

Catch Word #146 – Busted!

Informal Contractions in this Episode

Informal contractions are unofficial short forms of other words, and they're usually only used in casual conversation. For example, when a native English speaker talks casually, they might say *gonna* instead of *going to*, or *whaddya* instead of *what do you*. Even though informal contractions are usually only used in spoken English, we include them in the Culips written transcripts to help you get used to how they're used and what they sound like.

These are the informal contractions used in today's episode, along with their meanings:

- **'cause**: because
- **gonna**: going to
- **wanna**: want to

Transcript

Harp: Hello everyone. This is Harp.

Andrew: Hi. I'm Andrew. And here we are with another Culips episode.

Harp: Yes. Make sure you go to our website. I'm sure you all know it, but just in case, if you don't, Culips.com, that's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. Because there, you can find all our older episodes, and it's the only place where you can sign up to become a member. And you really should sign up to become a member, because...

Andrew: When you're a member, you get transcripts of our episodes, so you can see everything that we've said. And you also get detailed explanations of some of the most important phrases and terms that we talk about in every episode. And you also get a quiz to test your comprehension, to see how well you were listening to us.

Harp: Yes. Exactly. And remember, if you have a question or a comment, you can always go to Facebook or Twitter and leave it for us there and we will definitely respond to you.

Andrew: Yeah. I love getting feedback. It's always fun to read. So, yeah, send us a note.

Harp: It's super fun getting feedback from you all. So Andrew, how are things?

Andrew: Things are good, but I'm right in the middle of the school semester so I'm very busy. But, yeah, things are good. I'm actually thinking about buying a new computer to help me with school. Do you know much about computers?

Harp: I know very little about computers. I usually ask friends who are much more **tech savvy** to give me, like, the minimum qualifications that I need to have in a computer, and then I go and ask the salesperson.

Andrew: Yeah. I feel like I used to be very **tech savvy**, but I've just totally **fallen off the radar** with what's new and good in electronics. So listeners, if you have a recommendation for me, a new computer, let me know. I'd be happy to hear your suggestions.

Harp: So today we're gonna bring you a Catch Word episode, and that's where we describe a couple of expressions that are usually related to a theme, and we explain them, we give you examples of how to use them.

Andrew: Yeah. That's right. And today our three expressions all relate to things that the police do.

Harp: Yes. And Andrew, I think you should share the story you told me before with all the listeners—because it's pretty funny—of where you came up with this idea.

Andrew: That's right. Well, every week when we make a new episode, we have to think of ideas, what we wanna talk about on the show. And one of my friends recently sent me a video link to a YouTube video, and it was a news story about some girls from my hometown, I guess, in Victoria, and they had stolen potato chips and had been arrested by the police for stealing potato chips. And this was a big news story. We'll post the link to the video on the website. But, yeah, it's a really funny news story and it gave me the inspiration for talking about things that the police do.

Harp: I love it. What a random news story; girls stealing potato chips.

Andrew: This is when you know that you come from a small town, is when that's the only thing on the news, is a story about the police arresting two girls for stealing potato chips.

Harp: Did they steal, like, a full truckload of potato chips?

Andrew: Actually, I guess this is why this story was interesting. You remember the department store Zellers?

Harp: Yes.

- Andrew: Yeah. Well, these chips were a particular brand from Zellers, Zellers-brand potato chips, and apparently they're super delicious. And Zellers is now closed down. The whole store, the whole chain, is gone, and this lady had stockpiled bags and bags and bags of this brand of potato chip in her garage. So when the girls stole them, it was, like, a little bit more than just a regular potato chip, 'cause they're gone now; you can't buy them in the stores, so they're more valuable. So that's why she was so upset.
- Harp: This is the best story ever.
- Andrew: Yeah. It's really funny.
- Harp: Well, we'll post the link to this video for sure so you guys can see this very important news item.
- Andrew: Yeah. It's funny, in the video, too, because the cops take it very seriously. And just listening to the way that the police talk is hilarious.
- Harp: That's awesome. Well, either way, it gave you a great idea to talk about some expressions related to what the police do.
- Andrew: That's right. And our first expression is **to bust**.
- Harp: **To bust.**
- Andrew: Yeah. **To bust.** And usually we use this in the past tense, so you could say *I was **busted***, or... Well, I don't get arrested often, so I would say *they got **busted*** or *he got **busted***.
- Harp: Yeah. Exactly. It's used in the past tense to describe when someone was arrested or caught by the police doing something bad.
- Andrew: Right. So if you get caught by the police for breaking the law, you've been **busted**.
- Harp: Yeah. And it could be something like speeding. So, *he got **busted** for speeding*, or it could be something really serious, like, *he got **busted** for a big drug deal*.
- Andrew: That's right. It's usually used for more serious crimes, and I feel like when somebody's **busted**, the police sort of have been planning out their actions; they've done an investigation, they've been following somebody, and they usually surprise the person, maybe in their apartment. They break down the door, they run in, they catch the person when they're not suspecting that they're being chased by the police, and that's really what **a bust** is to me.

Harp: Yeah. I definitely agree with you. It's usually something big. And I have the same visual in my head of the police breaking down the door and surprising the criminals.

Andrew: Right. Sometimes you see in movies or something when the police are maybe catching a terrorist or somebody who's sort of planning an attack, maybe building a bomb in their bedroom, and you see the FBI with their scary guns and their battering ram, and they break into the house and catch the person. To me that's what **a bust** is.

Harp: Yes. Should we use this in an example?

Andrew: Yeah. Let's give some examples.

Andrew: Hey, Harp, do you remember that guy Paul that we graduated with?

Harp: Yeah. He was kind of **a loner** in high school.

Andrew: Yeah. Well, anyways, I heard this crazy story about him yesterday.

Harp: Tell me. What?

Andrew: He got caught by the police and he was actually **busted** for running a stolen car **ring**.

Harp: No!

Andrew: Yeah. They found over 20 cars in his backyard.

Harp: Wow. Quiet Paul was running a stolen car **ring**. Wow.

Andrew: Yeah. He was stealing the cars and then shipping them to the States. And, yeah, that's what he did for a job, but he got **busted**.

Harp: I'm in shock. He seemed like such a quiet dude, with no criminal intentions.

Andrew: Yeah, well, I guess you just never know.

Harp: In this example, we had an old classmate from high school, Paul, who turned out to be a criminal and who was **busted** by the police.

Andrew: That's right. He stole a bunch of cars, many cars—20 cars I think—and he was arrested by the police. He was **busted** by the police.

Harp: Yes. Let's give one more example with this expression, **busted**.

Harp: Hello?

Andrew: Harp. Hey. It's Andrew. Where are you? I'm waiting for you. You're 30 minutes late.

Harp: I'm so sorry. I just got **busted** by the police for speeding.

Andrew: Oh, really? Where were you?

Harp: I was on Deerfoot Trail and I was actually only going 11 kilometres over the speed limit, but they're **cracking down on** speeding right now.

Andrew: Yeah. Well, that sucks.

Harp: Yeah. I'm really sorry. I'll be there in 2 minutes.

Andrew: OK. I'll see you soon.

Andrew: So in this example, Harp told us that she was just **busted** by the police for speeding, so that means she was driving too fast, the police pulled her over, and gave her a ticket for speeding.

Harp: Yes. Exactly. But I don't speed and I wouldn't get a ticket and I've never actually gotten a speeding ticket in my life. I've never been **busted** for speeding.

Andrew: That's amazing. Me too. I've never been **busted** for speeding.

Harp: All right. Perfect. Let's move on to our next expression.

Andrew: OK. Let's do that. So our next expression is **nabbed**.

Harp: Yes. **Nabbed**.

Andrew: And **nabbed** means to be caught, stopped, or arrested by the police.

Harp: Yes. And I'm gonna spell out this word out, because it sounds a little bit weird. It's N-A-B-B-E-D: **nabbed**.

Andrew: Yeah. Now that I'm saying it, it does sound like a very strange word: **nabbed**.

Harp: Yeah. When you're saying it alone, it sounds weird. But we'll use it in sentences and you'll hear and see what we're talking about.

Andrew: Right. So, again, **nabbed** just means to be caught by the police.

Harp: When you're—or someone you know is—arrested or caught by the police doing something bad, or for a crime that you've committed.

- Andrew: That's right. Have you ever been **nabbed** by the police, Harp?
- Harp: Never. I'm a very good citizen who always follows the rules.
- Andrew: Yeah. Me as well; never been **nabbed**. So should we give some examples using this word?
- Harp: We definitely should.

- Harp: I have quite the story for you.
- Andrew: Really? What happened?
- Harp: Well, I was dropping my mom off at the airport yesterday...
- Andrew: Yeah?
- Harp: And it was crazy. It was full of police because they **nabbed** five **drug mules**.
- Andrew: What? What happened?
- Harp: So, apparently there were five people going on five different flights trying to take drugs onto the planes, and the police basically shut down the whole airport to find these people and catch them, and they did.
- Andrew: Wow, that's insane. It must've been a mess down at the airport.
- Harp: Yeah. My mom got delayed by about 3 hours.
- Andrew: **Yikes**. Did she make it OK?
- Harp: Yes.

- Andrew: So, in this example, we heard a story about how the police shut down the whole airport because they **nabbed** five **drug mules**, five people who were trying to carry drugs with them out of the country and on the plane into another country.
- Harp: Yeah. So they caught five people carrying drugs.
- Andrew: That's right. They caught them. They **nabbed** them.
- Harp: Yeah. They arrested them and they're probably in jail.
- Andrew: Let's hope so.

Harp: Let's give one more example.

Andrew: OK.

Andrew: So, what did you get up to last night?

Harp: I just went for a walk around the neighbourhood and, you know, I have to say, I feel like it's looking a lot cleaner. There's less graffiti everywhere.

Andrew: Yeah. You know why? It's because they **nabbed** that graffiti artist who's been making a mess all over the place.

Harp: Oh, they finally caught him. That's great news.

Andrew: Yeah. So we don't have to look at all that ugly **tagging** all over the place anymore. Hooray!

Harp: Great. Yeah, it was really bad before.

Andrew: Yeah. So he's done. He's gone. He's **nabbed**.

Harp: Great news.

Andrew: Yeah.

Andrew: So, in this example, we heard that the neighbourhood had been cleaned up because the police caught a vandal, a graffiti artist, who had been painting all over the place.

Harp: Yes, exactly. He had been caught. He had been arrested by the police.

Andrew: Yeah. So they **nabbed** him. They stopped the graffiti.

Harp: OK. Let's move on to our last expression.

Andrew: And our last expression is **to round up**.

Harp: Yes. **To round up**.

Andrew: That's right. **To round up**. And **to round up** means to gather a bunch of people for a specific purpose.

Harp: Yes. And so in this context, **to round up** means that the police have gone around and caught quite a few different criminals.

Andrew: Mmhmm. So, it might be that they've arrested a bunch of people for a crime that's related, or it might even be that they just want to question some people. So if the police have gathered a bunch of people for a certain reason, like to arrest them or to question them or to get information from them, they've **rounded those people up**.

Harp: Exactly. They **rounded them up**. They brought them all in, for either questioning or because they arrested them.

Andrew: Mmhmm. **Round up**.

Harp: Let's give an example with this expression.

Andrew: OK.

Andrew: So, I went to the bank today, and strangely enough, it was closed in the middle of the day. I have no idea why.

Harp: Oh, you didn't hear?

Andrew: No. What happened?

Harp: Apparently, the police came and **rounded up** all the senior bankers to question them about some sort of scam they're running there.

Andrew: Really? At my bank?

Harp: Yeah. The one that's right beside the office.

Andrew: That's insane. Wow. I'm gonna have **to think twice** about doing business with those guys.

Harp: Yeah. I don't think you wanna keep your money there.

Andrew: That sounds pretty **sketchy**.

Harp: So, in this example, we had two colleagues talking about a bank that was closed in the middle of the day, and it was because the police **rounded up** the senior staff, the people who are in senior positions, to question them.

Andrew: That's right. So all of the executive-level bankers were taken to the police station so that the police could ask the bankers questions about some potentially illegal activity that's been going on at the bank.

Harp: Yes. So, exactly, in this example, people weren't arrested yet. They were just brought in for questioning.

Andrew: Yeah. They're suspects in a crime, but they haven't been charged with doing that crime yet.

Harp: Yes. The police are still **carrying out** an investigation.

Andrew: That's right. OK, should we try a second example?

Harp: Let's do it.

Harp: Do you wanna go watch a movie on Wednesday?

Andrew: Uh, yeah. But I can't because I have to re-write a test.

Harp: What do you mean re-write a test?

Andrew: It's so stupid. I wrote this test, like, on Monday, and I guess what happened was some of the other students who wrote the test, they had broken into my teacher's computer, like, **hacked** in, and they stole the test. So these kids got perfect, they spoiled the test for everybody, and now I have to re-write it on Wednesday.

Harp: Oh. So they got caught.

Andrew: They got caught. What happened was the teacher called the police, actually, and the police came up, they **rounded up** all the students, they found the three that did it, and they are actually charging them with **hacking**.

Harp: Wow. That's crazy.

Andrew: Yeah. So I'm glad they got caught, that's good, but it totally sucks that I have to rewrite this test.

Harp: Yeah, that does totally suck.

Andrew: Yeah.

Harp: Maybe we can watch the movie next week.

Andrew: Yeah. Let's put it off one week.

Harp: So in this example, we had three students who had **hacked** into a computer, and the teacher called the police, and the police **rounded them up** and arrested them for their crime.

Andrew: Yeah, because they broke into the teacher's computer, they **hacked** the computer, they stole test answers, and that's an illegal thing to do. So the police **rounded them up** and arrested them.

- Harp: Yes. Exactly. OK, so let's do a quick recap of all the expressions we talked about today.
- Andrew: Sure. That sounds like a good idea. So our first expression was **to bust**.
- Harp: Yes. So our first expression was **bust**, so **to be busted** by the police.
- Andrew: Right. **To be busted**. And our second expression is **nabbed**.
- Harp: Yeah. And we finished with **round up**.
- Andrew: Right. And we just wanted to say, at the end here, that these expressions can also be applied to situations where you're caught not just by the police but by anybody, really.
- Harp: But we'll explain that more in the Learning Materials, so sign up, become a member, and you'll learn more.
- Andrew: Yeah. Find out how these expressions work in other ways.
- Harp: Yes. And so you can sign up to become a member on the website, Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com.
- Andrew: That's right. And check us out on Facebook, give us your feedback, let us know what you think about this episode.
- Harp: Yeah. And remember, if you have a recommendation for a computer model that Andrew should look into buying, leave the comment on Facebook.
- Andrew: Yeah. Let me know. And we'll see you next time.
- Harp: Bye everyone.

Detailed Explanation

Tech savvy

To be **savvy** means to have a very good understanding of something. So a person who is **tech savvy** knows a lot about computers and technology. In this episode, Harp mentions that she knows very little about computers. Whenever she has questions about her computer or needs advice about technology, she asks one of her **tech savvy** friends to help her out. People who are **tech savvy** are really interested in modern technology and are very knowledgeable about computers and other high-tech gadgets.

Here are a couple more examples with **tech savvy**:

Keri: Did you hear the news? I'm moving to San Francisco next month.

Pete: Wow! That's awesome. What made you decide to move there?

Keri: I'm going to start a new business, and I'll need a lot of **tech savvy** employees. San Francisco is one of the best places to find well-trained computer experts.

Pete: Sounds great. Good luck with everything!

Fatma: I wish I were more **tech savvy**. Whenever I have a computer problem, I have to take it to the repair shop and it ends up costing me a bunch of money.

Liam: Maybe you should take a computer repair class.

Fatma: That's not a bad idea, actually. I'll think about it.

To fall off your radar

When something **falls off your radar**, it means that it gets ignored because you have focused your attention on something more important. In this episode, Andrew tells us that computers and electronics have **fallen off of his radar**. This means that he used to pay close attention to technology but now he's busy with other things and doesn't have time to stay up to date with current technology trends.

This expression originated with sailors in the navy. Ship crews used radar to track the movements of other boats in their vicinity. When a boat that was being tracked became unimportant because it moved really far away, it moved off the radar screen and was said to have fallen off the radar. These days, you can use the expression **to fall off your radar** to describe anything that you've lost interest in because your attention is focused on something more important to you.

Here are a couple more examples with **to fall off your radar**:

Rae: Did you see the game last night?

Jon: No, I didn't catch it.

Rae: What's up with you recently? You used to love baseball, but now it seems like you aren't interested in it at all.

Jon: Ever since I had kids, baseball has just kind of **fallen off my radar**. I just have other things I'd rather be doing now than watching sports on TV.

Rae: I guess that makes sense.

Yuri: Whatever happened to that guy Bill? Didn't you go on a few dates with him last month?

Rhonda: Yeah, but when I found out he was a smoker, he **fell off my radar**. I'm not interested in dating a smoker.

Yuri: Oh, yeah, that's a turn-off.

To bust someone

To bust someone means to arrest or catch someone who has done something wrong or illegal. Usually, we use this verb in the passive voice, so that we can put the emphasis on who was arrested. Since it's usually the police who **bust** people, we're more interested in finding out who got **busted**.

When a person gets **busted**, it means that they are caught by the police for doing something illegal.

Although we often use this expression to talk about people getting caught by the police, you can actually get **busted** by anyone who catches you doing something wrong, even if it's not actually illegal. For example, if you borrow your sister's dress without asking, she could **bust** you if she sees you wearing it.

Here are a couple more example with **to bust someone**:

Carlos: Did you hear about Frank?

Jenny: No, what happened?

Carlos: He got **busted** for drunk driving last night.

Jenny: What an idiot. What's going to happen to him?

Carlos: He has a court date for next month. Until then, his driver's license has been taken away.

Cindy: Jim asked me to go on a date with him last weekend, but I didn't want to, so I told him I had to go visit my parents out of town.

Beth: Why don't you just tell him you're not interested?

Cindy: Well, that's what I should have done, because I totally got **busted** on Saturday night. I was out with another guy and we ran into Jim at the restaurant, so he found out that I was lying and it really hurt his feelings.

A loner

A loner is someone who is always alone and does things without other people. Sometimes people are **loners** by choice, because they prefer to be alone. Other times, people are **loners** because they have bad social skills, are really shy, or just have a hard time making friends.

In this episode, we hear a story about Paul, a guy who used to be **a loner** in high school. Everyone was surprised to find out that this shy and reserved guy grew up to become a criminal who ran a stolen car ring.

Here are a couple more examples with **a loner**.

Roberto: I think we should go talk to Sean. He always sits by himself during lunch hour. I feel bad for him. I bet he's lonely.

Truc: I've tried to make friends with him before, but I think he's just **a loner** and likes to be by himself.

Roberto: That might be the case, but let's try to talk to him anyway.

Truc: OK, let's do it.

Claire: I've been so busy with schoolwork for the past month that I'm starting to feel like a big **loner**. Do you want to hang out tonight? I could really use some social interaction.

Steve: Sure, why don't you come over for dinner tonight? I'll invite some other people too and we'll have a little party. I don't want you to feel like **a loner**!

A ring

The word **ring** has many meanings. As a noun, *a ring* can be a piece of jewellery or a circle shape. In this episode, **a ring** is used in a different sense. In one of the example dialogues, we learn that Paul has been arrested for operating a stolen car **ring**. In this context, **a ring** is a group of people who work together to do something secret or illegal. Paul was arrested because he was part of a team of people who worked together to steal cars.

We can use **a ring** to describe any group of people who work together and help each other in a way that is secret, and often illegal. For example, a gang might operate a drug **ring**, where multiple people work together to import and sell illegal drugs. It's also possible to talk about the government running a spy **ring**, where a bunch of secret agents work together to spy on a foreign country.

Here are a couple more examples with **a ring** used in this way:

Ami: I read in the newspaper that an illegal gambling **ring** was discovered downtown.

Wae: Really? That's crazy.

Ami: Yeah. They ran a secret casino that was disguised as a video arcade.

Wae: Wow!

Alice: When I was in university, I had a sketchy roommate who sold drugs to make extra money.

Thom: No way!

Alice: Yeah, she was a part of a drug **ring** that targeted university students as their customers.

Thom: Did she ever approach you about joining the **ring**?

Alice: No, thank goodness. That would have been scary.

To crack down on something or someone

To crack down on something or someone means to start dealing with bad or illegal behaviour, or with the people who are responsible for this behaviour, in a more extreme way than before. When someone starts **to crack down on** bad or illegal behaviour, or **to crack down on** criminals, they begin to take a problem seriously and make a genuine effort to stop it.

In this episode, we heard that the police are **cracking down on** speeding. This means that the police are putting more effort than before into trying to prevent drivers from driving too fast. We could also say that the police are **cracking down on** speeders.

Here are a couple more examples with **to crack down on something or someone**:

Martha: My son has been really awful the last few weeks. His grades are bad, he doesn't listen to me, and he stopped doing all of his chores.

Tim: If I were you I'd **crack down on** that kind of behaviour. You have to show him that you're his mom and you are in control.

Martha: That's a good idea. I'll start by taking away his PlayStation.

Ed: If you go bike riding in the next few days, make sure you wear a helmet. The police are **cracking down on** anyone they see riding without a helmet, and they'll definitely give you a ticket.

Samy: That's good advice. Thanks for the warning.

To nab someone

To nab someone means to catch or arrest them. It's usually the police who **nab** criminals. Just like with the verb *to bust someone*, we often use **to nab someone** in the passive voice, so we can focus in on who has been arrested.

When someone gets **nabbed**, they get arrested or caught by the police for doing an illegal activity.

Here's one more example with **to nab someone**:

Polly: My next door neighbours got **nabbed** by the cops for speeding last night while driving home.

Ling: Oh yeah? Did they get a ticket?

Polly: yeah. They have to pay a \$200 fine.

Ling: It's always better to just follow the speed limit and drive safely.

A mule

A mule (or a **drug mule**) is a person who is paid to transport illegal drugs from one country to another. **Mules** are usually hired by gangs or drug dealers to move drugs across borders. If **mules** get caught, they are the ones who end up in prison, while the drug dealers often remain free.

In this episode, we hear a story about five **mules** who were stopped at the airport. They were arrested because they were trying to carry drugs with them on the plane. The arrest caused major delays at the airport because the police were everywhere.

Here's another example with **a mule**:

Mike: I read in the newspaper today that there was a big drug bust recently.

Abir: I heard that too. The border authorities stopped a transport truck trying to cross the border into Canada, and when they did a routine inspection, they found that the back of the truck was filled with cocaine.

Mike: Yes. And apparently this was an important arrest because the police think that the driver wasn't just **a drug mule**, but is actually the leader of a drug smuggling ring.

Abir: I'm glad they caught him. We need to get people like that off the street.

Yikes

Yikes is an exclamation that's used to express shock, surprise, or fear. In this episode, we hear **yikes** used in reaction to a story about a 3-hour delay at the airport. The speaker was surprised at how long the delay was, and said **yikes** to demonstrate his surprise. When you are shocked, surprised, or afraid of something, you can express this emotion by saying **yikes**. In many ways, **yikes** functions the same way as **oh no**. It's just a simple expression that communicates surprise at something negative.

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

Lola: Last night I slipped and fell down the stairs. I broke my leg and had to go to the hospital.

Sara: **Yikes!** That's awful! Are you gonna be OK?

Jim: I almost got fired today because I showed up 2 hours late for work.

Victor: **Yikes!** If you care about your job, you have to make sure you're there on time.

To tag

To tag means to do a specific kind of graffiti that can be thought of as the artist's signature. Instead of painting an image, a **tagger** just spray paints his name, signature, or symbol (known as a **tag**) on places like walls, bus stops, trains, etc.

Tagging is much faster than making a graffiti image, because **taggers** usually only use one colour of spray paint and don't need to be talented artists. Perhaps because of this, **tagging** is more common than other types of graffiti.

Check out this picture to get an idea of what a **tag** looks like. This one had been done in yellow paint on a grey mailbox.



Here are a couple more examples with **to tag**:

Uma: Hey, what are you doing Randy?

Randy: I'm just trying to clean some **tags** off my mailbox. Some kids must have been out **tagging** last night and I guess they thought my mailbox looked like a good target.

Uma: Yikes! That's unfortunate. It seems like there's more and more vandalism in our neighbourhood these days.

Laurence: This neighbourhood is really starting to fall apart. It used to be so nice but now I don't like hanging out here.

Anaïs: I agree. All the graffiti and **tagging** everywhere doesn't help. Someone really needs to come down here and clean everything up.

To round up someone or something

To round up someone or something is a phrasal verb that means to gather a group of people or things for a specific purpose. When the police **round up** criminals, it means that they arrest or question a group of criminals at the same time. In this episode, we hear a story about a group of bankers who were **rounded up** by the police because they were suspected of running a scam. This means that the police came to the bank and took all of the bankers to the police station for questioning.

Here's another example with **to round up someone or something**:

Sean: A lot of people are angry that the police **rounded up** all the homeless people downtown.

Eli: What? What happened?

Sean: The police thought they were the cause of too much illegal activity, so they were all arrested.

Eli: Wow. How many people in total were arrested?

Sean: The newspaper said as many as 50. This is a big news story, so I'm sure we'll hear more about it.

To think twice

To think twice means to consider something very carefully before doing it. When someone **thinks twice**, they deeply contemplate the consequences of an action before making a decision. In one of the examples in this episode, we hear one of the characters say that he will **think twice** about doing business at a bank where the senior bankers were rounded up by the police on scam charges.

Here are a couple more examples with **to think twice**:

Stevie: My car needs a tune up. I think I'll take it to Jon's Auto Centre tomorrow.

Mac: I'd **think twice** before going there if I were you. I've heard nothing but bad things about that place. People are constantly complaining about the service there.

Stevie: Really? In that case, I'll shop around for a better mechanic to take a look at my car.

Christina: Wow! Your new hairdo looks great!

Julie: You're just being nice. I know it looks awful. I hate it.

Christina: No, I like it. What made you decide to cut it so short?

Julie: I don't know. I just felt like it, but now I wish I had **thought twice** before chopping it all off.

Christina: The good news is that it will always grow back!

Sketchy

Sketchy is an adjective that describes things or people that seem unsafe or uncertain. When something is **sketchy**, you have a bad feeling about it and don't trust it.

We've got a whole Catch Word episode dedicated to discussing **sketchy** things. Check out our Catch Word episode #140, *That's So Sketchy*, for a more in-depth explanation of this word.

To carry out something

To carry out something is a phrasal verb that means to do or complete something that you said you would do or that you have to do. When you have an obligation to finish something because you promised you would, we can describe the process of the work by saying you are **carrying out** that work.

In this episode, we hear that the police are **carrying out** an investigation. The police have a responsibility to catch criminals; it's their job. So, because they have an obligation to keep the streets safe, we can describe the act of investigating by saying that the police are **carrying out** an investigation.

Here are a couple more examples with **to carry out something**:

Malcolm: I'm starting my PhD studies in September. I'm excited to begin my research.

Diane: That's awesome. What will you be studying?

Malcolm: I'm going **to carry out** research on artificial intelligence.

Diane: That's very interesting. Good luck!

Emma: My mom isn't feeling great these days.

Jon: Oh no. What's wrong?

Emma: We're not exactly sure. She went to the hospital last week and the doctors **carried out** some tests and we'll hear back in a few days with the results.

Jon: Hopefully everything is fine and she'll start feeling better soon.

To hack

To hack means to find a way to remotely access someone else's computer and look at or change the information stored on it, without permission. When a **hacker hacks** into someone's computer, they gain illegal access to the information stored there.

In this episode, we hear a story about a group of students who **hacked** into their teacher's computer in order to steal the answers to an exam. What this means is that the students illegally broke into their teacher's computer and viewed the exam answers.

Here are a couple more examples with **to hack**:

Spencer: I just installed a new security program on my computer.

Erin: Oh yeah? Why?

Spencer: I'm worried about being **hacked** by cyber criminals. I don't want anyone to see my confidential data.

Erin: That's a good idea, actually. You can never be too safe.

Amanda: I'm so angry. My computer was **hacked** last night and I lost everything.

Ron: That's terrible! Did you call the police?

Amanda: Not yet, but I'm going to do that right now.

Quiz

1. **What can we call a person who carries drugs across a border?**

- a) a mule
- b) a donkey
- c) a horse
- d) a cow

2. **What does *to think twice* mean?**

- a) to consider something thoroughly before making a decision
- b) to make a quick decision
- c) to be indecisive
- d) to make two choices

3. **What can we call a person who likes spending time alone?**

- a) an aloner
- b) a selfer
- c) a need nobody
- d) a loner

4. **What is tagging?**

- a) a special type of sale
- b) a game played by kids
- c) a specific type of graffiti
- d) a new form of exercise

5. **Which of the following exclamations can be used to express shock or surprise?**

- a) Yonkers!
- b) Yikes!
- c) Yazook!
- d) Goshy!

6. What verb is usually used in the passive voice to put emphasis on a person who has been arrested?

- a) to be slammed
- b) to be jammed
- c) to be wrung
- d) to be busted

7. My computer was _____ last night and I lost all my data.

Fill in the blank.

- a) fried
- b) fooled
- c) hacked
- d) hamburgered

8. Which of the following expressions specifically describes a person who knows a lot about computers and technology?

- a) with it
- b) tech savvy
- c) tech illiterate
- d) tech insane

9. When someone starts to take a problem seriously and makes an improved effort to solve it, what are they doing?

- a) cracking down
- b) breaking up
- c) falling out
- d) checking in

Answers:

1.a 2.a 3.d 4.c 5.b 6.d 7.c 8.b 9.a