

00:00:00	Sound Effect	Transition	Three gavel bangs.
00:00:02	Jesse Thorn	Host	Welcome to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. I'm bailiff Jesse Thorn. We're in chambers this week to clear the docket. And with me is the winter king of Brooklyn, New York City: Judge John Hodgman.
00:00:17	John Hodgman	Host	Jesse Thorn, if I have your consent, I'm gonna lean over and give you a kiss on your cheek.
00:00:21	Jesse	Host	Well, thank you.
00:00:22	John	Host	Is that okay?
00:00:23	Jesse	Host	Yeah, of course!
00:00:24	John	Host	Here we go. <i>[Kiss smacking sound.]</i> Do you know why I kissed you on your cheek?
00:00:27	Jesse	Host	Why's that?
00:00:28	John	Host	'Cause it's our family feud episode! Most of our listeners are probably too young to remember the original host of <i>Family Feud</i> , or even that there existed a game show, or what a daytime game show even is. I think there's still a <i>Family Feud</i> . I think what's his name—Steve Harvey—hosts it. But originally, it was Richard Dawson.
00:00:45	Jesse	Host	Yeah, it's hilarious. Steve Harvey is really—I have mixed feelings about Steve Harvey in some areas, but I will say he does a great job hosting the <i>Family Feud</i> .
00:00:56	John	Host	I have actually seen him host the <i>Family Feud</i> a couple of times on television. And I was like, "How can that guy make not giving a feces about his job so funny?"
			<i>[Jesse agrees.]</i>
			So checked out.
00:01:09	Jesse	Host	He is enacting "I'm not paying attention; why am I here" and it is gorgeous.
00:01:16	John	Host	<i>[Laughing.]</i> It's so beautiful. It's exactly what the <i>Family Feud</i> deserves. But of course, the original host—Richard Dawson—was famous for kissing all the ladies on the cheek without asking. <i>[Makes kissing sounds.]</i> That's what he would do. It was gross. But this isn't gross. This is fun! This is the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast. I'm happy to kiss my friend, Jesse Thorn, virtually on the cheek with consent, 'cause I love him! And it's nice to see you, 'cause it's 2023. Happy New Year! I didn't kiss anyone on New Year's. But here we are. It's a new year. We're back after the winter holidays—a time that many people spent in very, very heavy and intense contact with their families. I hope it all went okay.

But a while back, we did ask for disputes involving families—not just partners, not spouses, but cousins, in-laws, uncles, aunts (ah-nts), aunts (ants). And we have a bunch of them today. We do not have any avuncular disputes. We still need some avuncular disputes down the road, please. But we did have one I'm glad to say materteral dispute. Materteral dispute. Shout out again to listener Margaret McGee for letting us know that materteral is the adjectival form of aunt. But that dispute was so one-sided that I couldn't in good conscience just blast this poor niece who was so in the wrong. But her aunt, Barbara, wrote me. And I just need to say to Barbara: thank you for your detailed letter. I agree with you. It was not cool for your niece to bring a Table Talk pecan pie to Thanksgiving. It's

not the best pie you can bring. If you offer to bring dessert to Thanksgiving, there's no problem with a store-bought pie, but if you live in Manhattan and you have a job, you can upgrade a little bit from a Table Talk pie.

They're award-winning pies, Jesse. I'll tell you that. I looked it up. Table Talk pies, they won some blue ribbons at the American Pie Competition, which is a competition that I presume Table Talk runs for itself.

00:03:13 Jesse Host *[Chuckles.]* It won in the category of Best Pie Competing Against a Watermelon.

00:03:17 John Host *[Laughs.]* Exactly right! And the pecan pie did win best pie in competing against a watermelon, but they only make it in the eight-inch variety, and this was a Thanksgiving dinner for ten. So, in many ways, Barbara's niece, you blew it. But Barbara, it was Thanksgiving, and she didn't know how to bake, as you acknowledged. Your daughter, who normally bakes the pies, wasn't able to do it. I have to imagine your niece did her best, so I'm not gonna put her on total blast here. And you should let this grudge go. Although, we do have some great familial grudges coming up that have not been let go. So, why don't we get into them?

00:03:49 Jesse Host I'll say this: if you don't know how to bake and you're in charge of bringing the pie for dessert, just bring a watermelon.

00:03:56 John Host Everyone loves a watermelon.

00:03:58 Jesse Host Watermelon'll feed ten. Okay. Here's a classic family feud. Sibling-in-law feud. A case from Kyle in Melbourne, Australia. "When my brother-in-law, Ian, runs on the treadmill in his basement, he wears crocs."

[John "wow"s quietly.]

"The original style, in brown! I find this to be outrageous. He claims it doesn't matter and it's not uncomfortable. I request the judge order him to wear proper running shoes when running on his treadmill." And Kyle wanted to clarify this is not some weird, Australian thing. Ian lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia. So, we are forced to presume it's a weird Halifax, Nova Scotia thing.

[They chuckle.]

00:04:47 John Host I don't wanna put this on Halifax, Nova Scotia—one of the top cities of the maritime provinces. And oh, by the way, I'm sorry that I called Newfoundland and Labrador a maritime province. Apparently, that's technically not true. Thank you, letter writer. I love Halifax. I cannot wait to get back there. We have to perform there one of these days, Jesse Thorn. Halifax, Nova Scotia. Put it on the docket.

00:05:06 Jesse Host Let's get out to the east coast of Canada! Say hi to Kate Beaton. Lovely, brilliant cartoon genius, Kate Beaton. She lives out there in Nova Scotia.

00:05:14 John Host She's from Nova Scoshe!

00:05:16 Jesse Host Shoutout to her incredible book, *Ducks*. It's very—it's pretty intense, but it's one of the best comic books I have read in a long time.

00:05:27 John Host Kate Beaton, one of the tops. Come on *Judge John Hodgman*. Alright. I'm not gonna put Barbara's niece on blast, and I'm certainly not gonna put Halifax, Nova Scotia, on blast—the provincial capital of Nova Scotia. No Scoshe, as I call it. But I'm putting Ian on blast. This is not just outrageous, it's depressing.

[Jesse laughs.]

00:06:01	Jesse	Host	Running on a treadmill in brown crocs in the basement is no way to live your life, son—to paraphrase <i>Animal House</i> . [Laughs.] Just eating expired pork cracklins from the expired grocery store.
00:06:09	John	Host	That's such a—that's as depressing as Christian Bale playing the drums in <i>The Big Short</i> . Just this sad man in the basement doing weird, solitary things. It's also unfashionable, especially since they're really good running shoes that you can get that look cool. The whole point of running shoes is to look cool. I know that I've already put out a shoutout to my favorite brand, Hoka One One. Those are the most comfortable shoes I've ever owned in my life. And they've got some beautiful color ways going. But also, I think it's deadly. I think if you're running in crocs, you're gonna slip and fall and hurt yourself very badly, eventually. It's gonna happen. It's gonna happen.
00:06:57	Jesse	Host	I mean, at least you're not running on a treadmill in a basement in Australia in crocs, because that would be confusing. 'Cause treadmills go down the other way in Australia. I think it's dangerous to Ian's feet, frankly. He's gonna end up with plantar fasciitis or something. He needs to go to a running store and get real running shoes.
00:07:08	John	Host	Yes. I think they're dangerous to Ian's feet. I think they're dangerous to Ian's forehead when one of them flies off and he slaps himself in the forehead on the console of that treadmill. And I think they're dangerous to whoever's standing behind him. I mean that's hypothetically if he has someone in his life. I really wonder if he does, 'cause he runs on a treadmill in the basement in brown crocs. I hope you have someone in your life, Ian. Not just—well, you have to, obviously, because—well, I don't know. This could be—you have to be married in order to have a brother-in—well, no, this could be his wife's brother. This could be Kyle's wife's unmarried brother.
00:07:42	Jesse	Host	I think you have to be married to run on a treadmill in the basement.
00:07:46	John	Host	Yeah, that's probably true. That's probably true. You have to be married and probably are a dad. Look, you have people in your life who are counting on you not to hit yourself in the head, Ian. And also, to look better. And also, to take care of your feet. If you go into the YMCA in Park Slope, where I go sometimes—I don't see the former mayor over there, anymore. He doesn't come around. He learned his lesson. But if you go over there, what you will see are signs saying "no crocs on the treadmills". That's for sure. That's real. I'm not making that up. You can't wear crocs on the treadmills at the YMCA. If it's good enough for The Village People, it's good enough for you. I don't care. Put on shoes.
00:08:23	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	Three gavel bangs.
00:08:24	Jesse	Host	Think about all the things you are allowed to do at the YMCA! [Laughs.]
00:08:29	John	Host	Yeah, you can have a good meal. You can do whatever you feel! Except wear crocs.
00:08:34	Jesse	Host	I only recommend one lonely dad exercise activity, and that is what John Malkovich does in the 2008 Coen Brothers film, <i>Burn After Reading</i> . Which is you have to be on a boat watching a TV VCR,

doing step aerobics and saying, “I’m better than ever, you [censors]. I’m coming.”

[John laughs.]

00:09:04	Clip	Clip	Play the audio. Valerie, play the audio from the scene. Music: Upbeat, tropical music. Recording: Up, now let’s add the abs, right here. <i>[The recording continues in the background.]</i> Osbourne (<i>Burn After Reading</i>): I’m bigger. I’m better. I’m bigger than ever. I’m bigger. I’m back. I’m better, I’m back. Than ever, I’m back. You [censored] I’m back. You [censored]... Probably cinema’s greatest moment—that and <i>Rosebud</i> or whatever.
00:09:20	Jesse	Host	I never saw that film.
00:09:23	John	Host	It’s not their best work. It’s one of their lesser films. But that is unparalleled. You know? A lot of people talk about “it holds the room together” or, you know, “this is not ‘Nam, this is bowling, there are rules”, or whatever it is. But the real money thing that happened in a Coen Brothers movie is John Malkovich doing step aerobics and saying you [censored], I’m coming.
00:09:25	Jesse	Host	I never saw that movie because I auditioned for it, and I didn’t get the part. It was a dream come true. I auditioned for Joel and Ethan Coen. I was in the room with them. A very small role at the beginning of the movie, playing a federal agent. Didn’t get it. Didn’t see it. This was a long time ago. And I was on the set of the Apple ads telling Justin Long about this and how I had never saw the movie because I was just too hurt. I mean, no hard feelings! Just like I couldn’t see it.
00:09:48	John	Host	Just sad.
00:10:16	Jesse	Host	<i>[John agrees.]</i> You wish you could’ve—who doesn’t wanna be in a Coen Brothers movie? Right. And then, Jeff the boom operator, who was sitting up on his ladder holding out the boom mic, said, “You know, I worked on that movie.” I said, “Really?” He said, “Yeah. I know who got that part.” I said, “Really? Who?” He said, “Loni Anderson.” <i>[Jesse chuckles.]</i> From <i>WKRP in Cincinnati</i> . And you probably are all too young to know who that is, but it’s obviously—I’m not a Loni Anderson type. So, I was really relieved. Like, I was like, “Well, if they wanted Loni Anderson, obviously they weren’t gonna go with me.” Now, I don’t feel so bad!

00:10:47 Jesse Host You're a brunette bombshell.
00:10:48 John Host Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah. I'm a Bailey Quarters.

So, I said to Jeff, "Is that true?"

And he said, "No."

[Jesse laughs.]

"You should feel bad."

Jeff was also the person who told me the very big, important piece of wisdom that I have repeated on the podcast many times: the only person who enjoys whistling is the person who is whistling, which I can imagine is true. If you're a boom operator, you've listened to a lot of people whistle and you don't wanna do it—you don't wanna hear it anymore.

00:11:16 Jesse Host I'll say this for Loni Anderson: I saw her at a screening of a documentary about Burt Reynolds, her late ex-husband. The love of her life. And she spoke in front of a crowd of 400 people sitting in a moving screening cemetery, here in Los Angeles. In fact, the very cemetery where you and I will be performing, although we will be performing in its beautiful masonic lodge. Hollywood Forever Cemetery.

00:11:42 John Host Hollywood Forever!
00:11:44 Jesse Host And other than having watched a few reruns of *WKRP* as a child, on UHF or whatever, I didn't have any strong feelings about Loni Anderson at all. But she was delightful. Like, legitimately a joy to watch talk about Burt Reynolds and their life together and their love. And she just seemed like a radiant human being.

[John agrees.]

Anyway, I guess my point is I can see why she got the part.

Here's something from Ryan in Milford, Pennsylvania. "My brother, Dustin, and sister-in-law, Emily, have a last name that rhymes with Walton. They're expecting their second child. I want them to name the baby Dalton Alton Walton. Emily is disgusted. I think the fun rhyme will make my future nephew cooler. It will also help Emily and Dustin with parenting, as the name will build character. Please order Emily to consider my suggestion seriously. I also think the judge could order a fair price on the naming rights of my nephew. Perhaps a contribution to his college savings."

[John "hm"s thoughtfully.]

Like the crypto.com arena?
00:12:59 John Host That's a great name for a child!
00:13:00 Jesse Host Arena?
00:13:01 John Host Yeah. Crypto.com Arena.
00:13:03 Jesse Host That's nice. Has a ring to it.
00:13:05 John Host Crypto.com Arena Walton.
00:13:07 Jesse Host Ethereum Dogecoin Walton.
00:13:10 John Host *[Snorts.]* I wonder how our friend—our listener—well, I guess he had given up mining for Dogecoin. The American couple that we

saw in London, back in 2016 or 2017. He was mining for Ethereum in their flat, heating up the place with his many servers. I hope they're doing okay.

00:13:27 Jesse Host
00:13:29 John Host

I hope they got out of the business.

There are probably a lot of kids named Crypto—not only for the crypto boom. Probably a lot of people of the anarcho-capitalist community who go down to AnarchaPulco every year—the big anarcho-capitalist convention. There's a great documentary about it. I don't remember what it is, but I just remember that one of the anarcho-capitalists has a son named Axiom.

[Jesse chuckles and groans "oh no".]

That's gotta be a great place for unusual kid names.

[Jesse groans again.]

I hope that no one has named their child Krypto after Superman's dog. Because you can name a dog after a human—like Carl or Alan—but you shouldn't name a child after a dog, like Fido or Spot. Should you name your child Dalton Alton Walton, though? First of all, I'm gonna say this about you, Ryan. You're not acting in good faith, here. Your two arguments are A) it will make Dalton Alton Walton cooler, but B) it will build character, presumably because you know that Dalton Alton Walton will be teased. Look, obviously cool kids have been teased throughout the history of high schools. The cooler you are, sometimes the more you stand out and the more people wanna take you down with some teasing or some bullying. That's what makes you cool. I get that.

But you're not sincerely offering a *Boy Named Sue* scenario here, where this is gonna toughen up your nephew—Dalton Alton Walton—or make them more cool. You just want—you just wanna make a funny joke at the expense of your nephew and your brother and your sister-in-law. None of your business! None of your business what they name—look. Presumably your last name also rhymes with Walton, Ryan. Why don't you change your name to Dalton Alton Walton? Then you could be really cool.

00:15:09 Sound Effect Sound Effect

Three gavel bangs.

00:15:11 John Host

And I'll start to show you how cool you are by teasing you. That's a bananas name, Dalton Alton Walton. I tease you. There you go. Now, do you feel cool, Ryan?

00:15:21 Jesse Host

The only real way to make a kid both cooler and tougher would be to put neon face paint on their face every morning like *The Ultimate Warrior*.

00:15:33 John Host

[Laughs.] That would be pretty cool!

00:15:34 Jesse Host

Make them cooler and tougher.

00:15:36 John Host

Cooler and tougher, CAT.

00:15:38 Jesse Host

It would increase their foc' and their destrucity.

00:15:40 John Host

Yeah. And look, if your name is Crypto or whatever and you get teased, you're cool too. No one should be teasing anybody. And no one should be giving anybody names specifically to invite teasing. Teasing—one thing that is not cool? Teasing. Stop it. Stop teasing, everybody.

00:15:55 Jesse Host

It's okay to tease anarcho-capitalists.

00:15:58	John	Host	Yeah, that's alright.
00:15:59	Jesse	Host	But not their children. It's not their fault that their parents are trying to undermine the government and world economy.
00:16:07	John	Host	It's a good documentary. It's on one of the things. David Rees told me to watch it. I watched it. It was good. Sad, too. A bad thing happens.
00:16:14	Jesse	Host	We're gonna take a quick break to hear from this week's partners. We'll be back with more cases to clear from the docket on the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast.
00:16:21	Sound Effect	Transition	Three gavel bangs.
00:16:23	Sound Effect	Transition	Three gavel bangs.
00:16:26	Jesse	Host	Welcome back to the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast! We're talking family feuds this week. We have a case from Kim. "Last week, my husband and I—"
00:16:33	John	Host	Hang on, before we get to Kim, Jesse. I just spent a lot of time plugging this documentary that I don't even remember the name of about anarcho-capitalism. That when I think about it, when I reflect on it, it kind of made me feel bad. So, let me just plug something just to even out the karma. Let me plug something that made me feel really good that our daughter made me watch that I enjoyed. And I'm sure you've seen it. We may have even discussed it. <i>Derry Girls</i> .
00:16:57	Jesse	Host	That's a great show.
00:16:58	John	Host	Oh! <i>Derry Girls</i> . I had only imagined that you watched it with interest because of your familial connection to Northern Ireland.
00:17:05	Jesse	Host	Yeah, my stepmother and her entire family are Northern Irish.
00:17:09	John	Host	Spectacular show, I thought. Do you agree or do you disagree?
00:17:11	Jesse	Host	I think anyone who is on the fence about <i>Derry Girls</i> should just search for the screencap of the list of things— <i>[chuckling softly]</i> the—the—the chalkboard with the list of things Catholics like and the list of things Protestants like.
			<i>[They chuckle.]</i>
00:17:33	John	Host	I just rewatched that episode last night. It really, really made me happy and it's a very—it's a very wonderfully constructed show. Really wonderfully acted. Really light, but also—you know, meaningful and funny.
00:17:46	Jesse	Host	Very pleasant for me, because while a Derry accent is a bit different from a Belfast accent—which is where my stepmother is from—it does still remind me of my grandmother—or my stepmother's mother, step grandmother—calling and me answering the phone and just hearing, on a sort of distant, crackly—even in the mid to late '90s, Northern Ireland had distant, crackly long-distance lines. And a sort of distant, crackly voice saying, <i>[in a high-pitched Irish accent]</i> "Oh! Hello there! It's your grandmother! Is Bernadette there? Hello. Hello there, Jesse! It's nice to hear from you. It's your grandmother. Is Bernadette there?"
00:18:26	John	Host	Sure, it's nice to hear from you. We gotta put Belfast, Derry, and Dublin on the list of places to go.
00:18:32	Jesse	Host	Oh, love it. Okay, here's a case from Kim. "Last week, my husband and I visited my sister Jamie and her husband. We had a lovely time. <u>However</u> . During brunch, Jamie pulled out the sorriest looking bottle of honey I've ever seen. It's dark and crystallized and looks like it comes from the depths of Hell. Jamie estimated this honey is

between five and nine years old. I demanded they replace it. She and her husband both say honey doesn't go bad. I don't have words after that. So, I hope you do."

00:19:14 John Host Okay, and we received a photo of this honey.

00:19:17 Jesse Host This is a large bottle of honey from a popular warehouse store.

00:19:20 John Host Yeah. It is a big, plastic bottle of honey. It is available for your viewing displeasure on the show page at [MaximumFun.org](https://www.MaximumFun.org) as well as our Instagram, [@JudgeJohnHodgman](https://www.instagram.com/JudgeJohnHodgman) on Instagram.

00:19:31 Jesse Host I will admit, I have a similar bottle of honey in my cabinet. Although, *[chuckles]* I will say I think it's been a few iterations of the front sticker design.

00:19:45 John Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah, this is a—this is the old school—this is the old school sticker. 'Cause it's a decade old. And sure enough, it's sort of settled into three layers, like a trifle or a Neapolitan ice cream. At the top—well, like she said, the bottom, there's sort of like an amber colored honey. And at the top, there's this like deep brown plug that looks like an obstruction. And in the middle, it's just like this clear, crystal layer of sort of mucus-y colored crystals. It looks gross to me. What would you do if you had this honey in your house? It also looks full, by the way. Like, why haven't they been using this honey all this time?

00:20:25 Jesse Host Honey doesn't go bad, so it doesn't bother me.

00:20:27 John Host Honey doesn't go bad. It's true.

00:20:28 Jesse Host No, I'd eat that Pharaoh honey. You know how the Pharaohs had honey in the tombs of the mummies?

00:20:34 John Host Oh, yeah?

00:20:35 Jesse Host I'd eat that honey in a second. You can.

00:20:36 John Host You'd eat that honey? You'd spread it on bread? Doesn't go bad?

00:20:39 Jesse Host Absolutely. Doesn't go bad. Honey doesn't go bad. It does crystalize, but if you heat it slowly, you can uncrystallize it.

00:20:46 John Host Yeah. That's true. I did not know this. This would've been a great case to get the expert witness-ry from a person that we hoped would be a friend of the court, Erika Thompson.

00:20:59 Jesse Host King Tut.

00:21:00 John Host *[Chuckling.]* No. I'm talking about the bee lady from TikTok that we tried to get on, but she, uh—she chose not to go on this podcast. Instead, she chose to go—her first podcast she chose to go on was *[censored]*. So, she's not on my list anymore. Lot of fun in the comments she had on her Instagram post about that.

00:21:17 Jesse Host You know, Valerie, bleep out that name. We'll just say that she went on the podcast of a cast member of news radio, and then our audience can decide whether it was Khandi Alexander's podcast.

00:21:31 John Host *[Giggles.]* But! I will shoutout instead to some honey making couple, Jillian and Kim in Ashville, North Carolina, who had a very good article on their Ashville Bee Charmer website about how it's true! Honey doesn't go bad. It is naturally acidic, which inhibits the growth of bacteria. And it is also antimicrobial, because bees put an enzyme into honey when they're making it that eventually matures into hydrogen peroxide. So, it will not go bad. The only way it will go bad is if it gets wet—if moisture gets in there, and then it can ferment and go sour. But otherwise, if it's stored properly, it will last forevs. Please don't give young infants honey. That's not recommended for young infants, because some raw honeys have a little bit—a little, mm *[kiss sound]*, a little hint of botulism in them.

00:22:24	Jesse	Host	You know what, I'm gonna amend that, John. Don't give extremely young children honey, because it might contain botulism, unless you're concerned about forehead lines.
00:22:34	John	Host	<i>[Chuckles.]</i> That's true. You can rub it on their foreheads. That's not a problem.
00:22:38	Jesse	Host	That's called baby Botox.
00:22:39	John	Host	<i>[Chuckling.]</i> Everyone should avoid, apparently—according to HealthLine.com, everyone should avoid mad honey. Mad honey is honey that's made from certain rhododendrons or azaleas, and the plants have toxins in them that get into the honey, and it makes you dizzy and nauseated.
00:22:55	Jesse	Host	I've been seeking that out! I got the whole—I got the whole thing wrong!
00:22:58	John	Host	Unless that's how you wanna spend a Saturday night, stay away from the mad honey. But otherwise, five- to nine-year-old honey, as crystalized as it might be—Jesse Thorn points out, it's still okay to eat. That said, just because something's okay to eat doesn't mean you should eat it. Now, I am very, very averse to food waste. But even I will throw out like an end of feta cheese that's kind of gone crumbly and it was stored in an old, plastic tub that used to have walnut pieces in it and it just looks so gross in the fridge, and no one's gonna ever eat it. I'll throw that away. And then, inevitably, my wife—who's a whole human being in her own right—will say, 30 minutes later, "What happened to that piece of feta that I was saving?"
			But if something is just like—sometimes you look—I don't know. You gotta clear out the fridge every now and then. You gotta restock from time to time. I'm not saying throw away this whole bottle of honey, Jamie. It's your honey. You do what you want. But I would say that maybe get some—one bottle of new honey for your guests. One bottle of attractive honey in a glass jar that doesn't look like toxic waste for when your sister and brother-in-law come over. Why not? You have the space, and it doesn't go bad. And you can have home honey and guest honey.
00:24:13	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	Three gavel bangs.
00:24:15	Jesse	Host	Here's a 28-year-old grudge between Emily and her parents. "In 1994, my parents challenged my Scrabble word tweets. I somehow lost because there was no dictionary in the house. I'd like that decision revised. Not only is tweets a word now; it was also a word in 1994. The word existed prior to the invention of Twitter, as it's the answer to the question, "What does a bird do?"
00:24:48	John	Host	Well, I mean no disrespect to our friends Emily Brewster and et. all at the Merriam Webster dictionary, but I am currently now a subscriber to the Oxford English dictionary. I paid for that subscription, because for the <i>New York Times</i> columnette that I write based on this podcast—the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> column in <i>The Ethicist</i> every week in the <i>New York Times</i> magazine, also online if you're not boycotting the <i>New York Times</i> , I had to look up the etymology of the word fart.
00:25:24	Jesse	Host	<i>[Chuckles.]</i> Not to brag. We're in showbusiness.
00:25:27	John	Host	Specifically, to determine whether or not—this was a dispute between a husband and his spouse—whether or not fart is an onomatopoeia. And the answer is <i>[makes a fart noise]</i> of course it is. <i>[Chuckling.]</i> It derives from—well, basically, it derives from old

middle German or something “far”, and the OED determined that it was probably imitative. Which is to say it is a word that describes a sound by imitating the sound. And I got some letters from some listeners and readers of the column that said, “You know, you don’t have to subscribe or pay money if you’re already a member of a public library. They probably will offer you access to the OED. Which is terrific! I didn’t realize that, and you should become a member of your public library—not only for that reason, but also because it’s fun to go to the library. So, do that.

But in the meantime, I still have this subscription, and I was able to look up the word tweet. And first of all, obviously tweet is a word that far predates tweet in the contemporary sense of sending a tweet on Twitter. Birds have tweeted for a long time. Tweet, tweet, tweet. That’s why we have Tweety Bird. And in fact, the first documented use of tweet in the bird sense—

00:27:00 Jesse Host

[Chuckles.] That’s a category in every OED entry. Human sense, bird sense.

00:27:05 John Host

Right. The first documented use of the word tweet relating to birds going tweet—in writing—according to the OED, goes back to 1851: G Meredith, in their work *Poems*, or poems (poe-eems), as my father-in-law would say. Quote, “The little bird tweets to its mate a tiny, loving note.” Then the next one is 1891, and I don’t understand this quote at all. It’s from S. Moston, from *Curadica*, page 63. “Oh, tweet, tweets. A diagonal pullet. How splendid.” Alright. I don’t know what that means. Point is birds have been tweeting for a long time. And second of all, more interestingly to me, the first use of the word tweet in the sense of sending a tweet goes back to 2006, 27 December. This we have obviously clear—*[chuckles]* remember Twitter?

[Jesse confirms.]

[Sadly.] Yeah.

00:27:59 Jesse Host

00:28:03 John Host

John, I remember Odio, the podcasting service that became Twitter. Oooh! Right! Oh my goodness. Yeah, Twitter used to be fun. Back in 2006, 27 December, Twitter user CyberWanderlust tweeted, “Got the new phone so you can tweet me again, you sick bastards.” First use of the word tweet as a transitive verb in the technological sense. CyberWanderlust still has an account. 38 followers and they have it locked. I think this person probably had a good time on Twitter and then realized it was just poisoning us all with light and misinformation.

In any case, that was only a couple of months after Twitter was started. It was started in March 2006. So, there you go. It all goes back. The point is, though, in 1994, tweet was definitely a word. So, yes, obviously I revise that ruling. I overturn it. You should re-score that game, Emily and her parents. And shame on you. Shame on you. Not just for challenging tweet as a word, but not playing Scrabble correctly. Because when you play Scrabble, you have to have a dictionary on hand. You have to stipulate to a dictionary that you’re gonna use for that game. It could be the OED. It could be Miriam Webster. It could be the Scrabble official word list. Whatever it is. But if you can’t—if you don’t have a dictionary, you can’t

challenge. It means you have to accept every word! And that's no fun at all.

So, Emily, I say to you, I hope that your—I hope that your parents are still alive and healthy. And I hope that you have a good relationship with them, mostly so that you can call them on the phone and when they pick up, you can say, *[imitating Tweety Bird]* “I thought I saw a wrong person! I did! I did see a wrong person! Two of them! They're my parents. Ahahahaha!”

00:29:50	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	Three gavel bangs.
00:29:51	John	Host	That's a mashup of Tweety Bird and Woody Woodpecker.
00:29:55	Jesse	Host	John Hodgman, the man of 1000 voices.
00:29:57	John	Host	Tweeting. Hahahahaha.
00:30:01	Jesse	Host	You know what the real answer to the question “what does a bird do” is?
00:30:05	John	Host	No.
00:30:06	Jesse	Host	A bird uses a single posterior opening for its digestive, urinary, and reproductive tracts, including expelling feces and laying eggs.
00:30:15	John	Host	Talking about a cloaca.
00:30:17	Jesse	Host	It's the only bird topic worth mentioning.
00:30:19	John	Host	I thought it was gonna be that old joke. Hey, Jesse, uh—what's a bird do?
00:30:24	Jesse	Host	What does a bird do?
00:30:25	John	Host	About four pounds. That's a riff on the joke “what does a hen weigh”. What's a hen weigh? About four pounds. I don't know.
00:30:31	Jesse	Host	Let's take a quick break before we go further down this path of—
00:30:34	John	Host	I can't wait. I can't wait for the letters I'm gonna get about what a hen actually weighs. What do we have coming up after the break?
00:30:39	Jesse	Host	Well, we have a dispute about Chex Mix. We also have one about the words “beard juice”. Oh boy.
00:30:46	John	Host	Beard juice. Ugh.
00:30:48	Jesse	Host	We'll be back in just a second on the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast.
00:30:51	Sound Effect	Transition	Three gavel bangs.
00:30:54	Sound Effect	Transition	Three gavel bangs.
00:30:56	Jesse	Host	It's the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast, and we are headed out on the road, on tour! So, if you live in the western United States, make your plans now!
00:31:05	John	Host	We! Are! Going! To! Several cities and townships in the western part of these states. Starting on January 28 th in Port Townsend, Washington. Then, Sunday the 29 th in Seattle. Tuesday the 31 st of January, at Revolution Hall in Portland, Oregon. Following up on Thursday, Denver, Colorado, 2/2. Groundhog's Day, we're going to be doing one million shows over and over and over again, the exact same show. And finally, we'll resolve some unresolved issues in our lives and get to move through time again and move all the way to San Francisco on Saturday the 4 th of February. Join us at the Sydney Goldstein Theater in San Francisco for our live performance and, I dare say, triumphant return to the triumphant return of the San Francisco Sketch Fest. It's gonna be a lot of fun, a lot of big shows.

And then, we're gonna go to Los Angeles, by the way, also. We're gonna be performing right after that in a masonic lodge in a cemetery.

00:32:06 Jesse Host Yeah, the masonic lodge at Hollywood Forever is such a cool place. And again, as an Angelino, I can't let this go by without mentioning: plenty of free parking.

00:32:16 John Host Plenty of free parking! Tickets are on sale now, and they're going fast.

00:32:22 Jesse Host Port Townsend sold out immediately.

00:32:24 John Host Oh, it's sold out already. Okay.

00:32:25 Jesse Host *[Chuckling.]* Oh yeah! Port Townsend sold out like this. *[Snaps.]* I don't—I guess? I don't know!

00:32:32 John Host It's gonna be a heck of a show. [Bit.ly/JJHOWEST](https://bit.ly/JJHOWEST). That's B-I-T dot L-Y slash J-J-H-O west, for west coast. And also, please remember to send your disputes for these cities at MaximumFun.org/ijho. No case is too big or too small. If you wanna have a dispute considered for live adjudication at one of these shows, MaximumFun.org/ijho. Make sure that you put the name of the city that you are submitting the dispute for.

00:33:04 Jesse Host We're also gonna be doing a Reddit talk on Judge Hodgman's favorite subreddit. Everyone knows that my favorite subreddit is—

00:33:13 John Host Magnet fishing.

00:33:14 Jesse Host —r/marbles.

00:33:15 John Host Oh. I thought it was magnet fishing!

00:33:19 Jesse Host I'm off magnet fishing. I'm on marbles, battle wagons, and dogs on roofs.

00:33:27 John Host Those are all great. I'm enjoying vintage menus and vintage ads.

00:33:33 Jesse Host I just subscribed to vintage menus! It's a great compliment to ask a food historian, which is a genuinely fascinating subreddit. And of course, the Max Fun subreddit! MaximumFun.Reddit.com or r/MaximumFun.

00:33:46 John Host Right. But one of my favorites—to the point of distraction in the past—has always been am I the a-hole. We'll call it that. Am I the a-hole? Where people write in saying, "I did this and does that make me a jerk or what?" And people comment and vote whether or not they are a jerk or not. It is my favorite collection of short stories featuring wildly unreliable narrators since Yelp. I love it. And one of the founding moderators of AITA, as it's called, heard that we enjoyed the show and reached out to us and invited us to do a live talk. It's sort of like a live podcast on the AITA stream! So, if you're a member of am I the a-hole or want to be one, we're gonna be doing this live talk on the 18th of January at 4PM Pacific and 7PM Eastern over on the AITA subreddit.

And they're gonna give us some examples from their subreddit of people who are trying to figure out if they did the right or the wrong thing. And Jesse and I are gonna get to judge it, and it's gonna be a lot of fun. So, join us if you will. You can listen along, and it'll be a lot of fun. Go over to the AITA subreddit and we'll be talking a lot about the tour as well.

00:35:09 Jesse Host That's January 18th at 4 Pacific, 7 Eastern, at AITA.Reddit.com.

00:35:16 John Host And also, bit.ly/JJHOWEST. Come on! Go get your tickets! They're going. They're going away!

00:35:22 Jesse Host Let's get back to the docket.

00:35:24 Sound Effect Transition Three gavel bangs.

00:35:26 Jesse Host Welcome back to the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast. We're adjudicating family feuds and finding out the bird sense of words. Here's a dispute from Maggie. "For decades, my family has made Chex Mix around the holidays. Some family members feel it's acceptable to pincer grasp one's favorite bits of the mix out of the bowl and eat only those. Others feel this is unfair. It's intended to be a mix with a certain distribution of constituent bits. One is honor-bound to take a scoop and eat whatever one gets. Please. Save us from this year's dispute and tell us once and for all who's right."

00:36:09 John Host Well, let me settle this dispute first. I like Chex Mix a lot. I like it when people in my house make it from scratch based on any number of family recipes that have been passed down and improvised over the years. And then, I like it—the commercial version too, that I'll get at a gas station from time to time. Will say this though, in case you were wondering. If you get the extra bold flavor Chex Mix, it will taste very Worcestershire-y and good, but your breath will stink really badly. And you don't wanna be breathing that on people in a car. Got it, everyone who rides in my car? That stuff stinks.

I also will settle this. There are three main streams of Chex available: wheat, rice, and corn. Best Chex? What's your guess, Jesse?

00:36:58 Jesse Host I mean, my guess is gonna be corn Chex, but I don't know!

00:37:03 John Host Not for me, friend. Rice Chex. Blandest of the Chexes. That is one of my true indulgent pleasures. Bland, bland rice Chex and ice-cold milk. Yum, yum is what I say to you. Here's the thing. I'm just giving some Chex talk, because the answer is obvious. We settled this in Atlanta at a live show, 2019, when we ruled you cannot cherry-pick the trail mix. You can't take the M&Ms out of the trail mix. Nor can you take the cherries out. You can't—literally can't cherry-pick the trail mix. You gotta eat it all. It's a mix. Just as we said, Chex Mix. You can't just be taking the good stuff out, and we know what you wanna take out. I've talked about it in my book, *Vacationland*. I'll talk about it now. What you want are those little rye crisps. They're not Chex at all! They're those little sort of thumbprint-sized pumpernickel-y, dark rye bread crisps that have been salted with all the sea in the ocean and baked in the center of the sun.

You eat one of those things, and all the moisture in your body leaves immediately, gets absorbed. They're so delicious. And yes! That's what everyone wants to eat. I'll tell you what they don't wanna eat is those little pretzel knobs. Blech! And then you get the Chexes, which are fine. But here's the thing. Gardetto's, if you didn't know this—makes a rival Chex style mix, called Gardetto's Old Fashion Italian Snack Mix. They used to be called Snack Ends. They don't have Chexes in them anymore. They used to. They used to, but then Chex bought the company, got rid of the Chexes. But it is a very similar sort of mix. And some people like it, but the main thing is Gardetto's puts out an Oops! All Rye Crisps edition.

[Jesse "wow"s.]

Yeah! You can go to the gas station and get a Gardetto's—it's called Special Request, 'cause so many people said, "I just want the rye crisps," and just get those on their own. Give those to your

			family at the holiday, 'cause you know that's what they're going for. Here's something I didn't know about Chex Mix. You know who were the spokes characters for Chex Mix in the early 1990s?
00:39:08	Jesse	Host	I don't.
00:39:09	John	Host	Charlie Brown and the gang.
00:39:10	Jesse	Host	Oh, wow!
00:39:11	John	Host	Yeah. They did a whole series of pretty charming, animated cartoons for Chex Mix with the tagline, "The top snack for kids with suburban ennui."
			It's true though, the thing about Charlie Brown is true. I like Chex Mix. You gotta—you gotta eat it all. You can't—if you just want the one thing, you got a Special Request from Gardello's. If you have another thing you wanna request, write to Gardetto's—excuse me, Gardetto's. Maybe they'll help you out. But in the meantime, if you're making Chex Mix at home, don't cherry-pick.
00:39:40	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	Three gavel bangs.
00:39:42	Jesse	Host	I recently learned, through the medium of a social media poll, that there are many people—in fact, a majority of my followers on social media, who prefer Snoopy to Charlie Brown.
			<i>[John "woah"s.]</i>
			Which seemed utterly bananas to me.
			<i>[John agrees.]</i>
			And then I learned that one of them is our producer, Jennifer Marmor.
			<i>[John hums thoughtfully.]</i>
00:40:04	Jennifer Marmor	Producer	<i>[Distantly.]</i> Huh? <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:40:06	Jesse	Host	You told me that at the time.
00:40:07	Jennifer	Producer	What poll? I didn't take this poll.
00:40:09	Jesse	Host	You didn't take the poll, but I brought up the poll to you and you said that you prefer Snoopy. That's what you told me.
00:40:14	John	Host	Jennifer, please approach the microphone.
00:40:16	Jennifer	Producer	Eh, that sounds like something I'd say.
			<i>[Jesse and John laugh.]</i>
00:40:21	Jesse	Host	Are you suggesting that you were trolling me?! Or—
00:40:24	Jennifer	Producer	No, I don't know. I don't remember this conversation at all, but now that I think about it, I think I do prefer Snoopy. He's a goof.
			<i>[John snorts.]</i>
			Likes to wear sunglasses.
00:40:33	Jesse	Host	He's not a goof; he's a doof.
00:40:34	Jennifer	Producer	He is a doof. But he has a funny laugh.
00:40:37	John	Host	<i>[Imitates Snoopy's laugh]</i> —sorta like that.
00:40:39	Jesse	Host	He doesn't do anything! Charlie Brown is the representation of what's important in life, which is to be sad. <i>[Chuckles.]</i>
			<i>[Jennifer sighs.]</i>

00:40:45	John	Host	Snoopy is the opposite! Snoopy is happy and satisfied with his life. Unless it's—unless he's waiting for supertime.
00:40:52	Jesse	Host	Yeah! Who does that represent?
00:40:54	John	Host	He represents— <i>[chuckling]</i> he represents Charles M. Schulz in his retirement. All the later strips featuring Snoopy are just Snoopy thinking about and playing tennis and then trying to write a novel. He was like a middle-aged retiree.
00:41:08	Jennifer	Producer	He can go ice skating in his own rink.
00:41:10	John	Host	And thinking about World War I, too. Another middle-aged dad thing to do.
			<i>[Jennifer laughs.]</i>
00:41:15	Jennifer	Producer	He was very happy! I have enough ennui. I don't need a child to remind me how sad I am most of the time.
00:41:23	Jesse	Host	Can't you just like Linus, then.
00:41:25	Jennifer	Producer	Oh, I love Linus! Love Linus.
00:41:28	John	Host	Snoopy and the <i>Peanuts</i> gang are parallel comic strips, but they're in different cinematic universes, basically. You are getting a two-for-one with that comic strip. You're getting the adventures of a goofy dog and his imagination, who basically parasitically lives off Charlie Brown, but otherwise doesn't care for him. And then, you have Charlie Brown and his friends going through existential crises. Separate comic strips within the same thing. It's a perfectly valid thing to like Snoopy. Most kids love Snoopy. Most adults like Charlie Brown. Good old Charlie Brown, how I hate him.
00:42:05	Jennifer	Producer	Sometimes Charlie Brown is really mean to Snoopy. And it feels—
00:42:09	Jesse	Host	Snoopy is contemptuous of Charlie Brown!
			<i>[They laugh.]</i>
00:42:15	Jennifer	Producer	It feels aggressive how mean Charlie Brown can be to Snoopy sometimes. Although—
00:42:20	Jesse	Host	Snoopy is a jerk!
00:42:21	Jennifer	Producer	Snoopy does misbehave a lot.
00:42:24	Jesse	Host	Snoopy has no regard for anyone else in the <i>Peanuts</i> universe.
			<i>[They laugh.]</i>
00:42:32	Jennifer	Producer	Snoopy might not even like Woodstock.
00:42:34	Jesse	Host	Snoopy loves Woodstock! I'd like to see one time where Snoopy says I love you to Woodstock.
00:42:38	Jennifer	Producer	There are time when they see each other and they both go <i>[excited, nasally yelling]</i> . They're so happy to see each other! These are in the—like the specials, the TV specials.
00:42:46	John	Host	But you're talking about the cartoons, the animated specials for the most part.
00:42:51	Jennifer	Producer	Yeah, yeah, yeah. But a lot of those have material that's like basically lifted from the comic strips.
00:42:55	Jesse	Host	Yeah, they're all—many of them are written by Charles Schulz.
00:42:58	Jennifer	Host	<i>[Chuckling.]</i> There is one where Snoopy's the ultimate jerk, where he's supposed to go to dog training at the Daisy Hill Puppy Farm—my son was just watching this the other day—and he goes to stop by Peppermint Patty's on his way to the puppy farm, and then just

stays there and imagines he's a World War I soldier on leave in France.

[They confirm.]

And just hangs out by her pool all day and snaps for service. And she gets real mad. It's the ultimate jerk move.

00:43:26 John Host Hey, everybody, look. You all did such a great job sending in your zeppelin and dirigible songs, and I have the bracket ready to go. I just—this is—this is this computer program that is making me a little frustrated, 'cause I can't quite get it to do what I want it to do, but we're gonna get that poll going real soon. I promise you. Before march, certainly, 'cause that could be our March Madness bracket. I haven't forgotten about it; it's just been a busy winter. But I hope that you will continue to favor us with your fan and listener submitted suggestions for things.

If you would like to submit a panel from the *Peanuts* cartoon strip of proof positive that Charlie Brown is too mean to Snoopy, I'd love to see those too. They have to be one panel—well, I guess it could be a whole strip. But ideally, one panel. You can go find them online, I'm sure, or take a picture of it. Or you know, they're all collected. You can figure it out. I would enjoy those.

00:44:17 Jesse Host You know, the director of the Charles Schulz Museum, in Santa Rosa, California, is a Max Fun listener. And supporter.

00:44:22 John Host No kidding? Well.

00:44:23 Jesse Host Lovely man!

00:44:24 John Host He's certainly welcome to enter the contest. And I guess it's a contest now.

00:44:28 Jesse Host Yeah, he doesn't get any special advantage for being a curator.

[John confirms.]

There's no curator's bonus.

00:44:34 John Host No. No, but I mean, he probably has access to archives. It doesn't have to be published. If—whoever gives me the single panel of Charlie Brown being the meanest or Snoopy being the most loving—towards Charlie Brown or Woodstock—you get a—you're gonna get a *Judge John Hodgman* t-shirt in your size or the size of your choice.

00:44:52 Jesse Host From MaxFunStore.com?

00:44:53 John Host MaxFunStore.com is where you go to get all that merch.

00:44:56 Jesse Host Here's something from Nicolas, in Somerville, Massachusetts. "When the weather's below freezing, my beard gets covered in a thick layer of frozen breath. It can take up to ten minutes to melt once I get back inside. During the melting period, I like to make a snack. But my family insists the dripping moisture is unbearably gross. They forbid me from doing anything in the kitchen until it has melted. I explained it's just lung water."

[They chuckle.]

00:45:34 John Host I didn't think it was gonna get worse than beard juice! Now we got lung water!

00:45:39 Jesse Host *[Chuckling.]* As a man who recently recovered from pneumonia, John, you know—

00:45:44 John Host That's me!

00:45:45	Jesse	Host	You know, from lung water.
00:45:47	John	Host	It's not fun.
00:45:49	Jesse	Host	"They breathe the lung water any time they share a room with me. But my family stands firm in their anti beard juice policy. Can you please tell them to let me have my food in peace?"
00:46:04	John	Host	Well. Look. Shoutout to Somerville, Massachusetts, and Tufts University and WMFO FM 91.5 on their frequency modulation dial, live from atop majestic Kurtis Hall on the Medford Somerville line, where I used to broadcast my radio show, <i>Radio Consuelo</i> , when I had a radio show—since a senior in high school at a college, 'cause they didn't know any better than to give me a show. I love Somerville. I love Massachusetts. I think a lot of this though is—I mean, unless things are very, very different just a couple hundred miles north of me right now, this whole issue is kind of moot, because it's January as we record this and as we release this, and it's 62 degrees Brooklyn, New York. I don't know if it's ever gonna be freezing again, dude. I don't know if it's ever gonna be cold enough to freeze your beard again, even in Somerville. In Maine, I don't think it's been below freezing for a couple of days.
			Sooo, maybe you won't have to worry about this in the future. But in the meantime! Let's say we get a cold snap, and your beard freezes up and you go inside. I don't know, Jesse Thorn. We both own beards. Don't you feel that a person with a beard has a certain responsibility to minimize how much they're grossing out the people around them?
00:47:23	Jesse	Host	I think that's fair, yeah.
00:47:24	John	Host	'Cause it's pretty gross.
00:47:26	Jesse	Host	It does sound gross. And I think—I don't know. I mean, we've discussed on this, I'm a native coastal Californian, so I've never experienced weather. But my understanding is that this is what mud rooms are for.
00:47:39	John	Host	Yeah, they're—you sit down and wait for your beard to melt.
00:47:42	Jesse	Host	I think he should invest in—you know those kind of hand dryers in the bathroom where you dip your hands into it and then pull it out?
			[John confirms.]
			He should mount one of those at about five feet, dip the beard in, pull it out.
00:47:57	John	Host	If he's got a ZZ Top style or old school Jesse Thorn long beard, he could do that.
00:48:03	Jesse	Host	And you know what's great? That way, the beard juice collects in a reservoir for later sale.
00:48:09	John	Host	Oh yeah! Exactly. You could put that into an apothecary bottle and probably ship it to Brooklyn and sell it. Sell it in a little storefront in—a little popup shop in Dumbo. But yeah, no I think that you have an obligation—like, beards are I think intrinsically a little bit gross. They can be majestic and beautiful to look at—and someone can find one attractive even if they are not you. But I will say that I know that the people in my life who come close to my beard are making a sacrifice every time they come close to my beard. It is a weird texture and it's kind of gross. And I know, as someone who kissed Zach Galifianakis in the second season of <i>Bored to Death</i> —maybe the third—that it's a scratchy endeavor. I had a moustache at the

time. And as Zach said, it felt like we were pushing two brooms together. I miss Zach.

Anyway! Yeah, so, given that the beard I think is sort of baseline, probably your family is already making that concession just letting you walk around with this thing on your face. To have frozen breath dripping out of it, I don't care if you're making the most personal of snacks. Even if it's not something—a snack that you're sharing, I don't care if you're making the most personal of snacks: the personal pan pizza. Don't be dripping lung juice onto it. Just dry it off! Get a towel and dry it off. Jesse, you know what I learned recently? This may mean nothing to you. You know, nostalgia's a toxic impulse, but I've been talking a lot about Loni Anderson and some other old school stuff. Richard Dawson. I'll just mention one more thing. Maybe this'll ping with you or maybe it won't, but this was a big, important part of my middle school life: Stouffer's French bread pizzas. You ever have one of those?

00:49:53	Jesse	Host	No.
00:49:54	John	Host	Val, Jennifer, Stouffer's French bread pizzas?
00:49:57	Valerie Moffatt	Editor	I'm sure I've had a Stouffer's French bread pizza at some point or another. I've had French bread pizzas generally.
00:50:04	John	Host	Sure, generally. But the Stouffer's—boy, oh boy. I don't know! What I learned—the good news for you is that they still make it. Still comes in pepperoni and deluxe.
00:50:14	Valerie	Editor	Oh good, there's still time.
00:50:15	John	Host	Yeah. You still have a chance.
00:50:18	Jesse	Host	<i>[Laughing.]</i> In screenwriting, they call this a ticking clock.
00:50:22	John	Host	Yeah. And this is your inciting incident! Everyone go out—well, I don't know. I don't need to advertise Stouffer's.
00:50:27	Jesse	Host	Hold on. Hold on, Val. First, save the cat, then go get the pizza.
<i>[They laugh.]</i>			
00:50:35	John	Host	For all I know, Stouffer's pizzas are only good enough to wear on your feet when you're running on a treadmill in Nova Scotia, at this point.

[They laugh.]

But I have a fond memory of it. So, if anyone wants to try one and let me know, maybe I'll do the—they still make them. But here's the other thing that I discovered that they're still making. This was one of my mom's favorite things. I don't know if—frozen food was not a big part of my growing up, but we had these Stouffer's French bread pizzas, and we also had Stouffer's creamed chipped beef. Which—have you ever had creamed chipped beef, Jesse?

00:51:05	Jesse	Host	I've never even had chipped beef.
00:51:07	John	Host	Oh, well the creamed chipped beef is the same thing as chipped beef, except it's in a cream sauce.
00:51:12	Jesse	Host	Oh. Okay. What is chipped beef?
00:51:15	John	Host	It's basically like—it's air-dried beef. This is how it's described on the Stouffer's website. "Tender strips of dried beef topped with a seasoned creamy sauce." And you traditionally serve it on toast. And this was a thing that my mom would always say with perverse delight, was described in the armed forces as " <i>[censored]</i> on a shingle". Creamed chipped beef on toast. And she would—she would make not one but two packages—I have to imagine it had to

have been 70,000 calories of cream sauce and beef and just eat it out of a bowl. And I love my mom, and I love her memory. And I've had creamed chipped beef, and it's kind of disgustingly good. But I didn't know they still make it, and they do.

And I only found out, 'cause I was thinking about personal pizzas and Stouffer's French bread pizzas. And I was—and on the website, they have this page, Creamed Chipped Beef, and at the bottom of the page it says, "Why It's Delicious".

[Jesse laughs.]

And it offers two reasons for why it's delicious—why cream chipped beef is delicious.

00:52:14	Jesse	Host	"Why does this product defy God's will?"
00:52:18	John	Host	The first reason they offer for why it's delicious is, "It's freshly made and simply frozen." Oh—okay. It's frozen. That's why it's delicious?
00:52:27	Jesse	Host	Hold on, it's simply frozen. None of these baroque freezing processes that our competitors use.
00:52:33	John	Host	Right, no, simply frozen, just like—just like grandma used to freeze. And then, the other reason that they give for why it's delicious [chuckles]—for why creamed chipped beef is delicious specifically is: "cooking trays made with 30% recycled plastic".
00:52:49	Jesse	Host	Oh! Sure.
00:52:50	John	Host	And let's just leave it at there. That's all they got. That's why it's delicious. The trays are somewhat recycled.
00:52:57	Jesse	Host	Get a little bit of that post-consumer flavor.
00:52:59	John	Host	Anyway, there are things in life that are arguably grosser than beard juice. Maybe creamed chipped beef is one of them. But whatever it is that's dripping out of your beard, don't let it get in your snack, everybody. Beards require a certain amount of self-discipline.
00:53:15	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	Three gavel bangs.
00:53:17	Jesse	Host	Maybe a hand towel at the door?
00:53:19	John	Host	Yeah, get yourself a beard towel and just go [makes a silly face-drying sound]. Dry it out! Or just—or go into the bathroom and—you know, you don't need a wall mounted hand dryer; you can just get a hair dryer and blow it on your beard.
00:53:30	Jesse	Host	That said, you <u>should</u> get a wall mount. Yeah.
00:53:32	John	Host	You should. Oh yeah, you should. Of course, you should. Yeah.
00:53:34	Jesse	Host	For later sale.
00:53:36	John	Host	Well, it will increase the value of your home.

[Jesse laughs.]

You're gonna see that on *Zillow Gone Wild*, for sure. The beard drying room.

00:53:44	Jesse	Host	Our docket's clear. That's it for another episode of <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> . Our producer is Jennifer Marmor. Our editor is Valerie Moffatt. Follow us on Twitter, @JesseThorn and @Hodgman . We're on Instagram @JudgeJohnHodgman . Make sure to hashtag your <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> tweets #JJHo. And check out the Maximum Fun subreddit, at MaximumFun.Reddit.com to discuss this episode.
00:54:11	John	Host	Do you know what that is, John? The Maximum Fun subreddit? Uuum, well, it's a place to discuss Maximum Fun shows and things that come up on Maximum Fun shows.

00:54:19	Jesse	Host	It's a part of the internet that's still pretty fun.
00:54:20	John	Host	It is fun. It's fun over there. It's nice. I like it.
00:54:21	Jesse	Host	Positive vibes, there.
00:54:23	John	Host	Pos vibes over at Maximum Fun.
00:54:25	Jesse	Host	MaximumFun.Reddit.com .
00:54:26	John	Host	MaximumFun.Reddit.com . Hey, we heard about some longstanding grudges today. Let's hear some more! Did someone cross you in kindergarten? Are you still mad at that one kid that beat you in the audition for the high school production of <i>Pirates of Penzance</i> just because he already had a peg leg? Did someone ever—did someone ever steal your joke or tell a story about your house without acknowledging you in their award-winning one-person show? Did the mother of your friend who you were housesitting for kick you out of the apartment because she wanted to visit New York? And you had to leave; and she said, "I know it's wrong, but I'm doing it anyway."
			 If you have an old grudge that you want settled or just wanna complain about, let us know at MaximumFun.org/jjho . As when we do our open court segment at our live shows, fortune favors the accuser in this particular category. If you air an old grudge, the other person doesn't have to answer for it, and I'll almost certainly rule in your favor. So, make sure you let us know about your old grudges at MaximumFun.org/jjho . Plus, what else, Jesse?
00:55:27	Jesse	Host	Well, we're eager to hear about any dispute on any subject, whether or not your dispute is with a person who does solo performance.
00:55:35	John	Host	Could be with a sketch comedy team. Could be with a double hander. Yeah, it could be anything.
00:55:41	Jesse	Host	To be fair, most of my beefs are with Anna Deavere Smith.
00:55:45	John	Host	Legendary rivalry. Norman Mailer, Gore Vidal stuff.
00:55:49	Jesse	Host	It was 11PM in Los Angeles in 1992. <i>[Laughing.]</i> This issolo performance humor. Valerie gets it.
00:55:59	John	Host	Valerie gets everything.
00:56:00	Jesse	Host	Jen's working on something else.
00:56:02	Jennifer	Producer	<i>[Distant and indignant.]</i> I got it! <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:56:03	Jesse	Host	Uh, anyway, no matter what your case is, submit it at MaximumFun.org/jjho . That's MaximumFun.org/jjho .
00:56:14	John	Host	And a reminder, it's not too late to get in your cases for our tour! Port Townsend, Seattle, Portland, Oregon, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, and Denver, Colorado. If you have a case that you'd like us to consider for live adjudication, make sure that we know about it. MaximumFun.org/jjho .
00:56:32	Jesse	Host	Excited about those mile high disputes! We'll talk to you next time on the <i>Judge John Hodgman</i> podcast.
00:56:37	Sound Effect	Sound Effect	Three gavel bangs.
00:56:40	Sound Effect	Transition	Cheerful ukulele chord.
00:56:41	Speaker 1	Guest	MaximumFun.org .
00:56:43	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
00:56:44	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
00:56:45	Speaker 4	Guest	—audience supported.