

Shmanners 151: Rainy Day

Published February 14th, 2019

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Travis: Hey, Teresa. Did you hear what happened to the guy who went out when it was raining cats and dogs?

Teresa: No, what?

Travis: He stepped in a poodle!

Teresa: [snickers]

Travis: It's *Shmanners*!

[theme music plays]

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

Teresa: [holding back laughter] And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy!

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

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: For ordinary occasions! Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hello, dear.

Travis: Did that one get you?

Teresa: It really did.

Travis: That is a dumb joke!

Teresa: It just tickled me! It tickled me!

Travis: It tickled you? Okay, alright! Hey, every so often I'm a little bit funny, and I'll take it. How's everybody doing?

[dog tags jingling in the background]

Travis: Hope you're great. We're back from New Orleans. You can hear our dogs wrestling in the background, because they have no respect for the recording light.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Man, I wish I had a recording light. Can I install one of those?

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: It'd be just for, like, you and me—

Teresa: Just for us.

Travis: —okay. Anyways, we're back from New Orleans. Thank you to everybody who came out to Birmingham and New Orleans. We had a great time in both cities. Ate a lot of good food—

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: —saw a lot of cool stuff—

Teresa: Oh!

Travis: —it was great.

Teresa: Great.

Travis: But now we're back! From outer space. And I've got a cold.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: So if I sound a little weird, that's why. And, you know, it's been kind of rainy here the last couple days in Cincinnati, so it inspired me to talk about rainy day weather etiquette!

[dog tags jingling in the background]

Travis: I really hope you can hear my dogs in the background—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: —otherwise you're gonna be like, "Travis and Teresa seem kinda distracted!" But it's be—

Teresa: I—I actually—

Travis: Oh my God!

Teresa: —hope you can't! Is that—

Travis: That's fair.

[dog growling]

Travis: Okay, we just have to keep talking!

Teresa: Maybe we shouldn't—[laughs] maybe we should cut? I don't know.

Travis: Okay, we're gonna pause real quick and see if we can get 'em to calm down.

And we're back, and the dogs have been calmed.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: That's radio magic, folks! Just edited out all of the dog calming. So, here's the thing. I love rainy weather.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: The most.

Teresa: Yes. We have established this, and I know that you love rainy weather. You know, I really don't mind the rain. It's the mud I don't like.

Travis: I'm not an outdoor kid, though, so, like, that's not a thing for me.

Teresa: Well, but we've got dogs, and Bebe loves to play outside, so, like—

Travis: Yeah, okay. Now, granted—

Teresa: —the mud drives me crazy.

Travis: —it has become a new wrinkle, especially with Lily, speaking of dogs, because Buttercup is a very dainty dog and doesn't like getting her paws wet; and Lily doesn't—well, Lily doesn't mind puddles. She doesn't like wet grass. But anyway, listen. This isn't *Can I Pet Your Dog?* This is *Shmanners*. So, back to why I love rainy days.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: The thing is is I—like I said, I'm not an indoor kid, so I never got that feeling of—or I *am* an indoor kid—

Teresa: Indoor kid. That's you.

Travis: —so I never got that feeling of "Oh no, it's raining! We can't do anything."

Teresa: Right.

Travis: I got the feeling of, "Yes! It's raining! I don't have to do anything."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "Excellent!"

Teresa: "Nobody's gonna push me outside."

Travis: "Yeah, no one's gonna shame me for not playing sports." Um... I played some sports. Listen, it's not important. I love rainy weather. I also just think... just—not to be an artsy-fartsy theater kid like I am, but it's just more interesting. You know, with the clouds, and you get thunder and lightning and the rain and the sound, like—

Teresa: It's dramatic, for sure.

Travis: Yeah. You can't *hear* sunlight, you know what I mean? No one's ever said, like, "Ooh, just listen to the sunlight on the roof." Like, that—that's not a thing. "Listen to the sunlight hit the window." Like, that's nothing.

So, I think rain is the best, don't @ me—

Teresa: [snorts] Can you imagine what it would be like if you could hear the sun hitting the window? [whisper-screams]

Travis: No, I think it would sound like this: [low buzzing noise]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Like, all the time, like a microwave going. Just, like, [low buzzing noise]. You know what I mean?

Teresa: What if it sounded like a pan sizzling? [imitates sizzling]

Travis: Welcome to our ASMR episode of *Shmanners*.

Teresa: [laughs] I would not be able to handle it. I would not be—it would drive me crazy.

Travis: Well, I also just think, like, there's more interesting coats, you get more accessories with rain... and, you know, here's the thing: snow and cold—like, that's a lasting effect, you know what—and I know you'd say, like, "Well, you get inside and your wet," and it's like, yeah, but being wet is not nearly as uncomfortable as being cold or hot. If you think—like, in *my* opinion.

Teresa: Well, but—I mean, but if you get wet, you're gonna be cold unless you get dry.

Travis: Okay. Alright.

Teresa: 'Cause of evaporation. But you mentioned accessories.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: And the one accessory I would like to, um, elucidate...

Travis: What? Sure. Yeah!

Teresa: ... uh, expound upon.

Travis: There we go.

Teresa: I think elucidate is—

Travis: I think it's true. Honestly, that was not me correcting you. I don't know what that word exactly means.

Teresa: I—I think it means "describe."

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Uh-oh! Travis googles it.

Travis: Uh, yes! "Make something clear or explain," you were right! Not—I didn't think you were wrong—

Teresa: Wha—oh—oh! [stammers]

Travis: I never thought you were wrong! I just didn't know! It was one of those words that struck my ear in a weird way. [sighs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: We are—this is gonna be a Hall of Fame episode.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: People will look back in 200 years and say, "Do you remember when podcasting finally reached its apex with that episode of *Shmanners* that started with dogs wrestling and Travis talking about how rain isn't bad, and then didn't understand what a word meant? Oh, that's when—that was the golden age," they'll say.

Teresa: Ooh, boy.

Travis: "And that thing he said about a poodle?" [laughs quietly]

Teresa: [holding back laughter] Okay. Hey, let's talk about umbrellas.

Travis: Okay, please. Do you know I say it weird?

Teresa: Do you say *um*-brella?

Travis: I do. Um—umbr—*um*-brella. I can't do it when I'm thinking—*um*-brella, instead of um-*brel*-la.

Teresa: Um-*brel*-la.

Travis: *Um*-brella.

Teresa: *Um*-brella.

Travis: Um-*brel*-la. *Um*-brella.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um, Ohm? [indistinctly] Om—ombr—ombor—I've lost it!

Teresa: Let's say it 100 more times until it loses meaning.

Travis: [simultaneously] Umbrella, umbrella, umbrella, umbrella, umbrella, umbrella, umbrella—

Teresa: [singing] Under my umbrella, ella, ella, eh, eh, eh, eh—

Travis: [simultaneously] Ella, ella, ella, eh, eh, eh—let's keep going.

Teresa: Okay. Um, so the basic umbrella was probably invented, like, 4,000 years ago?

Travis: 'Cause I would bet you would be just—at that point, especially if we're talking about, like, there were people like slaves carrying sticks with, like, fabric tied between it, and they would, like, hold it over you, or even, like, palm fronds?

Teresa: Well—uh, yes. So, like, palm fronds, feathers, straw, all of these things were used as kind of umbrellas to shade people. But... not really for the rain.

Travis: Really?

Teresa: Yeah! Uh, mostly, like I said, for the shade.

Travis: So did they just not put together the rain? Or were they just not bothered by—like, "Hey, this might stop rain, too?"

Teresa: Well, so there's—there's a little bit of, um... [sighs] there's a little bit of an argument about this.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So, as far as I can tell, there are a lot of historians that say that they really weren't used for rain, because umbrellas were utilized in hot climates like the Egyptians, right? The Greeks, Assyria, Mesopotamia, places like that. Um, and they were used so much so that the royalty were really permitted to use them. They weren't, like, an everyday thing.

Travis: Oh, okay. This is a lot like—

Teresa: So it was, like, for a procession or for, you know, the religious leaders or things like that. They were more of an accessory to protect oneself, not just from the sun but from the rabble.

Travis: We've talked about tanning and stuff on this show before, right?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Of that idea of, like, we go back and forth between sometimes it's in vogue and sometimes it's gauche, and, like, it just depends on what period of time it is. And this also reminds me of, like, purple dye.

Teresa: Yeah, exactly.

Travis: Right? Where I believe it was Egypt for a long time where *only* the royal family was allowed to have things that were purple, to set them apart from everybody else.

Teresa: So... probably the first group to use umbrellas for rainy weather were probably the Chinese, closely followed by the Europeans, because that's kind of like the weather... that was there. You know what I mean?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um, and the way that the Chinese probably waterproofed their umbrellas was that they waxed and lacquered the paper that they used for their parasols and such, in order to make them *sort of* waterproof.

Travis: More so than not—than not having it, I guess.

Teresa: Right, more so than not, especially if you're using a silk umbrella. I mean, it's just gonna, like, get wet, and then get you wet, so you need to protect it somehow, and the lacquer and the wax and sometimes even, like, hides were used.

Travis: But I bet they were super expensive, right? Like, isn't that always the way with new technology where it's like, I bet they—I mean, I'm not looking to you for confirmation so much as—

Teresa: It probably just depends on what yours was made of.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um, like you were talking about palm fronds or straw or feathers or something, really probably just depended on what you had around. If you'd seen an umbrella, you can make an umbrella. Like, it—and I'm not talking about the telescoping kind, I'm talking about the kind that are always open.

Travis: Just, like, a static, open thing. I'm also picturing—and maybe this is just movie stuff, but I'm also picturing, like, every period, ocean, sailing movie I've ever seen, where it's raining, and I feel like a lot of hats and jackets were designed to kind of—not—I wouldn't say "mimic" umbrellas, but keep the rain off your face? You know, think about really wide-brimmed hats and stuff where it protected you from sun and rain.

Teresa: Yeah. And actually, hats were kind of one of the things that made umbrellas only really rain gear, because at the time when hats were very popular, we're talking about, you know, like, 17th, 18th century, times like that. The hats

were an all-time fashion accessory, like the umbrella had been, but then because you had hats, it was hard to have a hat *and* an umbrella. Especially—

Travis: Yes. That's when they invented umbrella hats.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Have you ever used one of those, by the way?

Teresa: I have not.

Travis: It is ineffective.

Teresa: [laughs] Well, it's probably just so—like, it—the umbrella doesn't really go out.

Travis: Yes. For it to be large enough to work, I think it would probably give you huge neck problems. [laughs quietly] Like, you'd have to wear a neck brace in order—'cause otherwise it's—[serious tone] listen, folks. I've tried it. I have worn one. It's ineffective. Don't @ me. You can @ me about a lot of things, but not about umbrella hats.

Teresa: Um, so, like I said, hats pretty much pushed the umbrella into, like, only a rain accessory.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, but there are some really cool things about umbrellas later on. I mean, like I said, in the 17th, 18th centuries, especially in Europe. At this point, the rainy climates kind of necessitated that you keep yourself dry, right? Whether it's kind of like a woolen coat or, like I said, a hat, or the umbrella, which was popular for women, really wasn't popular for men at the time. It was considered kind of, uh... well, it was considered feminine.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Uh, and feminine, for a man, was considered bad!

Travis: It's—it probably was one of those things of, like, "Oh, you can't take a little rain, Jeremiah?" or whatever.

Teresa: Whatever.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: [laughs] Something like that. Um, but then a—a gentleman and traveler and writer named Jonas Hanway carried and used an umbrella publicly in England for 30 years! And he is credited with popularizing the umbrella among Englishmen. Um, and—

Travis: It's so weird to think that there was a time when people were like, "Ooh, umbrellas? [laughs] Not for men!" [through laughter] Like, that's so silly!

Teresa: Listen, he made it so popular that umbrellas are commonly referred to as a Hanway.

Travis: Really?

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: Okay!

Teresa: Um, so... the first umbrella shop in England was opened in 1830—

Travis: Called Umbrellas R Us.

Teresa: No...

Travis: No...

Teresa: It was called James Smith and Sons. And these umbrellas were usually made out of wood or whale bone, or even—later on, they were made out of, um, ladies' corset stays?

Travis: Okay!

Teresa: Just, you know, usin' up that inventory.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: I guess. Um, and... so, that was, like I said, the ribbed design that the steel gives it was an invention from 1852, and that's the one that uses the kind of ladies' corset stays.

Travis: Gotcha.

Teresa: Um, and then we—there really aren't anything in between that and, like, the 1920s!

Travis: You know, I feel like it's probably hard to constantly be reinventing the umbrella.

Teresa: Well, so we went from the always-open to the collapsible kind, right? That's a pretty good step.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And after that, the next step is pocket-sized!

Travis: Make them small—like the telescoping, you know, kind?-

Teresa: Make 'em smaller. Yeah, like the telescoping one. Um, a compact, foldable umbrella was invented in 1928 by Hans Haupt in Vienna.

Travis: I don't know what it says about my brain. That seems way early for me.

Teresa: Really?

Travis: Yeah. I don't know why, but I feel like—what I'm about to say sounds dumb, but telescoping technology—but then I remember, you know, *telescopes* have been a thing for a lot longer than that. You know what? I'm just gonna sit back here and let the cold overtake my brain.

Teresa: [laughs] Um, so now, umbrellas are a consumer product with a large global market. As of 2008, most umbrellas are made in China, and the city of Shangyu? I think that's it—Shangyu alone has more than *1000* umbrella factories.

Travis: Oh, wow.

Teresa: And, in the same year, 2008, the US Patent Office registered 3000 active patents on the umbrella-related inventions.

Travis: Okay. So, I have a question. Before we get to thank you notes, I am super curious, and I asked you about this earlier and you said we'd talk about it on the show—

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: —why is it bad luck—why is it considered bad luck to open an umbrella indoors?

Teresa: There are two thoughts on this.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: The first one being that the superstition goes all the way back to the Egyptians, where, like I said, you were protected from the sun by the umbrella, and because they—

Travis: Oh, can I guess?

Teresa: Mm-hmm?

Travis: If you open it indoors, it angers the sun god Ra.

Teresa: [pauses] Sure! I mean—

Travis: [laughs] Well, I mean, okay.

Teresa: —not just the sun god, but, like, the—the spirits of the air. Like, it was like, "Are we not protecting you enough?"

Travis: Okay, gotcha.

Teresa: All that kind of stuff. So that's one that. So it was god-related.

Travis: God-adjacent.

Teresa: Yes. Yes, it was a disrespectful act to the gods. Um, the other one, which I would consider more likely to have survived in our, you know, Western society, is that umbrellas are pretty pokey. Um, and they take up a lot of space inside, so if you're not really watching where you're going, what you're doing, and you open an umbrella inside, you could really hurt somebody, especially when the collapsible umbrellas were invented. [holding back laughter] Like, the mechanics were not super smooth.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Right? And they were made out of things like bone and corset stays, so you could really put somebody's eye out with that thing.

Travis: So you think it's practicality by way of superstition?

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Of, like, "Hey! Don't open that in here."

"Why not?"

"Uhhh... it's bad luck!"

Teresa: Yeah. I mean, because it's pretty bad luck for me if I get hit in the eye by your umbrella.

Travis: Ohh, do you think, like, some people got hit by the umbrella and was like, "Oh, it's bad luck! That's bad lu—how unfortunate for you!" Instead of saying, like, "It's your fault, Jeremiah!"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Jeremiah: through the ages.

Teresa: Hey, you're still hittin' on Jeremiah there.

Travis: I'm trying to pick a new comedy name! Alright.

Teresa: So, here are a couple more umbrella-related superstitions.

One is, if you drop an umbrella you should never pick it up yourself. You should ask someone else to pick it up for you. I don't know why.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Uh, don't give umbrellas as gifts. Don't put umbrellas on tables or beds. Also, um, there's a caveat to the opening of the umbrella where you can open an umbrella inside to dry it off that had previously been opened outside in the rain.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So that isn't part of the—of the bad luck thing.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: So—I can kind of—I will say, kind of track the "Don't give an umbrella as a gift," right? Because that makes sense to me of, like—it's basically wishing someone rainy days.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: But don't put one on the table...

Teresa: You'll get the table wet.

Travis: I mean, okay.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah, I guess that makes sense.

Teresa: It's the same thing where, like, "Don't put your shoes on the table or the bed. You get it wet and dirty."

Travis: [quietly] Okay.

Teresa: "Don't do that." [laughs]

Travis: You—you win this round.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Alright, we're gonna take a quick break for some thank you notes, and then we'll be back with your questions!

[theme music plays]

Teresa: We'd like to send out our thank you note this week to a personal message, a Jumbotron if you will, for Jacob, from Noah! It reads:

"Happy late birthday, my dude! I'm sure that I'm not the only one who would say that they appreciate all you have done to help throughout the years, whether it is playing D&D, music, or trying to avoid the Cat in the Hat with the Bat. I hope we can continue to catch up. Again, happy birthday. PS: sorry for forgetting your name that one time. Smiley face."

Travis: That's—that's nice. Not the forgetting the name part, but everything else is—

Teresa: But it has a smiley face in there.

Travis: Oh, and you also said "sorry," so I guess that's good. So, uh—

Teresa: All good things!

Travis: All good things.

Teresa: Happy birthday, my dude.

Pleck: Greetings! I am Pleck Decksetter, contacting you from the Zyxx squadron, which is frankly sorta crappy, but I'm here on a heroic mission with my trusty crew: C-53—

C-53: [robotic voice] Heroic feels like an exaggeration on our part.

Pleck: Okay, sure. And Security Officer Dar—

Dar: Pleck, don't put me in your stupid recording.

Pleck: Well—and we're all traveling aboard our trusty starship, the Bargarean Jade!

[pauses]

Pleck: Bargie?

Bargie: [robotic voice] What? Sorry. I'm awake, I'm awake, I was—

Pleck: It's fine.

Bargie: I was just flying... while asleep.

[triumphant music plays]

Alden Ford: Hey there! This is Alden Ford. I play Pleck, and we are so excited to announce that our podcast, *Mission to Zyxx*, is now part of the Maximum Fun Network. Our third season launches on Max Fun on March 20th. Binge seasons one and two right now. That's *Mission to Zyxx*: Z-Y-X-X.

[music plays]

Jonah: The news today is terrible, so why not forget about it while listening to *Jonah Raydio*? Uh, with Cash Hartzell—

Cash: Hey, everybody!

Jonah: Featuring Neil Mahoney!

Neil: Also me!

Jonah: This is a podcast where we play music submitted by a listener. We hang out, we listen to new tunes, and we take submissions at jonahraydio@gmail.com. Come and check us out! We're here... anyway.

Neil: Yeah. We'll be here.

Jonah: Yeah. So—and that's it, back to your regularly scheduled, uhh, podcast!

[music plays]

Travis: Okay! We've got some of your questions. Some of your rainy day questions. Did—when you were growing up, did you ever have, like, one of those books that's like, *1001 Things to Do on a Rainy Day*?

Teresa: [pauses] No.

Travis: One of them was "Read a book—"

Teresa: [snorts]

Travis: —which I thought was cheating.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: 'Cause, like, I'm already doing that?

Teresa: I'm doing that.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Check, check, check.

Travis: Check, okay, yes. I've already thought that.

Okay, this is from Anna.

"What is the proper way to share your umbrella with someone?"

Teresa: Okay. I think that the proper way is to... [pauses] get a bigger umbrella.
[laughs]

Travis: Yeah, see, okay. So, this is—what it comes down to is, I really do believe, how big is the umbrella, right?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: 'Cause there are some umbrellas that just were not meant to be shared, and I think that, especially with a small umbrella with someone you are, uh, only barely acquainted with or not at all, it's too intimate to share that.

Teresa: Yeah. Um, sometimes Travis and I can share an umbrella if we get real close and we're not, like, walking.

Travis: Right.

Teresa: We can do it to stand, because he's about a foot taller than I am. Uh, maybe not a foot, but, you know, a head—

Travis: Like, six feet taller.

Teresa: —a head taller.

Travis: I'm... I'm 12 foot... six.

Teresa: He's a head taller than I am, at least. So if we are standing still, I can stand, like, in front of him. You know, back to front, and I can stand underneath his umbrella.

Travis: And then it *kind of* works.

Teresa: And then it kind of works. But, like, my toes get wet, and if he has a backpack his backpack gets wet. Or, like, you know—it's not—most umbrellas are single serve.

Travis: Right, and in fact, like, if you're ever heard about golf umbrellas, the reason they're specifically about golf is they're meant—they're big enough for a caddy to hold over the player while they swing, so in that circumstance, like, that is a golf umbrella designed—or it's an umbrella designed to be shared.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: But the problem with that is, that works on a golf course because there's big, empty space around you, and if you're walking down, like, a busy street or whatever, especially if other people are using umbrellas, the golf umbrella doesn't really work. I would say you would be better off offering your umbrella to

someone else, and just going without. Um, especially if you have, like, a raincoat with a hood or something.

Uh, this question is from Sky.

"When you visit someone on a rainy day, is it more appropriate to leave your shoes outside by the door, or keep them on?"

Teresa: Um—you mean keep them—if you mean keep them on in the house, if your shoes are wet, I believe that you should take them off. Um, you could leave them outside, I suppose, but a best case scenario would be some sort of mat just inside the door where you would take those shoes off.

Travis: And I think that this is one of those cases of, um, perhaps best not to offer, and just do it. You know what I mean? Because—

Teresa: Because it would—okay. If you are not a shoes-off household, like we are, um, then...

Travis: They might be inclined to say, like, "Oh, don't worry about it, don't even worry about it."

Teresa: [simultaneously] Say "Oh, no, we wear our shoes, it's fine."

Travis: But then you're going to be, like, super self conscious about it the whole time, and, like—I would say if—especially if there's mud on them, just go ahead and take 'em off by the front door.

Um, this question is from Madison.

"How long is an appropriate time to wait for rain to 'lighten up' before insisting that your party braves the rain?"

Teresa: I think 10 minutes. If it isn't gonna get any lighter in 10 minutes, you're still gonna get wet. Like—

Travis: Yeah, and I think at that point maybe consider, like, rideshare, like, doin' Lyft or something. You know what I mean? Like—

Teresa: I mean, but if—

Travis: —or check—also, check the weather? [laughs] You know?

Teresa: So, my, like—my waiting out the rain usually is, like, leaving the grocery store, like, going to my car at the rec center, or whatever it is. Um, and waiting any more than 10 minutes, one, makes me feel like I am wasting my time.

And two, like, Bebe starts to get antsy, so 10 minutes is really all we can wait for. And if it isn't gonna lighten up, I mean, you're still gonna get wet. [holding back laughter] It's degrees of wetness at that point.

Travis: Yeah. Uh, this question is from Javier.

"Where should I put my wet umbrella if there isn't a place to leave it when entering a business? I carry a plastic bag just in case, but have had some weird looks for doing that."

Teresa: You are doing it right. You should have a bag with you. A lot of umbrellas come with small sleeves that you can even put them in. If you enter a hotel, likely they have umbrella bags for you to even take your umbrella with you. Some places have umbrella stands, things like that. You're doing it right. Um, don't let those other fools upset you.

Travis: Yeah. And I—and I would say by the front door is always an option, as long as it doesn't risk getting in someone's way or, like, falling over and blocking an entrance or something like that. Um... and, you know, carry it with you, I guess is always an option? But it's always a bummer to have to walk around with a wet umbrella.

Um, this question is from Kate.

"When is it okay to use a big golf umbrella?"

Uh, well—

Teresa: We talked about that a little bit. In a wide open space, not a sidewalk. Um, not—you should actually even close personal-sized umbrellas if you are going under, like, a walkway—

Travis: Yeah, scaffolding.

Teresa: —or scaffolding, or something like that.

Travis: That happens a lot in big cities. I would say in general, the—nobody asked a question about this, at least not that I saw, but we'll go ahead and address it.

The walking on a crowded sidewalk with an umbrella, I think, is one of the biggest kind of minefields of rainy day weather, 'cause I think the problem is, if everyone has an umbrella open, it's so easy to, like, whack into each others' faces, hit each others' umbrellas—so I think, um, if it's crowded, in an ideal world everybody could find different levels at which to hold their umbrella without whacking into somebody.

And listen, I'm just gonna go ahead and include if you do cosplay that has an umbrella with it, I'm gonna include this in here too, even if you're just walking at convention center or something like that. Keep it raised up high enough that you're not gonna, like, clip someone's head, in general.

But I would say, like—unfortunately, if you're on a crowded street and everyone has umbrellas up, might be just—you might have to just close your umbrella. You know what I mean? Like, I've—I've gotten snagged on other people's umbrellas before and stuff. I think it's—I think it's just too sticky a wicket.

Teresa: Well, I think, with an umbrella, it really deserves your full attention. You shouldn't be carrying an umbrella in one hand and texting on your phone in the other, because you—like you said, in a crowded area you need to be able to make at least eye contact with someone opposing you, walking in the different direction, so that you guys can—y'all can, [mic thumps] like—ooh, sorry. Y'all can size up each other, you know? And see who is—

Travis: "Oh, I'll raise mine up."

Teresa: Yeah, yeah. If I see someone who's taller than me—which, frankly, are most people—I usually pull my umbrella down, closer to my head, so that the taller person can maybe lift their umbrella up, away from themselves, so that we can pass without killing each other.

Travis: Um, this question is from Cora.

"What's the rule regarding wet shoes in people's cars? I generally try to shake off my shoes, but even then, cloth mats absorb shoe water, and I feel really awkward about it."

Teresa: I think that, um... you are doing a great job thinking of other people, but getting into a person's car—that is something that we have already, like... the unspoken rule is, "We're gonna wear our shoes in your car." So—

Travis: Yes. And especially if we're talking about floor mats. Floor mats can be removed and shampooed and washed and stuff.

Teresa: Right. Um, so shaking off or knocking off snow on the side I think is a very courteous, wonderful thing to do, and you have done your due diligence.

Travis: And I think—you know, if it is an especially awkward thing for you, you could always ask. You could always say, like, "Do you want me to, like, take my shoes off?" And I guarantee you they're gonna say "No," but if you want to offer, it's always there.

Now, this question comes from Trans is Beautiful.

"Where did the 'put the jacket on the puddle' begin, and when did people realize that it just made you wet and look very extra?"

Teresa: Ooh, boy! Um... I think that the jacket on the puddle has always been more of, like... [holding back laughter] a gesture? That is seen really in more, like, cartoons and movies. I don't know if that's, like, a real thing that real people ever did.

Travis: Yeah. Maybe for the next episode we'll do, like, a correct—we'll look into it and see if we can find anything about it.

Teresa: Sure, yeah. To be continued.

Travis: Um, let's see. One last question here from Jeeves.

"If you arrive at the home of someone you are visiting and your hair is wet, due to being caught in the rain without an umbrella, hat, etc, is it appropriate to ask for a towel to dry off, or should you just wait to be offered one?"

Teresa: I think if you are uncomfortable, please do ask. As a guest in my home, I would appreciate anyone who needed something to ask for it.

Travis: Yes. Especially—you know, I feel like whenever someone walks in your home, right? There is a—a natural delay before you get to the settling in, "What can I get you?"

"Hey! Oh, how's it goin'? Oh, it's so good to see you. Oh, come on in, come on in!" Like, that kind of stuff? And it can be, like, five to ten minutes before you get to the "So, can I get anybody anything?" Right? And I think, especially if you're, like, worried about dripping wet in their house, saying, like, "Oh, it's so good to see you, too! I'm sorry, could I grab a towel? I got caught in the rain!" Like, I think that's perfectly natural.

Teresa: Absolutely.

Travis: Alright, folks! Yes?

Teresa: I have one more thing I would like to mention.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: I *did* do a little bit of research regarding some special circumstances about umbrellas.

Travis: Uh-huh?

Teresa: Um... and one of the things that I wanted to talk about was, uh—I came across some etiquette rules regarding umbrellas in Japan!

Um, so there are usually—according to this blogger, there are usually umbrella racks. Um, and some of these umbrella racks even are kind of like those, um—those lockers, you know? Where you put the quarter in and you can take the key out and that's your locker for the time, and then you put the key in, and sometimes get your quarter back, [quietly] but sometimes you don't.

Um, so you would do—you'd put your umbrella in, and it would lock in place, and you would take the key to keep people from taking the wrong umbrella! I think that's pretty cool. Um, also, there is... the use of umbrellas is quite common in Japan because of the, quote, "fifth season," which is the rainy season, right?

And, um, according to this blogger, it is from the middle of June to the beginning of July, so, like, two, three weeks in there. And they're—they're, like, everywhere. Like, every person has—this blogger described the kind of bubble umbrellas, where they're, like, transparent, so you can see where you're going while you have the umbrella down quite low.

I want one of those, by the way. I think that'd be really cool.

Travis: You got it.

Teresa: Um, and a lot of the stores are equipped with umbrellas like that. Um, and, like, even stores are equipped with, like, extra socks—

Travis: Oh, wow!

Teresa: —and underwear, and things like that, these convenience stores—

Travis: I've always thought, by the way—

Teresa: —So that if you get wet, then you can, you know—for an emergency, you can replace those things.

Travis: You've always—I've always thought that you could make a bajillion dollars at an amusement park if they set up kiosks selling clean socks.

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: Like, right next to the water rides.

Teresa: Oh yeah.

Travis: 'Cause that's... the worst. Hey, I did some real quick googling, and I found out about the cape on the puddle.

Teresa: Alright!

Travis: You wanna hear about it?

Teresa: I love it when you do research.

Travis: So, it has to do with a thing that, as you said, probably didn't happen, and it is a myth that Sir Walter Raleigh laid his cloak over a mud puddle to keep Queen Elizabeth I from getting her feet wet. So—but, like we said, it's almost—most likely a myth that didn't really happen. Um, but it became this kind of [hesitantly] chivalrous ideal?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: That we see, as you said, referenced a lot in, like, cartoons and movies and stuff. But it wasn't like this was a common thing that people did when it rained, and walking on the street. So it's probably, like, a myth that never happened that we only know about because it's referenced in pop culture.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: There!

Teresa: Touchdown!

Travis: Touchdown! Alright, folks. *That* is gonna do it for us. Thank you so much for joining us for another episode. If you have any ideas, topics you want us to talk about, or anything like that, you can email us, shmannerscast@gmail.com, and we check that regularly; or you can tweet at us @shmannerscast.

Um, we wanna say thank you again to everybody who came out to the Birmingham shows, and to the New Orleans shows. We've also got some shows coming up in San Jose, California, and Salt Lake City. Those are gonna be by *My Brother, My Brother, and Me*, and *Adventure Zone*, but I'm sure *Shmanners* will make an appearance at one or multiple of them. Who knows?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um, and those tickets go on sale this Friday. Um, so if you wanna find out more about that, you can go to mcelroy.family and then click "tours" at the top there, and get all the information. Um, also—man, we're gettin' real close to it and we're super looking forward to going on the cruise—

Teresa: The JoCo Cruise!

Travis: The JoCo Cruise is coming up, and if you're planning to be there, I think we're gonna do tea, again; afternoon tea. Host one of those like we did last year. So if you wanna bring, like, special clothes for a special afternoon tea, let's do that. Um... let's see. What else, Teresa?

Teresa: Well, we always thank Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Um, thank you to Kayla M. Wasil for our beautiful Twitter thumbnail art.

Thank you to Keely Weis Photography for the cover photo for our fan-run Facebook group called Shmanners Fanners! You should join that if you're interested in getting or giving good advice. Um, and also—I mean, Max Fun Drive is gonna come up soon, so—

Travis: Absolutely it is.

Teresa: And I have to tell you, I am very proud of our pin! Because I designed it.

Travis: It's very cute.

Teresa: Well, I suggested the design.

Travis: Yes. It's very cute. Um, and you know what? Go check out all the other amazing shows at Maximumfun.org! It feels like there are literally new ones every day, so if you haven't looked in a while, go check it out, and maybe find your new favorite.

Um, and I think 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]

[chord]

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