

## Simplified Speech #145 – Have you ever won a contest?

### Episode description

Have you ever won a contest? That's the discussion question that Andrew and Kassy talk about in this episode. Join them as they teach you the differences between draws, contests, sweepstakes, and lotteries. Then listen in as they share some stories about the different contests they've won in the past.

Simplified Speech episodes are designed to help you improve your English listening and speaking skills. During these episodes, two native English speakers discuss interesting topics, like winning contests, using clear and easy to understand language. When you follow along, you will improve your English and learn something new.

### Fun fact

Lotteries, contests, draws, and sweepstakes have been around since 205 BC or earlier. They were used during the Chinese Han dynasty to fund major government projects and, during the Roman Empire, the elite would hold lotteries for entertainment at dinner parties.

### Expressions included in the study guide

- Types of contests
- Pool
- Swaggy
- Collab
- Game the system
- Uber



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## 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. The transcript has been edited for clarity.

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**Andrew:** Hello, everyone, my name is Andrew.

**Kassy:** And I'm Kassy.

**Andrew:** And this is the Culips English Podcast.

Hello there, Culips listeners. Welcome back. You're listening to Simplified Speech, which is our series that features clear, natural, and easy to understand English conversations about interesting topics. Today, I'm joined by my cohost, Kassy. Hey there, Kassy.

**Kassy:** Hey, Andrew, and hi, listeners. Today we're going to talk all about **draws**, **contests**, and **sweepstakes**. It should be a really fun episode. And I think Andrew and I are going to have a great conversation, as always. But before we get started, we want to remind you about the study guide and transcript for this episode so you can study along with us while you listen.

**Andrew:** Yeah, that's right. So the study guide for this episode includes the transcript, detailed vocabulary explanations and examples, a quiz, and more. And you can download it in a PDF file or you could view a mobile-friendly version that looks great on smartphones. So to access it, you just need to visit our website, which is [Culips.com](http://Culips.com), [C-U-L-I-P-S.com](http://C-U-L-I-P-S.com), and sign up and become a Culips member.

**Kassy:** We also want to give a shout-out to one of our listeners named GD, who is from South Korea.

**Andrew:** GD left us an awesome success story and a five-star rating on Apple Podcasts. And GD wrote, "Hey, this is GD from South Korea. First of all, thank you for your help. I was able to move to a big global company thanks to Culips. I've been working for a smaller local company for 17 years, and I decided to try a new challenge and develop myself. So I started to study English and, at that time, Culips became my friend and I succeeded in getting a new job. Of course, after moving to this company, I'm suffering from some new circumstances, all of my associates only use English, whether they're Koreans or not, and I think my English skills seem to be the last out of my 100 colleagues. However, I believe that Culips will encourage me again. Andrew, Suzanne, Kassy, and Anna, thank you for your kind teaching and for sharing valuable tips with us."

**Kassy:** Wow, way to go, GD. Congrats on your new job and keep up the good work. Don't worry about it, keep studying with us, and you're gonna see your English improve and get better and better every day.

**Andrew:** Kassy, when I heard this guy's name, GD, I immediately thought of the pop star G-Dragon. Is that what you thought of as well?

**Kassy:** Me, too. Yes.

**Andrew:** Yeah, that would be really cool if we had some celebrities or pop stars listening to Culips. But, GD, keep up the great work. And thanks to everyone out there who has been supporting us with reviews and five-star ratings on your favourite podcast apps. It really does help English learners from all around the world find and connect with us.

So with that being said, Kassy, I think we're ready to get into our main topic for today, which is **contests**. And right off the start there is a bunch of vocabulary that I think we should explain, because it might be a little bit difficult to know exactly what the differences between these four different words are. And the four words are all kind of related to the same thing. They are **contest**, **draw**, **sweepstake**, and **lottery**. OK, **contest**, **draw**, **sweepstake**, and **lottery**. So, let's go through them one by one. We'll talk about what they are and then we'll share our opinions on this topic.

So, let's start with a **contest**, a **contest**. Kassy, what is a **contest**? Could you explain it to everyone?

**Kassy:** Sure. So a **contest** is like a competition between two people or a group of people who are trying to win something from that **contest**.

**Andrew:** Yeah, exactly. So you could think about maybe a writing **contest** or a poetry **contest**, right? Often magazines will have this kind of writing **contest** and readers of the magazine can, you know, write something or write a poem and send it in and the magazine will select the best poem. Or there could be a drawing **contest** at a school and all the students could draw a picture and submit their picture and the best picture will win a prize. Something like that. That's what we consider a **contest**.

**Kassy:** Exactly.

**Andrew:** Now the next word is a **draw**. Speaking of pictures, **draw**. Actually, these words are unrelated, but they share the same spelling, D-R-A-W. What's a **draw**?

**Kassy:** A **draw** is, you know, kind of similar to a **lottery**, almost. A **draw** is where you have something that you're picking out of. And the person who is chosen or the team who is chosen is the winner.

**Andrew:** Yeah, exactly. So a **draw** is a kind of activity where a prize is given away. However, this time, the winner doesn't have to do anything to win that prize, right? It's not like a competition or a **contest** where you have to draw a picture or write a poem. Instead, all of the participants' names are just put into a hat or maybe an online database or something, and then one is just randomly chosen. So there's no skill involved with a **draw**. It's just completely up to luck.

However, with a **contest**, you usually do need to do something to demonstrate some kind of skill. So a **contest** is not for everyone, but a **draw** could be, like, for everyone. Anyone can participate because it's just up to random chance that you might be able to win the prize.

**Kassy:** Exactly.

**Andrew:** OK. Now, similar to a **draw**, we have another word, which is a **sweepstake**, **sweepstake**. I like saying this word, it's a fun one to pronounce. And I'll just spell it for everyone, so you know what the spelling, it is S-W-E-E-P-S-T-A-K-E. And, Kassy, what's a **sweepstake**, exactly?

**Kassy:** The term **sweepstake** is usually heard on radio shows or some sort of TV broadcasting site. It's used as a marketing strategy to promote a product or some event. And this is also determined by chance. So you don't really need much skill to win a **sweepstake**. You're just chosen randomly out of a group of people.

**Andrew:** Yeah, and I think that the word **sweepstake** means that the prize is going to be really good, really big. Like a **draw**, maybe you would do a **draw** among your friends at a Christmas party to see who gets a special Christmas gift or something. Or like at an office party, maybe there's a special prize, like a, I don't know, some Starbucks gift cards or something. And you could do a **draw** to see who wins that prize. It's, like, just something small and something little. But a **sweepstake** maybe the prizes are really big, like a new car or \$1,000,000 or a new house, something like that.

**Kassy:** A cruise to the Bahamas.

**Andrew:** A cruise to the Bahamas, yeah. And as you mentioned, Kassy, often with **sweepstakes**, they're actually promotions that are offered by companies to get people interested in their products. They use them as a kind of advertising technique. And often if you want to enter a **sweepstakes**, you do have to buy that product first. So maybe Coca-Cola is having a kind of summer **sweepstake** and to enter the **sweepstake**, you have to upload a picture of yourself drinking a can of Coke to their website, something like that, and then you can participate in that **sweepstake**.

**Kassy:** I remember a lot of McDonald's **sweepstakes** when I was a kid.

**Andrew:** Oh, yeah, they had a lot. I don't know if they still do, but definitely back in the day, they had many, for sure.

Now, finally, just so we're clear about all of these similar words, there is a **lottery** as well, a **lottery**. And we've talked about the **lottery** on Culips before, so we won't go really into too much detail about it. But, Kassy, could you just tell us what a **lottery** is and how they're different than a **draw** or a **sweepstake**?

**Kassy:** Yeah. A **lottery** is usually determine based on, like, ticket sales that you buy. And so it's not from a specific **pool**. It's just from a **pool** of anybody who's willing to buy those tickets. And if their number matches the numbers of that day or that week's chosen numbers, then that person, or even multiple people, could win the **lottery** in that region.

**Andrew:** OK, Kassy, let's transition to talking about **contest**, **draws**, and **sweepstakes** that maybe we ourselves have participated in. And the inspiration for this topic comes from my wife, because my wife actually won a couple of **draws**, I guess technically they're **draws** on Instagram, and she won two pairs of sneakers. And, yeah, she was very lucky. These incidents happened about a year apart from each other. But she was able to win some Nike sneakers. And I'm not really interested in sneakers or sneaker culture so I don't know too much about them, but I know that these sneakers are kind of expensive so she was happy to win them. And that was the inspiration for this episode.

So I'm curious about you, Kassy. Have you ever entered a **contest** or a **draw** or a **sweepstake**?

**Kassy:** My fondest memory of a **contest** was actually when I was really young, I'm going to say maybe 9 or 10 years old. Every year, not in my hometown, but in a nearby town, they hosted a cherry festival.

**Andrew:** A cherry festival, OK.

**Kassy:** Yes. So cherries were the theme. They'd have tons of games and activities and prizes and foods all related to cherries. And one competition, one **contest**, was called the cherry pie eating **contest**.

**Andrew:** Cherry pie eating **contest**. Sounds like a delicious **contest**.

**Kassy:** Yes. And it was for kids. So instead of having, you know, this giant cherry pie, there were just these little mini ones. And the kid who could eat their cherry pie the fastest was the winner.

**Andrew:** So did you eat your pie faster than all the other kids?

**Kassy:** I did. However, I can't say I ate it. It was more like shoving it all into my mouth at once and then spitting it out later, which is kind of gross.

**Andrew:** So what was your prize for winning the cherry pie eating **contest**?

**Kassy:** You know, Andrew, that's the saddest part. I don't remember what my prize is, but I remember feeling so proud.

**Andrew:** Well, that is a talent, for sure. That is a talent, eating cherry pie. I know that in the USA, there are also hot dog eating **contests** that I've seen on TV before, which are pretty funny. But congratulations on winning the competition back in the day, anyways, Kassy.

**Kassy:** Yes. How about you, Andrew, have you ever participated in a **contest**?

**Andrew:** I don't think I've participated in any **contest** where I had to demonstrate a skill. Of course, when I was an elementary school student, I remember there being **contests** at our school every year for drawing and for writing. And those weren't optional. They were mandatory. So I had to do them. And I always remember winning some little prize. Like, if I participated in the drawing **contest**, I would win a sketchbook or an eraser or something. But those were just participation prizes, they weren't grand prizes or anything like that.

So, no, I don't think I've ever really participated in a **contest** like that, but I have won a few **draws** before where I just randomly entered to try and win some prize. And when I was a kid, I won a couple of little ones. I remember that I won some kind of **draw** related to the book *Where the Wild Things Are* at my local library. And that was pretty exciting, because I must have only been, like, 7 or 8 years old, so to get a call from the librarian saying that I had won a prize pack and I could go down and pick it up. And I remember going to the library and picking up the book and some other little products with my parents, that was cool.

When I got older, as a teenager, and this memory just came to me as I was talking about *Where the Wild Things Are* and that **draw**. I remember that when I was a teenager, maybe, who knows, like 15, 16, 17 years old, I used to enter **draws** online because there were a lot of them back then. And I had some good luck. Like, I remember that I won a **draw** from the website IGN, which is a big video games website. And it was some kind of **draw** related to the video game Duke Nukem, which was popular back then. And I won a bunch of action figures, like, a bunch, like maybe 20 of them or so. And I was, like, 14, 15 years old, something like that, and I remember getting this box in the mail and there are all these action figures. Now I wasn't interested in action figures, so I think probably my mom just threw them out eventually. I probably stored them for a little while. But after this episode, I'm gonna go online and google Duke Nukem action figures from around that time and see if they're worth anything.

**Kassy:** Could have had some collector's items.

**Andrew:** And I remember another online **draw** that I won was from the band Radiohead. I think this was around maybe the year 2000, because I won a prize from the Radiohead website, or maybe it was a different music website. But I won all of this Radiohead memorabilia that was related to their album, *Kid A*, which came out in the year 2000. So that means I would have been in grade 10. So right around, like, 15 or 16 years old, somewhere around then. So, yeah, just in my mid-teens. And I was obsessed with the band back then, so it was really, really cool to win that prize.

And at that time, I was thinking like, “Oh, these products are limited edition, and Radiohead’s a really popular band. I should probably not open these.” There was like a VHS tape and there were some other cool **swaggy** things from Radiohead. So I decided I’m just gonna keep these for, like, 30 years. And then, you know, though, they’ll go up in value and I can sell them later. It’ll be so cool.

**Kassy:** So you didn’t open them?

**Andrew:** No, I didn’t open them. Like, I mean, I opened the box that I got, which came from England, which was really cool, but then I didn’t take any of the products out of the plastic, for example, I just kept everything sealed. And my plan was to hold onto them for a long time and then sell them later. Just keep them as investments, almost. But then, yeah, you know, I’ve moved so much and as I got older, I wasn’t as interested in keeping that kind of thing. So, yeah, probably one of my friends has them now. I don’t know where they went.

**Kassy:** Lucky them.

**Andrew:** Yeah, those are the two **draws** that I remember winning. I guess when I was a teenager, I had some good luck there, but nothing recently. Kassy, do you ever enter **contests** these days? Is that something that you do?

**Kassy:** I do not. But my fiancé does. And he really likes doing **draws** for clothing, kind of similar to your wife with the shoes on Instagram. He likes to also do **lotteries** for famous Nike shoe **collabs**. And for these **drawings**, it’s not to get them free. It’s to get the shoes at market value.

**Andrew:** Oh, OK. So these are for shoes that are, like, quite expensive, just because they’re popular and rare. So, yeah, they’re expensive, but if you win the **draw**, then you can buy them for like the regular price. So instead of having to pay \$500, for example, you could buy them for \$100.

**Kassy:** Exactly. And, you know, I totally forget the name of the rapper, but there’s a really famous rapper right now and he did a **collab** with Nike recently. And my fiancé applied and he got it and he could buy the shoes for, I think it was about \$150. And, Andrew, guess how much he sold the shoes for just a few weeks later?

**Andrew:** I will say \$800?

**Kassy:** He sold the shoes for \$1,500.

**Andrew:** Are you kidding?

**Kassy:** I am not kidding.

**Andrew:** Wow, that’s amazing. Oh, congrats to him.



**Kassy:** Exactly. I was like, wow, so lucky.

**Andrew:** My wife was able to resell the shoes that she won as well, but she didn't make that much of a profit. So that's really quite impressive. Kassy, I think I'm gonna have to start entering these shoe **draws** on Instagram. It sounds like a good way to make some money.

**Kassy:** Yes.

**Andrew:** We're gonna wrap things up here in just a moment, everyone. But before we do, Kassy, I have one more topic that I want to talk with you about. And I'm curious about your opinion of people who are professional **contest** winners or **draw** winners. There is a woman from the UK and her name is Di Coke, kind of interesting name, Di Coke. And she's a pro **contest** player. And she has a blog and a website, which is aptly named SuperLucky. So, guys, if you want to find her website, and we'll put it in the description for this episode as well, you can just google SuperLucky and it will come right up.

But I wanted to read a little description from her biography on her website because I thought this was so cool. So Di Coke wrote, "For over 20 years, my hobby of entering prize **draws** and competitions, comping"—that is what she calls it, I guess that's like an insider industry term, comping—"has resulted in over £300,000 of prizes." And pounds is the UK currency. So that is over half a million American dollars, easily. She continues, "I've won of Volkswagen Beetle, I've walked the red carpet at the BAFTAs, which is the British Academy Awards, twice." She did that twice. And she also funded her wedding with a £7500 cash win. So that's pretty crazy, right, Kassy? Di Coke. She's won so many things.

**Kassy:** Yeah, it's unbelievable.

**Andrew:** How do you feel of people out there are just paying so much attention to all of the different **contests** and competitions and **draws**? It's almost like they're **gaming the system**. Now, I don't want to say that she is cheating, but for just regular people, like you and me, I kind of feel like if there are these other people out there that are super into **contests**, or comping, that maybe me as just a person who's not really interested in it, like I don't stand a chance of winning if there are these **uber** interested people out there. I don't know, do you feel the same way?

**Kassy:** I don't feel any envy towards her because she treats this almost like a job or hobby. You know, applying to competitions or **draws**, especially with these big prizes, is probably not easy. It probably takes a lot of paperwork, a lot of time, energy, patience. And I'm honestly not willing to do that. But people like her are and because there aren't that many people willing to take the time to fill out all this paperwork, she has higher odds and maybe that's why she's won more.

**Andrew:** Well said, Kassy, I couldn't have put it any better myself. And I think I totally agree with what you just had to say.



**Kassy:** That brings us to the end of this episode, everyone. Thanks for listening, and congratulations on doing some English listening practice today. Go ahead and pat yourself on the back.

**Andrew:** We want to know what you thought about this episode. Have you ever won a **contest** or a **draw** or a **sweepstakes**, even? Let us know by sharing your story with us on social media or on the comment section or the discussion forum on our website, Culips.com.

**Kassy:** And don't forget we offer a lot of great learning materials and bonuses for Culips listeners who want to improve their English fluency faster. Learn all about the benefits and features and sign up by visiting Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

**Andrew:** That's it for us for now, but we'll be back soon with another brand-new episode and we'll talk to you then. Goodbye.

**Kassy:** See ya.

## Detailed Explanations

### Types of contests

#### Nouns

In this episode, Andrew and Kassy discuss four different ways you can win something: **contests**, **draws**, **sweepstakes**, and **lotteries**. Each of these is set up in a different way, and the winners are chosen based on that unique format.

**Contests** are competitions between two or more people. To win, a participant need to be more skilled than the other competitors.

**Draws** involve collecting names and selecting one of those names at random as the winner. There usually aren't any requirements to take part—you simply provide your name and contact information.

**Sweepstakes** are events with a grand prize from the company running the event. **Sweepstakes** are set up much like **draws**, sometimes with a **contest** element. Companies collect participants' names and the winner is selected from that group of names. Or the company may hold a **contest**, and the **sweepstakes** winner is the person who comes first.

**Lotteries** are **draws** that participants have to pay to be in. The prize for a **lottery** is based on how many people buy a **lottery** ticket. For example, there is a type of **lottery** where you buy a ticket and have a chance to win half the profits from the **lottery**.

Here's one more example with **types of contests**:

**Akimitsu:** Look, I won this awesome box of different chocolates in the **draw** at last night's dinner. Did you win anything?

**Nina:** I did! I got a bunch of different kombuchas from a new company. Did you put your name in the **sweepstakes** that the conference sponsor is running?

**Akimitsu:** Not yet. Thanks for reminding me! I need to go there today and sign up.

**Nina:** Don't forget! Entries close at 5 p.m. and they'll announce the winner at the big closing event tonight.

**Akimitsu:** I won't forget! Oh, we need to go watch the finals for the video game **contest** today. I hear the last two players are amazing.

**Nina:** What are we doing still sitting here? Let's get going! There's so much we need to do, and I don't want to miss anything!



## Pool

Noun

A **pool** is a collection or supply of something available for a specific purpose, reason, or use by a person, group, or organization. A **pool** can include people, things, or money. For example, a company **motor pool** is a supply of vehicles available for employees to use. An **investment pool** is money collected and made available to the people who contributed to the **pool**. When lotteries, draws, and sweepstakes collect participants' names, they go into a **pool of names**. The winner is chosen from this **pool**.

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

**Maisy:** Did you hear Henry and Chelsea stopped dating?

**Constance:** Didn't that happen, like, a couple months ago?

**Maisy:** Did it? Wow, I'm super behind on my gossip! Do you think Henry's back into the **dating pool** yet?

**Constance:** Oh, probably. Why? You thinking of asking him out?

**Maisy:** Definitely! Next time I see him, I'm totally going to ask him to go out for dinner with me or something.

**Alexander:** Here we have the office kitchen. Now, one person in the office is responsible for keeping the kitchen clean during the week, and it's a different person each week.

**Su:** Is there a schedule, then?

**Alexander:** Not really, no. We put everyone's names in a **pool** and on Monday mornings the manager draws a name. Then that person is in charge.

**Su:** What if someone's name is drawn 2 weeks in a row?

**Alexander:** Oh, no, that doesn't happen. When your name is pulled, it's not put back in the **pool** until everyone has had a turn being in charge of the kitchen. So it's not so bad.

**Su:** Ah, OK. That sounds reasonable.

**Alexander:** Great. When it's your turn, let me know and I'll show you how to clean things up. Now, ready to see your desk?

**Su:** Yes, please!

## Swaggy Slang

Swag is a promotional item sold or given away at events or through contests, draws, or sweepstakes. Swag can refer to one item or to many items. These items are often designed to reflect a band, brand, product, company, etc. **Swaggy** is an adjective meaning to be swag, or to be like swag. The thing it describes is a promotional or branded item.

In this episode, Andrew mentions that he won a Radiohead VHS tape and “other cool **swaggy** things.” The other items he won were promotional items for the band Radiohead.

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

**Jane:** You went to the BTS concert on the weekend, right? How was it? Was it awesome?

**Michaela:** It was AMAZING. I had so much fun. They played all my favourite songs.

**Jane:** Oh, I'm so jealous! I wanted to go so much, but I couldn't get any tickets.

**Michaela:** Oh! Here. Everyone who bought tickets got a bag of **swaggy** items. You can have some of mine. There's a keychain, this poster, this t-shirt—though I want to keep the t-shirt.

**Jane:** Really? You'd give these to me? You're my best friend ever!

**Hyun-Jung:** Our biggest event of the year is this weekend. How's marketing doing on the preparations? Is everything set?

**Zhi:** Almost. We're still waiting on a few **swaggy** products to arrive, like the branded water bottles our client requested and the beach towels the director ordered.

**Hyun-Jung:** Please tell me they'll get here in time?

**Zhi:** Tracking says all shipments should arrive by end of day tomorrow. So unless there's a huge accident, everything will arrive with lots of time to set up.

**Hyun-Jung:** Good, good. Let me know the minute everything arrives. I want to check them to make sure they fit with the event's theme.

**Zhi:** Will do!

## Collab

Noun

**Collab** is short for collaboration. A **collab** is when two or more people work together for the same goal. This might be to create something, to achieve a goal, or to promote a new product. In this episode, Kassy mentions that her fiancé likes to participate in lotteries “for famous Nike shoe **collabs**.” The Nike shoe **collabs** are shoes designed by Nike in collaboration with another person or group.

**Collab** can also be a verb meaning to collaborate. When two people **collab** on a project, they work together to get it done.

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

**Shun:** Hey, Lillian, you’re part of the marketing team, right?

**Lillian:** Yup. Why do you ask?

**Shun:** My manager wants customer service to **collab** with marketing to see if we can put together a campaign that will entice customers to come back and shop.

**Lillian:** Oh, that’s a good idea. I have noticed that the number of returning customers is lower than normal. Let’s set up a meeting to come up with some ideas. Would tomorrow after lunch work for you?

**Shun:** It does! I’ll see you then.

**Zahra:** Oh, I really like your shirt!

**Nathaniel:** Thanks. Yeah, it’s really cool, isn’t it? It’s part of a **collab** between my favourite clothing designer and my favourite artist.

**Zahra:** Is it still available to buy? What’s the website? My boyfriend would love this.

**Nathaniel:** Oh, no. Sorry. I got it a couple years ago, and they only made a small number of shirts.

**Zahra:** Darn. Well, can I have the website anyways? Maybe they have some new **collabs** I can check out.

**Nathaniel:** Sure, I’ll email it to you.

## Game the system

### Idiom

**Game the system** means to manipulate or exploit a system using the rules, regulations, or guides that protect it. When someone **games the system**, they interpret or use the rules in a different way than intended. They do this in order to make sure the outcome is the way they want it to be. You can also say **play the system**, **work the system**, or **beat the system**.

**Gaming the system** isn't breaking the rules, nor is it illegal. That being said, other people don't always appreciate it when someone **games the system**. In this episode, Andrew mentions people who spend a lot of time playing contests, competitions, and draws. He says, "It's almost like they're **gaming the system**." Most people don't have time to play every contest, draw, sweepstakes, or lottery out there. So those who do are, in a way, exploiting the system to increase their chances of winning.

Here are a couple more examples with **game the system**:

**Dominic:** Do you know why the cafeteria's menu changed recently? Like, I had to pay full price for my lasagna, and I didn't even get a drink!

**Shelly:** Oh, that. Don't you read the campus news website? A student was totally **gaming the system** to get free food. He's been doing it all semester and got, like, nearly \$1,000 of free stuff.

**Dominic:** Whoa, really? Did he get in trouble?

**Shelly:** Nope! That's the funny thing. Everything was legal, so they couldn't force him to pay it back! Instead, they changed the menu so no one else could do it.

**Tōru:** Have you seen George around?

**Kaoru:** George? He was fired last week.

**Tōru:** What? Why?

**Kaoru:** The bosses found out he **gamed the system** and made it look like his sales numbers were always higher than average, even though his actual sales were much lower.

**Tōru:** Hmm. I guess asking him for advice on how to increase my sales numbers is probably a bad idea, then.



## Uber Adverb

**Uber** means super, outstanding, or extreme. In a sentence, it might replace super or very. When you describe a thing as **uber** [adjective], you mean that it is the most [adjective] thing ever. **Uber** is technically a prefix—a word used at the beginning of another word. But more and more English speakers are using **uber** as its own word.

In this episode, Andrew says “these **uber** interested people” when referring to people who play every contest, competition, and draw they can find. These people are extremely interested in contests, more so than the average person.

Here are a few more examples with **uber**:

**Young-Hee:** Mr. Ross! Can you help me, please?

**Mr. Ross:** Oh, sure. What do you need?

**Young-Hee:** Can you bring these to the student council office? They asked me to, but I’m **uber** late for my class and if I don’t get there, I’ll get marked absent, and I can’t have another absent for this class because then I might lose a grade and—

**Mr. Ross:** Go. Go to class. I’ll deliver these to the student council. If your teacher gives you in trouble, tell them to speak with me. Off you go, now. Hurry!

**David:** Did you see the latest Doctor Strange trailer? I can’t wait for it to come out!

**Jeff:** Same here! I’m **uber** excited. The release date cannot come fast enough!

**Gabriella:** Want to go shopping this weekend? I need help picking out a dress for my brother’s wedding.

**Mei:** Oh, I’d love to, but I can’t! I’m **uber** busy preparing for my in-laws’ visit next week.

**Gabriella:** Right, I totally forgot that was happening next week. How about this, we’ll go shopping after they leave. It’ll be a little girl time to relax.

**Mei:** That would be awesome. Yes, let’s do that!

## Quiz

- 1. Which of the following means to work together with someone on a project?**
  - a) colon
  - b) collar
  - c) collab
  - d) collapse
  
- 2. Your friend just received a package with swaggy items from their favourite band. What was in their package?**
  - a) items with their favourite band's logo or art
  - b) items with the word swaggy on them
  - c) items that will make your friend swaggy
  - d) items that will make your friend sweaty
  
- 3. Which of the following means "to the extreme" when used as an adverb?**
  - a) iber
  - b) aber
  - c) ober
  - d) uber
  
- 4. Your coworkers are having a draw for a gift card; everyone's name is placed in a pool. Where is your name?**
  - a) swimming in a pool of water
  - b) collected with your coworkers' names
  - c) hidden under your desk
  - d) taking a bath
  
- 5. Which of the following means to manipulate or exploit the rules to get the result you want?**
  - a) game the system
  - b) maim the system
  - c) fame the system
  - d) tame the system

## Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever participated in a contest? What type of contest was it, and what did you have to do to participate?
2. Have you ever received any swaggy items? If so, what were they? If not, what swag would you like to receive?
3. Describe a time you were part of a collab.
4. Do you know of anyone who has successfully gamed the system? Who was it and how did they do it?
5. What is something you think is uber interesting, and why?

## Quiz Answers

1.c    2.a    3.d    4.b    5.a

### Episode credits

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