

## Shmanners 157: Gum & Candy

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**Teresa:** What are you chewing on?

**Travis:** [muffled, with his mouth full] A podcast.

**Teresa:** Did you bring enough for the whole class?

**Travis:** [muffled] Rrr... It's Shmanners!

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Hello, internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

**Teresa:** And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

**Travis:** And you're listening to Shmanners.

**Teresa:** It's extraordinary etiquette...

**Travis:** For ordinary occasiooons! Hello, my dove.

**Teresa:** Hello, dear. [laughing]

**Travis:** How are you?

**Teresa:** I'm—I'm not quite sure why we're at the bottom of a canyon.

**Travis:** Oh, see, that's what you thought. I thought I was like, soaring through the cloouds.

**Teresa:** Oh.

**Travis:** That's how I pictured it.

**Teresa:** I see.

**Travis:** Teresa and I are both a little under the weather today. Mostly the seasonal change stuff.

**Teresa:** The seasons.

**Travis:** But y'know what? We wouldn't miss it. We wouldn't miss being here for anything, 'cause it's MaxFunDrive week two. This is... well, it's almost your last chance. This is—we're hopefully gonna have this out Thursday. But Friday's your last chance to become a MaxFunDrive 2019 member, by going to [MaximumFun.org/Donate](http://MaximumFun.org/Donate). You can become a new member, or you can upgrade a previous, uh, donor level. And when you do, you get awesome rewards, and our eternal gratitude, and we'll tell you so much more about that.

But, today... what are we even talking about, Teresa?

**Teresa:** Well, today we're gonna talk about chewing gum.

**Travis:** Chewing... gum.

**Teresa:** And candy, by extension, but mostly chewing gum.

**Travis:** Chewing... gum.

**Teresa:** Now, Travis McElroy?

**Travis:** Uh?

**Teresa:** You have actually started chewing a lot less gum since you got your Invisaligns.

**Travis:** Yeah, the Invisaligns do make it hard. Would pull 'em right out of there.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Now, in general, I don't chew as much gum as I used to, 'cause as I get older, it makes my jaw sore.

**Teresa:** Yeah, see, here's the thing for me, too. I have TMJ problems. Um, and so, I... I occasionally deign to chew gum if my breath is particularly foul, or if I am in an airplane taking off or landing.

**Travis:** Also, just in general, we have to be careful, uh, in regards to any kind of candy in our household if Bebe is around, because she's like a velociraptor, and like, she'll hear like, a wrapper crinkle, or like, even if we've just opened the wrong cabinet... Her head just like, pops up.

**Teresa:** [gasp] Dee?

**Travis:** And she just starts saying, "Dee? Dee?! Dee?!" And it becomes more and more fevered.

**Teresa:** [laughing]

**Travis:** Or worse, uh, oddly logical and calm. Where you're like, "What do you want for lunch?" And she goes, "Hmm... dee?"

**Teresa:** "Dee?"

**Travis:** And you're like, "No. No dee." And she goes, "Hmmm... dee."

**Teresa:** "Dee."

**Travis:** And you're like, "No, it's still not dee." [laughs] Anyways. So we have to be careful. We can't even like, reference candy in like a book we're reading, or if it's on TV... it's a whole thing. Kid likes candy. Please don't send us candy in the PO box.

**Teresa:** Please don't.

**Travis:** Please don't. So, now, this was a topic that was suggested and discussed on the Facebook group. And I guess I already know the answer to this question, but... aside from like, don't pop bubbles in someone's face, and like, don't have a mouthful of candy at a job interview or whatever, like... is there a lot of historical etiquette and manners having to do with like, chewing gum and candy?

**Teresa:** There definitely is.

**Travis:** Okay. Please, tell me about it.

**Teresa:** Well, let's start with the—

**Travis:** Because that's the structure of the show.

**Teresa:** Yes. Let's start with a little bit of history, here.

**Travis:** Okay, yes, please. Educate me.

**Teresa:** Now, humans...

**Travis:** I've heard of them, yes.

**Teresa:** They done like to chew stuff.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Sometimes, chewing stuff is just for fun.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Teresa:** But sometimes, chewing stuff is for medicine.

**Travis:** Okay. And also sometimes, to eat. Another thing human beings have to do.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** So, there's evidence that the northern Europeans used to chew birch tar. Bleh. As early as nine thousand years ago, to relieve toothache.

**Travis:** Okay. Did it have like a kind of numbing quality to it? Was it anesthetic?

**Teresa:** Well... maybe? I mean, I have heard of willow bark having...

**Travis:** But that—isn't willow bark like an aspirin-y kind of thing?

**Teresa:** Yes. Yes.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** I really... like, probably not. Because...

**Travis:** You think it was maybe just a distraction thing? Maybe because of how bad it tasted?

**Teresa:** Old timey people were really bad at medicine. If I've learned anything from Sawbones.

**Travis:** Yeah...

**Teresa:** Um, and the oldest piece of this kind of chewing gum was found in Finland.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** So um, after that, I mean, like I said, people been chewin' stuff. The ancient Mayans had a gum-like substance that came from the sapodilla tree, called chicle.

**Travis:** Okay. Yes, I have heard that.

**Teresa:** You may have heard of this. Um, it was used to quench thirst and fight hunger. So kind of like... this is something that we'll see later. It makes you salivate.

**Travis:** Yeah, so that doesn't really fight thirst, though. In both of them, seems kind of like more of a, uh, like suppressant, rather than an actual, like...

**Teresa:** Yeah, a little bit.

**Travis:** Because like, you would salivate and be like, "Ahh, some spit." But that was moisture you already had in your body. Same with like, to fight hunger, of like, "Well, I'm kind of eating something."

**Teresa:** Yep. You got it. Um, and here was a little—here's a little etiquette nugget, as far as chicle goes. So the Aztec were like, were like, "We're cool about chewing gum, but if you're a married woman, or a widow, or a man, you can only chew it in secret."

**Travis:** Wait—

**Teresa:** Because if you chew gum in public, um, you are considered to be either a sex worker, or effeminate if you are a man.

**Travis:** Huh. How... odd.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** [laughs] What an odd distinction to make.

**Teresa:** I know. Um, I'm thinking... I'm thinking it has something to do with, uh... children were allowed to chew it. Right? So maybe it had something to do with, chewing it made you appear... youthful, in the way of like, immature?

**Travis:** Or maybe it was like—it's like, an inane act, y'know? Of like... I don't know. That's—

**Teresa:** It's also, I mean, your mouth. You're using your mouth a lot. I could understand maybe how a sex worker might advertise... their... services.

**Travis:** Yeah, I guess it's just like a weird, like... if you told me that it was only for sex workers, I'd be like, "Okay." But then you're like, "Yeah, sex workers, and kids, and like, single women." I don't know. It's just... that weird distinction, y'know? Of like, but not for *you*. Like, that's weird. [laughing] It's so weird.

**Teresa:** Um—

**Travis:** Maybe it is like—'cause like, one of the things I always think about, like a movie trope, y'know? Of like, the chewing gum and like, blowing bubbles is like, kind of shorthand for a slacker. Y'know? Of like, a time waster, of like, maybe... maybe that dates way, way back, and it's like, gum is for people with nothing better to do, and you got stuff you need to work on. Maybe that's it.

**Teresa:** Definitely. I can see that. Um, so, the Native Americans also used to chew, uh, a type of tree sap or resin. The spruce tree had a particularly piney... [laughs] Taste.

**Travis:** Eugh! Why does—I—[sighs] That is not a taste I'd look for in my chewing gum.

**Teresa:** Yeah. Kind of piney dirt, right?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Um, in the 1840s, a man by the name of John Curtis used this recipe of spruce resin to develop the first commercial chewing gum. He boiled the spruce resin, and then cut it into strips coated with cornstarch to keep them from sticking together. Um, but like... didn't really work out, because...

**Travis:** It was gross?

**Teresa:** It's gross. But it also doesn't really... doesn't really chew, y'know what I mean? It kind of just like—

**Travis:** Sticks betwixt your teeth?

**Teresa:** Stick and crack.

**Travis:** Yeah. Like, old—

**Teresa:** Stick and crack.

**Travis:** When you open a pack of playing cards, and there's like—or not playing cards. Collectible cards, and there's like a gross stick in there. There's some nasty gum in there. And you bite it, and it more just kind of turns to powder before your very teeth.

**Teresa:** Right. Uh, so, it really wasn't very good. Um, but... so, he ended up kind of switching up the ingredients, and put paraffin wax in it instead? Eugh.

**Teresa:** Okay. I also can't imagine that helped the taste. Uh, does paraffin have a taste?

**Teresa:** I don't think so.

**Travis:** Isn't paraffin like, something they used in like...

**Teresa:** Candles?



**Travis:** Ohh, see, I was gonna say—well, yes, candles. But I was gonna say, like... I feel like that's also something I've heard in connection to like, gunpowder and ammunitions and stuff.

**Teresa:** Mm, I don't think so.

**Travis:** No? Maybe not.

**Teresa:** Um, okay. So we're... we're getting to, um, the 1890s. And Wrigley's.

**Travis:** Yes, I'm aware. Yes. Uh-huh.

**Teresa:** Yes. William. Wrigley. Junior. Created... [laughs]

**Travis:** [laughs] I like how you just said it like it was in lights. Your chewing gum starring line up!

**Teresa:** [laughing] Uh, created Juicy Fruit, and Wrigley's Spearmint, and later—

**Travis:** Well, Juicy Fruit... it's gonna move ya!

**Teresa:** Later, Doublemint gum. Um, but here's the thing – his real triumph was marketing. He would send free samples of this chewing gum, uh, to people he found listed in the phone book.

**Travis:** Wha—just like random...

**Teresa:** I mean... down the line.

**Travis:** Huh.

**Teresa:** You get a piece of gum. You get a piece of gum. You get a piece of gum.

**Travis:** That, I—listen. I'm glad that that worked out for him. But that was by no means a guaranteed thing. Then again, I say that, but when we were kids, Justin and I... um, any opportunity we had to get a free sample of something in the mail, we would do it. And like, we would get some of the weirdest stuff sent to—specifically, Justin, in the mail. But it was really weird.

But anyways, I think that that could've easily gone the other way of like, who is this gum creep who keeps sending me the gum? He should be arrested. I don't know him. I'm not gonna chew his creepy weird gum.

**Teresa:** Speaking of weird gum...

**Travis:** Uh-huh?

**Teresa:** Have you ever heard of... Blibber Blubber?

**Travis:** Sorry, one more time?

**Teresa:** Blibber Blubber?

**Travis:** Uh, I'm gonna need to hear that one more time.

**Teresa:** Blibber Blubber.

**Travis:** No!

**Teresa:** It was a gum developed specifically for blowing bubbles.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Developed by—

**Travis:** Oh, were you trying to say Double Bubble?

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** Okay, 'cause you were doing it bad, if so. [laughing]

**Teresa:** [laughs] Uh, Frank Fler, in 1906, tried to make a bubbling gum. But it kind of just like, was too sticky. It didn't really... hold together the way that gum should.

**Travis:** You never got the like, wad. The waaaad effect.

**Teresa:** Right. And the man who created the waaaad effect... in 1928, Walter Diemer did improve upon this here recipe, and turned it intooo... Dubble Bubble!

**Travis:** Okay. I'm... I—I knew it! Okay, I knew I recognized that name. This is the connection.

**Teresa:** Okay?

**Travis:** Fler, um, then became known as a maker of sports cards, and they began producing baseball cards in 1923, and that's why they included the gum in with the cards.

**Teresa:** Oh man.

**Travis:** This is how it all—that's why.

**Teresa:** This is how it all started.

**Travis:** Because it started as a confectionary company making gum, and then became a sports collectible card company, and included the gum with it. That's... that's how we got it. Boom.

**Teresa:** So if you got one before 1928, you got Blibber Blubber.

**Travis:** I don't think they were putting it in there before 1928.

**Teresa:** [laughing] Okay.

**Travis:** Maybe, though, 'cause they made the cards in '23? Maybe.

**Teresa:** But if you got it after 1928, you got Dubble Bubble.

**Travis:** Okay. And it also says here, 'cause thank you, the Fler Wikipedia page, that apparently, Dubble Bubble, uh, they made pink. And that's why we think of bubble gum as pink now.

**Teresa:** Yeah, not because it's flavored pink.

**Travis:** No. No.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** It just is pink. That's the color they made it.

**Teresa:** Alright. Let's talk about Max Fun.

**Travis:** Oh, okay! Y'know, Max Fun's a lot like chewing gum when you think about it. You sit there, you have it in your mouth all day long... not the mouth part. You're consuming it—let me try again. You sit there, you're consuming it all day long, and maybe at a certain point, you don't even think about it, y'know? You just are—you know where the gum drawer is in your house, and you just know it's gonna be there every day.

But what's that one day? You go to open that drawer, and there's no gum there. Oh! Heartbreak. And suddenly, you think, where's this gum even come from? What have I done lately to support the gum I care about? The gum that matters to me? The gum that, without it, I wouldn't be able to get through the day? Well, that's a lot like Max Fun, my friends.

Because here's the thing – Max Fun, maybe you love the shows. Maybe shows like My Brother, My Brother, and Me, The Adventure Zone, Shmanners, which you're listening to currently, Trends Like These,

Sawbones, Wonderful, Still Buffering, and all the other ones... maybe they're super important to you.

But y'know what? You listen to them so much now that it's a little bit easy to take that for granted. Well, once a year, for two weeks, we ask you to take a second and really think about how important these shows are to you. If they fill a big part of your life, if you count on them to be there, maybe it's because you like learning new things, or because you like, y'know, laughing during hard times. Or you like crying, and thinking about, y'know, emotions and stuff or whatever.

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So if you care about the work that we do, and you want to support Shmanners, [MaximumFun.org/Donate](https://MaximumFun.org/Donate). And when you do, you'll be asked to pick a level at which you feel comfortable donating, starting as low as five dollars a month. And when you donate as low as five dollars a month, that's like, uh, what, one expensive coffee drink a month? You'll get—

**Teresa:** Or three packs of gum!

**Travis:** Or three packs of gum. That's right, Teresa. You'll get access to over 200 hours of bonus content that you're not gonna hear anywhere else. There's also a ten dollar level that has some really beautiful enamel pins that you get from your favorite shows. There's a Shmanners one that's really cool, and it's our RSVP—no RSVP sign. That was Teresa's idea, and designed by Megan Cott, and it's gorgeous.

And then, at \$20 a month, you get the pin, you get the bonus content, and you get access—or, you get access to... you get sent. It's not like there's just one of them. You get sent your very own puzzle, and it's a design based off

of the view from the Max Fun HQ. At \$35 a month, you get the puzzle, you get the pin, you get the bonus content, and you get a really cool mug that's engraved with the Max Fun rocket logo.

There's other levels. \$50, \$100, \$200, but really, we just ask that you consider giving what you can. And y'know what? Maybe you're already a member. Maybe you donated in a previous MaxFunDrive. But over the years, the shows have become even more important to you, or you started listening to more. Well, maybe it's time to think about upgrading your donation so that you can include even more shows, and support even more of the shows you love.

So, [MaximumFun.org/Donate](http://MaximumFun.org/Donate). And y'know what? Do it now while you're thinking about it, as long as you're not driving. Because the MaxFunDrive is gonna be over soon. It ends Friday, and when it ends, you're gonna lose your chance to get all those cool gifts, and your chance to be a part of the magic. This time of year is one of my favorite, because it gives me a chance to, y'know, tell you all how much it matters to me that you support our shows. And it gives you all a chance to tell us how much our shows matter to you.

So, one more time. [MaximumFun.org/Donate](http://MaximumFun.org/Donate), and consider becoming a donor or upgrading your level today! Thank you. And... scene. Okay. More, Teresa.

**Teresa:** Alright. Here's some—some chewing gum etiquette. Let's jump in.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** To my mouth.

**Travis:** Now, would you say a lot of—no, don't jump into your mouth. That's weird, honey. You know that.

**Teresa:** [laughing]

**Travis:** You knew it as you were saying it, didn't you?

**Teresa:** Like gum? Gum goes in your mouth?

**Travis:** I know, but saying 'jump into my mouth,' you see how that's weird, right?

**Teresa:** [laughing]

**Travis:** You had to know!

**Teresa:** I'm so tired. So slap happy.

**Travis:** I know you—listen. We've been sick, and so we haven't slept well. But it's MaxFunDrive. You know you can't tell people to jump in your mouth, right?

**Teresa:** Maybe, because it's MaxFunDrive, I *can* tell people.

**Travis:** No! Griffin does the vore stuff! We can't do vore stuff, he'll sue us!

**Teresa:** Alright.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** Alright.

**Teresa:** [laughing]

**Travis:** Okay. Oh no, Teresa's melted into a puddle. Okay.

**Teresa:** Alright. Chewing gum is a polarizing topic. Did you—could you—go figure. Right?

**Travis:** Y'know what? I'm actually not really surprised by that.

**Teresa:** Um, it's been goin' on for centuries. Is chewing gum okay? Can we do it? Is it the American way? Maybe it is. Because... chewing gum gained popularity at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century for a few reasons. Uh, the first one being, again, it supposedly quenches thirst, and it does the way that you said it does. It tricks you into thinking that you're not thirsty, because you're salivating, so your mouth isn't dry.

**Travis:** Like, if you have a dry mouth—yeah. If you have a dry mouth, and you chew some gum, or pop some candy in, it'll like, wet your whistle. But it doesn't actually generate moisture from anywhere. Unless it's *Super Juicy Fruit*. Unless it's like, gum you've soaked in water. But that would be gross.

**Teresa:** So, water was scarce during World War I because of a particularly nasty tactic by the Germans, who poisoned much of the water supply. So as they would retreat and leave the water supply, they would—they'd poison it so nobody could come up behind them and use it.

**Travis:** Bummer.

**Teresa:** Yeah. Um, so, the quartermaster corpse...

**Travis:** Corps.

**Teresa:** Quartermaster corps. 'Scuse me. Shipped out 3.5 million packages of chewing gum!

**Travis:** That's a lot of gum!

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I—

**Teresa:** Uh, I'm sorry. I said—I com—I... combined World War I and World War II. Please excuse. World War I was when the quartermaster corps shipped out the packages of chewing gum to quench thirst, because water was scarce. But in World War II, the Germans used the tactic of poisoning



the water supply, so the American Red Cross sent out even more, 4.5 million packages to France and the allied troops. Please excuse.

**Travis:** That's a lot of gum! Y'know what I also bet? And listen... I'm not historian. But I also bet that there was a thing of like... at night, you don't want to light up a cigarette, if you're in like, the fox hole. If you're in the trenches. 'Cause they'll see the fire, and know where you are.

**Teresa:** Oooh.

**Travis:** So instead, chew some gum, soldier. Distract yourself from your craving for those cigarette sticks, or whatever they called them back then.

**Teresa:** Sure. Um, there have been some very prominent anti-gum crusaders, one of which being Gertrude Atherton, who was an American writer intellectual person. She wrote a *scathing* letter to the New York Times in 1918. Ahem.

**Travis:** About gum, I assume.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** And it reads, "I fear that the French jaw is working as one. That great and generous..." Excuse me. "That great and famous generals in their scant leaves of absence promenaded the boulevard's grinding away, like the historic cow on its cud."

**Travis:** Oh, wow.

**Teresa:** "Oh, shades of prewar Paris, when the world sat to her feet and humbly learned all that it knew of fashion, of style, and supreme elegance. It had been my fond hope that the contact of our boys with the politest nation in the world would send them home vastly improved in manners. Now, on the contrary! The French, in their spontaneous enthusiasm for all things American, were prepared to sit at our feet, to imitate us, and this

beautiful enthusiasm appears to have done something dreadful to their famous powers of cool discrimination, as well as their ironic souls.”

**Travis:** Wow.

**Teresa:** Oooh, she’s talking about bubb’a gum!

**Travis:** Yeah! I love the idea that chewing gum has somehow ruined their ironic souls. [laughs]

**Teresa:** Oh. [laughs] I know.

**Travis:** [imitating a French accent, poorly] I cannot be ironic anymore, because of ze Juicy Fruits. Uh, what is this accent I am doing? [laughs]

**Teresa:** Ehh, it’s vaguely French.

**Travis:** Vaguely. That’s like, all of my accents, though, is vaguely something.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Um, and that’s—

**Teresa:** Another anti-gummer... Leon Trotsky.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Teresa:** For a very similar reason, of what you explained earlier, he felt, uh, that... capitalists invented gum to prevent the working class from thinking, because chewing gum gave them something mindless to automatically do, and uh, it promoted mindlessness to such a degree that there was no way that the Russian revolution could gain any ground if people were still chewing it.

**Travis:** Huh.

**Teresa:** Yeah, I don't...

**Travis:** Y'know, I'm of two minds about it, right? Because on the one hand, yeah, chewing gum is pretty, like, on paper, unproductive. Like, it doesn't real—as we said, it doesn't actually like, hydrate you. It doesn't feed you. But also, like, there's tons of stuff you could say that about that's still like, fun and cool to do.

**Teresa:** Yeah, I know. Would you say the same about the hula hoop, Mr. Trotsky?

**Travis:** Right. Yeah! Or like... I don't know, I was gonna say dancing, but I guess that's exercise. But like, whatever. Y'know? Watching TV. It's fine. I like watching TV. I enjoyed Brooklyn 99, y'know?

**Teresa:** Do you think that if you watched less TV, you could lead a revolution?

**Travis:** I mean, sure, but if I did less naps, I could lead a revolution. There's a lot of stuff holding me back from revoluting.

**Teresa:** [laughing]

**Travis:** Revolving? I think it's revolving? Yes.

**Teresa:** Revolu... revuuuling.

**Travis:** Revolutioni—revolutionaring.

**Teresa:** Revoluting.

**Travis:** Revoluting. Yes. I would revolute if it weren't for all the sandwiches I've eaten. Y'know, fill in the blanks, y'know?

**Teresa:** [laughing]

**Travis:** If I hadn't started watching every episode of Supernatural, I could've led six revolutions by now. That's like, what, that's six times 360...

**Teresa:** So what you're saying is, Mr. Trotsky, it's working?

**Travis:** What, quitting gum?

**Teresa:** No, mindlessness.

**Travis:** Well, I mean, I guess. I don't know, if you consider Supernatural mindlessness.

**Teresa:** Yes, I do.

**Travis:** We'll talk about this all later.

**Teresa:** Okay. Uh... it didn't work, because both of those opinions were highly unpopular, because chewing gum was so great that, in the 1940s, it was just included in army rations. Like, it was everywhere. And when people came back, they wanted their gum fix. Kids wanted to be like their parents, who chewed the gum. Everybody was chewin' it.

**Travis:** I also have to mention, that has to do with like, especially once you start, um, like, airing, televising, like, baseball games and stuff...

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Where you have people, I mean, chewing tobacco then, I think. But probably also gum. But kids see like, people chewing on something, and they can't use tobacco yet, so they use gum. That's why Big League Chew exists! Anyways.

**Teresa:** Anyways. Um, I think that a lot of the debate nowadays is really about how you chewing gum affects other people, which is one reason why the Emily Post Institute says that, as long as you chew gum quietly, and

keep it in your mouth, it's not disrespectful. Y'know, but don't like, twirl it, or chew and pop it, or like, blow bubbles or whatever.

Um, and that mainly has to do with, like I said, like, shared spaces. Right? So like, business meetings, subway cars, uh, if you're eating at a restaurant...

**Travis:** Study halls, yeah.

**Teresa:** Study hall. Places like that. But like, do what you want to do with your gum by yourself.

**Travis:** I said study hall. I meant library. I meant to say the word library.

**Teresa:** I mean, it's the—well, but similar. Yes.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Also, don't do it at a library.

**Travis:** Okay. Y'know, I also—I'm also—I—this is one of those times where I'm reminded of the Gene Wilder Willy Wonka, when it's like, spitting is a nasty habit. And he's like, I can think of worse ones. Right? That, of like... am I saying that chewing gum—no. But y'know, a lot of people use chewing gum as like, a smoking cessation. And like, given the option, I'd much rather have someone like, chewing gum around me than smoking around me. Or like, y'know, there's worse habits.

**Teresa:** There are worse habits. It's true. Um, but like, it's... it still continues to be divisive, because there is the camp of, well, it's not hurting anybody. And then there's the camp of, yeah, but I share the same space with you, and I don't like the sound of it, the smell of it, any of that stuff. So I think that, if you encounter a particularly loud gum-chewer, I think they're too—

**Travis:** You should have them arrested.

**Teresa:** There are two options. You gotta either move, or...

**Travis:** Like, to a different state?

**Teresa:** No. Like away, until you can't hear it.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Teresa:** Pack your bags.

**Travis:** And move away.

**Teresa:** Move away. [laughs] Or, I suppose you could ask someone *politely* to chew their gum quieter.

**Travis:** Yeah. Y'know, before we discuss that more... there's a lot of questions about that. But first, while I look up said questions, Teresa, why don't you tell me a little bit about the MaxFunDrive?

**Teresa:** Well, the MaxFunDrive is our annual pledge drive where we reach out to our listeners and fans of our podcasts, and ask them to contribute and support our doings on here. And there are several levels at which one can support. My personal favorite is the five dollar level, because at the five dollar level, you get aaall of the bonus content.

**Travis:** What kind of bonus content, Teresa?

**Teresa:** Well, there are extra special shows only for donors. There are crossover shows. There are celebrity-studded shows.

**Travis:** That's true.

**Teresa:** There are, now, YouTube contents.

**Travis:** Yeah, that's true. We got videos on there.

**Teresa:** Yeah. So I mean, the possibilities are endless.

**Travis:** Well, they're not endless. There's 211 hours. It's not endless.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** But yes, I see what you're saying. There are a lot of—they're not even possibilities. They're realities. The realities are limited.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** That's not as fun to say as the possibilities are endless. But, within those limited realities are some really good episodes of stuff. [laughing] And y'know what? That's available to every level of donation, from five dollars to \$200. Y'know what, as long as we're talking about it...

So uh, \$50 a month, you're gonna get an engraved membership card made of metal for the Max Fun members. At \$100 a month, you're going to be a member of the Max Fun social club, which means, every month, uh, a Max Fun personality is gonna pick out some kind of media. Maybe it's an album, or a book, or a movie or whatever, and everybody's gonna get a copy of it.

**Teresa:** Ooh! I want to know what, uh, poetry Rachel might pick.

**Travis:** Oh, that would be so good. We'll have to make her do that. And then at \$200, you get all, everything we've said, and you get free registration for MaxFunCon 2020, which if you haven't been, MaxFunCon is an absolute blast.

But I would say, more than anything, even more than the bonus content, the thing that you get is the warm, fuzzy feeling of knowing that you helped make more of the content that is important to you. Y'know, Justin often refers to it as like, voting for what you wish there was more of in the world.

**Teresa:** Hmm, I like that.

**Travis:** So if you think our shows have a positive impact on your life, in whatever form that manifests, and you wish that there was more content like that, use your money to vote for that. And to make it easier for us to make more content that matters to you. And you can do that by going to [MaximumFun.org/Donate](http://MaximumFun.org/Donate).

I will also say – not everyone's able to afford to donate. And we totally understand that, and you should not feel bad if you can't afford to donate. But you can still help by going to social media and saying, y'know, it's MaxFunDrive, here's where we're at, here's where we're trying to get to. If you love these shows, and you should because of this, consider donating. Use the hash tag #MaxFunDrive, and include the link, [MaximumFun.org/Donate](http://MaximumFun.org/Donate).

**Teresa:** If you tag me, or tag Travis, we'll do our best to get out there and thank you, even if you're just spreading the word.

**Travis:** Um, also, just 'cause I think the people here that will really like this, is we made... if we hit 22 thousand new and upgrading donors, uh, overall for the whole network, Justin edited together a ten minute McElroy home video super cut of our first, uh, family home video. And it has like, three and a half year old Travis, six and a half year old Justin, and like, baby Griffin.

**Teresa:** Awww, the cherubic baby!

**Travis:** Like, straight up baby Griffin. Like, one month old Griffin. And it's like, some of the first footage of us together, um, as three brothers. And we will be releasing that to donors once we hit 22 thousand new and upgrading donors.

Um, yeah, anyways, if this is important to you, and you want to get in on it, do it right away. Don't wait. [MaximumFun.org/Donate](http://MaximumFun.org/Donate).

Uh, this first question is from Mia. "Is it rude not to offer gum if you're having some of your own?"



**Teresa:** Um, I guess the scale is what we should talk about here. If you are having some gum on a bus, and there are 50 people on the bus, do you need to offer? No. You don't. Um, I could say, if you really wanted to, y'know, make someone's day, maybe offer to the people seated next to you. Right? In your immediate vicinity.

But unless you are trying to cultivate a relationship, uh, I would say, no. It's not rude in any case, because it's your stuff, and uh, you can offer gum if you want to.

**Travis:** Yeah, I would say... rude isn't really the word I'd use, so much as if like, you're sitting there, surrounded by friends, right? And you have gum, it would be appreciated if you would offer it to your friends. But like, y'know, if you only have like, two sticks of gum left, and you have eight friends sitting with you, it's probably fine not to offer it to everybody. Y'know?

It's very situational. I wouldn't say it is like, categorically rude not to. I would just say like, offering to share things with people is always appreciated. That's kind of the way I'd go with it.

**Teresa:** Agreed.

**Travis:** Um, this is from Spenchy. "How many candies am I allowed to take from a help yourself bowl of candy, at like a doctor's office or waiting room type situation?"

**Teresa:** One.

**Travis:** Just ooone?

**Teresa:** Just one. Because here's the thing – these are often like, grab and go bowls. These are not like, sit here and eat it with me bowls. So, I guess, unless you are in the waiting room for a very long time, the amount of time it takes to get through one of these candies, and then jones for another one, y'know... um, you really should only take one. And if you are with a small child, you can take one for them. But not too small, 'cause that's a choking hazard.

Um, but it's not—this—y'know, this is not... like I said, a grab and stay. What did I say before?

**Travis:** I don't know. Hang out and stay?

**Teresa:** Hang out and stay? [laughs] I said, grab and go, and... hang out and stay, I think. Yeah.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** So just one.

**Travis:** Um, let's see... this is from, uh, Jarcup. "What's the quietest way to eat candy at the movie theater? I'm worried about annoying people with my wrapper crinkling."

**Teresa:** Um... if you can, the best way is to unwrap the candy completely, and just have it out.

**Travis:** But you're talking about like, individually wrapped kind of candies or whatever? What if it's just like—I find that what helps is to kind of roll down the top of the bag, and pick out of it. That's actually why a lot of the times now, when you uh, see the candy for sale in movie theaters, it's in cardboard boxes instead of in plastic bags.

**Teresa:** Right. But if you are at a live theater, and you have a peppermint, it's—the best way is to unwrap it completely before the show starts, and have it maybe in your hand, maybe in a tissue or something, so that you're not crinkling anything.

**Travis:** But here's, now, off the books... this is unofficial Travis McElroy opinion. If you fail to do that, right? And it's like, "Oh no, I need a cough drop or a candy right now." Quick unwrap. Don't do the slow crinkly unwrap. Everyone knows exactly what you're doing. Just rip the bandaid off. Whoop! Right? And it's loud for a second... but then it's done. As opposed to like, [quietly] crinkle crinkle crinkle...

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** [quietly] Crinkle crinkle... crinkle crinkle crinkle... and everyone's like, "Just open it!"

**Teresa:** "Just open it!"

**Travis:** Yeah. Just, wish, do it. Um, let's see. This is from Panda. "What's the politest way to ask people to stop popping their gum? I have misophonia and usually saying 'it makes me panic' isn't enough of a reason." Did I pronounce that correctly? I think I did.

**Teresa:** I think so.

**Travis:** If I didn't, I'm sorry.

**Teresa:** Um, I don't even know if you need to go so far. But I think that, to say, uh, why they need to stop popping their gum. Um, it's about the way that you say it. I don't think that you... we talk about this a lot. There's no need to hem and haw and skirt around the bush and be like, "Mm, could you, umm, ju—mmm..." Any of that stuff. If you can say, "Please stop popping your gum, it's irritating."

**Travis:** Or just 'distracting,' if you don't want to—

**Teresa:** Sure.

**Travis:** If you're worried about using like a loaded word, like you wouldn't want necessarily 'irritating' and 'annoying.' If you just want to say, "It's distracting," or...

**Teresa:** But I don't think you have to apologize for any of this stuff.

**Travis:** Yes. You don't have to—never start—I think. This is me. Never start a request with, "I'm sorry."

**Teresa:** I agree.

**Travis:** Um, it's just—it just—it weakens everything you're about to say. Uh, and more often than not, the person will immediately respond like, "You don't have to be sorry." Like...

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Let's see. This is from Party Time Cyclops. "If someone asks for a piece of candy that you didn't intend to share, is it okay to say no?"

**Teresa:** Yes. It is okay to say no. Um, I think that you can say something like, "I didn't bring enough for everyone." Or, "I only brought enough for me." Or, um... I mean... I know that I'm usually against kind of like, explaining too much. You can probably just say, "No, I don't want to share."

**Travis:** Yeah. I think that's tough though, right?

**Teresa:** It is.

**Travis:** Because the thing is like, when it comes the something like sharing, I think it's reaaally hard for someone to understand a 'no' without an explanation. Because it's like, "May I have a piece?"  
"No."  
"Uh... oh."

Like, I think it's just everyone's expecting you to say yes. I think you have to say like, "I only have a couple pieces left, and it needs to last me through the day." Or whatever. But I do think you need some kind of explanation. "I didn't bring enough for everybody," whatever. But then I don't think you have to—

**Teresa:** Or what about, "I wasn't expecting to share."

**Travis:** That's where I would lean into the like, "If you don't have enough for everybody, pop—" Like, for example, if you're on like, a long car trip with friends, and they're like, "Aw, we're starving!" And you're like, "Yeah, me

too!" And you open a bag of candy, and they're like, "Oh, can I have some?" And you're like, "No!"

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Then like, why did you get it out, y'know? I think it's just—if you don't want to share, you probably shouldn't break it out in front of people who would probably want some.

**Teresa:** Okay. I can agree with that, because it's about the relationship again, right?

**Travis:** Yes.

**Teresa:** And the closer you are in terms of relationship, the more explanation you can give. Absolutely.

**Travis:** Right. This is from George. "What is the protocol with regards to eating candy or chewing gum in discussion-based lecture setting?"

**Teresa:** Um, if you are the one lecturing, I would say don't. Uh, because... couple reasons. It's distracting for the people watching, and it can, uh, if something were to, I don't know, get stuck in your teeth or something like that, it's distracting for you lecturing. Also, it's hazardous. Because if you need to speak, especially maybe project, um, you could breathe in suddenly and choke on your gum or candy. And I say the same thing for people swimming. You often need to breathe in sharply, and you could choke on your gum or your candy.

But if you are... if you are attending a lecture... as long as you don't like, knock it around in your teeth or chew with your mouth open.

**Travis:** Yeah, that's what I was gonna say. I have a tendency when it comes to hard candy to crunch it up. I have a really hard time not.

**Teresa:** And that's a thing you know about yourself, so you don't eat it.

**Travis:** Yeah, so I wouldn't do it. And I think the same of like, unwrap your candy beforehand, like... because that's—and especially like, especially in a circumstance where people like, need to take notes and hear what the person is saying.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** That is—it's especially important not to be distracting if you can help it. And so like, sitting there, unwrapping candy, and like, crinkling a bunch, I think would be bad form.

Um, this is from Holly. "If I receive candy as a gift, is it rude to start eating it right away? Should I save it for later, or offer to share with the person who gave it to me?"

**Teresa:** Um, it is not rude to start eating it right away.

**Travis:** In fact, I would be excited. If I gave somebody like, candy or something, and they were so excited that they immediately tore into it, I'd be like, "I did great! They're excited about it! This is cool!"

**Teresa:** [laughs] I would say that if you really enjoy the gift, you probably would want to share. Um, but again, it's your gift, and you have to weigh the relationship with the person. I mean, candy's great. So you... can share it. [laughs]

**Travis:** I've been thinking about sharing a lot lately, 'cause we're working on it with Bebe.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** And the thing about sharing that I think is amazing – and this is a great lesson to discuss during the MaxFunDrive – is sharing, at first I was having a hard time teaching Bebe about it, right? 'Cause I'm looking at her and saying, like, "Hey, give that thing you want to me, because I want it." Right? And that—that is weird. But then I explained it to her that, in giving

that thing to me, she makes me happy. And then, my happiness can make her happy.

So like, she started sharing with me, and like, now she does it on her own, walking up to me and like, handing me a thing. And I'm so touched, and like, it's so nice that she's sharing with me, that she is happy that I am happy. And she's getting this like, secondhand burst of happiness, y'know what I mean?

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And so, the thing is like, if I got—if Teresa gave me a gift of like, chocolates, right? That makes me happy. And then I can immediately like, increase that happiness by sharing some with her, and making her happy. And now, our...

Giving someone else some of your happiness doesn't decrease your amount of happiness. It creates more happiness in the situation. Happiness is not a limited resource, that if you give some away, you lose it. It grows within both of you, and now you're both happy, and that's more happiness to share with others.

So I'm of the opinion that sharing is caring.

**Teresa:** [laughs] I knew it. I knew that was coming. But on the opposite way, if you don't want to share this candy, uh, question asker, if it is so precious to you that you would like to keep it for yourself, don't open it then. Wait until later.

**Travis:** Yes. One last question here. This is from Matt. "How do I politely spit out a nasty candy or gum that I had previously asked for?"

**Teresa:** Um, you gotta cover it. So, tissue, or receipt, or some... like, scrap paper or something. Um, put that in your hand. Bring it up to your mouth, and discreetly rid yourself of the offending confection.

**Travis:** Yeah, and y'know, I would say that if the person is watching, especially if it's like, "I want to see if you like this or not." I think it's okay to say, "Y'know, this isn't for me." What I would—and this is another thing we've talked about many times. "I" statements. Like, "This isn't a candy I like," as opposed to, "This is gross."

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** 'Cause the thing is like, if I have a candy I absolutely love, and I give you a piece of it, and you don't like it, that's fine. But if I love it, and you tell me it's gross, well, now we have to have an argument about it. 'Cause it's not gross, I like it.

**Teresa:** But instead, I can just say, "I don't like this."

**Travis:** Right. So I would say it's okay. Everybody doesn't have to like everything. But I would say, just be careful how you phrase it. Instead of like, "This is disgusting!" Instead say like, "This just isn't for me."

**Teresa:** Word.

**Travis:** Uh, that's gonna do it for us. But one last time – we want to encourage you. [MaximumFun.org/Donate](http://MaximumFun.org/Donate). Consider becoming a donor and supporting the shows you love. There's only a limited time left, so don't miss your chance to be part of the action. [MaximumFun.org/Donate](http://MaximumFun.org/Donate).

Uh, yeah. Also, we're gonna be in San Jose and Salt Lake City next week with some shows.

**Teresa:** Woohoo!

**Travis:** If you have ideas for topics for future shows, you can email us, [ShmannersCast@gmail.com](mailto:ShmannersCast@gmail.com). Also, if you want to get tickets for those shows, I think there some left, but it's not very many, so I would hurry if you plan on coming. Uh, you can go to [McElroy.family](http://McElroy.family) and click on tours there at the top. That's also where you can get merch, and see other projects that we're working on. All kinds of stuff.



Teresa, what else?

**Teresa:** Well, we always want to thank Brent "Brental Floss" Black for making our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are sold. Also thank you to Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art. You can tweet at us @ShmannersCast, or our personal Twitters. Mine is @TeresaMcElroy.

**Travis:** And mine is @TravisMcElroy.

**Teresa:** Um, we also want to thank Keely Weiss Photography for the cover photo for the fan-run Facebook group, Shmanners Fanners, which you should join if you are looking to give and get great Shmannerly advice.

**Travis:** And that's gonna do it for us. So join us again next week.

**Teresa:** No RSVP required!

**Travis:** You've been listening to Shmanners.

**Teresa:** Manners, Shmanners. Get it?

[theme music plays]

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