing awesome. And I'm really excited today because here where I live in South Korea, the movie Once Upon a Time in Hollywood, the newest Quentin Tarantino movie, is opening, finally opening. It's been out in theatres in North America for, like, 3 or 4 months, but finally it has arrived here in South Korea. So I have tickets to go see it tonight, and I've heard really good things about this movie. And, you know, I love all of the actors in it, Brad Pitt and Leo DiCaprio and the director Quentin Tarantino, as well, I'm a fan of. So I'm excited to watch this movie this evening.

Suzanne: Wow, so you **snagged some tickets** and it's the first weekend that's it opening?

Andrew: I don't know if we have a special expression for this in English, we just say it's the opening weekend, right?

Suzanne: Yeah, I think so. Or you could say the premiere weekend.

Andrew: Yes, premiere weekend, exactly.

Suzanne: Cool.

Andrew: I guess, you know, it takes a while to make the subtitles, because they have to translate the script. And, as far as I know, this movie is, there's a quite a lot of historical cultural references from the '70s in California. So that could be difficult to translate, so I'm gonna be interested to see as I watch the movie what the subtitles are saying at the same time. That's always fun.

Suzanne: Yeah, and is it with subtitles or dubbed?

Andrew: I believe it will be subtitles. Usually here in Korea, the only English movies that are dubbed into Korean are animated movies.

Suzanne: Oh, OK.

Andrew: All of the real-life movies always have subtitles.

Suzanne: Got it. That's nice.

Andrew: That's good for me, because I can still go and watch them. If they were dubbed, then I don't think I would enjoy it as much.

Suzanne: Me neither. I don't like dubbed movies at all. I'm with you.

Andrew: So, Suzanne, we have a different topic for today, we're not gonna talk about movies. We're actually gonna talk about quitting jobs. And this topic was suggested to us by one of our listeners named Wendy Santana, Wendy Santana, OK, via YouTube. So YouTube watcher, watcher of the podcast. And quitting jobs, wow, I think we could have a lot to say about this topic.

But before we get into it, we should remind all of our listeners that there is a study guide for this episode and it's available on our website, Culips.com. It's awesome, it's jam packed with a lot of great things that we have put together to help you get the most out of your English studies when you are studying along with this episode. So there's a transcript inside, there are detailed vocabulary definitions and explanations and examples. There's a quiz, there are some prompts that you can use for writing practice or speaking practice, and I think it's a great way to study with us. So check that out on our website, Culips.com.

Let's get into it, quitting jobs. Now, Suzanne I imagine you've quit a job once or twice in the past. Is that safe to say? Is that a safe assumption?

Suzanne: That is a safe assumption. It is true, I have quit a job or two in my time. And you, Andrew, have you?



- Andrew: Yeah, of course I've quit jobs before. And I think when we think of this topic, quitting jobs, we think of, like, a person in a movie that's in a **fit of rage**. It's like, I can't take it anymore, I quit.
- Suzanne: Yeah.
- Andrew: Right?
- Suzanne: Totally.
- Andrew: But I've never really had that experience. Have you had that rage experience? Where you just walk out on a job?
- Suzanne: No, I've never had that experience. I have had a few dramatic experiences. My quitting was mostly in New York City when I was in, like, the, you know, service industry, like waitressing or bartending. And in those cases, most of the time it was very fine and amicable, you know, you're just moving on. You're there to be an actress and maybe your acting work is getting better, so you're being an artist and which was your whole dream, so, you know, quit in order to do that full time. But there were a few times that they were really scary and dramatic. Actually, I was working at a restaurant where the owner was a little scary. He was a little emotional, he got angry a lot, he would throw plates.
- Andrew: Wow.
- Suzanne: Yeah, he was kind of scary.
- Andrew: That is scary, yeah.
- Suzanne: And one night he was throwing plates in the kitchen. I think he must have been pretty drunk and he was angry. And I got really scared because I had messed up something, I think on a cheque, and I thought it was me. But it turned out it wasn't about me, but I thought it was. So I was really young and I was scared, so I grabbed my money after we counted our money and I ran out of there and I called from a pay phone because I didn't have a cell phone at the time. I called from a pay phone to my friend who was a waiter there and I was like, can you get my backpack? I left it in the, you know, coat check or whatever.
- Andrew: OK.

Suzanne: And he's like, yeah, just stay there. I was like, should I come back? And he's like, no, just stay there because he's crazy, the guy is crazy. So he brought my backpack, we went out for drinks that night and I was like, you know what? I think I'm done; I think I'm quitting. So the next morning, I called the office really early and I said, I'm not coming in anymore. And the lady there said, "I know that he's a little crazy, I know that he can be a little rough to work for. Would you reconsider?" And I was like, "Nope, I won't."

Andrew: Good call.

Suzanne: And so I just said, you know, this guy seems a little bit **unhinged**, a little dramatic. And it's already New York City, so I decided to have less drama and I quit right there. I was so scared, I was so nervous, because when you say goodbye to a job, it's like you hope to have something, you know, in line.

Andrew: Yeah, it's a bit of **leap of faith**, right?

Suzanne: Yes.

Andrew: Yeah, yeah, that's really scary. It seems like in the restaurant industry, there's a lot of **hot heads**. I know when I was a university student I worked in several restaurants, and I think it's because everybody is crammed in the back, in the kitchen, and it's really hot, you have the stoves going. You have the ovens going, it's boiling hot, and everybody's packed together, and there's a pressure, right? You have to preform really well, the food has to be delicious, and it has to be prepared quickly. And also, like you mentioned, you mix in the alcohol factor, because in bars, people are drinking too, sometimes, even the staff members. So it's like a recipe for these kind of angry situations to happen easily.

Suzanne: Exactly.

Andrew: Yeah, and it can be scary for the employees, I agree. If you have a manger that's, you know, not being cool.

Suzanne: Yeah, and how about you? What jobs have you quit from and what did you say when you quit?

Andrew: Yeah, well, that's a good question. I guess that I've quit pretty much every job that I've had up until now.

Suzanne: That's good, you were never fired.

Andrew: That's just how you move on. Yeah, I've never been fired from a job, that's true. I've been in jobs where my contract hasn't been extended due to funding or things that were not related to my performance, but just more of the economic situation. But, yeah, I've never been fired per se.

So when I've quit jobs in the past, the protocol in Canada is to always give 2 weeks' notice. This is the common thing that is, you know, it's not like a law or anything, but it's just kind of what we regard to be decent behaviour. It's, like, you wanna give your employer 2 weeks' notice so that they can find a replacement.

And usually we have to give that in writing, so just so it's official and they can, the company can give it to their HR department, their Human Resources department. So usually I would just write a letter and say, "Oh, thank you for the opportunity to work here. I had a good experience, but I am moving on to a different opportunity and as of this date, I will no longer work for you anymore." And you just give that to your manager, and it's always a little bit awkward, right?

Suzanne: For sure.

Andrew: When you're quitting, especially if you like the job and if you like the people that you work with, then it can be difficult. But, yeah, you give that letter to your manager, your supervisor, and that's it.

Suzanne: Do you talk to the, maybe do you give your manager or boss a heads-up before you give the official letter? Do you talk with them first, just to give them a heads-up? You know, about what's going on.

Andrew: Yeah, I think in most of the situations where I've left jobs, it's usually because of a different opportunity and it wasn't really an immediate opportunity, something that just happened overnight. It was like, you know, maybe I'd known 6 months in advance that I got accepted to this university and all of the people that I worked with knew that I was gonna move to a different city to attend that university, for example.

Suzanne: OK.

Andrew: So everybody knew that I was going anyways, it was more of just a formality at that point. For the most part, everybody knew in advance. Trying to think. Particularly ... It's funny now, when I'm thinking about my work time in Canada. You know, I haven't really worked and lived in Canada for a while, so it's a bit of a foggy memory but, yeah, there were no surprises. I will say, though, the one time that I did quit a job without any 2 weeks' notice or without really being a decent human being in this situation was—I believe I was in my last year of high school and I got a job at the fast food restaurant Subway. I was a sandwich artist.

Suzanne: That's what they call it?

Andrew: The title, yeah. So I was a sandwich artist, but I only lasted in that job for one shift. I did one shift and then I determined that it wasn't for me. I didn't like the way that the customers were **bossing me around**. I didn't like really being in that situation. I didn't wanna make sandwiches.

So I quit that job after one shift and I think I just maybe called the manger and said, "I'm not coming back." Or maybe I didn't even do that, maybe I just didn't even go back. I can't really remember, but I know that I was kind of a **jerk**, I think because I was young and I didn't really value that job very highly, so I just didn't care. So that's not the way that you should do things, though, when you quit a job. The proper way, the way that I do things now, is to write the official letter, give your 2 weeks' notice.

Suzanne: Yeah, that's true. I think that's it. I don't think I've ever written a letter, because most of my jobs have been performative, so maybe I'll just have a meeting with my agents or something like that. And when I was moving to Montreal, I wrote them an email, but I also came in and sat and had some wine and we talked and I was like, "I'm moving to Montreal, gonna be doing my master's and I'm going to be, you know, not in New York anymore." So, yeah, it's hard and it's awkward and it's hard.

And I think one of the things additionally, besides writing a letter, is also thanking them and telling them what an honour it was, a pleasure it was, to share this time working on these projects and collaborating with them. And that something common to say at the end, is to say that I hope someday maybe we could work together again in the future, you know? Our paths cross, or maybe at a conference—you know, in your case working at a university, maybe at a conference or some sort of workshop. You might see some of the same colleagues, which is nice.

Andrew: Exactly. So that's more for when you're more established in a career and especially if you have a good working relationship with your colleagues and your company, then you might wanna use some of those expressions. If you're a younger person or you're in an industry that you hate and you're fine with burning your bridges, then you can kind of leave those things out.

Suzanne: Then you just call the next day, I'm not gonna be in, or you just don't show up.

Andrew: Yeah, exactly, no call, no show is what we say, right?

Suzanne: Yup.

Andrew: No warning and no attendance, yeah.





Suzanne: Don't do that for like, those big jobs. Or just don't do that maybe all the time.

Andrew: Yeah, yeah. I mean, it's always nice to end things on a positive note with your employers because, at least in Canada, it's really important to get a reference letter from an employer. So when you're applying for a new job, the people that are hiring will ask you to submit some references. So they wanna talk to your previous employers and find out are you a good employee? Do you show up on time? Are you responsible? All of these things. And so it's good to have a good relationship.

I just mentioned this expression burn your bridges. And you don't wanna burn your bridges, you don't want to destroy the connection that you have with your previous employers, because this can be important for finding new job opportunities in the future, too. So, as much as possible, keep things good. Keep things amicable.

Suzanne: Yes. I'm sorry that there was some squeaking in the background you might have heard. That is one of our friend's dogs that's staying with us, everyone. So sorry about the squeaks.

Andrew: It's OK, it's not Suzanne playing with a dog toy. It's the dog playing with the dog toy.

All right, well, Suzanne, I think we should quit this episode. I think we should wrap it up here. Thank you again to Wendy for the episode suggestion. Guys, keep these topic suggestions coming. I think you all are much more creative than I am. And I'm very thankful when you suggest these topics, because they're fun to do. They're fun to talk about. And if you would like to get in touch with us, you can just send us an email. Our address is [contact@Culips.com](mailto:contact@Culips.com), and we're all over the place on social media too, aren't we, Suzanne?

Suzanne: Yeah. Facebook and Twitter and Instagram and YouTube.

Andrew: Yeah, we're on YouTube. So if you just search for the Culips English Podcast on your favourite social media site, you can find us that way. And finally, guys, there is the study guide for this episode available on Culips.com. And also on our website, that's where you can find all of our previous episodes. We have over 500 English lessons on the website.

Suzanne: Wow.

Andrew: The website's a great resource for you to check out, yeah, 500, so that's pretty cool. All right, well, we'll wrap it up here. Thank you for listening, and we'll be back soon with another Culips episode. We'll talk to you then. Bye.

Suzanne: Bye, guys.



## Detailed Explanations

### To snag [something]

Verb phrase

**To snag [something]** is a slang term that means to get or find something, usually by luck or chance. In this episode, Suzanne asked Andrew if he **snagged some movie tickets** during the movie's opening weekend. He was lucky to get the tickets, because tickets for a popular movie tend to sell out fast on opening weekends; therefore, he **snagged them**.

Here are a couple more examples with **to snag [something]**:

Cara:	That's a really cool scarf. Where did you <b>snag that</b> ?
Melissa:	Oh, this? Yeah, I love it! I found it at a vintage store on South Street last week.
Cara:	I'm jealous! I'll have to head over there sometime this week and see if I can't find a cool scarf of my own.

Dale:	Hey, man, are you free tonight?
Tony:	Yeah, why? What's up?
Dale:	I <b>snagged us a couple of tickets</b> to the basketball game. You in?
Tony:	What? Totally!
Dale:	Great. I'll swing by your house around 7:00. We can drive together.
Tony:	Good idea. The parking is gonna be crazy. I can't believe you got tickets!

## Fit of rage

### Phrase

Rage is an extreme and uncontrollable anger. A person in a **fit of rage** is someone who is in a very bad mood and prone to violent outburst and yelling. If someone flies into a **fit of rage**, it means they became really angry suddenly and violently. A similar expression to **fit of rage** is to throw a temper tantrum, but a temper tantrum has a less severe feeling than that of true rage.

Here are a couple more examples with **fit of rage**:

Vince:	Hey, are you all right? You're looking a bit off.
Fred:	It's the wife. I broke her favourite vase and she went into this crazy <b>fit of rage</b> . I'm a bit scared to go home now, actually.
Vince:	Oh, man, that sucks. Maybe you should buy her something nice to make up for it, like jewelry or something.
Fred:	I don't know, man. When she gets into moods like this, it's better to just give her some space.

Phyllis:	I think I'm going insane.
Diane:	Why? What happened?
Phyllis:	They didn't have the peanut brand I wanted at the store, and I flew into a <b>fit of rage</b> at the store clerk.
Diane:	What? Well, you are pregnant. It's probably just hormones.
Phyllis:	Still, I should not be allowed in public like this. I'm a mess.

## Unhinged Adjective

Someone who is **unhinged** is mentally unbalanced, unpredictable, and likely to do something violent or distressing. People often become **unhinged** after experiencing some sort of severe trauma, stress, or something that angers them past the ability to make rational thoughts. Psychopaths, stalkers, and serial killers are often referred to as **unhinged** individuals.

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

Margery:	Have you heard about Cathy?
Flora:	No, what's up?
Margery:	She's in a mental institution.
Flora:	What? That's wild. Why?
Margery:	She got so stressed out at work that she just went a little bit <b>unhinged</b> .
Flora:	I always knew she would crack one day. That job is much too stressful for one person alone.

Hank:	John, how have you been these days?
John:	Not so good. Ever since the baby was born, I've been a little <b>unhinged</b> . I think it's the lack of sleep.
Hank:	Why don't you ask Mom to watch him for the night?
John:	Yeah, maybe we will in a month or two. She's still a little young. When did you start sleeping better? Your kids are older.
Hank:	Ha. Who says I'm sleeping better?



## Leap of faith

### Idiom

To take a **leap of faith** is to do something risky and hope for the best even if you don't know what the outcome will be or whether or not you will be successful. In this episode, Andrew said it took a **leap of faith** for Suzanne to quit her job and trust that she would find a new one before she ran out of savings.

This idiom comes from the philosopher Kierkegaard, who described believing in God as a **leap of faith**, because there is no way to prove scientifically that God actually exists. One must simply have faith that God exists.

Here are a couple more examples with **leap of faith**:

Hector:	I really hate my job.
Gregorio:	Then why don't you just quit? You've been talking about doing it for months.
Hector:	Yeah, but what if I don't find another job? I don't have that much in savings right now.
Gregorio:	Sometimes you just have to take a <b>leap of faith</b> and trust that things will work out.

Lena:	I'm really nervous about this move to a big city.
Carlos:	It's OK, Lena. Change is good. Sometimes you just need to take a <b>leap of faith</b> .
Lena:	What if I just can't cut it in the big city?
Carlos:	Lena, you're the best singer I know. If you can't do it, no one can.

## Hot head

Noun

A **hot head** is someone who gets angered or irritated very quickly. When people get angry, their blood pressure escalates. This causes their faces to become red and hot, which is the origin of the term **hot head**.

Here are a couple more examples with **hot head**:

Georgia:	Mike, stop yelling at me for every little detail! You can be a real <b>hot head</b> sometimes, you know that?
Mike:	Well, at least I care about things! You are way too relaxed. It's like you think the dishes will wash themselves and money will just start falling from the sky.
Georgia:	I'm not too relaxed. I'm just optimistic.
Mike:	More like delusional!

Marta:	Who are you partnered with for the science project?
Dolly:	Ugh. I'm partnered with Sven. I hate him. He is such a <b>hot head</b> . It's like everything I do is wrong, and he's always yelling at me.
Marta:	Tell the professor. Maybe you can get reassigned or just do the project yourself.
Dolly:	I tried that already, but Professor Marks said that conflict builds character and gives us real-world experience.
Marta:	Great. So this is what we have to look forward to in the workforce after we graduate.



## To boss [someone] around

### Idiom

**To boss [someone] around** is to give orders to someone and tell them what to do in a really rude manner. In other words, someone who **is bossing you around** is someone who is giving you orders, making you do things, and acting like they are in charge. Older siblings often like to **boss around their younger siblings**, since they believe being older gives them the power to do so.

Here are a couple more examples with **to boss [someone] around**:

Sarah:	Davey! Stop <b>bossing me around</b> ! Just because you're older doesn't mean I have to do what you say.
Davey:	Well, if you don't do what I say, I'll tell Mom that you were the one who stole her earrings.
Sarah:	You promised you wouldn't tell!
Davey:	Well, I changed my mind, so do what I say.
Sarah:	Ugh. Fine.

Gary:	I am so sick of this job. There's this other intern who works with us and he is always trying to <b>boss us around</b> .
Miko:	Why do people listen to him? He's just another intern, right?
Gary:	Yeah, but he went to Harvard and his dad is on the board of directors. People think that if they listen to him, he'll help them land a full-time position.
Miko:	That is so unfair. Nepotism at its finest.



## **Jerk** Noun

**Jerk** is slang for a person who is obnoxious, rude, self-centred, and hard to get along with. Someone who cuts in front of you in a shopping line or someone who calls you a mean name is considered a **jerk**.

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

Carry:	Oh my goodness! Did you just see that <b>jerk</b> cut me off? We could have had an accident!
Frannie:	Yeah, I should have warned you. There are some really aggressive drivers in this city.
Carry:	Aggressive? Is that what we call illegal now? Why don't the cops put a stop to that kind of behaviour?
Frannie:	They don't have enough resources. They're too busy solving real crimes, like murders and stuff.
Carry:	Murders? I have no idea why you decided to move here.

Bonnie:	Kurt, does this dress look good on me?
Kurt:	No, it's awful. You look like a whale.
Bonnie:	Kurt! Don't be such a <b>jerk</b> .
Kurt:	C'mon. You know I'm only kidding and that you look great, I don't have to inflate your already huge ego.
Bonnie:	Ugh. Never mind. Forget I asked.



## Quiz

**1. Which is not a synonym for a jerk?**

- a) bully
- b) shmuck
- c) weenie
- d) prick

**2. What is an example of taking a leap of faith?**

- a) changing your shampoo brand
- b) getting married
- c) taking a test
- d) going to the doctor

**3. What does it mean to be a hot head?**

- a) to be bad tempered
- b) to be easily distracted
- c) to be sweaty
- d) to be greedy

**4. Which of the words below is a synonym for unhinged?**

- a) relaxed
- b) uninterested
- c) crazy
- d) tipsy

**5. True or false? To be in a fit of rage is to be extremely trendy.**

- a) true
- b) false

## Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever quit a job? How did you do it? Why?
2. Would you like to quit your job now? Why?
3. What is the worst job you've ever had and why?
4. Have you ever taken a leap of faith? How so?
5. Have you ever gone into a fit of rage? What caused it?

## Quiz Answers

1.c    2.b    3.a    4.c    5.b

### Episode credits

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