

Chatterbox #169 – Andrew’s travel nightmare

Episode description

Have you ever gotten the short end of the stick while you were on vacation? Well, Andrew certainly did! Join Andrew and Morag as he tells the story of his vacation nightmare.

Fun fact

Chengdu airport was built in 1939 and today covers well over 9,000,000 square metres! In 2015, more than 42.2 million passengers passed through the airport, making it the fourth busiest in mainland China.

Expressions included in the learning materials

- A perk
- To hit up
- Stars align
- On cloud nine
- One’s spidey senses are tingling
- To get the short end of the stick



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.

Andrew: Hey, everyone. I'm Andrew.

Morag: And I'm Morag.

Andrew: And we are back with another episode of Culips.

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Andrew: Hey, Morag. How are you?

Morag: I'm doing pretty darn well. And how are you doing, Andrew?

Andrew: I am doing really well also. You know, I'm really excited these days.

Morag: Yeah? Why?

Andrew: It's my summer vacation in just a couple of days.

Morag: Ooo. It's one of the fun things about being in the education system. You actually have awesome mandated vacation.

Andrew: It is the best **perk**, I think.

Morag: Yes.

Andrew: Yeah. So I'm coming back to Canada.

Morag: Oh, no way.

Andrew: Yeah. I'll be there for almost 6 weeks. It's a really long vacation.

Morag: Wow, that's a lot of time. Are you going to multiple places in Canada, or just going home?

Andrew: I'm going to **hit up** all three of Canada's coasts, actually.

Detailed Explanations

A perk

As a noun, **perk** has two related meanings. The first meaning of **perk** is something you receive from a job in addition to your wage or salary. The thing you receive can be an object or some sort of benefit. For example, if you work at a clothing store, you might get an item of free clothing or the ability to buy clothing at a discount—either one would be a **perk** of the job.

A **perk** doesn't always relate to jobs, however. The second meaning of **perk** is very similar. It is an extra benefit or advantage, but can relate to any situation. For example, if you have a roommate who likes to cook, getting your dinner made for you is a **perk** of having that roommate.

So, a **perk** can mean anything nice that comes in addition to job or a given situation.

Here are a couple more examples with both meanings of a **perk**:

Josh: Emma, you're late!

Emma: Sorry, Josh. I got held up at work.

Josh: Was there some emergency?

Emma: Well, not really. It's just that everyone in my group had a few beers before the day was through. I'm sorry, I was just having fun chatting!

Josh: You can drink around your boss?

Emma: Yeah! There are fridges with free beer at my office.

Josh: Free beer—that's a crazy **perk**.

Matt: Hey, Stephanie, how do you like your new apartment?

Stephanie: It's not bad. I'm kinda sad about my room, though. It's the smallest in the apartment. I'm talking tiny!

Matt: Does it have any good qualities that offset the size?

Stephanie: It gets the afternoon sun, which is a **perk** for me, but that's about it!