

Simplified Speech #100 – Andrew’s getting married!

Episode description

In this very special 100th episode of Simplified Speech, Andrew shares exciting news: he’s getting married! Listen in as he tells Kassy how he and his now-fiancée first met and how they got engaged.

Fun fact

The tradition of giving engagement rings dates back to ancient Rome. In the second century BC, Roman brides-to-be were given two rings, a gold one to wear out in public and an iron one to wear at home while doing chores.

Expressions included in the study guide

- Plant a seed
- Hit it off
- Cement a relationship
- The rest is history
- The whole kit and caboodle
- Bask in [something]



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 you are listening to Culips.

Andrew: Hello there, friends. Welcome back to Culips. This is a Simplified Speech episode. And if you don't know what Simplified Speech is, well, it is the Culips series that features clear, natural, and easy to understand conversations that are designed to help you boost your English listening skills and increase your knowledge of essential English vocabulary. And we have a very special episode for you today, because this is our 100th Simplified Speech episode. Oh my gosh, Kassy, we made it to 100!

Kassy: It's amazing. I can't believe it.

Andrew: Yeah, the Simplified Speech series was started when I lived back in Montreal, in Canada. So that was at least 4 years ago now. So we've been doing Simplified Speech for over 4 years and for 100 episodes. It's incredible.

Kassy: Wow, 4 years, it's been longer than I imagined.

Andrew: Time flies when you're having fun, right?

Kassy: Yes, that's right.

Andrew: Don't forget that there's a study guide available for this episode that you can grab from our website, Culips.com. And we recommend studying along with that study guide while you listen to us here today. So just visit Culips.com to download it.

Kassy: And if you're not a Culips member yet but would like to see why our study guides are such an awesome resource for studying English, then just visit Culips.com and select the Study Guide Samples from the Membership option and you can download six free study guide samples.

Andrew: Yeah, that's right. So if you haven't checked out our study guides yet, please go and check them out. They are really great. Kassy is on our writing team, actually, and she is one of three people who put together our study guides with love for everyone who is learning English with us. And we know that if you try out the study guides, you'll love them. So make sure you do that.

Kassy: And, Andrew, speaking of love, this is a very exciting episode.

Andrew: Oh, I like that segue that you have there, Kassy. Yeah. So I wanted to talk about something special for this 100th episode, because it's kind of a landmark for us. So, recently, I had some very big news happen in my life. And that is that I got engaged, and I'm going to be getting married. So I thought we could talk all about my engagement story here today.

Kassy: And first, Andrew, even though I've done it before we started recording, I just want to say congratulations!

Andrew: Yeah, thank you, Kassy. I am really, really excited. So I'm going to tell everyone about my engagement story here today. And I thought maybe I should go back to the beginning, because I don't share too much about my personal life here on Culips. But from time to time some info sneaks in. But some listeners may be wondering about how I met my girlfriend in the first place.

Kassy: Yeah, how did you guys first meet?

Andrew: So we first met each other about 4 years ago, although we didn't start dating right from the very first moment that we met each other. And we actually met quite randomly. We were both staying at the same guesthouse in a little city on the east coast of Korea called Gangneung, which is a very beautiful place and is one of my favourite places in Korea.

Andrew: So, at that time, I was really interested in meeting a lot of Korean friends and I really wanted to speak with a lot of Korean people and improve my Korean speaking. So I was kind of really putting myself out there to try and meet a lot of new people. And, actually, this is how I met you, as well, Kassy. I was, we were both a part of the same language exchange. So I was going to language exchange meetings, I was doing different things to meet people and to practice speaking Korean.

Andrew: And one of my friends had actually just come back from a vacation to Jeju Island, which is a very popular travel destination for Korean tourists. And she told me that she had stayed in a guesthouse and made a lot of new friends at the guesthouse while she was staying there. She had, like, a barbecue party with people and made a lot of great friends during her vacation.

Andrew: So that **planted a seed** in my head. I was like, oh, if I travel around the country and stay at guesthouses, then I can do the same thing. I can meet other people who are travelling, and I can make some friends that way. So that's what I decided to do. I would travel around Korea on the weekends, visiting different places and staying at guesthouses and meeting new friends. And it was a really great experience.

Kassy: And little did you know you would also find true love on one of those journeys.

Andrew: That's right. So I met my girlfriend at a guesthouse. We were staying, actually, weirdly enough, we were in the same room together. So it was a kind of hostel room that had, like, 12 different bunks in it. And we were both in the same room on different sides, of course. And we got to talking and **hit it off**.

Andrew: But the problem was that she lived in Seoul, and I lived in Gwangju at that time, and those two cities are about a 4-hour drive apart, or an hour and a half on the high-speed train. And the other issue was that she was just about to go travelling abroad for a long time. So we met and then we went back to our own houses in our own cities. And then she went abroad and travelled around the world, to Cuba and to some other places. And, yeah, we didn't really hang out for a long time after that.

Andrew: But we kept in touch through messaging, and I think it was through messaging that we got to know each other more deeply and really **cemented a solid friendship**. And then when she came back, we hung out and, you know, **the rest is history**, as they say.

Kassy: Ah, so that's cool. You guys started as friends first, kind of long-distance pen pals, in a way, before you started dating.

Andrew: Yeah, really, in a way it was like that. It just sort of developed naturally. I think we both developed feelings for each other as time went on. So it wasn't like I went up to her in a bar and was like, "Hey, can I buy you a drink?" It wasn't that kind of meeting. It was more natural and happened slowly over time.

Kassy: OK, well, now that we have the backstory, Andrew, let's get to the juicy details. How did you propose?

Andrew: OK, now, this is maybe the surprising detail that you wouldn't expect, Kassy, but I didn't actually propose. She proposed to me.

Kassy: Wow. What a cool, modern woman.

Andrew: Yeah. So we had been talking about getting married for a little while as our relationship got more serious and we, you know, really realized that we wanted to spend the rest of our lives with each other. We had been talking about marriage and getting married. So it wasn't a complete surprise to me. And, actually, I was planning to propose. However, I wanted to do that after we visited my hometown, and after I showed her Canada and introduced her to my country. And we were planning to do that this summer. So I wanted to take her back to Canada, show her that side of my life so she knew about that, because my girlfriend is Korean and we've only spent time together in Korea, aside from when we've travelled to other places. But I thought it would be a good idea just to, you know, show her what I'm like back home, because I think my Canadian personality is just slightly different than my Korean personality.

Kassy: Yes.

Andrew: However, because of this pandemic, you know, we couldn't travel in the summer so we had to put that plan on pause. And so, naturally, I also put the proposal plan on pause for now. But little did I know she had this plan up her sleeve to propose to me. So one night, it was a Friday night and we went out for dinner like we usually do, and after dinner we were out for a walk. And she just proposed to me. She just said, hey, let's get married. And she prepared a ring for me and everything. And so she gave me an engagement ring, which I guess is kind of like a wedding ring. I don't think we'll be getting another ring. Yeah, so I was really surprised, to be honest, because I had this plan to do the proposal myself, to propose to her myself. And I wasn't expecting her to go and buy rings to do **the whole kit and caboodle**, you know, to go the whole way. So I was really shocked. But I was so happy at the same time.

Kassy: Yeah. So you know, like, traditionally the guy does it. But I think these days, more and more women feel like if they're ready for it, they do it themselves. And I think that's really cool.

Andrew: Yeah, I think so too. I was really proud of her, honestly, for doing that and not really conforming to the expectations of society, right? We have these kind of gender roles in society, like the man should always propose. And the man should always buy the rings. And I think that takes a little bit away from the agency of women. Of course, if things go down that way, that's totally fine. But I was proud that she decided "I want to do this. I want to live my life my own way," and made that decision. So I was really proud of that. And I think that is just another example of one of the things that I really love about her, as well. So it was cool. It was really cool.

Kassy: Wow. So do you guys have a date set yet? Or it'll be a while, like after you can visit Canada?

Andrew: Yeah, we are still up in the air about the actual details of the wedding. You know, the pandemic is really making things difficult in terms of planning, and especially since it will be an international wedding, right? So I have my family and friends in Canada. And all of her family and friends are here in Korea. And, of course, I have friends in Korea as well that I would like to attend the wedding. So I don't know what we're gonna do. We've discussed maybe doing a Korean wedding, and then later doing something in Canada, or maybe just waiting until things return back to normal. But who knows how long that could take. I don't know. So we're trying to figure out the details. But it's just a really complicated time right now to figure that out.

Kassy: Well, you can figure out those details later. Now you can just **bask in the happiness** of it all.

Andrew: Yeah, it's an exciting time and recently, I met my girlfriend—I guess I could, I should technically say fiancé now. But weirdly enough, in the Korean language, that word fiancé isn't really used very often. So it seems strange for me to use, but technically she is my fiancé. I met her parents and her family. And I'll save that story for another episode, maybe. But that was a really interesting cultural experience that I think all of our listeners would like to hear about. So that's cool, too. It's a really happy time and an exciting time. And, yeah, I'm stoked for what the future will hold for us.

Kassy: And, Andrew, I am sure that our listeners are also excited to hear about you and your partner's journey in the future.

Andrew: Well, everyone, that brings us to the end of our 100th episode of Simplified Speech. Thank you for listening. And thank you for studying English with us today and I hope you'll stick around with Culips for the next 100 Simplified Speech episodes, as well.

Andrew: If you enjoyed this episode and found it educational and entertaining, then please support us. You can do that in so many ways, such as becoming a paid Culips member. But that's not the only way to support us. You could also leave us a five-star rating and a positive review on your favourite podcast app, like Apple Podcasts, for example. You could tell your friends about Culips, your friends who are studying English. Or, finally, you could follow us on social media, like Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter.

Kassy: And don't forget, if you want to get in touch with us, you can email us at contact@Culips.com.

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

Kassy: See you around.

Detailed Explanations

Plant a seed

Idiom

Plant a seed means to introduce someone to an idea so that they will be more likely to support or agree with it later on or so that they will act in a certain way. It also means to set up a situation so that it can develop and expand in the future. The idea or situation “planted” can be good or bad.

In this episode, Andrew says, “So that **planted a seed** in my head. I was like, oh, if I travel around the country and stay at guesthouses, then I can do the same thing.” The idea that was planted was that he could travel and make new friends.

The idiom comes from the idea that if you **plant a seed**, a flower will grow. The seed is the idea, and the flower is the action or result that the person wants. You can also say **sow the seed** or **plant the seeds of [something]**.

Here are a couple more examples with **plant a seed**:

Lucie: We were so lucky our babysitter was free tonight, but what are we going to do if she’s ever unavailable? Noah’s not old enough to be left home alone yet!

Michael: Don’t worry, love. I’ve already got a plan for that.

Lucie: Oh, good. What’s is it?

Michael: The other day, I casually mentioned to my mom the idea of her watching Noah some weekends. Just **planting a seed** so she might be open to the idea later on.

Lucie: Perfect! Well, let’s hope she comes around to the idea! That would be so much better than calling every teenager in our neighbourhood.

Ji-Min: What happened to our team? We’re all arguing with each other and losing the game!

Daniel: Ugh, don’t get me started. Before the game, someone from other team came over and said something to Sam. He’s been angry ever since and things just got worse from there!

Ji-Min: Oh no. They **planted the seed** of suspicion in our team! Now we’ll never win!

Hit it off

Expression

When two people **hit it off**, that means they get along well and like each other right from the moment they meet. People who **hit it off** usually become close friends very quickly. Andrew and his fiancée met, “got to talking and **hit it off**.” They got along really well from the start.

Here are a few more examples with **hit it off**:

Warren: I saw you chatting with the new guy. You really seemed into the conversation.

Ibraheem: Oh, yeah, Steve. He’s really cool. He saw the Star Wars patch on my bag and asked about it. After that, I guess we just really **hit it off**.

Warren: Nice, you found another Star Wars geek!

Ibraheem: You mean I finally found someone who’s smart enough to understand how awesome those movies are.

Constance: I heard that Alex and Emma met yesterday. Did they get along?

Zahra: Yeah, they really **hit it off**. Emma and I were supposed to leave together, but she and Alex were so deep in conversation that I ended up going home alone.

Constance: Good! I knew those two would like each other.

Hussain: Man, my new job is going to suck, I just know it.

Shin: Why? What’s up?

Hussain: I met my manager today and he’s really not cool. I just know we’re not going to **hit it off** and it’s going to make work so much worse.

Shin: How so? Is he mean to you?

Hussain: Not outright, but he makes these comments, you know? And it just annoys me. I’m going to keep my head down and just focus on the job when he’s around.

Cement a relationship

Verbal phrase

To **cement a relationship** means to make a relationship, alliance, bond, friendship, or partnership stronger. You can replace the word “relationship” with jobs and positions to mean that you’re reinforcing or strengthening that particular thing. For example, someone can **cement his reputation**, which means that he’s becoming better known for something.

Here are a few more examples with **cement a relationship**:

Ryu: Clients always want to feel that they’re the most important client you have.

Harry: Even if I have a whole bunch of other projects on my plate?

Ryu: Yes, even if you have many other clients. Giving each client 100% of your attention encourages confidence in your abilities and **cements relationships**.

Harry: All right, OK. So always make the client feels special. Got it.

Karen: Every year, everyone in our company heads off to a retreat for team building and workshopping. This year, we’re going to Scotland!

Chihiro: I’ve always wanted to visit Scotland!!

Karen: Me too. I’m very excited about this year’s trip.

Chihiro: This is an amazing benefit to the job and really generous of the company. Why would they put all this money into annual trips?

Karen: These trips are great for **cementing relationships** between teams and coworkers. Plus, half the company works remotely, so this is the only time we get to see each other in person.

Asami: So, tell me, when did you realize you guys had won the championship?

Scott: Oh, well, I’d say it was in the last 5 minutes of the game. We’d scored that final goal and we just knew it had **cemented our lead**. After that, we went on the defense to keep it and, well, here we are—champions!!

Asami: Yes, champions! Congratulations on a great game.

The rest is history

Idiom

The rest is history means that the rest of the story is familiar to the audience. People use this expression when they are talking about an event or telling a story and have reached the part that everyone knows. It saves them from repeating common knowledge or boring their audience. The idea is that everything else is well known.

Sometimes people use the **rest is history** to cut a story short when they realized they've gone on too long. It is important that the audience is able to fill in the blanks with the obvious conclusion. For example, if you're telling a story about walking in the woods and you say, "I tripped and fell down a hill," you wouldn't end with **the rest is history** because anything could have happened. Instead, you would tell the story until you got back to the path home. Then you could say **the rest is history** and your audience would assume that you got home safe.

Here are a couple more examples with **the rest is history**:

Haruto: You've been writing for The Daily Telegraph since 2005, correct?

Jacqueline: Yes, that's correct.

Haruto: And how did that come about?

Jacqueline: Well, it's not all that interesting. I saw a job ad online and applied. They interviewed me and liked my spunk—their words, not mine. I got the job and, well, **the rest is history**.

Rhys: Michael Jordan grew up in Wilmington, North Carolina, where he attended high school and played on several sports teams for his school.

Makoto: Including basketball?

Rhys: Oh, definitely. He didn't make the varsity team at first because they said he was too short, so he instead played on the junior team. He was the star of the junior team, winning several games for the team. Then he grew 4 inches, trained really hard, and caught the eye of all the coaches. After that, well, **the rest is history**.

The whole kit and caboodle

Noun

The whole kit and caboodle means the entire thing, collection, group, or amount. You could also say the whole lot. In this episode, Andrew mentions that he wasn't expecting his fiancée to "buy rings to do **the whole kit and caboodle**." In this case, he meant that he wasn't expecting her to do everything that's involved in proposing to someone.

A caboodle (or boodle) is an uncommon term from the 19th century meaning group or collection, usually of people. Nowadays, caboodle is never used outside of this noun. Kit is a reference to a soldier's kit—the supplies and personal items that a soldier carries. Booodle evolved into caboodle to make the double "k" sound. You might also see this written as **the whole kit and kaboodle**.

Here are a couple more examples with **the whole kit and caboodle**:

Sora: The boss said he needs the supplies for the presentation. Is this everything?

Dong-Geun: Yup! Everything in that box, as well as those posters.

Sora: OK, so should I take **the whole kit and caboodle**?

Dong-Geun: Yeah. If you wait a second until I finish this, I'll help you carry everything.

Jonathan: I've minced the onions, chopped the peppers, and diced the tomatoes. Do I put the meat in the frying pan?

Adele: That's right. Now fry up the meat until it's nicely browned.

Jonathan: All right. Like this?

Adele: Exactly. Now throw all the vegetables in. Then slowly pour enough sauce into the pot so **the whole kit and caboodle** is sitting in a puddle and leave it to simmer for 20 minutes.

Jonathan: Wow, OK. This was really easy. Thank you for teaching me this recipe!

Adele: My pleasure. Anytime!

Bask in [something]

Phrasal verb

Bask in [something] means to take pleasure from, revel in, or enjoy something. The something can be anything that makes you feel good, such as praise, fame, a situation, or a specific emotion. In this episode, Kassy tells Andrew he can “just **bask in the happiness** of it all.” She’s encouraging him to take the time to really enjoy and revel in the happiness of being engaged.

Here are a few more examples with **bask in [something]**:

Ryan: Hey, Serena! Sorry I couldn’t make it to your play last night.

Serena: That’s OK! It was just opening night. You’ll still have a chance to see it for the next couple of weeks.

Ryan: I heard it went really well!

Serena: It did. We’re all still **basking in the amazing reviews** we got.

Ryan: Good! Keep basking, you all deserve it! You worked so hard on this play.

Nori: Did you watch the finals last night?

Catherine: I did! I’m really happy the Wolves won. They had such a tough season.

Nori: They really did. It was so rewarding to watch them hoist the trophy up and **bask in their moment of glory**.

Catherine: It was! The cheering was so loud I thought I’d never be able to hear again!

Takuya: This author, what’s his name? Johnson? He’s really **basked in fame**, hasn’t he?

Keaton: A little too much, if you ask me. His writing isn’t nearly as good as some of the others in his genre. His characters are all flat, too. He should spent less time basking and more time revising.

Quiz

1. Which of the following means to make a friendship stronger?

- a) fix a relationship
- b) break a relationship
- c) glue a relationship
- d) cement a relationship

2. When you plant a seed in someone's head, what are you doing?

- a) introducing them to an idea
- b) putting a seed in their hair
- c) digging in their backyard
- d) telling them what to think

3. If you wanted to take a moment to enjoy some praise, you could say, "I want to _____ in the praise."

- a) swim
- b) bask
- c) dance
- d) sleep

4. What does it mean when someone finishes a story with "and the rest is history"?

- a) only historians know what happened next
- b) you'll have to read a history book to find out what happened
- c) everyone knows what happened next
- d) no one knows what happened next

5. If you wanted someone to bring you everything from inside a box, you could ask them to bring what?

- a) all the kits and caboodles
- b) the whole kitten and poodle
- c) the whole kit and caboodle
- d) every kit and a few caboodles

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. If you wanted someone to make dinner but you didn't want to ask them to do it, how would you plant the seed in their mind?
2. Describe a time when you hit it off with someone.
3. What are some of the things that helped cement your friendships?
4. In your opinion, is planning a proposal with the whole kit and caboodle a good idea? Why or why not?
5. Describe a time when you basked in happiness or praise.

Quiz Answers

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

Episode credits

Hosts: Andrew Bates and Kassy White

Music: *Something Elated* by Broke For Free

Episode preparation/research: Andrew Bates

Audio editor: Andrew Bates

Transcriptionist: Heather Bates

Study guide writer: Lisa Hoekstra

English editor: Stephanie MacLean

Business manager: Tsuyoshi Kaneshima

Project manager: Jessica Cox

Image: Luana Azevedo (Unsplash.com)