

Simplified Speech #099 – Pizza

Episode description

A much-loved dinner option, pizza is eaten all over the world. Today, Andrew and Kassy discuss the many different pizza types out there and answer a few controversial pizza questions.

Fun fact

Pizza traces its origins to the Greeks and Egyptians, who cooked a flatbread and topped it with olive oil and spices. Today's more modern pizza started in Naples, Italy. It has evolved as it spread around the world and countries developed their own regional spins. In Brazil, chefs top their pizzas with green peas. In France, they love fried eggs on their slices. In China, a crust made of mini hotdogs is popular.

And then there's Canada, home of the Hawaiian pizza. In 1962, Greece-born Sam Panopoulos was bored with the traditional mushroom, bacon, and pepperoni toppings, so he decided to put some canned pineapple on pizza instead!

Expressions included in the study guide

- I'm a [something] kinda guy/girl
- Don't get me wrong
- I take it
- That's not one that you hear every day
- Live up to expectations
- Out of the question



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. The transcript has been edited for clarity.

Andrew: Hello, everyone. My name is Andrew.

Kassy: And I'm Kassy.

Andrew: And this is the Culips English Podcast.

Andrew: Welcome back to Culips. Today's episode is a Simplified Speech episode. And if you don't know what that is, well, let me explain. It is the Culips series that features clear and natural conversations that are designed to help you boost your English listening skills and increase your knowledge of essential English vocabulary. And today I am joined by my cohost, Kassy. Hey there, Kassy.

Kassy: Hey, Andrew. I'm really excited for this episode.

Andrew: Yeah, me too. Kassy, actually, I was shocked that we haven't really talked about this topic yet on Culips.

Kassy: Me too. And, Andrew, what is our topic for today?

Andrew: Well, I have to give a shout-out to one of our listeners, Param, who messaged us through Instagram to request this topic. It is pizza. So today we're going to talk all about pizza.

Andrew: But before we do, I want to let everyone know that there's a study guide available for this episode. And it's available on our website, Culips.com. We recommend following along with it and studying with it while you listen to us here today.

Andrew: Let's get into our conversation about pizza. I guess to start, Kassy, I should ask: what's your favourite kind of pizza?

Kassy: I'm a classic kinda girl and I love pepperoni, cheese pizza. Pepperoni and cheese, that's all I need.

Andrew: Pepperoni and cheese. Wow. It's very simple.

Kassy: How about you Andrew, what's your favourite kind of pizza?

Andrew: My favourite kind of pizza is a little bit controversial because my favourite kind of pizza is Hawaiian pizza.

Kassy: No way.

Andrew: So a Hawaiian pizza is, well, the most unique topping is pineapple. And usually there's ham on there, as well, sometimes some bacon or some onion. But definitely pineapple. That is the main topping.

Kassy: So how did that become your favourite pizza? **You're a salty/sweet kinda guy?**

Andrew: Yeah, that's interesting. Now, **don't get me wrong**, I love all kinds of pizza. And pizza is probably my favourite food. And I love all the different combinations and styles of pizza. Maybe that's the reason why it's my favourite food is because there are so many different options and different styles of pizza. But, yeah, I don't know, I think my parents, especially my dad really likes Hawaiian pizza. So when I ate it as a kid, that's usually what we had in our house and I just grew to love it. I also heard that Hawaiian pizza is really popular in Canada and may have actually been invented in Canada. I don't know if that's just a rumour or if that's true, but I heard that a Canadian pizza shop was the first shop to start putting pineapple on pizza, which, when you think of it, is actually a really weird topping to put on a pizza, isn't it?

Kassy: Yes, super weird.

Andrew: **I take it** you're not a fan?

Kassy: No, I'm not.

Andrew: So, Kassy, I'm curious. Have you ever tried making pizza at home before, like, baking your own pizza in your oven?

Kassy: Yeah, I have not physically made pizza myself. But my father often made pizza for us while I was growing up.

Andrew: OK, that's cool. Did he make it from scratch or, like, a frozen pizza that you can buy at the grocery store?

Kassy: It depended on his mood. But he was a really good chef. So when he made things from scratch, they were just amazing.

Andrew: Wow, that's awesome.

Kassy: Yeah, instead of sausage, he would use the fancy chorizo and instead of, you know, like, regular pepperoni, he'd have to get the really high-quality, I don't know, fancy-schmancy kind of pepperoni.

Andrew: The gourmet kind.

Kassy: Yeah, that's the word.

Andrew: Yeah, I have tried making pizza at home in the past. And, actually, while I was a university student, I got really into it and I would make my own dough and let the dough rise. And I had what's called a pizza stone, which is, it's actually a kind of round stone that you put in your oven, that you put the dough on and cook the pizza on. I got a little bit obsessed with trying to make really good pizza. From time to time, I get obsessed with something for a little while. I go through many phases. I have many short-term hobbies. And, yeah, I was making pizza often. And I even went so far as to do a lot of Googling, and YouTubeing about pizza ovens. And I found that there's this whole subculture of people that build pizza ovens in their backyard and cook pizza like this. So I was even fantasizing one day about building my own pizza oven in the backyard of my house.

Kassy: That is so cool. You should do it someday.

Andrew: It's pretty cool. All of these ovens are built out of bricks. And they're, they're pretty big. Like, if you decide to build one, it takes a lot of time and effort and also space commitment. Like, it takes up a lot of space in your backyard. But if I'm ever lucky enough to have a big backyard in the future, yeah, I might do that.

Kassy: So, Andrew, can you, like, throw the dough up into the air and, you know, twist it so it makes that perfect round shape, like in the movies?

Andrew: Yeah, I got kind of good at tossing the dough. I learned how to do that. It's been, well, a few years now since I have tried making pizza. But, yeah, I would do that just like you used to see the old pizza chefs in a pizzeria do on TV or in the movies. Yeah.

Kassy: That is a great skill to have. I wish I had it, too.

Andrew: OK, Kassy, we talked about a controversial subject already, Hawaiian pizza. But I have another controversial subject to talk about. And that is cold pizza, cold pizza. Some people will say that you should never eat cold pizza. But I disagree. I think cold pizza is delicious. What about you?

Kassy: I actually think cold pizza is better than hot pizza.

Andrew: Whoa, I wasn't expecting that answer. **That's not one that you hear every day.** OK, why? Why you like cold pizza better than hot pizza?

Kassy: I'm not sure. I think the flavours have had a chance to kind of meld together after they've been, you know, cooked, heated, and then cooled. So it just tastes really good. And also, Andrew, I really hate when I burn the roof of my mouth on steaming hot pizza. So when I get it cold, there's no worries about me, you know, like, burning my tongue and losing all sense of flavour for 2 days.



Andrew: Right. Yeah, you avoid that problem for sure. One of my favourite kinds of pizzas to eat is leftover pizza that has been reheated. So I actually reheat pizza on the stove in my frying pan. I add just a little bit of water to the frying pan to create some steam. And then I cover the frying pan. And then it gets a little bit crispy on the bottom from the heat of the frying pan and the cheese and the toppings melt because of the steam in the frying pan. And that tastes really good, as well. I'm just a huge pizza fan so hot, cold, reheated, it's all good to me.

Kassy: I'm getting hungry from this episode.

Andrew: Yeah, me as well.

Andrew: OK, Kassy, you are an American. So I wanna ask you the difference, if you know what the difference between these styles of pizza are, because, well, there are many different kinds of pizza in the USA. Chicago pizza. Do you know what Chicago pizza is?

Kassy: Yes, I do. That is the deep-dish pizza.

Andrew: Deep-dish pizza. Have you ever tried Chicago pizza?

Kassy: Funny enough, I've never tried Chicago pizza in Chicago, but I have had it somewhere else.

Andrew: OK.

Kassy: It's not my favourite. It's more of a casserole than, like, a real pizza.

Andrew: I totally agree. I actually ate Chicago pizza in Chicago. I waited for like 2 hours at the most famous tourist trap kind of restaurant in Chicago. The place was absolutely packed. Finally got a table and then I was disappointed because it wasn't really like pizza to me. It's more like what you said, like a casserole. And it was really cheesy and heavy, and I just didn't really enjoy it. I think my expectations were way too high. And it didn't **live up to those expectations**.

Kassy: Yeah, I think one of my favourite parts of the pizza is the crust. And that's why I love New York style pizza because New York style pizza is really thin and then the crust is pretty wide.

Andrew: So the crust means the kind of bread part at the end of the pizza slice, right?

Kassy: Yup.

Andrew: Yeah, I totally agree with you. I love thin pizza. So New York style pizza or Brooklyn style pizza, it's kind of bigger. Like, each slice is quite big. And you could fold it in half and turn it sideways and eat it that way.

Kassy: I was gonna ask you if you eat New York pizza, do you eat it, you know, flat like a regular slice? Or do you fold it?

Andrew: You gotta fold it. You gotta fold it.

Kassy: I agree.

Andrew: And often that kind of pizza, you can buy at a pizzeria by the slice. So you don't actually need to buy a whole pizza. You can just go in and buy one or two slices, right? Can't do that with Chicago, right?

Kassy: No way.

Andrew: Yeah. OK, now this is a pizza style that I haven't tried before. I've only actually seen it on TV and the internet, but I really want to try it sometime in the future. It's called Detroit pizza. Have you tried Detroit pizza before?

Kassy: I have actually never heard of it. What is it?

Andrew: OK, so Detroit pizza is square. It's a square pizza that is made in a pan. So it is thicker, but not as thick as Chicago pizza. And it gets a really, really crispy crust, because it is baked in the pan. It's really, really crispy on the outside and kind of gooey in the centre. And, yeah, it looks like it has a lot of potential to be delicious. But I haven't tried it yet.

Kassy: Oh, we actually call this by a different name in Pennsylvania, where I'm from.

Andrew: Oh, OK, so what do you call that kind of pizza in your hometown?

Kassy: We call it Sicilian pizza.

Andrew: Sicilian pizza. Ah, OK. Have you tried Sicilian pizza, then? I'm imagining you have.

Kassy: I have tried it. It's definitely really different than the New York pizza. But because it kind of tastes more like bread, because it's so thick, that crust. But it's delicious.

Andrew: OK. Final controversial question here for you, Kassy, and then we'll wrap things up. What are your thoughts about eating pizza with a knife and fork?

Kassy: Wow. Um, well, if we're talking about my favourite style, New York pizza, that is **out of the question**. No way.

Andrew: Yes, eating pizza with a knife and fork is often seen as just a big no-no, right? It's not something that you want to do. And, like, if a celebrity or politician gets caught on camera eating pizza with a knife and fork, then there's often a lot of talk about it in the media or on the internet, saying that this person is too pretentious.

Kassy: You can't even eat a piece of pizza the normal way.

Andrew: Right, right.

Kassy: Well, Andrew, I know what I'm eating for dinner tonight.

Andrew: A pizza?

Kassy: That's right.

Andrew: Me too. I think I might have to order a pizza pie here, Kassy. But I think we should wrap it up here. Thanks again to Param for suggesting this topic.

Andrew: And thanks to all our listeners for studying with us today. Guys, you did a great job doing what you just did right now is a great step in becoming more fluent in English. So we're happy that you showed up and spent some time studying English with us here today.

Kassy: To recap this episode, we talked about pizza, and we learned some cool expressions like cold pizza, or Hawaiian pizza, and different pizza names: Chicago pizza, New York pizza, and Detroit pizza.

Andrew: If you enjoyed this episode and found it educational and entertaining, then please help us and support us. You can do that in many different ways, such as becoming a paid Culips member, leaving us a five-star rating and a positive review on your favourite podcast app, telling your friends about the Culips English Podcast, or even following us on social media. We're on Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter.

Kassy: If you want to get in touch with us, you can email us at contact@Culips.com.

Andrew: We'll be back soon with another brand-new episode and we'll talk to you then. Goodbye.

Kassy: See ya.

Detailed Explanations

I'm a [something] kinda guy/girl

Expression

The expression **I'm a [something] kinda guy/girl** means that you prefer things like [something]. The [something] can be any type word—a noun, an adjective or even an adverb or a verb. Usually, it is a noun or adjective in the expression.

In this episode, for example, Kassy says, “**I'm a classic kinda girl**” when it comes to pizza. This means she prefers pizza in its classic form. Kassy also calls Andrew a **salty/sweet kinda guy**, which means he prefers food to have a combination of salty and sweet flavours. You could also say person instead of guy or girl.

So, for example, **a backward-hat kinda guy** is a guy who likes to wear his hat backward. Or **a brunch kinda girl** is a woman who loves eating brunch. Similarly, **a Captain Crunch kinda person** is someone who loves the breakfast cereal Captain Crunch.

Here are a couple more examples with **I'm a [something] kinda guy/girl**:

Laurence: Is that restaurant on Main any good?

Abdul: For sure. It's really casual. Like a step up from fast food, but, like, good fast food. Are you bringing your girlfriend there?

Laurence: No, man. I was thinking about it, but **she's a fancy restaurant kinda gal**. I gotta bring her somewhere she can get all dressed up and feel pampered.

Abdul: Ah, well, then. This place is really good, but not that kind of good.

Laurence: Got it. Thanks, man.

Laila: Which would you pick: red velvet cake, cheesecake, or ice cream?

Zoya: Hmm, that's a tough one. What kind of cheesecake? And what kind of ice cream?

Laila: Strawberry for both.

Zoya: Then red velvet cake all the way. Why, what would you pick?

Laila: Oh, **I'm a cheesecake kinda girl**. Whenever there's a cheesecake on a menu, I'm all over it.

Don't get me wrong

Phrase

We use **don't get me wrong** before or between two thoughts or statements that might contradict each other. People use the expression to make sure someone doesn't misunderstand their meaning. The purpose of the phrase is to prevent someone from getting upset by what you're saying. **Let me be clear** and **make no mistake** are similar phrases.

Some situations where you might use **don't get me wrong** include when you have to give feedback on a project or you are about to share an opinion that is controversial or uncommon. For example, in this episode Andrew says, "Now, **don't get me wrong**, I love all kinds of pizza ... But, yeah, I don't know, I think my parents, especially my dad really likes Hawaiian pizza." He uses the phrase **don't get me wrong** to show that even though Hawaiian is his favourite type of pizza, he still loves all other types, too.

Here are a couple more examples with **don't get me wrong**:

Duru: So, my mom wants us to stop by the store on our way home and get milk.

Saima: We already have milk.

Duru: We have 2%. She needs 1%.

Saima: Why 1%? I've never seen her drink that.

Duru: I think she needs it for a recipe.

Saima: OK, sure, we can stop. But this is starting to get a little much.

Duru: What do you mean?

Saima: **Don't get me wrong**, I appreciate everything your mother has done for us—but it's time for her to get her own place.

Katherine: Hey, Stella! I didn't get your answer about the cocktail party next weekend. Are you coming or not?

Stella: Oh, right. Sorry, I meant to reply. I can't make it. **Don't get me wrong**, I'd love to come, but I'm too busy next weekend.

Katherine: That's a shame! Well, we'll have another one in the New Year, so you better make sure you're free for that one.

I take it Idiom

If you say, “**I take it**,” it means that you assume or you suppose. You can say **I take it** to check with someone that what you believe to be the case is indeed the case. Or you can say **I take it** to check that what you understand someone to mean is in fact what they mean. You can also use this idiom before you say something you think is true, even though you don’t have proof that it is.

In this episode, Andrew says to Kassy, “**I take it** you’re not a fan?” This means that, based on the conversation, he assumes that Kassy is not a fan and he wants to confirm that he understood correctly. You can also say **can I take it that**, **I imagine that**, or **it is my understanding that**.

Here are a couple more examples with **I take it**:

Yasmin: Have you heard? I’m devastated. It’s such a shame!

Rini: **I take it** you’ve heard about Ben and Carol splitting up?

Yasmin: I just saw on Facebook! What happened? They were so in love.

Rini: Yeah. I don’t have any more information than you do. I was just as surprised as you.

Yasmin: Such a shame. I’m in shock!

Eleanor: So for dinner tonight, we can either cook up that pork we got yesterday and maybe mash some potatoes, or we can order fried chicken. Which would you prefer? I’m leaning toward ordering.

Khalid: I love fried chicken.

Eleanor: Ha, so you’re OK with ordering, **I take it**?

Khalid: I am. Are you ordering from that place down the street?

Eleanor: Of course.

Khalid: Then I’m definitely in favour of ordering in. Save the pork and potatoes for tomorrow.

That's not one that you hear every day

Phrase

That's not one that you hear every day is a humorous or ironic way to emphasize how unusual something is. It means something is unexpected, unusual, or special. In this episode, Andrew says, "Whoa, I wasn't expecting that answer. **That's not one that you hear every day.**"

Variations of this phrase include **there's something you don't hear every day**, **you don't hear that every day**, **that's something you don't see every day**, and **there's something you don't see every day**.

Here are a couple more examples with **that's not one that you hear every day**:

Paz: You'll never guess what I saw this morning.

Skyler: What? And how could something exciting have happened already? It's only 10 a.m.

Paz: I was eating breakfast, right? And I heard cars honking so I looked out my window. There, crossing the street calm as you please, was a small herd of deer! Six of them!

Skyler: Wait, don't you live in the city?

Paz: I do! That's what made it so incredible!

Skyler: **That's one you don't see every day!** Did you take a picture?

Paz: I took dozens. And a video. Here, look.

Navdeep: Did you have a good weekend?

Richa: Yeah, it was quiet. You were at your grandparents' place this weekend, right?

Navdeep: Yeah. My granddad really surprised me. He's planning a skydiving trip with a couple of his buddies.

Richa: Well, **that's not one that you hear every day.** A grandpa skydiving!

Navdeep: Right? He said it's something he's always wanted to do, so he's going to do it. Even if it kills him.

Live up to expectations

Idiom

To **live up to expectations** means to do as well as predicted, expected, or hoped. This can apply to anything from people and places to things and events. It can also mean that something or someone is as good as anticipated or has the qualities you think it should have. In this episode, Andrew talks about Chicago pizza and says, "It didn't **live up to those expectations**." That means he had hoped the Chicago pizza he tried would taste better than it did.

Here are a couple more examples with **live up to expectations**:

Hikari: The boss said he'd let us use his cottage, since our trip was cancelled. You've been up to the cottage, right?

Lara: I have! I went up for a work party 2 years ago.

Hikari: Is it, like, a cabin with no running water or is it, like, a house in the forest? What should we expect?

Lara: It's very cozy! With running water, don't worry. There are three bedrooms and a large backyard right on the lake. The breathtakingly beautiful scenery certainly **lives up to expectations**.

Hikari: Oh, that sounds lovely! OK, I'll talk to my husband, but I think we'll take the boss up on his offer. It'll be great to get out of town for our anniversary.

Ryoichi: I order the new sneakers! Were your boyfriend's shoes delivered yet?

Millie: Nice! What colour? And, no, he's still waiting for his. They should arrive this week.

Ryoichi: I got the red ones.

Millie: Nice choice. My boyfriend got blue, but red was his second choice. I take it you're really excited to get them?

Ryoichi: That's an understatement! They're supposed to be the best on the market. I really hope they **live up to expectations**, because I'm gonna be mad if they don't!

Millie: Given the price, yeah, that would be understandable.

Out of the question

Idiom

Out of the question means something is too impracticable or not to be discussed. The thing or event that's **out of the question** cannot happen and isn't allowed. You use this idiom to emphasize just how impossible something is—it is beyond consideration.

In this episode, Kassy says that eating New York pizza with a knife and fork is **out of the question**. In other words, no one ever eats New York pizza with a knife and fork. This is largely because it is too thin to eat with cutlery, but also because true pizza lovers always eat pizza with their hands.

Here are a couple more examples with **out of the question**:

Daughter: Tansie invited the class to her place for a sleepover! Can I go?

Father: The whole class? Meaning the boys, too?

Daughter: Yeah!

Father: Nope, no way. **Out of the question.**

Daughter: But Dad! Everyone's gonna be there!

Father: I said no.

Kosuke: Our team wants to meet at 1:30 tomorrow to discuss the new project. Are you available?

Bai: I'm not.

Kosuke: You know, this project is really important to the boss—probably more important than what you have scheduled. I think you should make the time to come.

Bai: I have a meeting with the boss until 2:00 and leaving early is **out of the question**. So, no, I can't meet at 1:30.

Kosuke: Oh, well. Uh. OK, I'll let the team know.

Bai: Good idea.

Quiz

- 1. Which of the follow could you say to make sure someone doesn't misunderstand your meaning?**
 - a) don't get me started
 - b) don't get me anything
 - c) don't get me right
 - d) don't get me wrong

- 2. If a restaurant lives up to expectations, it:**
 - a) was not as good as expected
 - b) was as good as expected
 - c) had high expectations
 - d) had no expectations

- 3. Jordan prefers cheddar cheese over all other cheeses. Which of the following could he use to describe himself?**
 - a) I'm not a fan of cheese
 - b) I'm cheesy
 - c) I'm a fan of all cheese
 - d) I'm a cheddar kinda guy

- 4. What does it mean when something is out of the question?**
 - a) it will never happen
 - b) it is easy to understand
 - c) it is outside a place called Question
 - d) it is up for debate

- 5. Which of the following could you use to show that you're making an assumption?**
 - a) so I heard
 - b) I leave it
 - c) I take it
 - d) as I see it

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Andrew is a salty/sweet kinda guy and Kassy is a classic pizza kinda girl. What kind of person are you when it comes to pizza and why?
2. Which pizza toppings are completely out of the question for you and why?
3. Describe a time you made an assumption and could have used the phrase “I take it.”
4. What is something that happened to make you say, “That’s not one that you hear every day”?
5. Describe the last time something or someone lived up to expectations.

Quiz Answers

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

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