

## Simplified Speech #210 – Indiana's move (ad free)

### Episode description

In this episode of Simplified Speech, Andrew and Indiana discuss her recent move to a new house. They talk about the exciting but exhausting process of buying and moving into a home, the challenges of unpacking, and the traditions surrounding moving day. Indiana shares her experience of house hunting for months and finally settling into her new space, while Andrew reflects on his own moving experiences.

### Fun fact

In Montreal, "Moving Day" on July 1st is an intense event, with some estimates suggesting that more than 100,000 people move on this single day each year. This tradition has made it one of the busiest days for moving companies and has a major impact on local traffic and logistics.

### Expressions included in the study guide

- Every waking hour/moment
- Go to town
- So far, so good
- Upgrade
- In limbo
- (Not) the person to ask



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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:** Simplified Speech episode 210, "Indiana's move." Featuring Andrew and Indiana.

Hey guys, it's Andrew here. Just a quick announcement for you before we get started with this episode. And that is that we're currently having a sale at Culips. You can save 25% on a yearly membership right now. And I know you're already a member, so thank you so much for studying and learning with Culips. But I wanted to tell you that even though you're already a member, you can still take advantage of this sale.

So, if you're a monthly Culips member, then changing to a yearly membership will be much more affordable. Or if you're already a yearly member, then you can extend your membership by another year at the discounted price. The sale is happening until January the 15th, and to change your membership type or extend your membership for the sale price, then just log into your Culips account, and you can do that. Or if you need some help, just send us a message, [contact@culips.com](mailto:contact@culips.com), and we'll be happy to help you with that.

OK, so with that announcement out of the way, let's get started with this episode. Here we go. Enjoy.

So, joining me here today to talk about moving is my co-host, Indiana. Hello, Indiana. How are you?

**Indiana:** I'm tired, but happy. How are you, Andrew?

**Andrew:** I'm good. I'm good, Indiana. Tired, but happy. I wonder if this is related to your recent move. Is that why you're tired? And is that why you're happy?

**Indiana:** It certainly is. It's very exciting to be in my new house, but **every waking moment** is dedicated to, if I'm not working, if I'm not walking my dog, I'm unpacking and, you know, putting things away and cleaning things. The whole process of moving, it never ends. So, I'm very tired.

**Andrew:** Well, hang in there. I know it's an exhausting experience. Just thinking about moving gives me the shivers. Like, to be honest, it's one of the things that I hate most in life. And I'm glad that maybe I won't, hopefully, fingers crossed, you never know what the future will hold. But hopefully I don't have to do it again for a long, long time. But we're not going to talk about my moving experience today, Indiana. We're going to get into yours because you're in the thick of it right now, which means you're in the middle of it, right? I think you just moved over the weekend. So, we're recording on a Tuesday. It's been how many days in the new place?

**Indiana:** Yeah, the big move with all the furniture and everything was Saturday, and that was our first night at the house. So, yep, just been a few days.

**Andrew:** OK, well, great. So, let's get into it then. Maybe one of the episodes we recorded not too long ago, and I don't know if that actually made it into the episode or if we were just chatting during that time. I can't remember, but you had told me that you were in an apartment, and you were thinking about maybe, hopefully, moving to a house at that time. And so, I guess that happened, right? Is that true? Am I remembering this correctly, that you were in an apartment before?

**Indiana:** That's right. Yeah. My husband and I have been searching for a house, house hunting, as they say. For, yeah, a really long time. Most of this year. Yeah. So, we're first-

time home buyers, but the inventory on the market, the number of houses available, very few. And it took a very long time to find something that was in our budget and also worked for us. So, it was like, yeah, eight months of searching, which is not normal, I think. Usually, from what I've read is it takes a couple months, but yeah, it was a long, long process, but we've made it. We bought our house.

**Andrew:** Nice. Well, congratulations. I didn't realize that you had purchased a house. So that's a big first step.

**Indiana:** Yeah.

**Andrew:** I went through this recently, not too long ago as well. So, I think it feels like super exciting and also a little bit nerve wracking as well. Right? It's like a stressful, big step that you have to take. Are you feeling the same way? Like really happy, but also a little bit like, that's a big step.

**Indiana:** I would say so. I'm lucky that my husband is a very handy kind of person, DIY guy. He can fix almost anything. So, like, for example, our bedroom door was not latching properly. So that means like when you close it, it wasn't staying closed, it would just reopen and he just went to Home Depot, **went to town on it** in like an hour and fixed it. So that was incredible. If I didn't have him, I would be lost in the new home ownership world. But yeah, it's scary with expenses cause there's a lot more things you have to worry about breaking and fixing yourself cause you don't have a landlord to do that. No, but all that is to say, yeah, excited, but it is a little bit nerve wracking with what could happen, what could go wrong, but **so far, so good**.

**Andrew: So far, so good.** Nice. All right. So, you just got in there a couple of days ago and how did you move? Did you hire a moving company? Did you rent a U-Haul truck or similar service? Did you beg your friends with a pickup truck to take all your furniture over to the new place? What was the kind of move that you did?

**Indiana:** So, it's shockingly expensive to hire movers in the U.S., at least right now. So yeah, we are lucky enough to have a lot of friends who were free on Saturday. And so, we rented a U-Haul, which is, as you mentioned, a moving truck that you can rent. And I know that in some countries you would have to have a trucker's license, a special license in order to drive these vehicles. But in the U.S., you can just have your regular driver's license. So, in case any listeners are confused about that, no, I can't drive a truck, but you are allowed to drive a U-Haul as a regular license-bearing person.

**Andrew:** Did you do any of the driving?

**Indiana:** No.

**Andrew:** OK.

**Indiana:** I left that to others. I've actually never driven a U-Haul because I'm... no, that's not true. Wait, I did drive a U-Haul once and I was white knuckling it the whole time. I was so scared. And I had my friend in the passenger seat for moral support. I'm a very nervous driver.

**Andrew:** Yeah. Yeah. It is a little nerve wracking to move from a car all of a sudden to a bigger truck like that, for sure. So, you got your friends to help you. And I don't know what it's like in the States, but, and the last place I lived in Canada before moving to Korea was Montreal. And Montreal has this crazy system where most apartment leases, which are like on a one-year lease, they all end on July 1st. So that means like July 1st, they call moving day and like tons and tons of people from the city move that day. And it's kind of crazy. Like so many people are just swapping apartments on the same day.

**Indiana:** Sounds like a terrible system.

**Andrew:** It's a terrible system. Yeah, it really is. I remember moving a couple of times on July 1st and I also helped some friends move on July 1st, on moving day. And it's also Canada day, the holiday on July 1st too. So, it's a, a day off. So, you know, your friends can't be like, "I got to go to the office." No, we've got a holiday. You're going to help me move. But the tradition in Montreal, or at least among my circle of friends was like, your friends help you move, then afterwards you got to buy them some pizza and beer. Is there any like kind of tradition like that, that you show your appreciation to your friends in your neighborhood or where you come from?

**Indiana:** Same tradition. The beer is not necessary, but it's definitely pizza. You got to get pizza for your friends afterwards. And so, we did. And my mom had brought over some champagne to celebrate, you know, buying a new house. And so, I said, why not? We'll pass around the champagne with the pizza and combine those two delicacies. Yeah.

**Andrew:** Nice. I love it. OK. And so, I'm imagining, I don't know how big your apartment was, but I'm imagining that moving into a house is like a size **upgrade** as well. Is it a lot more space than you had before?

**Indiana:** Yeah, it's not a ton more space, but it's definitely an **upgrade**. I think we were at about twelve hundred square feet before and now it's sixteen fifty. So definitely an **upgrade**. But yeah, it's not like double or anything like that.

**Andrew:** So how are you going to decorate the place? Do you need to get some new furniture maybe to fill up those extra four hundred square feet? Or do you have any plans for how you're going to set up the new home?

**Indiana:** Yeah, I am working on that. We need new couches and I do have a fireplace in my living room, which is a really nice sort of focal point, like, to look at as you enter the room. So, building some things around that, maybe putting some plants up or shelves to

try to enhance that focal point in the living room. And my parents-in-law gifted us a new bed as a housewarming gift. It was pretty cool. So, we've **upgraded** from a queen to a king, which is crazy. I've like hardly ever slept in a king bed in my life. But yeah, I have to get some new sheets and like a duvet and try to decide the color scheme of the bedroom and how I want that to look. And so, yeah, those are kind of the current design and color choices I'm tackling right now.

**Andrew:** I like that word that you just used a second ago, "A focal point." And that's, I guess, an interior design term. And we use it a lot when we're talking about some special feature in a room, which is where your focus goes to, right? The focal point of the living room then is that fireplace. And when you walk into the room, that's like the main thing. That's where your attention and focus is going to go. Cool. Is it a wood burning fireplace or a gas fireplace?

**Indiana:** It's a gas fireplace and it works. It's really nice. It really gives off a lot, of a lot of heat. I like the idea of a wood burning fireplace, but in practice, I don't think I would actually ever use it because I think the smell is very strong of burning wood. I don't know if I would love that right in my living room.

**Andrew:** Smoky. Yeah, very smoky smell and a lot of work. You got to go chop trees and yeah, gas is the way to go for all of the modern conveniences that it brings, I think. So, are you kind of **in limbo** right now with unpacking everything? Like, have you even started tackling the unpacking or is all your stuff still in boxes still?

**Indiana:** My primary focus has been on making the kitchen usable, accessible, because like my husband and I, we do a lot of cooking and we've kind of been living on takeout for a week before the move because we were busy packing, and we were packing our pots and pans away. I'm getting kind of sick of takeout. I would like a home cooked meal. So, yeah, it's almost done, but that's my primary target here. Get the kitchen going.

**Andrew:** Yeah, that's a good place to start. And it's always awkward, you know, when you're moving, and you don't know what to do with the fridge. Like, do you take the stuff, like the half-eaten jar of pickles? Do you pack that and take it with you to the new place? Or do you just like have a pickle party and like eat them all the night before you leave? I always find that awkward when you have like half eaten stuff in the fridge that you got to take. But yeah, getting the kitchen set up, that makes a lot of sense. Tell me about the new neighborhood. What's your new neighborhood like?

**Indiana:** I would say it's very similar to my old neighborhood, residential, but we live in a city, so the houses are pretty close together. There's not large lot sizes, not huge yards. I've met some of my neighbors. They seem really lovely. Seems like there's some kids in the neighborhood, too. My husband was here like fixing something before we moved in and he heard a lot of kids on the street. What's cool, too, though, is it's a residential street and it's quite quiet. But on the other side of some woods is a more, I don't know how I should put this, but one of those stroads, like a street road, kind of those larger roads that you see in the U.S. where there's a lot of businesses or grocery stores and stuff like that. So, it doesn't feel like I'm near that, but I could just kind of walk through these woods and get to like a grocery store. It's hard to find that kind of accessibility and walkability in a lot of U.S. cities. I feel like, yeah, it's unlucky to be in a street that feels like residential. It's very quiet. But then I can also very, very quickly, not even by car, just walk over to a grocery store. Kind of cool.

**Andrew:** Yeah, that's like such huge culture shock for me to an extent. I guess maybe Canada is the same way where a lot of suburbs won't be too close to, you know, convenient shopping like that, like going to a grocery store. And so unfortunately, you usually do have to drive a car. But that's like if you're in the burbs, if you're in a downtown area, I never really had that issue. I was always within a walking distance to a grocery store. But I was watching some videos on urban planning in the USA, and I was really shocked the way that the streets are so focused on cars and there's no real space for

pedestrians. Pedestrians are what we call walkers or people who are, yeah, walking on the sidewalk, pedestrians. And yeah, I guess it's city by city. Some cities are going to be designed much, much better than other cities. But in some of the examples in that YouTube video, the distance between where people were living in like an apartment building or a suburb and the distance to a grocery store or supermarket wasn't that far. It was like a walkable distance just over a mile or something, which maybe is a little ways away, but you could walk if you wanted to. But the way that the roads and the streets were laid out was that it was so impractical and so dangerous. Because the sidewalks were bad, or there weren't traffic signs, or too many lanes in the road, and lots of cars, that people would just never walk there. And so, I'm happy to hear that you have that option available. You're not like the example city in the YouTube video, which I think was in Texas. That is the city that I saw there.

**Indiana:** Yeah, I mean, it definitely feels like a rarity. It feels like a special treat to be situated in this particular spot. So far, my experience in the city is maybe there would be like a tiny, tiny bodega or corner store where you could get like a couple of vegetables, some cans of things, but you couldn't really get, yeah, like all that you needed from just walking over. So, it's cool. I'm glad I look forward to walking to the grocery store.

**Andrew:** Yeah, yeah, for sure. So, could you tell us just a little bit about your house design? I'm sure some of our listeners would like to know about like what is kind of just a standard American house layout like. Like here in Korea, I live in a very, very tiny home and it's what we would call a rancher, which means that there's only one floor. Like you walk into the house and you're just on one level the whole time. We don't have an upstairs second floor. We don't have a basement. We're just all on one level. So that's called a rancher. And I'm curious about, like, the design of your home. Do you have an attic or a basement or are you a rancher like me?

**Indiana:** I do not live in a rancher, or I think more commonly in the U.S. you might say a ranch. And then I think in the West they might call them ramblers, but I always hear ranch

in the east. It is a two-story home and it's detached, as you would expect. Most commonly, homes that you buy in the U.S. are going to be those detached single-family homes. The style of house that I live in, like it's listed as a Cape Cod style, and I do love to watch House Hunters, but I don't know, you know, all the details of those terms. But I think a Cape Cod, I think the feature is that you walk up the stairs and then there are the bedrooms. And the way that the roof on a Cape Cod house is designed, it could have a pretty severe slant, or it could be a more gradual tapering off of the roof. So, you know, the point that I'm trying to make here is it's not a flat or fairly flat roof. There's a lot of angles. So, you see that in the bedrooms there. Instead of being a box, there's sort of these slanted roof parts kind of coming into the bedroom, creating like a different shape. And in addition to that being a feature in the bedrooms, there's often big closets or like storage space that goes into those parts of the roof. So, kind of an unusual room shape. It's also kind of like a triangle. But yeah, some pretty cool big closets in there. So that would be the main features of my house.

**Andrew:** Uh-huh. I got it. I know exactly what kind of house you're talking about. You got to be careful if you're really tall in those kinds of rooms. You can... you can kind of bang your head if you're not careful. And wow, I'm so jealous about all of the closet space. That's like the one thing that I struggle with in our little home here is having enough space for all of our clothes. We recently just took out our winter clothes and our winter jackets. And my wife, yeah, took all of those out and we put away our clothes for the summer. And it's not so bad in the summer because, you know, it's just like T-shirts and shorts and those don't take up too much space. But then once we put all of our big winter coats and heavy sweaters into our cupboard, then it's like not enough space. So, I'm a little bit jealous. Indiana, it sounds like you have lots of nice cupboard space and storage space for all of your stuff.

**Indiana:** Definitely. And I also have, as you mentioned earlier, there is an attic. It's not a big attic, but there is an attic and there is a basement. So, even more space, although and

this is an interesting thing. There are what we call finished basements and unfinished basements. And what I would imagine that the first thing is that listeners will think of is an unfinished basement. So, it's kind of like that cement or concrete floor, a little cold, nothing on the walls, really just more slightly dungeony. That is what I have. That is what I have. But a lot of people will finish their basements. So, it really becomes like a whole new living space. And by finishing it, they add drywall, they make it look nice, they paint it. The floor is covered with maybe like a laminate flooring that's like, you know, some sort of plastic that's meant to look like hardwood or maybe they'll put tile down. So, yeah, that's a common thing that Americans will do in their basements. They will finish them. I don't think I can finish mine because of the ceiling height. It has to be a certain height. It's kind of low. But I was realizing that that might not be a super common thing. And other countries, other places. So, yeah, I wanted to mention finished basements and unfinished basements. I have an unfinished one.

**Andrew:** Yeah, yeah. A very good distinction and kind of doesn't make sense, right? Like you have a finished basement. What does that mean? But it just means that it's been completely built and, yeah, insulated and carpeted or some flooring has been put down and it just looks like any other regular space in the home, whereas an unfinished basement is very raw and kind of like one of those dark cellar areas that's not too pleasant to spend some time in. So, what are you going to do with your basement then? Are you just going to use it for storage or maybe you'll have a basement show like we were talking about in the previous episode?

**Indiana:** I'm sure my neighbors wouldn't love that.

**Andrew:** Yeah, it's a little bit different when you're the homeowner, right? You're like, ah, yeah, I don't know if I'd like that so much.

**Indiana:** That's a cool idea, though. Yeah, maybe play some music down there with some friends and maybe not a show, but like, yeah, a little jamming.

**Andrew:** A little jam space. Cool.

**Indiana:** Yeah, my husband likes to do DIY projects, so maybe he will have a little space in the basement for soldering or if he ever gets into woodworking, that would be an ideal space for that kind of activity. But right now, yeah, I think it'll just be storage and laundry down there.

**Andrew:** Could you just briefly explain what soldering is for our listeners who don't know? And maybe even me because I don't think I could explain it super well. I know it's like with electronics, right? You're sort of attaching wires to circuit boards. Is that what soldering is? Something like that?

**Indiana:** Pretty much. And I'm **not the person to ask**, even though I've been told countless times what, what he's doing. But yeah, I think solder is maybe the material that you're linking the connections on a circuit board with. Yeah, something like that. So, it's basically like you're heating up this sort of liquidy looking metal. Maybe it's lead based. I honestly, I shouldn't be answering this question, but you have like a pen or some sort of tool like and you're kind of... not a pen literally, but this tool that's shaped like a pen. And you're linking the connections on the circuit. So, yeah, you could build electronics that way. Or if you're really good at fixing things, you might be able to take a look at a circuit board, see if there are connections that are broken and then like, you know, maybe in a vacuum. Oh, why is my vacuum turning on? You're just like, actually, I don't know. Is a vacuum of a circuit board? Maybe if it's a smart one, but something like that.

**Andrew:** Yeah. Maybe an old radio or something. You could see what's broken and fix it.

**Indiana:** Yeah. So, you could kind of try to diagnose it and then see if you could make that connection by soldering it. I don't know. It's beyond me, but that's something that my husband likes to do.

**Andrew:** It's a cool hobby. It's a cool hobby. Well, Indiana, maybe we'll leave it here. And yeah, thank you for telling us all about your move. I know that it's kind of a stressful time, but yeah, keep us updated. Let us know what kind of design choices you've made in the future, what colors you went for for your new king size sheets. I think our listeners will love to hear that update.

**Indiana:** The exciting news from Indiana's new house.

**Andrew:** And that will bring us to the end of our discussion today, all about moving. Of course, a big thanks to Indiana for sharing her story with us and a big thanks to you as well for listening all the way to the end. Pat yourself on the back for completing an English study sesh with us today. Good job.

That brings us to the end of this lesson. Talk to you next time. Bye.

## Detailed Explanations

### Every waking hour/moment Expression

In this episode, Indiana explains that after moving into her new house, she spends **every waking moment** unpacking, cleaning, and organizing. This means she is busy all day long, from the time she wakes up until she goes to bed, with no free time.

“**Every waking moment/hour**” is an expression we use when something happens continuously throughout the day. It isn’t just a few hours here or there, instead, it means you do something almost all day.

For example, if you say, “I spent every waking moment working on the project,” it means you worked on it from morning to night, without stopping.

You can use this expression whenever you want to emphasize how busy or focused you are. Here are a few examples:

1. “I’ve been thinking about this problem every waking hour.”
2. “She was worried about her sick pet every waking moment.”

A similar expression is “around the clock.” For example, if you say, “I worked on this project around the clock,” it means you worked day and night, without taking significant breaks.

Here are a couple more examples with **every waking hour/moment**:

**Stan:** Do you think you're ready for the exam?

**Rita:** I hope so! I did my best. I’ve been studying **every waking hour**, so I’m as prepared as I can be.

**Phil:** How’s the baby doing?

**Emma:** She’s been great, but I feel like I spend **every waking moment** with her. There's always something to do! But it’s worth it, because seeing her smile makes it all feel easier.

## Go to town

Idiom, informal

Indiana uses the expression **go to town** when talking about a problem with her bedroom door. She explains that her husband went to Home Depot and then “went to town on it,” meaning he worked very hard to fix the door. This expression shows that someone does something with a lot of energy or effort.

**"Go to town"** is a very casual expression that means to do an activity with a lot of focus, energy, or excitement. It is often used when someone works hard, does something quickly, or really enjoys doing it. It can also mean doing something in a big way, with a lot of action.

Here are some ways people often use this expression:

1. "I went to town at the buffet at the party." (I ate a lot of food and really enjoyed it.)
2. "She really went to town when cleaning the kitchen." (She cleaned the kitchen very well and very thoroughly.)

You will often hear this expression in everyday conversation, but it is not usually used in formal writing.

Some people say it comes from times when going to the nearest town was a big event and people would go all out. Today, it is used to show that someone did something with maximum energy or enthusiasm.

Here are a couple more examples with **go to town**:

**Chase:** So, what did you do yesterday?

**Willow:** I **went to town on my closet** and finally organized everything. It looks so much better now.

**Chase:** Wow, good for you! I should probably do the same.

**Bryce:** Cathy, you really **went to town** when writing that report! It's super detailed.

**Cathy:** Thanks! I didn't want to leave anything out, so I spent extra time making sure everything was covered.

## So far, so good Expression

Indiana uses the expression **so far, so good** when she talks about how things are going with her new house after moving. She says everything has been going well up to now, but she is not sure what will happen later.

"So far" on its own means "up to this point in time." When you say, "so far, so good," it means things are going well now, but you do not know what the final outcome will be. It is used to describe a situation that is good right now, without making any promises about the future."

**So far, so good** is a simple expression used when things are going well, but the speaker is not making any promises for the future. For example, if you are doing well on a test and still have more questions to answer, you might say, "**So far, so good**," meaning you're doing fine until that point. It is often used in situations where progress is happening, but you don't know if it will continue.

You can use "so far, so good" in many daily situations. For example, if you start a new project or a new job, you might say "so far, so good" to let someone know that things are going well at the moment, but there is still more work to do, and the final results are not yet clear.

Many native speakers use "so far, so good" as a response to questions like "How are you?" or "How's it going?" For example, if someone asks you, "How are you?" you can reply with "So far, so good" to communicate that things are going well for you right now.

Similar expressions like "everything is fine so far" and "everything is going well so far" also mean that something is going well up to now, but you do not know if it will stay that way.

Here are a couple more examples with **so far, so good**:

**Mechanic:** How's the car running after the repairs?

**Nicole:** **So far, so good.** No more strange noises, and it's driving smoothly now.

**Doctor:** How are the new medications working for you?

**Patient:** **So far, so good.** I haven't had any side effects, and I feel better.

## Upgrade

Noun

Indiana talks about how her new house is **an upgrade** from her previous apartment. She explains that the new house is larger and has more space than her old place. She also mentions that they **upgraded** their bed from a queen to a king, which means they got a bigger and more comfortable bed.

When we use the word "upgrade," we mean changing something to a better, bigger, or more expensive version. For Indiana, moving from an apartment to a house with more room, and getting a larger bed, are both upgrades because they offer more comfort and space.

You can say "upgrade" any time you improve something or move to a higher level of quality or value. For example, if you replace your old car with a newer, more expensive one, you are upgrading your car. When you upgrade, you are getting something considered better than what you had before.

The word "upgrade" comes from the idea of moving up or improving in quality. If you think of a "grade" as a level, an "upgrade" means you are moving to a higher level or getting a better score.

The opposite of "upgrade" is "downgrade." If you downgrade something, you make it worse or lower in quality. For example, if you had a seat in first class on a plane and it was changed to an economy seat, you would be downgraded.

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

**Carrie:** My laptop is so slow now. I think it's time for an **upgrade**.

**Harry:** Might be a good idea! You've had this old one for ages!

**Billy:** I got an **upgrade** on my gym membership to include access to the pool and the spa.

**Emily:** That's awesome. How much extra are you paying?

**Billy:** It's a little more, but it's totally worth it for the extra facilities!

## In limbo

Idiom

Andrew describes Indiana's situation as **in limbo** after her move. He wonders if she has started unpacking or if her things are still in boxes. When you say you are "in limbo," you are in a situation where you do not know what will happen next, or where something is not finished or decided. It is like being between two places or two stages, with no clear way forward.

People often use "in limbo" when they are waiting for something to happen or when they feel they cannot move forward. It can also describe situations that are not organized or complete, like being halfway through a move or switching jobs.

The word comes from the Latin word *limbus*, which means "edge" or "border." It was first used in religious texts to talk about a place between heaven and hell. Today, we use it to talk about any unclear or unfinished situation.

A good way to remember "in limbo" is to imagine standing on a bridge between two places, unsure which way to go. Another expression with a similar meaning is "stuck in between." For example, you might say, "I feel stuck in between deciding whether to stay or leave."

Here are a couple more examples with **in limbo**:

**Lily:** Hey, Matt, any updates on that delayed flight of yours?

**Matt:** Nope. The airline keeps changing the schedule, nothing is clear yet. We're still **in limbo**. I don't know if we'll be flying out tonight or if we'll have to wait until tomorrow...

**Lily:** Ah, that's annoying! Well, please give me a call when you get any news.

**Ed:** Did you get the test results from the doctor?

**Lisa:** Not yet. I feel like I'm **in limbo**, just waiting to know what's going on.

**Ed:** I understand. Waiting can be really stressful!

## (Not) the person to ask

### Phrase

In this episode, Andrew asks Indiana to explain what soldering means. Indiana says that she is **not the person to ask** because she does not fully understand soldering, even though she knows the basics. She admits that someone else, like her husband, would be better at explaining it since they know more about it.

"I'm not the person to ask" means you are not the best person to explain or answer a question. You use it when someone asks about something you do not know much about. For example, if a friend asks how to fix a car and you do not know how, you can say, "I'm not the person to ask." It is a polite way to show that you cannot help.

You can use this phrase when someone asks you a question about a topic you are not familiar with. It shows honesty and helps the person know they should ask someone else. Here are some examples:

1. "I'm not the person to ask about taxes. I always hire an accountant."
2. "He's not the right person to ask about hiking trails. He's never left the city."

A similar expression is "I'm not an expert," which also tells people you do not have enough knowledge to answer their question well.

On the other hand, the opposite of "I'm not the person to ask" is "the right person to ask." You can say this when you want to point someone in the direction of an expert or someone who knows a lot about a topic. For example, "Talk to Alex about computers. He's the right person to ask because he majored in computer science."

Here are a couple more examples with **(not) the person to ask**:

**Chloe:** I'm making steak tonight. What wine do you think I should get?

**Tim:** Sorry, but I'm **not the person to ask**. I don't know much about wine.

**Erin:** I'm thinking about buying a house, but I don't really know much about how the mortgage process works. Can you help?

**Mike:** I'm not an expert on that myself! My brother is a real estate agent, though. He's **the right person to ask**. I'll give you his number.

## Expressions Quiz

**1. If someone says, "He went to town on the washing machine," what does it mean?**

- a) He visited the town for supplies.
- b) He got lost in town.
- c) He repaired the washing machine with a lot of energy or effort.
- d) He ignored the problem completely.

**2. What type of situation would someone NOT use "so far, so good"?**

- a) Working on a group project that is going smoothly.
- b) Setting up a tent and finding no issues yet.
- c) Halfway through cooking a meal without problems.
- d) Struggling with a broken car that won't start.

**3. Choose the correct sentence using "upgrade":**

- a) I decided to upgrade my laptop to one with more storage space.
- b) I upgraded my bicycle by giving it to someone else.
- c) I'll upgrade my shoes by wearing them less.
- d) I upgraded my TV to an older model.

**4. Which situation means you are "in limbo"?**

- a) Getting on a flight with a set departure time.
- b) Waiting to hear if you got a job you applied for.
- c) Knowing exactly what to do for your next class assignment.
- d) Checking into a hotel with a confirmed reservation.

**5. If someone says, "I'm not the person to ask," what do they mean?**

- a) They are not knowledgeable enough to give advice or answers.
- b) They don't want to talk about it.
- c) They do not know you well enough to answer.
- d) They are happy to help with the question.

## Comprehension Quiz

6. How long did Indiana and her husband search for their house?
7. Why does Indiana feel lucky to have her husband while moving into the new house?
8. Why didn't Indiana and her husband hire professional movers?
9. What is the new focal point in Indiana's living room?
10. What type of house design does Indiana live in, and what unique features does it have?

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## Writing and Discussion Questions

1. How do you feel about moving? Do you find it exciting, stressful, or a mix of both? Have you ever moved to a new home or city? What was the experience like?
2. Do you think it's healthy to spend **every waking hour** focused on work or one activity? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever received an **upgrade** in your life, like on a flight, in technology, or with a job? How did it make you feel?
4. Describe a time when you were **in limbo**, waiting for something important to happen. How did you handle the uncertainty? What advice would you give someone who is **in limbo**?
5. What's a topic where you'd honestly say, "I'm **not the person to ask**"? Do you think it's better to admit this right away or try to answer anyway?

## Quiz Answers

1.c    2.d    3.a    4.b    5.a

6. They searched for about eight months.

7. He is handy and good at fixing things, such as repairing their bedroom door.

8. Hiring movers was too expensive in the U.S., so they rented a U-Haul and asked friends for help.

9. The gas fireplace is the focal point.

10. Indiana lives in a Cape Cod-style house, which has slanted roofs that create unusual room shapes and extra storage spaces.

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