

Simplified Speech #149 – Kassy’s wedding story

Episode description

Here comes the bride! Kassy recently got married and in this episode, she tells Andrew all about her big day.

In our Simplified Speech series, native English speakers have natural conversations about everyday topics. These episodes are designed to boost your English listening skills and increase your vocabulary. On occasion, our hosts share their personal stories, making it easy to listen to these English audio lessons.

Fun fact

Due to the COVID pandemic, the number of weddings that occurred in 2020 fell by nearly 20%, the lowest since the 1960s. As the world starts to recover, the number of weddings that occur in 2022 is expected to explode.

Expressions included in the study guide

- Spill the beans
- Hiccup
- From the get-go
- Glam up
- Book it
- Taken



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're listening to the Culips English Podcast.

Welcome back to Culips. This is Simplified Speech, the Culips series, which features clear, natural, and easy to understand English conversations about interesting topics. Today, I'm joined by my cohost, Kassy. Hello, Kassy.

Kassy: Hey, Andrew. And hey, listeners.

Andrew: So, Kassy, it's been a couple of weeks since we recorded together. And usually we record every week, but we took a little break because of your wedding. So, I think congratulations are in order, you just got married. And on behalf of the Culips team and all of our listeners as well, I want to say congratulations!

Kassy: Thank you!

Andrew: Unfortunately, I wasn't able to make it to the wedding. But I'd still love to hear all about it. And I think our listeners are curious as well about how it went. So, I was thinking that you could tell us all about it during today's episode.

Kassy: Yeah, I can do that. But before I do, let's remind everyone about the study guide and transcript for this episode.

Andrew: Yes, good idea. So, guys, we make transcripts and study guides for all of our episodes, and we design them with you in mind and we create them to help you build your English skills and reach your English learning goals faster. So, you can get unlimited access to all of our study guides, plus other great bonuses by becoming a Culips member. And you can sign up and become a member on our website, which is Culips.com. C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Kassy: We also want to give a shout out to Seo Hyeon, one of our listeners from South Korea. Seo Hyeon left us a five-star rating and a great review on Apple Podcasts and wrote, "I always listen to Culips before I go to school, I'm 13 years old, before I go to bed, etc, etc. Culips helps me make English fun and easy. Andrew, Suzanne, Kassy and Anna, I love you all and thank you so much. Culips is the best." Wow, Seo Hyeon, thank you so

much for your amazing review and congrats on your English learning. 13 years old, pretty cool.

Andrew: I think Seo Hyeon will be able to graduate from listening to Culips pretty soon, Kassy. I think Seo Hyeon is well on their way to becoming a very fluent English speaker and writer because the writing in this review is perfect as well. I have to say I'm jealous, Kassy, I wish that I started learning Korean when I was 13. Maybe I could be as good as Seo Hyeon is at English right now.

Kassy: Seriously.

Andrew: So, Seo Hyeon, thank you for listening and your great review. And thanks to everyone around the world who has been supporting Culips with reviews and likes and subscriptions on YouTube and Instagram, all of these things. It really helps us and supports us and helps English learners connect with us and improve their English with us. So keep up the great work everyone. We love it.

And now Kassy, let's get to your wedding. Can you **spill the beans** and tell us about everything, how it went? All of the juicy details? Let's get into it. How did it go when you were getting ready and preparing for it? Did everything go smoothly? Were there any **hiccups** or anything? Walk us through what your day was like, the wedding day?

Kassy: OK. So, first, I was pretty lucky. My wedding was the last of the day at our wedding hall. We had our wedding at a wedding hall. And it was at 5pm pretty late for a wedding.

Andrew: I noticed that on the invitation. And I thought that was an interesting time for the wedding because, you know, traditionally weddings are in the morning. I was gonna ask you about that. Was that something that you chose or something that just kind of happens because of scheduling? Why did you have a later wedding?

Kassy: We had a later wedding, one because we wanted it on Saturday instead of Sunday, which they originally offered us when we went to that wedding hall and two because it was actually cheaper, which was pretty cool. We were a little nervous about it though because as you said, there aren't a lot of weddings in the evening. We were worried about how the guests would feel. But it was awesome having the wedding at 5pm and if I ever had to have a wedding again, it would be at 5pm.

Andrew: Yeah, you know, personally, in my opinion, I think it is a great time for a wedding. Especially like if you're traveling from out of town, you can kind of do a one-day trip, almost like you can go to the wedding and eat dinner at the reception, and then go home, you don't have to like maybe stay overnight. Like if the wedding is in the morning, maybe you have to get a hotel so you can be in the city in the morning of the wedding, so there's like that advantage. And then also, at least from our western point of view, I think after the wedding is kind of time for a party, right? It's like the reception is kind of a party

time. And so, if the wedding is in the morning, or like early afternoon, then you finish and you have the reception at like, I don't know, two or something like that. It's not really like the same party atmosphere. So, at least from my perspective, I think it's a great time to have a wedding. You know, my wedding was in the afternoon. It was fine, it was good. But I like this time, 5pm time slot.

Kassy: Yeah, the best part was not having to wake up early and be stressed **right from the get-go**. So, I actually woke up at like 9am on my wedding day, which is insane! Most people wake up at like 5 or 6am so they can be all **glammed up** and ready for their wedding.

Andrew: Yeah, that was what I had to do. I had to get up early, like five in the morning. And, you know, it was hilarious. I think I've mentioned this before, but I had to go with my wife to the salon where she did her hair and makeup. And I did my "hair and makeup" as well. Mine took about 4 minutes and hers took about 4 hours. So, I had to wake up early. And then I just sat there at the salon looking at my phone for hours. So yeah, that's a benefit for sure.

Kassy: Yeah, another benefit is, unlike other countries, at least western countries, where they have a reception after, in Korea, the wedding is like short, sweet, to the point and then you get out of there. So, the weddings in the morning and even the one right before mine. They only had the wedding hall for an hour because there's weddings back-to-back to back. But since mine was, yeah, at the end of the day, we could stay longer than an hour to take our pictures together. And then when we went to the buffet area later, we were the only ones in the buffet. So, there were no lines. There were no crowds, especially with COVID. It was perfect.

Andrew: That's another thing that maybe we should explain. Our Korean listeners will know about this, but for our international listeners around the world, in Korea, many people get married at these facilities, like Kassy mentioned, which is called a *wedding hall*. And they are often very busy. So, just like you said, Kassy, there will be wedding after wedding after wedding. And each wedding lasts for around an hour. And each building each wedding hall will have a different number of auditoriums for having the wedding ceremony in. But there is one bigger restaurant, usually in the basement. It's like a buffet and they serve a lot of different kinds of food. And personally, I love wedding buffets. They're pretty delicious, in my opinion. But what will happen is maybe the wedding hall will have like four weddings happening at the same time. And when those weddings finish, the people and the guests from all four weddings will be down in the buffet restaurant at the same time eating for the reception. So, it's kind of weird sometimes because you'll have like all of these strangers that you don't know at the wedding. So, I guess you didn't have this issue, there weren't any strangers at your reception?

Kassy: Well, there were still plenty of strangers but ones that at least my fiancé knew, even if I didn't know them.

Andrew: Maybe strange to you personally but somehow connected to your family in some way.

Kassy: Yes, exactly.

Andrew: How many guests did you have at the wedding, Kassy?

Kassy: That was surprising. We actually had a pretty big turnout, I would say about 120 or 30 people, which was a lot for COVID times.

Andrew: And did you do any traditional Korean wedding things, like any of the ceremonial Korean and traditions in the wedding?

Kassy: After the wedding, when we went down to the buffet area, I wore traditional Korean *hanbok* to greet the guests after the wedding. And during the wedding, we spoke our vows in Korean. And we did the whole ceremony and then at the last part of the wedding before we walked down the aisle again, usually, in Korean culture, you have to greet the parents and bow to them formally. And then to each side, which was actually pretty fun for our wedding because we of course, bowed to my fiancé's parents first. And then my parents were not there. They couldn't make it to Korea. So, I actually had two of my friends recording and translating the entire ceremony. And we actually had them come up on stage holding the camera, and we bowed to the camera, so that my parents could get the full experience.

Andrew: That's awesome. That's really fun. Did you have any kind of special things as a part of your ceremony? Do you have like an MC? Did you have a song or dance number? I know a lot of weddings in Korea are actually quite entertaining because somebody will sing or do a performance like one of your friends or something like that. Did you have anything like that as a part of your wedding ceremony?

Kassy: We did have two of my—I guess it's my husband now, feels weird to say still, listeners. I'm getting used to it.

Andrew: Yeah, it takes a little while to get used to it.

Kassy: Yeah, two of my husband's friends did sing for us, which was nice. But actually, the most special part of our ceremony was actually provided by my side of the family. No one from my family could come to the wedding. I think it was the same for yours, too, right, Andrew?

Andrew: Yep, nobody. Nobody came, it was right in the peak of COVID and too dangerous to travel overseas at that time. So, similar to you, Kassy, we just streamed the wedding to our friends and family back home. They watched on their phones and computers, but nobody was actually in attendance.

Kassy: Yeah, so, this actually happened before COVID. Several years ago, for my aunt's wedding. She got married abroad, and our family decided to show our love and support back then by making videos to congratulate the couple and show it during the wedding. And they're like, why don't we do that for your wedding as well. So, my fiancé at the time, husband now, he collected all of the videos without letting me watch. And he translated them all so that they had Korean subtitles, so that the Korean audience could understand what my family was saying, and friends, and they presented it during the wedding. It was quite long. It was about a 14-minute video. And the guests later said that it was so special to see. I was crying the entire time of course. But some of the guests, they were family members of Dong Ik, my husband, but they hadn't really met me much. They didn't know much about me. But they said by watching that video and seeing what my family had to say about me and Dong Ik. They felt, you know, kind of closer, in a way, to us. They felt like they were learning more about us through those videos.

Andrew: That's awesome. That sounds like a very touching and nice thing. And I'm sure that was great to see at the ceremony. I was going to ask you, Kassy, if you cried, and I guess you already answered that question.

Kassy: I was so afraid my makeup was like all over my face, but it was OK.

Andrew: It would be a good idea for a makeup company to have tear-free makeup maybe for weddings. What about the bouquet toss? Did you toss a bouquet at the end of the wedding ceremony?

Kassy: I did not, which is going to shock people, yeah.

Andrew: Why not?

Kassy: All of my friends are either married, already engaged or left Korea. So, I didn't really have like a really close girlfriend that I could throw it to. So, I just decided to skip that part.

Andrew: Skip that part, I see. And now, as we mentioned earlier, receptions are a big part of western weddings. But not so much in Korea. It's more like, you know, going to the buffet, having a meal and then that's it. I have been to some weddings in Korea with some of my American friends and they have had American style weddings with big receptions and parties that have gone all night. And I've been to some weddings in Korea, from my American and Canadian friends where that hasn't happened at all, they've just done it Korean style. I did it kind of Korean style as well, my wedding here. What about you? Did you have an American style reception and party? Or did you just have dinner after the wedding and that was it? How did you handle this part?

Kassy: Yeah, it was pretty short. We pretty much just had the ceremony and dinner. We did walk around to all the tables and a bunch of my coworkers and three of my students actually came as well, they really wanted to. So, I was like, "OK, sure you can come." So

that was fun. And then after the wedding was over, we actually rented an Airbnb for a couple of my husband's friends who traveled from different cities, and they stayed the night. So, we went to their Airbnb for an hour or two after the wedding to hang out.

Andrew: Nice. Now, I know that you mentioned to us before that you were going to go to Jeju-do for your honeymoon. And have you done the honeymoon yet? I can't remember if you are going to do it immediately after the wedding or wait for a different time. Are you back from your honeymoon or is that still in the future going to happen?

Kassy: Yeah, we actually got on a boat at 7am the day after our wedding and we took a boat to Jeju so we could bring our car and we stayed there a week. It was very fun.

Andrew: Oh, nice. OK, so for some listeners who don't know Jeju Island is an island off the southern part of the Korean peninsula, which is very nice. Many people say it is like the Hawaii of Korea and I went there for my honeymoon as well. I think it's like the most popular honeymoon destination for couples in South Korea, especially during this COVID time when international travel is difficult. What were the highlights of your trip to Jeju-do?

Kassy: We were actually not very typical honeymoony people. Like we didn't do a lot of the romantic stuff. We were really excited to get out in nature after, you know, being stuck inside in the winter. So, we hiked Sunrise Peak, which is a famous little mountain in Korea, and we hiked all the way to the peak of Hallasan which is the tallest mountain in Korea.

Andrew: Yeah. It's lovely.

Kassy: Yeah, there was still snow on the ground, Andrew, it was a little scary.

Andrew: How long did it take you to climb to the top?

Kassy: It took us 5 hours and 45 minutes to go up and down.

Andrew: Oh, that's pretty good. That's pretty good. I went one time with one of the study guide writers on the Culips team and we climbed in the winter and the snow was extremely deep. And it took us about 9 hours, so it was slow going as we trudged through the snow it was like up to you know, past our knees at some point, so it was long.

Kassy: Oh my gosh.

Andrew: But 5 hours, 6 hours. That's pretty good. You guys were quick, quick ascenders and descenders.

Kassy: Yeah, we **booked it** up and then we ran out of water on the downhill, so we were just like, "Let's go, we need *agua*."

Andrew: Well, Kassy, is there anything that we missed? Any other details that you'd like to share with us before we wrap this episode up?

Kassy: Nope, that's pretty much it. It was overall a really beautiful experience and I'm so thankful to all my friends and family who could be there and support us whether they were there in person or abroad.

Andrew: And final question for you. Do you feel any different now that you're married? Does anything feel different to you?

Kassy: Not especially but sometimes I get this like little warm fuzzy feeling like wow, you know, I'm off the market now. Totally **taken**.

Andrew: Very good. Well, congratulations again, Kassy, on your wedding to you and your husband as well. And everyone that will bring us to the end of this episode, so thanks for listening. And of course, congratulations on doing some English practice today. Great job as always.

Kassy: If you like Culips, and find us helpful for growing your English skills, we appreciate your support. The best way to support us is by signing up and becoming a Culips member on our website, Culips.com. But that's not the only way. You could also tell your friends who are learning English to check us out. You could follow us on social media. Or you could leave us a five-star review and a positive comment on your favourite podcast app.

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

Kassy: See ya.

Detailed Explanations

Spill the beans

Idiom

Spill the beans means to tell a secret or spoil a surprise. When people **spill the beans**, they're often revealing information by accident. Some also use **spill the beans** to mean "share the details" or "tell me everything about what happened." In this episode, for example, Andrew says, "can you **spill the beans**" when asking Kassy about her wedding. In other words, he is asking if she can tell him everything interesting that happened during her wedding.

The *beans* in this idiom is the information, rather than actual beans. One possible origin of this idiom dates to ancient Greece when people voted using beans to keep their votes anonymous. They put their bean, or vote, in a jar, with white beans meaning "yes" and black or dark-coloured beans meaning "no". If someone knocked over the jar, and **spilled the beans**, they revealed the results of the vote before it was over.

Here are a couple more examples with **spill the beans**:

Violet: Will I see you this weekend?

Margaret: This weekend? Is there something happening this weekend?

Violet: Oh, uh. Well, maybe not.

Margaret: I'm just kidding! We will definitely see you this weekend for Jamie's surprise party. Just don't you go **spilling the beans**!

Violet: I would never!

Benjamin: I gotta apologize to you, man.

Hui: Why? Did you do something?

Benjamin: I accidentally **spilled the beans**. The manager overheard me telling Ahmed about how you broke the coffee machine. Now he's on his way over.

Hui: Dude! Why were you even talking about that at the work? Shoot, there he is. I gotta hide.

Hiccup

Noun

A **hiccup** is an error, malfunction, difficulty, or setback. **Hiccups** are minor and do cause delays and interruptions. Even so, they're always short-lived and never serious.

For example, let's say you're working on a project and realize that some data is missing or in the wrong place. You could call that a **hiccup**. That's because it's a problem you can solve, but it will take a bit of time to fix.

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

Guanyu: Shun, can I get a progress report on the new product launch? It's coming up soon. Will we meet the deadline?

Shun: Ah, yes! Of course. Other than a few **hiccups** with the delivery, we're on track and will be ready for the big launch, which is, I believe, two weeks from now.

Guanyu: That's great to hear. Were the **hiccups** anything we should be concerned about for future deliveries?

Shun: No, I don't think so. According to the notes, we ended up switching delivery companies and the new company will have faster delivery times. So, it worked out in the end!

Farhan: Welcome back, Evie. Did you have a good lunch?

Evie: I did! We went to that new little café down the street. It was expensive but delicious. Were our computers fixed while we were out for lunch, or should I go grab another coffee?

Farhan: Everything's up and running again. The IT guy said that there was a **hiccup** in the power supply, and that's what caused everything to stop working. I've checked the main company folder and it seems like everything is there.

Evie: Oh, perfect. I have a huge presentation tomorrow and I really needed to get my documents in order today. So, I'm going to go do that now, before any other problems come along.

Farhan: Good luck!

From the get-go

Idiom

From the get-go means from the beginning. When something is true or happens **from the get-go**, it's been true or happening since a process or activity started. For example: Susie and Amy have been friends **from the get-go**. This means Susie and Amy have been friends since they first met.

In this episode, Kassy mentions that the best part of having her wedding start at 5pm was “not having to wake up early and be stressed right **from the get-go**.” She was able to start her wedding day relaxed, not stressed, because she knew she had time to get ready.

Here are a couple more examples with **from the get-go**:

Tina: How was your weekend with your family? Did you finally get to meet your brother's new girlfriend?

Khadija: Ugh. Yeah, I met her. It feels like she just didn't like me **from the get-go**.

Tina: Oh no, what happened?

Khadija: I have no idea! I don't think I did anything to make her hate me, but yeah. She kept making mean comments about the way I looked and every time I was talking to my brother she would interrupt and pull him away. It was so bad.

Tina: That sounds rough. Hopefully you'll never have to see her again!

Pyong-Ho: Thanks for sending me the team roster. I had a question though, since when has this guy, Rayner, been on the team?

Jack: He's been on the team **from the get-go**. I think he was actually the first guy that passed the fitness and skills tests.

Pyong-Ho: Really? I don't think I've seen him at practice or any of the games.

Jack: That's odd. Actually, now that you mention it, I don't think I have either. I'll contact him to see if he'll be coming to the next practice.

Pyong-Ho: Great, thanks.

Glam up Slang

Glam up means to make more glamorous. Someone might **glam up** by wearing nice clothes, make-up, or unique clothing. Something **glammed up** is appealing, attractive, beautiful, or special. In this episode, Kassy mentions that most brides have to wake up early on their wedding days, “So, they can be all **glammed up** and ready.” This means they wake up early to do their hair and make-up and get dressed.

It’s most often used in the past tense—**glammed up**—to show that someone or something is already beautiful.

Here are a few more examples with **glammed up**:

Glen: Since the party starts at 9pm, did you want to get dinner beforehand?

Samantha: I won’t be ready in time to go for dinner. It’s gonna take me hours to get **glammed up** for the party.

Glen: Oh! I didn’t know that. Okay, should I pick you up at around 8:30 then?

Samantha: 8:30 would be perfect. I can’t wait for you to see my outfit!

Aaliyah: Did you watch the Oscars last night?

Sukhon: No, I was too tired. I’m really sad I missed it though! I love seeing the celebrities all **glammed up** on the red carpet.

Aaliyah: Me too! There were some fabulous outfits this year, too. I’m sure there will be a bunch of photos online.

Sukhon: We should totally look through them at lunch.

Yassin: Hun, you look amazing! Are we going somewhere special tonight?

Kristin: Nope! I just wanted to **glam up** for a night out with my boyfriend.

Yassin: And that’s one of the many reasons I love you.

Book it Slang

Book it means to go somewhere fast or to leave in a rush. In this episode, Kassy and Andrew talk about hiking up Halla Mountain on Jeju Island in South Korea. Andrew comments on how quickly Kassy and her husband hiked up and down the mountain. She replies, “we **booked it** up and then we ran out of water on the downhill, so we were just like ‘Let’s go, we need *agua*.’” They hiked quickly up the mountain and then, on their way back down, they ran out of water and were very thirsty. So, they hiked down fast as well.

Book it originally meant to run away from the police or someone of authority. However, these days it’s used more generally to mean going somewhere very quickly or leaving in a rush.

Here are a few more examples with **book it**:

Daiki: You’re late, man.

Eugene: Sorry! There was an accident on the highway. Did you get the tickets?

Daiki: I did, but if we don’t **book it** now, we’re going to miss the start of the movie!

Eugene: Isn’t the first 10 minutes just movie trailers and commercials?

Daiki: Not always! Come on, hurry!

Amira: Can you help me look for my dog?

Jacqueline: Oh no, did Snickers run away? Of course, I’ll help you.

Amira: He **booked it** right out the door this morning and he hasn’t come back.

Jacqueline: Oh dear. Well, don’t worry. We’ll find him!

Yan: Let’s go! We need to **book it** to the next class.

Warren: What? Why?

Yan: I just found out there’s a test, and I haven’t studied at all!

Warren: There’s a test? Oh no, let’s go!

Taken Adjective

When a person is **taken**, it means that person is in a relationship, married, or unavailable romantically. As Kassy mentions in this episode, now that she's married, she's "totally **taken**". So, she's saying that she's not available to date anyone else now. In other words, the opposite of being single is being **taken**.

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

Holly: I can't believe that guy last night. He wouldn't leave you alone!

Yuri: I know. He kept getting really close to me, like, close enough I could feel his breath on my face. It was so creepy.

Holly: So creepy. I was going to step between you guys, but then he just left. What did you say to make him go away?

Yuri: Oh, I told him I was **taken**.

Holly: And he believed you?

Yuri: No. But then the bartender came over and pretended to be my boyfriend! Then the creep left.

Holly: The bartender! What a hero. He made really good drinks too.

Yuri: I heard he's **taken**, though.

Holly: Darn.

Katsuro: Have you found a date for the prom yet?

Julian: No, not yet. I don't think there's anyone I want to go with.

Katsuro: What about Erika? You guys were always hanging out, weren't you?

Julian: I can't ask her, she's **taken**.

Katsuro: What? She's dating someone? I didn't know that!

Julian: Yeah, she started dating Tony three weeks ago.

Quiz

1. Which of the following means to dress up and make oneself look beautiful?

- a) clam up
- b) slam up
- c) glam up
- d) jam up

2. Your friend just spilled the beans. What did they do?

- a) ran away
- b) got sick and threw up
- c) knocked over a jar of beans
- d) told a secret

3. Which of the following mean to go somewhere as quickly as you can?

- a) book it
- b) look it
- c) hook it
- d) rook it

4. A company gives employees an ID badge from the get-go. When do the employees get their ID badge?

- a) when they start working there
- b) when they stop working there
- c) when they prove they work well
- d) never

5. Which of the following is a small error, mistake or delay?

- a) burp
- b) hiccup
- c) cough
- d) sneeze

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever spilled the beans about something? What was it and why did you share that secret?
2. Describe a hiccup you've experienced with a project or goal you've been working towards.
3. What is something that you've had from get-go (this could be at your workplace, at school, or even a friendship...)?
4. When was the last time you were glammed up? Where did you go and what did you do?
5. Describe a time you booked it to or from somewhere. Why did you need to move quickly?

Quiz Answers

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

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