

Shmanners 240: Idioms: Pt. 5

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Travis: Well, you know what they say: a rolling bird gathers no cake.

Teresa: What?

Travis: 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 occasions. Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hello, dear.

Travis: How are you?

Teresa: You know, how are any of us?

Travis: How— what is... good anymore?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: What does it mean? I woke up. I'm here.

Teresa: yeah.

Travis: I'm recording a show with my wife, who I love.

Teresa: Mm hmm, mm hmm. Me too.

Travis: I have my health.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: And I have, uh, that huge pile of gold I buried in the back yard.

Teresa: No, you don't.

Travis: What? What happened to my gold?!

Teresa: [laughs] We're married, I took it.

Travis: Aw, man. That's okay. I wasn't gonna do anything with it.

Teresa: I know.

Travis: [sighs]

Teresa: [laughs] Hey.

Travis: Yeah?

Teresa: Do you wanna talk about some more idioms?

Travis: Do I ever? Yes. [laughs]

Teresa: [laughs] So, it's really funny because right before this, right, we usually open with a joke.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And... [laughs] you said, "Name any idiom." And I was like—

Travis: Yeah, I needed a third idiom.

Teresa: "Uh... " [laughs]

Travis: It took a minute and a half for either one of us to think of another— I blame it on the on the spot. I put you on the spot.

Teresa: Well but also, here's the thing, right? We use idioms constantly. Does anyone know what any of them mean? I mean, we do now, because this is our fifth episode of idioms, but like.... I just think about, when I read these shows, I'm like, "I don't even know— what does that mean?"

Travis: Well, I'll tell you, the reason that I had the idea to start doing this series is cause, I think the reason it was so hard for us to think of one, is we use them, we use idioms in such a way that they don't seem out of the ordinary, right? It's not like, um, like a portmanteau, right, is like something you intentionally make or recognize, right? Like, whereas an idiom is so commonplace that sometimes you didn't even realize you're using— this happens now with Bebe, where we'll be talking to her and we'll say something and she'll be like, "What does that mean?" and it's like, "Oh, yeah. Uh, I didn't even think about the fact that that makes absolutely no sense."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And so, I wanted us to start looking into, like, we say these things all the time, we use them all the time, what are we actually saying?

Teresa: Mm hmm.

Travis: Now, did we end up with any international idioms this time?

Teresa: Um, well, we need some more. Send some more, you guys.

Travis: Okay. It's still coming, folks.

Teresa: It's still coming, but, um, so there are a couple of ones that, like, are... that are... a little more complicated than we thought. [laughs]

Travis: Oh boy! So drop that knowledge on me.

Teresa: Well, like I said, it's—

Travis: Drop! That! Hot, juicy knowledge.

Teresa: Um, okay. So, here's a Filipino idiom our friend Quef... Qemfin?

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Sent in. Oh man. "Nana-lingan pu-nad. Pu-gad. Naniningalang-Pugad."

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Uh, which roughly translated is "someone who is looking up at a nest".

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And it is used when a person would court. Go a-courtin'.

Travis: Uh huh. Much like froggy. Froggy went a-courtin' and he did ride. Uh-huh.

Teresa: And they're up on a balcony, right? It's like the classic Romeo and Juliet serenading scene.

Travis: Gotcha, gotcha, gotcha, okay.

Teresa: Where someone's on the balcony, someone's down below, you know, holding up a boom box, right?

Travis: I don't think that happens in Romeo and Juliet.

Teresa: I think it did.

Travis: Okay. Okay.

Teresa: And it was commonly used when a lot of Filipino houses had balconies.

Travis: Oh, okay, so you're like a courter, "Oh, he's looking up at a nest."

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Here's one Alex F. submitted, a German phrase called "das ist mir wurst" which means, "I don't care," but it literally translates as "this is sausage to me".

Travis: [gasps]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Yes! "This is sausage to me." Why aren't we using that?

Teresa: I mean...

Travis: I love that! "Hey man, I'm sorry about everything that's been happening to you." "Eh, this is sausage to me."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Yes!

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: No, I'm not done. Everybody, 2021, "this is sausage to me," we're bringing it to America.

Teresa: Um, Nikola W. sent an Australian idiom, which is "stone the bloody crows," which is the equivalent of "oh my goodness," or, "wow".

Travis: "Well, stone the crows!" I actually have heard that one before.

Teresa: Oh, you have?

Travis: Yeah, in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

Teresa: [gasps] What?

Travis: "Pharaoh said, well stone the crows, this Joseph is a clever kid".

Teresa: Oh...

Travis: Yeah. "Well, stone the crows. Well, whaddaya know?" I don't know why, why it is that.

Teresa: I don't know either.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: But the answer is, we need you, dear listeners, to send in more international idioms.

Travis: More. Give us more. This is not sausage to me, this is very important. This is snausage to me.

Teresa: [laughs] Which is better than sausage?

Travis: Well, that means it's like, the opposite of sau— is snausage the opposite of sausage?

Teresa: I don't know.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: This is broccoli to me.

Teresa: Alright, yes. Broccoli is the opposite of sausage.

Travis: Yes, we can all agree.

Teresa: Caitlin O. sent in the phrase "jump the gun".

Travis: Now, this one I know. This means, like, um... you kind of, uh, rushed into something.

Teresa: Mm hmm.

Travis: And I'm betting it comes from, like, track and field.

Teresa: Yes. It was first used in races as early as the 1900s. Obviously, a gun was shot to symbolize the beginning of the race—

Travis: The starter pistol.

Teresa: Mm hmm, and you would be penalized, uh, before the— for starting before the others started, before the gunshot.

Travis: Yes. So, if I was going to come up with like, a usage of this, it would be like if you started working on a project before you had all the details. So, it'd be like, "Hey, you jumped the gun on this, we're still figuring out, you know, what we're doing."

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Right.

Travis: That makes sense. This one is sent in by Alex F. And the phrase is "mind your Ps and Qs".

Travis: Now, I know that this means, like, pay attention to the details— no, no, no.

Teresa: Not just that.

Travis: It's best manners. Be on your best manners, right?

Teresa: Yes. Best behavior.

Travis: But I don't know why.

Teresa: Um, I mean... lots of reasons. [laughs]

Travis: Uh huh?

Teresa: [laughs] The first one that's pretty widely accepted is that Ps sounds like peas... please, sorry. Ps sounds like please, and Q sounds a little like thank you.

Travis: No.

Teresa: Like, Q, thank you...

Travis: I don't buy this one.

Teresa: Thank... you?

Travis: I mean, listen, you can say it as cute as you want, and it works, but I'm not— I don't know. Maybe.

Teresa: So, maybe over time, "remember your pleases and thank yous" got shortened to "mind your Ps and Qs".

Travis: You know what I'm gonna bet? It's not that. Because what I always thought, here's what I always thought.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Is like the P and the Q, they're really easy to mistake for one another, like when you're writing.

Teresa: Oh, hmm...

Travis: So, it's like, pay attention— specifically, let me be clear, lower case.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: And so, you need to like, pay attention.

Teresa: You know, when I was using my hands to write... who does that anymore?

Travis: What a weird way to phrase it.

Teresa: No, you mean— I mean, like, instead of—

Travis: Hey, I know what you meant.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: But it sounds like now you, I don't know, put the pen in your ear?

Teresa: No, who uses a pen anymore? I mean, really?

Travis: I do! All the time— well, I use a sharpie.

Teresa: You use a sharpie and you write in all capital letters.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Even the smaller letters are capital letters.

Travis: Yeah, it's easier to read and I'm always excited and I'm living my life in emphasis.

Teresa: [laughs] What I am saying is that when I was doing hand writings, and I don't anymore. [laughs]

Travis: That is also not true! You write notes all the time!

Teresa: I mean, yeah, but like...

Travis: Why are you lying to the people at home?

Teresa: I'm just saying, I have, in the past, had a hard time distinguishing between my brain and my hand, if it's a B or a D or a P or a Q, because they all feel very similar on the way there.

Travis: See, this is why I always liked doing cursive, is because you can just kinda, [mumble] over a couple of letters, and people would be like, "I think that says believe," and it's like, "Yeah, yeah, I just, uh, kinda tied the L and the I directly into the V."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "Because I couldn't remember where the E went."

Teresa: You're probably right, because way back when, people were, um, were deciphering handwritten Latin documents, medieval scholars and scribes had kind of an elaborate system of— kind of like a shorthand, right? Like, dots and dashes and loops and flourishes and things. And so, the, uh... which made interpreting these symbols a little difficult if you didn't know, right? So, it was a very careful process, and Ps and Qs were very commonly embellished, so it lead to minding your Ps and Qs.

Travis: I think it's also, in my head I always— not confuse, but it's hard for me to separate in my mind, I guess would be a better way to put it, the like, "dot every I and cross every T", to say like, "I'm gonna go through this with a fine-tooth comb." Man, that's another—

Teresa: That's another one!

Travis: I just explained an idiom with an idiom and then explained that idiom with another idiom.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: So like, means I'm going to go through this and really pay attention to make sure there are no mistakes. Hence, a fine-tooth comb. And then, so that would then explain...

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I'm gonna cross every T and dot every I.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: And then that...

Teresa: That explains mind your Ps and Qs.

Travis: Ties into mind your Ps and Qs.

Teresa: Oh man.

Travis: Yeah, the English language. It really sucks.

Teresa: [laughs] Alright, another one by Alex F, thank you.

Travis: "This is sausage to me" is so clear compared to anything in the English language.

Teresa: [laughs] What if you really like sausage?

Travis: This is sausage to me. I don't care.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: See?

Teresa: Thanks Alex. So, "bite the bullet" means to make yourself do something unpleasant, awkward or difficult, or to be brave in a peculiar situation.

Travis: Now, okay. I'm gonna guess the origin of this, because of what it makes me picture. Which is someone biting down on a bullet in like, war times, when getting an amputation or something.

Teresa: Yes... so, there's... yes. Yes, but it could also be that the wooden sticks that one might also bite down on were called "billets"

Travis: Oh... yeah, yeah, yeah.

Teresa: Right. So, it's possible that over time, "bite the billet" evolved into "bite the bullet".

Travis: That makes a lot of sense to me.

Teresa: But, like you said, I mean, if you're out in a field hospital, it's much more likely that soldiers would have literal bullets instead of sticks, or like, leather pads, which was another thing people bit on.

Travis: Bit on, to be clear, because there was no pain medication. There was no anesthesia.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: And so, it was bite down on this so that you don't clench your jaw and break your teeth.

Teresa: Well, or just, you know, have something to take your mind off it. Off what I'm— what hurts. And—

Travis: I've been told— I think it was, like, when I'm getting shots of Novocain at the dentist, and they say, like, "clench your toes".

Teresa: Mm, yeah, to take your mind off of it.

Travis: Yeah. Way better than biting down on wooden sticks.

Teresa: Well, especially if you're getting a shot in your mouth.

Travis: Aw, especially, yes.

Teresa: But I wouldn't recommend biting on a bullet today, because they are much harder than they used to be. They were pretty malleable at the time, and now, if you bite down on a bullet you might break your teeth.

Travis: Well, cause we're probably talking about more like shot, right? Where it was like a lead, like, round, and not like the thing with the firing cap and the black powder in it, right?

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Because that's the first thing I pictured, and then it was like, "Ah, no, it's probably more like bite down on this lead pellet."

Teresa: Mm hmm. Another one from Alex F.

Travis: Thank you, Alex F.

Teresa: Um, "by hook or by crook".

Travis: Okay. Okay, okay, okay. Now, here's the thing. I think what this means is, "we're gonna get this done one way or another," right?

Teresa: Exactly. By any means.

Travis: And I think it has to do with shepherds.

Teresa: Okay?

Travis: Because a crook is another word for a shepherd's staff. If you've ever seen like a sarcophagus, right, with like a pharaoh on it, and they're holding that kinda like curved little short staff, that's a crook. Um, I don't know where the hook part comes in.

Teresa: Okay, well, so let's rewind this just a little bit. And it goes all the way back to the 1300s. People commonly thank Oliver Cromwell for this phrase, and it's accepted that this idiom is referencing a vow from him where he said he would lay siege to the city of Waterford, Ireland by Hookhead in Wexford, Ireland, or by the nearby village of Crook on the Waterford side.

Travis: Oh, so I was completely wrong.

Teresa: Well, wait a minute.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Oliver Cromwell was way after the 1300s, right? The reformation was not in the middle ages, that's the 1300s. So, why was it a phrase all the way back then? Well...

Travis: Shepherds.

Teresa: Local people were allowed to collect firewood from public lands. However, they were only allowed to take branches that they could reach with a billhook or a shepherd's crook.

Travis: Aw, yeah! From down town! [imitates airhorns] That's my airhorn.

Teresa: You were sort of, almost...

Travis: That swish! Nothing but net!

Teresa: [laughs] You mentioned a shepherd's crook.

Travis: Yeah, I did it! Oh! Look at all the awards showering down on me! Oh, what am I gonna do with all this gold?

Teresa: Let's do some thank you notes.

Travis: Okay!

[theme music plays]

Travis: This week we wanna say a thank you note to Bombas. Listen: socks, they're great. Everybody knows that. But maybe you haven't thought of socks as a perfect gift, or the perfect way to give back. But actually, Bombas socks were made to give and give back, because for every pair of socks that Bombas sells, they donate a pair to someone experiencing homelessness across the US.

Bombas spent years perfecting every detail like eliminating those annoying toe seams, making sure their socks never slip, and creating a special mid-foot support system. So, wearing them feels like— I love slipping into them because they— what— okay, here's the thing. They feel like, firm, they've got a good— it clings to your foot, it hugs your foot. Oh, that's it. It hugs your foot without being too tight.

It just feels like you want it to feel when you put on a new pair of socks, except it feels that way every time you put it on, no matter how many times you've washed it. It supports your feet, it feels like a second skin, folks. I love Bombas socks. I've been slowly replacing my other socks with them. I love Bombas and Bombas comes in tons of different colors and styles, including athletic performance socks, limited edition holiday socks and merino wool socks. So, from comfort to kindness and everything in between, Bombas aren't just givable, they were made to give. Go to Bombas.com/Shmanners today and get 20% off your first order. That's B-O-M-B-A-S.com/Shmanners. Bombas.com/Shmanners.

Now, for many of us, the holidays will look different this year. Family and friend reunions may not be the same. But that shouldn't stop us from feeling close. And this is why I wanna tell you and thank about StoryWorth. I'm gonna tell you about, and thank. That's what I meant to say. [laughs] I want to tell you about and thank StoryWorth.

StoryWorth is an online service that helps your loved ones share stories through thought-provoking questions about their memories and personal thoughts. It's a fun new way to engage with family, especially those you can't see in person. This is amazing, you know, now that Teresa and I have had kids, I'm thinking more and more about like, the legacy, about stories, about sharing these experiences with our family, with our friends, right? Because, you know, when they get older, I want them to be able to look back and read these things, see these memories, you know, experience these things that I went through. That's why StoryWorth is so amazing.

Every week, StoryWorth emails your family members different story prompts, questions you've never thought to ask, like, "If you could see the future, what

would you wanna find out?" Stuff like that. And after one year, StoryWorth will compile all your stories, including photos, into a beautiful keepsake books that's shipped for free. So, give your loved ones the gift of spending time together, wherever you live, with StoryWorth. Get started right away with no shipping required by going to StoryWorth.com/Shmanners and you'll get \$10 off your first purchase. That's Storyworth.com/Shmanners to get \$10 off.

[Maximum Fun ad plays]

Travis: Moooooore idioms!

Teresa: This was suggested by—

Travis: A little bit-iom of idioms. [pause] Okay. Uh huh.

Teresa: This was suggested by a person whose email name is Box From Wherever, or Box of Grenades. We don't know who they are, but they're cool.

Travis: Yep.

Teresa: The phrase is "in a pickle".

Travis: Okay, so "in a pickle" means, like, you've gotten yourself into quite a situation. Usually not just like a problem, but more just like, well, this is a very, like, convoluted, there's a lot going on here and it's gonna be kinda hard to get yourself out of it.

Teresa: It's a difficult choice for certain. So, Shakespeare is normally credited with this.

Travis: Because that guy loved pickles.

Teresa: No...

Travis: Well, what happened was this. He loved pickles, and one night, he couldn't resist, and he snuck into the local pickle factory, he got stuck inside one of those jars. And I'm not talking about that Seth Rogan movie. I'm talking about a normal size jar of pickles. He got stuck in there. That's Shakespeare in a jar. We got jarred bard. That's what happened. And he found himself in a real pickle. Jar.

Teresa: [holds back laughter]

Travis: That's what happened. You can read about it at your local library. Books: check 'em out. Books: check 'em out, read about Shakespeare in jars, and electric guitars, cops that work hard controlling the boulevard. Books: check 'em out.

Teresa: [laughs] I don't know why I thought that I would just let you go and eventually you would stop. Because you never stop. Never stop.

Travis: No, see, cause here's what the people at home don't see, is I saw you breaking.

Teresa: [laughs and groans]

Travis: I could see you working so hard not to laugh. And so of course I wanna push it.

Teresa: [groans] I was trying so hard.

Travis: I know.

Teresa: Okay. It pops up in *The Tempest*.

Travis: Really?

Teresa: Mm hmm. Uh, and it comes from the Dutch or Low German word *pekel*, which means something piquant. Which means pleasantly sharp taste. So, originally the phrase was an allusion to a person being disoriented or mixed up, right, so that makes sense in *The Tempest*. If you're in a pickle, you're disoriented, there's a lot of that in that play.

Travis: That's kinda what the whole play is.

Teresa: Absolutely. And this was likened to a stew of pickled vegetables, right?

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: So, if someone describes you are 'pickled' it could mean that you're drunk as well, because alcohol was sometimes used as a preservative in the pickling process. I mean, so, this is very convoluted. There's lots of—

Travis: Oh, so like a pickled stew where it's all mixed up, right?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: This is the idea of, like, because it has been pickled and kind of lost a lot of it's, uh, like, consistency, that now it's hard to tell the individual pieces from it and it's all mixed up and all...

Teresa: Okay, yeah.

Travis: Yeah, that's... that's probably what that guy was going for.

Teresa: It seems as plausible as any of these other sort of things. [laughs]

Travis: Can I tell you the honest tru— like, if you hadn't told me that, what I would have thought was it comes from, like, it being hard to open the jar.

Teresa: Huh.

Travis: Of just like, "Aw, how am I gonna get the pickle? I'm in a pickle," it's like, you know, like I can't open the jar.

Teresa: Huh.

Travis: That's what I would have guessed, but like, that's, at best, maybe, like 1920s, you know?

Teresa: Well, I mean, they had jars. Just not jars that we have. I mean, screw-top jars, you're right, were a lot later. But everybody got jars.

Travis: Everybody's got jars.

Teresa: Alright. So, here is one suggested by Dave, and the phrase is "Catch-22."

Travis: Now, I know what this means. It means that something that... in and of itself disproves itself? Like, right?

Teresa: Okay, yeah.

Travis: So, it's something that you would say, like, "Well, if this then this, but if that, then the first thing couldn't be true," is a Catch-22. Right? So, it's one of the, like, for example if somebody says, "If you're worried that you're losing your mind, you're not losing your mind."

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: Right.

Teresa: Exactly, and that actually is the crux of the origin as well. It comes from Joseph Heller's classic novel *Catch-22*, published in 1961. It takes place during World War II and a soldier asks to be taken out of combat for psychological reasons. The official he goes to tells him that because he doesn't want to fight, that's proof that he's sane enough to fight.

After all, no one in their right minds want to participate in war. When that soldier asks about another pilot who clearly seems to relish the danger and violence of combat, the doctor says that he is actually incredibly qualified to be grounded. Um, but the very act of asking to be removed from duty would prove that he was sane enough to realize the awful things he was doing. So, like—

Travis: It's a *Catch-22*.

Teresa: A paradox which seems impossible to break.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: A *Catch-22*— that's the thing that, so— this is another example of when I'm trying to think of a way to explain *Catch-22*, all I can think of is, "You know, it's a like a *Catch-22*."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "You know, like one— you know, when you say something, and you're like, oh , that's a *Catch-22*. You know!"

Teresa: [laughs] Yeah. I don't think I use this very often. I'm trying to remember.

Travis: I think it's something that I probably use ironically a lot, like, you know, Justin and Griffin and I on *My Brother, My Brother and Me*, for example will reference, like, O. Henry's *Gift of the Magi* a lot in an incorrect way, right?

Teresa: Ah, yes.

Travis: And so it'll be like, "Ah, a *Catch-22*," but like, that's not a *Catch-22*.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: That I think is the only time I actually use it.

Teresa: Okay. The next one is submitted by Adam H. The phrase is, "like comparing apples to oranges".

Travis: Well, obviously, this means you're trying to compare two things which cannot be compared because they have such different qualities.

Teresa: Okay, wait a minute. Now, this is Adam's point. They're both fruit! They're both round. They're a little similar. Why is it so bad to compare them?

Travis: Well, I think the point would be the flavor. It's not comparing—

Teresa: They're both sweet.

Travis: Well, but it's not comparing them in all things. I always think about it in terms of like, you wouldn't take a bite out of an apple and take a bite out of an orange and say, "Which ones the better apple?" or "what one's the better orange?" Because they're different fruits, they're different things. So you can't rate them against each other, because they have different qualities. It's like—

Teresa: But what if I said to you, apples to oysters? Now those, those are two very different things.

Travis: Is that actually what it is? Is that actually what it is?

Teresa: Yes. Uh, the phrase first showed up in a collection of proverbs in 1670, and it was known as "comparing apples to oysters".

Travis: Okay. Those are, admittedly, much different.

Teresa: Much more different. But the phrase spread to different regions of the world and evolved to different fruits, okay? So, the Spanish phrase is "apples to pears"

Travis: Apples and pears!

Teresa: Apples and pears! What's that from?

Travis: It's Eddie Izzard, but I think that it's a Cockney slang for stairs.

Teresa: Oh, yeah. Makes sense. There's a lot of rhyming in that.

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: But the French are the ones who started saying “apples to oranges” in 1889. But, like I said, apples to oysters makes a lot more sense to me.

Travis: See, now you’ve made me think about the phrase, “the world is your oyster” and I don’t— maybe pry it open and there’s a pearl inside?

Teresa: Hmm.

Travis: “The world is your oyster” is like, you have so much possibility, like, just go out there and do it, the world’s your oyster, you can have anything you want. Now, I don’t know why. Why are we oyster?

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: I will talk another one while you look that up. This was submitted by Iris S. and the phrase is “bugger for a lark”. It’s a British phrase, it’s a very common variation on “bugger it”, which is a phrase used to imply frustration or admission of defeat, like that you messed something up, or even that something isn’t worth doing.

Here’s the thing. This is one of those that we would probably say try and eliminate from your vocabulary. It was first used in the 1550s, and at best, it meant someone who was a heretic, and at worst, it meant someone who was accused of sodomy. So, “bugger” is a derogatory term for a piece— also, a person of Bulgarian descent, because they were—

Travis: It seems bad all around.

Teresa: Yeah. Yeah. And the word was used in the more bigoted notions in the eastern orthodox Christians. So...

Travis: Let’s cut that one right out.

Teresa: Cutting it out. It’s been softened into just kind of like, low language in Britain. But it’s meant to be an annoying or unpleasant person. But it’s a lot meaner than you think it is.

Travis: I figured— I found it out. “The world’s your oyster”. You’ll never guess who coined it. [pause] William Shakespeare!

Teresa: Oh, yeah. Well, you said I'd never guess, so I thought about Shakespeare—

Travis: Yeah, I was being ironic.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I was being sarcastic? I was being flippant.

Teresa: Well, but I did a bad, because I thought that it was Shakespeare, but you said I'd never guess, so it couldn't be Shakespeare, but it was Shakespeare.

Travis: [laughs] "Who's the murderer? It's not me."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "It is me!" "But you said it wasn't you!"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Sorry, that's from Bob's Burgers. So, the world is your oyster means like, uh, you know, there's so much possibility, the future is yours! You can have it all. It's from Merry Wives of Windsor. Falstaff says to Pistol, "I will not lend thee a penny," to which Pistol replies, "Why then, the world's mine oyster, which I with sword will open," meaning, like, well you won't help me? I will make my wealth on my own and go and with my sword will pry it open and get the money myself.

Teresa: Okay. Yeah, I mean, that— in the way that we use it today, it seems like it would be a lot easier, but shucking oysters is difficult.

Travis: It's very hard.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Well, I think that that's supposed to mean? Is like, the world's your oyster. Go out and make your own way, make your own wealth, you can do this.

Teresa: When I think about the world's my oyster, I'm gonna go out and have a great time doing it.

Travis: Right.

Teresa: But—

Travis: It's like, the world is your oyster is like, it's there, take it, but I don't think that's—

Teresa: That's not what— that's the brass ring. Grab the brass ring.

Travis: And we know the brass ring is from merry-go-rounds.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Have we talked about this before on the show?

Teresa: I think so.

Travis: Okay. In case we haven't—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: It used to be, hanging around merry-go-rounds were literal brass rings, and if you could reach out and grab em' while you were on the merry-go-round you got a free ride on the merry-go-round.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: But the thing is, merry-go-rounds used to go very fast.

Teresa: [laughs] So it was hard to get 'em.

Travis: And if you grabbed one, there was a chance you would break your arm. That happened a lot. That's why they stopped doing it.

Teresa: [laughs] So fast!

Travis: They're so fast.

Teresa: Go and visit the carousel museum in Sandusky, Ohio and you can ride one at the original speed. It is so fast. [laughs]

Travis: Very fast. They're a thrill ride, folks. It's a thrill ride.

Teresa: I had Travis try and take a picture of me as I was going around and I'm like, sliding off. [laughs] It's so fast.

Travis: She has a very scared face in the photo.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: We'll see if we can find it.

Teresa: That's gonna do it for us.

Travis: Okay. I was just gonna say that sometimes I say the world is your ostrich, which I think is very funny and makes no sense.

Teresa: Oh, it does. [laughs] I like it when you say that.

Travis: The world's your ostrich! Pry it open.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Teresa: This has been a very silly Shmanners.

Travis: It's been a very silly one. Thank you for joining us.

Let's see, we've got a couple important announcements. First, the Candlenights special, normally we do this as a live show in our home town, but of course, right now we can't do that. So, instead we're doing it as a pre-recorded, but trust me, very, very, special Candlenights spectacular. December 19th, 8pm, it's got video segments from My Brother, My Brother and Me, Sawbones, Shmanners, Wonderful, Still Buffering, Neat! and special guests. Tickets are pay what you want, but a \$6.25 minimum. All proceeds go to Harmony House, which is a wonderful organization in our hometown. You can get those tickets at bit.ly/Candlenights2020.

Oh, right now on the McElroy YouTube channel, the entire series of Taste of Luxury is up. It's a TV show that Justin made with our friend Dwight Slappe. And it's about Justin and Dwight trying to achieve a luxury lifestyle on a not-so-luxury budget. It's very, very good. Go check that out.

We're doing a book launch event for our how to podcast book, Everybody Has a Podcast (Except You), January 26th at 9pm Eastern time. It's a free virtual event. We partnered with six independent bookstores and if you pre-order from them, you'll get an exclusively-designed bookplate signed by one of us, me Justin or Griffin, with your copy while supplies last. Go to bit.ly/McElroyPodcastBookEvent for bookstore links and more event info.

Um, let's see, what else? Go check out all the other great merch on McElroyMerch.com, all the other great shows on MaximumFun.org, you can pre-order the Adventure Zone Crystal Kingdom, book four of our graphic novel series, at TheAdventureZoneComic.com. Uh, the Sawbones book comes out in paperback December 29th. Uh, you can get that at bit.ly/SawbonesPaperback. And I think that's enough for now. That's so much.

Teresa: We have so many irons in the fire, y'all.

Travis: There's a lot going on.

Teresa: And that's another idiom.

Travis: Oh, oh boy, you're right.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: We also want to encourage you to go to McElroy family— McElroy.Family, check out all the other Mac— Max— McElroy products there. Oh my God, my brain's all twisted around.

Teresa: [laughs] Hey. We'd also like to thank Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Thank you to Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art. That is @ShmannersCast. [laughs] That's where we get our questions.

Travis: Are you laughing because you're petting my arm like a cat?

Teresa: [laughs] I am, yeah.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And than you to Bruja Betty Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group, Shmanners Fanners.

Travis: And thank you, of course, to Alex, our researcher without whom we would not be able to make this show.

Teresa: Please submit more idioms. We love doing these shows. ShmannersCast@gmail.com.

Travis: And that's gonna do it for us. 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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