

## Shmanners 439: Skiing

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[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! You're still messing with mics. Is it—is it okay?

**Travis:** It's fine! It's all part of the process, babe!

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** That's what it's like to be an audio professional. I'm at the board, tweaking. You know?

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Trying to get that perfect porridge, as Griffin would say.

**Teresa:** Perfect porridge.

**Travis:** Perfect porridge.

**Teresa:** That's... gross. [laughs]

**Travis:** Why is that gross?

**Teresa:** I don't know. Just something about porridge.

**Travis:** Porridge. Just the idea of porridge is gross? Or just like, "Perfect porridge." It has a certain... *je ne sais quoi*?

**Teresa:** That's called alliteration.

**Travis:** I mean, yeah, but also, like, there's some—I was trying to think of this the other day 'cause Bebe asked about curse words and why they have similar sounds at the end.

**Teresa:** Hmm.

**Travis:** And it's not like percussive, that's not the word I would—they have emphatic...?

**Teresa:** Plosive? Are you looking—

**Travis:** Emphatic.

**Teresa:** Oh, okay.

**Travis:** But porridge. It is weird. It's a not-great word. Let's move off of it.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** Hey! You know what it's like outside?

**Teresa:** Snowin'.

**Travis:** [singing] Walkin in a—

**Teresa and Travis:** [singing] —winter wonderland.

**Travis:** And I was explaining to Bebe... the first day—so, we're trapped in the polar vortex. Um, like we're chewing 5 Gum. And we're being—

**Teresa:** [quietly] 5 Gum.

**Travis:** Our senses are being blasted by the polar vortex.

**Teresa:** That's a deep dive. I don't remember 5 Gum. Is that from the 90s?

**Travis:** It is from the 90s. Their whole thing was like, "For all the senses." And I don't... no, it was five senses. I don't know.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** I guess you looked at the gum... anyways.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Then you could hear yourself chewing it? Gross.

**Travis:** And the first day that it snowed it was like this really dry, kind of powdery snow. And I said, "Oh, this is like perfect snow for skiing, I guess. I don't know. I've never been skiing."

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And Bebe said, "What's skiing?" And I had to really think. Because, like, yeah, she's never been. But she watches enough, like, TV and videos and stuff. She knows what skiing is. And I had to be like, "Skiing. Like where you have skis on your feet." And she went, "Oh, skiing."

**Teresa:** "Oh, yes." Well, that's what we're talking about today! Segue.

**Travis:** Oh my god, what a coincidence! What a transition!

**Teresa:** And as always, please email us your episode suggestions to [shmannerstcast@gmail.com](mailto:shmannerstcast@gmail.com). Alexx reads each one lovingly and adds it to her never ending list of interesting topics for the show.

Alright.

**Travis:** Now, you've been skiing.

**Teresa:** Yes. I grew up skiing.

**Travis:** And doing other things too, right? Not just skiing the whole time. You weren't just—

**Teresa:** Not just—not the whole time.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** But every winter, yes.

**Travis:** I've never been skiing, and I have, um, zero interest in it. Not because—like, I think that were I a younger man, were I still in my 20s, it might be fun to live dangerously. But now at 41, it just feels like, um, either the beginning of an inspirational movie where it's like, "At 41, he decided... " or like the beginning of my obituary.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Where it's just like, "None of us know what Travis was thinking." Um, what's it like?

**Teresa:** Well, so I started skiing when I was about Dottie's age, actually. So, like, four. Um, and it was because my parents, they lived in Colorado for a while because my dad taught at the Air Force Academy, and he was actually on ski patrol.

**Travis:** Whoa!

**Teresa:** For a while.

**Travis:** I didn't know that. In the Air Force?

**Teresa:** No. In Colorado.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Teresa:** There's mountains in Colorado.

**Travis:** I was gonna say, I didn't know the Air Force had a ski patrol.

**Teresa:** So, they did a lot of skiing. They call it "out west." I have never been, quote, "out west." I have only been to East Coast skiing, so I don't have the fresh powder experience. I'm doing lots of air quotes.

**Travis:** Yeah, we can hear it. It's very—like 5 Gum, it also is an audio experience.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Um, but I did ski a lot, and I did get to the point where, um—when I was skiing, that's, like, 20 years ago. Um, I got to the point where I used skis that were longer than I was tall. Which was, at the time, a sign of great skill.

**Travis:** Now, did you also get injured at any point?

**Teresa:** I did get injured once. It was not my fault. Um, I was skiing in New York. There's a slope called Holiday Valley, which has a long, long run. Very, very long. I think it's, like, a mile, maybe longer.

**Travis:** Too long.

**Teresa:** Um, called Mardi Gras I think is what it's called. But anyway, um, I got knocked over by a...

**Travis:** A yeti.

**Teresa:** A snowboarder.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Teresa:** Um, who ran over my thumb, which was holding onto a pole. And I guess they don't teach kids with poles anymore. They were kind of like for balance, right? And so, like, ran over it, so it broke my thumb in two places. But we still had two more days on our lift tickets for the slope, and we had driven, so it wasn't like we could, like, fly home or whatever, and my whole family was there. So they just casted my hand so that I could still hold my pole and keep skiing. Which was normal at the time.

**Travis:** Commitment.

**Teresa:** And you know what's normal now? People wearing helmets. It was not very normal when I was skiing 20 years ago to wear a helmet.

**Travis:** It was a different time! Kids' heads were thicker!

**Teresa:** And when I think about getting knocked over on a run and then run over, I think about "That could've been my head," and "Why wasn't I wearing a helmet?" [laughs quietly]

**Travis:** Listen. It could've been anything. It could've been your butt. You know what I mean? It could've been anything. You're fine! Look at you now!

**Teresa:** I'm fine. I just have limited mobility in that thumb. Just a little bit.

**Travis:** Oh, not that much.

**Teresa:** Not that much. It's a little bit. Um, but anyway, so yes, I am familiar with skiing. And I also went... [sighs] I went through a period where I was like, "Yeah, I wanna go skiing again, and I'm gonna teach Travis how to ski, and [unintelligible mumbling]." No. I don't wanna do that anymore.

**Travis:** And it—and, can I just say, you never will.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** There is no amount—and once again, this isn't—if you're like, "But Travis, I love skiing!"

That is so awesome for you. And I guarantee that there are hobbies that I have that you're like, "I don't wanna do that." And that's fine. [singing]  
We like different things.

**Teresa and Travis:** [singing] And that's just fine.

**Travis:** [singing] But remember to be kind. [speaking] Thank you, Daniel Tiger. The fact is it's just one of those things that after a certain point in my life it was like, I've never done this and I never will.

**Teresa:** Also, like, I remember being a little bit, kind of, um... I don't know. I guess is it—feelings of abandonment, being put in ski school while my parents went to go ski without me. Um...

**Travis:** Maybe. I don't know. We put our kids in school-school. Does that count?

**Teresa:** No, that doesn't count.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** That's different. Um, that's required by law.

**Travis:** Enough about your childhood trauma. Let's focus on skiing... as etiquette and manners and stuff.

**Teresa:** Okay. Um, when you picture someone skiing, you might think of the Olympics, right?

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** You might also think of posh ski resorts.

**Travis:** I think of war.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Aha, I knew I was right!

**Teresa:** You should. You should think of war.

**Travis:** I knew I was right! Boom!

**Teresa:** Um—

**Travis:** Every so often, once every 800 episodes or however long we've done this, I wanna, like, get ahead of you and be like, "I know."

**Teresa:** But before it was war, it was just transportation, right? You needed to use the skis to get from one place to another. There are actual cave paintings in Central Asia that show people using skis around the last Ice Age, right? So that's somewhere between 40,000 and 100,000 years ago.

**Travis:** And it makes sense, because one, like, if you think about snowshoes, which once again my only reference to snowshoes is, like, cartoons and movies. But skis would work under the same idea of spreading out your weight, right? So you don't sink into the snow as much. And with the added benefit of the way skis work, right? Of like, if you're doing cross country or downhill, it taking less steps, you know, you're moving faster to get there.

**Teresa:** Less effort.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** I don't know if I would say that cross country skiing is less effort. I've never done that.

**Travis:** That's why I didn't say less effort, but more speed.

**Teresa:** More speed, yes. More speed. Um, so we have the drawings that look like—so they're, like, two-dimensional drawings where the people have hiking sticks in their hands, and then large kind of, like, miniature sled-looking things on their feet.

**Travis:** Hmm.

**Teresa:** The first physical evidence of skis were found in Russia, and historians believe that the Siberian versions were at the very least 8,000 years old.

**Travis:** Okay. For a second my brain, I think trying to get ahead of you, heard 8,000, and the rest of my brain went, "Feet long."

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** And that... wouldn't work.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** That would be a mile and a half long skis. And god, would you be tired by the time you got wherever you were going!

**Teresa:** So tired. They were typically made out of two pieces of thin wood, around six and a half feet long. They were insulated with horse hair and used for travel, and hunting, and like you said, warfare. Um, in fact, military skis are something that's been used by armed forces all around the world.

**Travis:** I mean, think about how many—you mentioned, like, Siberia, right? And there's the talk of—I think it's Hannibal. And trying to, like, go over the Alps with, like, elephants and stuff. And that idea of, you fight wars where it's cold, too. And you don't want your army, like, charging down a hill in boots, in six inch deep snow or whatever. They're gonna fall down. They're gonna roll down. All kinds of things.

**Teresa:** Yeah. So skiing as kind of like a fun time thing didn't actually happen until around the 1700s. The recreational aspect. Before that, they were a means of transportation, right? Especially, like you said, for soldiers. Alpine skiing, which was started by the Norwegian Army, they would start to hold, like, drills and competitions to try and improve the way that people, like, traveled on the skis. Um, so they had, like, navigating forests, and snowfields, and skiing down slopes—

**Travis:** [simultaneously] Oh, like slaloms and stuff.

**Teresa:** —and—well, slaloms are a little later. But you—

**Travis:** But, I mean, really that's what navigating a forest is, isn't it?

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** It's like they said, "Man. People keep running into trees. We should think of thinner, more flexible trees that if someone runs into it, it just kind of whaps 'em in the face, but doesn't, you know, kill them." And they said, "I have an idea. Flags."

**Teresa:** [laughs] But in a similar way, you may recognize what I'm talking about, because the Norwegian Army is doing this all while shooting their rifles, right?

**Travis:** Oh, like the...

**Teresa:** Biathlon.

**Travis:** Yeah, I couldn't remember which one it was.

**Teresa:** In the Olympics. Yep. So you do all those kind of things while you are shooting at targets, just like in the Olympics.

**Travis:** And James Bond.

**Teresa:** Yes. They ski in James Bond? Oh wait—

**Travis:** From Russia With Love, I think? There's a whole thing of him, like, skiing and [crosstalk] shooting.

**Teresa:** No, I do—I do recall that. Um, it is...

**Travis:** I want it to be From Russia With Love so that I'm right, but I know it's... I know it's, uh, uh, oh my god. Roger Moore.

**Teresa:** Her Majesty's Secret Service, 1969.

**Travis:** Oh! That was Lazenby! Okay.

**Teresa:** So Murren, one of the oldest ski areas in Switzerland, was the location for Her Majesty's Secret Service.

**Travis:** Oh, yes. Okay. So there's a whole thing. That—yes. I was thinking of a different scene where they're skiing downhill or, like, on a jets—er, not jet ski. But you know, snowmobile, and launch off and parachute with the big Union Jack.

**Teresa:** Oh, okay. A different movie, maybe.

**Travis:** But Her Majesty's Secret Service is where Blofeld is set up. Um, hypnotizing young rich women, for some reason.

**Teresa:** Oh!

**Travis:** Yeah. I don't—it's been a while since I've seen it.

**Teresa:** Okay. Another skiing, like, drill that now you can see the, uh—I guess the extreme version of is, um, the ski jump. Right?

**Travis:** Yes.

**Teresa:** So in 1809, Olaf Rye, who was a Norwegian man, became—

**Travis:** I could've guessed that.

**Teresa:** Yeah. Became the first recorded ski jumper. He jumped a whopping—

**Travis:** On purpose?

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Nine and a half meters in front of an audience. That's 19 feet. Um, but now in the Olympics, in order to qualify, you have to jump around 300 feet.

**Travis:** A football field.

**Teresa:** Yes. But you know, 1809 to today, things do kind of escalate, don't they?

**Travis:** It's one of my favorite jokes. I wish I could—I can't remember if it's just a comedian or just, like, a running joke among the Brits. But this idea of like, because we use feet, the smallest thing we have to compare everything to is a football field. Where it's like in metric [crosstalk]—

**Teresa:** Oh.

**Travis:** And it's always like, "That's like half a football field." "So you're saying, like, one third of a football field?" "That's two football fields!"

**Teresa:** [laughs] I never thought about it that way. You could say a yard.

**Travis:** What's that even mean?

**Teresa:** Three feet.

**Travis:** I mean, I know that's three feet. What's three feet?

**Teresa:** I don't know how to... qualify that.

**Travis:** See, I think in terms of, like—see, I'm not six feet. I'm 5'10". But saying, like, "That's about one Travis worth." You know what I mean? "That's like two Travises standing on each other's shoulders!"

Not each other's shoulders. That's a loop. Anyways...

**Teresa:** [laughs] Okay. So, the Norwegian Alps quickly became crisscrossed with racing trails, as everyone fell in love with the sport, right? So we're not just using it for military. We are now into the recreational stage.

**Travis:** That happens a lot, though, doesn't it? Where things, like, start off—which also makes sense, because if you think about it, right? You start—you know, let's say somebody joins the military, right? They do this thing, and there's, like, an aspect of it that they really enjoy. And then, like, their

commission is or, you know, whatever. They retire. And it's like, "But I did like the skiing part of it." Right?

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** So they would keep doing it. Or we also talk about this a lot when it comes to, like, facial hair or accessories, where people are like, "I'm not in the military. But the military's really cool right now because we're at war or whatever, and I want to kind of emulate them, so I'm gonna carry a pocket watch like they do. I'm gonna grow a mustache like they do. I'm going to ski like they do." It makes complete sense.

**Teresa:** Yeah. And of course there were lots of improvements. A bow-shaped design help distribute the skier's weight more evenly. And then another new design in 1868 gave a side cut to the ski so you can kind of, like, carve into the mountain a little easier. Um, because you have a couple of different ways that you can get down the hill. And so far, we have, like, the downhill, right? Which is like, point your skis toward the bottom, right?

**Travis:** And pray.

**Teresa:** And pray. Uh, and then we'll talk a little later about the snowplow or the pizza technique, where you kind of point your toes towards each other into, like, a wedge, right? Which is getting you to go a little slower. But if you want to kind of, like, crisscross down the mountain like you see on TV, right? You need to have something on your skis that allows you to kind of push into the hill.

**Travis:** Sort of like ice skating, right? Where you're pushing off, yeah instead of—

**Teresa:** Yes, exactly.

**Travis:** —Yeah.

**Teresa:** So the Norwegians especially were so in love with this sport that lots of different, like, techniques were named for them. And when the

Norwegians started to emigrate to the United States in the 1800s, they brought the sport with them.

**Travis:** "This is my mountain. You can ski on it. I brought it over on the boat." That's dumb. That's a dumb joke.

**Teresa:** No, no.

**Travis:** They didn't bring the mountain with 'em. We have mountains here.

**Teresa:** No, but the very first American skiing competition was held in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1887. And during that time, the sport's popularity was booming in New England. This is where ski jumping founds its way into the entertainment world, because it was included in the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Teresa:** Yeah. Totally spread around the whole place.

**Travis:** Everybody's doing it.

**Teresa:** Everybody's doing it. Um, so now we have a lot of different kind of, like, touchstones, right? So the 1830s—sorry, 1930s.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** We were going backwards for a second. 1930s is when we get kind of ski fever, going through—

**Travis:** Skiver.

**Teresa:** [laughs quietly] Yep. New Zealand, and Australia, and Chile, and Argentina. Um, and the place that really fell in love culturally with skiing is Japan.

**Travis:** Oh, okay!

**Teresa:** They were big fans. And, um, when an innovator in ski design, Hannes Schneider traveled there to introduce new designs, they actually put him on payroll to give mass ski lessons to people. Thousands of people were taught to ski at once on Mt. Fuji through use of a loudspeaker.

**Travis:** Yeah, I would assume.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah.

**Teresa:** He wasn't just...

**Travis:** Unless everybody was real quiet.

**Teresa:** 1936 is when the sport is added... I mean, a lot of ski sports are added to the Olympics. Although the jump had been part of the Winter Olympics since 1924. But 1936 is when the combined competition of both downhill and slalom... and then in 1948, those events were separated. And then four years later, the giant slalom was added in 1988.

**Travis:** To compete in that you had to be at least—

**Teresa:** No, sorry.

**Travis:** —15 feet tall.

**Teresa:** Was added. And in 1988, the super giant slalom, more commonly known as the Super G, was added to the sport.

**Travis:** How big did I have to be to compete in that?

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Do you think—it's a super-giant slalom. Okay, giant slalom? You gotta be 12 feet tall. Super giant slalom? At least 15 feet tall if you wanna get in this one. Or were there super giants fighting you?

**Teresa:** No, it—

**Travis:** Like in the game SkiFree and the yeti came out? I think there was [[pee?]] in the game for some reason?

**Teresa:** Oh, I remember that game.

**Travis:** While we remember SkiFree for a while, we're gonna take a quick break for a word from another Max Fun show.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Okay. So... skiing is in the Olympics.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** If my math is correct, it's 1940. What could go wrong?

**Teresa:** Uh, well, 1948. So we've... what do I say? Skimmed over.

**Travis:** We've crested...

**Teresa:** The war.

**Travis:** And it's all downhill from here.

**Teresa:** Um, yes. [laughs quietly]

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** But can you believe that—so, we've gotten to the Olympics, right? We're as far as 1948. 1936 is when the first chairlift was invented.

**Travis:** Wait. So, 1936 they invented the chairlift. And it was like they said, "Okay, now it can be in the Olympics."

**Teresa:** I guess so? But I want you to remember that recreational skiing has been around since the mid-1700s.

**Travis:** How were they getting up there before then?

**Teresa:** They were climbing the mountain.

**Travis:** No.

**Teresa:** Yes they were!

**Travis:** That can't be it.

**Teresa:** Yes. Yes they were.

**Travis:** That can't be it!

**Teresa:** They were climbing the mountain.

**Travis:** There must've been big birds or something.

**Teresa:** Nope.

**Travis:** No big birds?

**Teresa:** Nope.

**Travis:** Just climbing?

**Teresa:** Just climbing. There—

**Travis:** And they kept doing it?

**Teresa:** There were some—

**Travis:** You would think the first time that they got up there and it was like, "It took me an hour and a half to get up here," and then they ski down and it takes 'em two minutes. And they're like, "You know what? I'm actually good. I don't need to do that anymore until someone comes up with a magical chair that will lift me up there."

**Teresa:** I know, right? There were other helpers, right? There were, like, tow ropes and gondolas and things like that. Right? 'Cause gondolas have been around for a while, where you have, like, the whole big, um, kind of like room hanging from a rope, right? And the big winches and things like that. But the actual, like, chairlift, which was somewhere between the gondola and the tow rope—

**Travis:** And climbing.

**Teresa:** And climbing.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Was not invented until 1937.

**Travis:** You know what I bet they tried to use at some point? I would be amazed if someone wasn't like, "I've got it. Hot air balloon."

**Teresa:** Oooh!

**Travis:** "I'm gonna fly you up there. You're just gonna jump off and go."

**Teresa:** Can't really steer a hot air balloon, though. Can you?

**Travis:** I mean, I would still take it over climbing. At worst, you don't get to ski.

**Teresa:** I mean—

**Travis:** It's fine.

**Teresa:** Yeah, but I mean, just think of how many more times you could go down the mountain if you didn't have to climb.

**Travis:** You're once again assuming that that's my goal.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Where really my main goal right now is to not have to climb a mountain a bunch.

**Teresa:** So... with this all taking off, and—

**Travis:** Just like a hot air balloon.

**Teresa:** Just like—no.

**Travis:** A hot air balloon takes off!

**Teresa:** [laughs] I mean, it does, but... that's not what we're talking about.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** What we have now are cropping up of luxury ski lodges.

**Travis:** Ooh la la.

**Teresa:** And alpine fashions, and you know, everything being in vogue for skiing.

**Travis:** [simultaneously] Fondue pots.

**Teresa:** Yes. Yes. Definitely. Um, and—

**Travis:** The Jacuzzi.

**Teresa:** —in the, um... in the, like, the spirit of that... so you have a couple of places that I think you would really like... is the bar in the lodge.

**Travis:** I'll hang out at the lodge.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I've said this to you before. I don't wanna stop you from skiing. If you wanna take the girls skiing for 30 seconds till they're like, "I actually hate this," just like our endeavor to take them ice skating...

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** Bebe begged to go ice skating for, like, six months. And we took her ice skating. She was on the ice for maybe 15 seconds before she was like, "I actually don't wanna do this anymore." And I said, "Yeah, man. I've been telling you that." Just like she's been asking to go camping. And I guarantee that child—I wouldn't even have the tent set up before she was like, "Wait. This is camping? Oh no! Oh, gross."

**Teresa:** Yeah. And there—

**Travis:** So if you wanna take 'em skiing, go for it. I'll be keepin' some mugs of hot cocoa, maybe a hot toddy for you, ready at the bar.

**Teresa:** Mulled wine.

**Travis:** Mulled wine. I'm there, baby.

**Teresa:** Well, ski lodges now are more like winter resorts.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Teresa:** Right? A lot of them have on-site accommodations, bars and restaurants, spas.

**Travis:** Arcades.

**Teresa:** Arcades.

**Travis:** Mmm, I'm there.

**Teresa:** They have, um, shopping. And, of course, you can rent equipment. There are ski schools attached to these places where you can basically, like, drop off your kids, and you go ski, and they learn how to ski.

**Travis:** Is there, like, an arcade where you could drop me off? And you can go skiing with the kids?

**Teresa:** [laughs] Maybe.

**Travis:** I'll earn them a bunch of prizes and tickets and stuff. I'm happy to make that sacrifice.

**Teresa:** Um, here are a couple of... tricks and tidbits about ski etiquette. For—

**Travis:** Don't run over people's thumbs.

**Teresa:** Okay. Yes.

**Travis:** Number one.

**Teresa:** Please don't do that. These come from Mountaintop Etiquette Guide of the British School of Excellence.

**Travis:** Oh. Okay

**Teresa:** Um, all sports—

**Travis:** Do you think you have to be British to go to the British School of Excellence?

**Teresa:** No, I think that it's teaching you how to be British.

**Travis:** 'Cause I would love it to just have that chambered and ready when someone's like, "What makes you so great?" And I'm like, "Well."

**Teresa:** "Well."

**Travis:** "I went to the British School of Excellence and I graduated, so what's that tell you?"

**Teresa:** Here are some principles of ski etiquette, keeping courtesy, empathy, and personal awareness at the forefront. Who has the right of way?

**Travis:** The... person coming downhill.

**Teresa:** Yes. The people—

**Travis:** Because it's harder for them to stop.

**Teresa:** [laughs] The people in front of you, right? So the idea is, if you go down first, okay? And you are crisscrossing across the slope, my duty is to stay behind you, okay? And—

**Travis:** Hmm, you don't play through.

**Teresa:** And not play through. Right? We don't go in front of the people who are already down there. Right? Because they cannot see you down the hill, right? Um, and so you need to make—be aware that you are giving them the space to go down, just like everyone behind you is giving you the space.

**Travis:** Now, what if I'm trying to win the big ski race against the preppy bully so that I can save the community center?

**Teresa:** Hopefully it's a racing course.

**Travis:** Okay, great.

**Teresa:** And that is allowed.

**Travis:** Can I do an extreme jump where I come down and they're like, "There's no way Travis can win!"

But then I, like, ramp off a rock or something and I fly right over 'em and—

**Teresa:** A rock would be really hard on your skis.

**Travis:** Hey, but if it saves the community center, it's worth it!

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** And impresses the French foreign exchange student? Yes, please!

**Teresa:** Um, and in the same vein, do not create an obstruction on the slope, right? So if people behind you up the mountain are watching you, and going behind you, your duty is not to stop in the middle. [laughs] Right?

**Travis:** Oh, okay. See, I thought you were talking about that thing that always happens in cartoons where someone, for some reason, is building a snowman in the middle of, like, the snow—

**Teresa:** [simultaneously] Oh yeah, I know, right?

**Travis:** —like, the—the... the skiing area. Where you would think that there would be whatever the skiing equivalent of a lifeguard is who would go, "Hey! This isn't a good place to build that snowman!"

**Teresa:** Right. Exactly.

**Travis:** Ski patrol, probably.

**Teresa:** Ski patrol.

**Travis:** Not a lifeguard.

**Teresa:** So you don't stop in the middle. You want to move over to the tree line to the side in order to stop if you need to adjust your equipment or take a rest, or whatever it is. So you are not creating an obstruction for people coming down behind you, and people coming down behind you are watching you to know how to gauge their speed and their path.

**Travis:** Got it.

**Teresa:** Um, obviously safety first. There may be posted trail restrictions or other official notices regarding ski area boundaries.

**Travis:** Watch out for snowmen come to life, yeti spotted, that kind of thing.

**Teresa:** Do not be tempted to push on, regardless of the consequences. Not only could you be, uh, seriously injured, right? Skiing is dangerous. You could also get your lift ticket taken away from you, and then you can't ski anymore.

**Travis:** There's also, I would be willing to bet, areas that are, like, cordoned off because it's, like, bad for the environment if you went skiing there.

**Teresa:** Oh, totally. Yeah. Yeah. Um, also, although alcohol and skiing are intrinsically linked, they have been for centuries, you should definitely approach that with caution.

**Travis:** Maybe do one and then the other. And, hint: ski first.

**Teresa:** [laughs] I agree. Um, I think that you should know your limits, right? Let's say, like, you could probably have a beer with lunch and then ski later.

**Travis:** Well, see, but there you're mistaken.

**Teresa:** 'Cause you wouldn't go skiing. [laughs]

**Travis:** Yeah. See, that's... I know my limits, and I could have as much beer as I wanted, because I would not then follow that up with any skiing. But also, once again, 41. As much beer as I wanted, especially with lunch, would be, at most, two at this point.

**Teresa:** Two. [laughs]

**Travis:** And then I'd need a nap.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I know my limits too well.

**Teresa:** Yes. So imbibe responsibly. Also, there is etiquette to the lift queue. No one likes being in long lift lines, but in peak season, they tend to come with the territory. Join the back of the queue, move forward in a timely and organized fashion, and be ready to get on or off the lift when it is your turn.

Now, getting on a chairlift, especially for the first time, can be nerve wracking. As a child, I do remember being just kind of picked up in between my parents legs to sit on the chairlift. But as you get better and better at it, you want to make sure that you are ready to go, so you're paying attention, not chatting, not checking your fit or whatever, right?

Because [laughs] if too many chairs go up unoccupied, people in the line start getting upset, right? Because we're all waiting in line, and the more chairs that go up empty, the more time it takes for us all to get up the mountain.

**Travis:** That makes sense.

**Teresa:** Right. Um, so do not let chairs go by just because you have, like, six in your group and you want to all sit together or whatever.

**Travis:** Let somebody else go, then.

**Teresa:** Have a meeting time—have a meeting up at the top of the mountain. Everybody gets there, and then you can get with your group. Don't try and, like, keep your group together in the lift line. Get up as fast as you can.

**Travis:** It's not a ride. It's not an amusement park ride, is what you're saying.

**Teresa:** Exactly.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Exactly. Be mindful of beginners, right? Because like I said, as a very young child, it was difficult to get on the chairlift. So, you know, have a little empathy for those beginners.

Um, you know, and not only on the chairlift but also on the mountain, right? These people—lots of people are learning to ski all the time. There are lots of young people. You need to be a little sympathetic to them getting into the sport. Um, and—

**Travis:** Don't, like, rock and be silly on the chairlift. 'Cause there's people like me, who aren't wild about heights. Another reason I don't want to go skiing.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** That would, uh, be quietly panicking the entire time they sit on a ski lift. So, like, be cool.

**Teresa:** Yeah. Um, as always, the golden rule applies, whether or not you're at the top of the mountain or you are at an apres-ski hot chocolate.

**Travis:** Or you're buried deep within the mountain, waiting for your time to rise.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** And, you know, defeat the man scourge.

**Teresa:** Deep in the mountain? Like the dwarf, like, horde or whatever?

**Travis:** I was thinking more like Smaug.

**Teresa:** Oh, okay. Okay.

**Travis:** Like if you're a Smaug. If you're a Smaug and you're buried deep beneath the mountain, wait your turn for the ski lift.

**Teresa:** Sure. I don't think that there's a ski lift big enough for Smaug.

**Travis:** Wow! Wow! Well then maybe we need to get on that.

**Teresa:** He's a dragon that's large and in charge.

**Travis:** Maybe that's why he's so mad!

**Teresa:** Oh...

**Travis:** Do you think? He can't go skiing!

**Teresa:** May—maybe?

**Travis:** Ahh, never thought about that, did you, smarty?

**Teresa:** Maybe.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Let me hit you with some—

**Travis:** No! Don't hit me!

**Teresa:** Oh. No. Let me talk to you about some ski lingo.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Teresa:** Just like surfer lingo, there is ski lingo, okay?

**Travis:** Skingo.

**Teresa:** And, like I said, apres-ski is after skiing. It's when you're done skiing. That's—it's French. And so everyone either goes to the bar at the lodge, or hot chocolate.

**Travis:** The hospital.

**Teresa:** Or... no. [laughs quietly] Don't go—[laughs quietly] You're making it sound so terrible!

**Travis:** Listen. I don't want their blood on my hands.

**Teresa:** Um, here's one that you are familiar with from driving: black ice.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Teresa:** Is often present on ski slopes. So make sure, especially on bridges and overpasses where cold air passes underneath, these are often conditions that will be posted at the top of the runs, talking about black ice. Be careful about that. Um, a ripper or a shredder. What do you think that is?

**Travis:** A serial killer on the mountain.

**Teresa:** N—no.

**Travis:** Oh. Is it like a snow plow thing that's like, uh, gonna churn up the snow to make it smooth?

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Teresa:** It's a person.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Teresa:** So a person who is ripping or shredding means that they are going pretty much straight down the hill, right?

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Teresa:** Very fast. Not really turning, not slowing down. They are most likely out of control.

**Travis:** Oh, okay. I thought you meant they were, like—

**Teresa:** Don't do that.

**Travis:** —rushing to rip and shred their documents before the government gets there.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, champagne powder—or dry powder, I've heard of.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, it's like... it is—okay. So, champagne powder is a trademark phrase. It refers to dry snow, like champagne. It gets a lot of light, and it sparkles in the sun.

**Travis:** Oh, okay. Yeah, I've seen that.

**Teresa:** Um, and so you definitely love to ski on it, right? It's beautiful, and fun, and very soft.

Um, let's see. Chatter. Chatter—

**Travis:** That's when people talk!

**Teresa:** [laughs] No—but sort of! It is—

**Travis:** Squirrels in the trees!

**Teresa:** It's the sound that your skis make.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Teresa:** Kind of as they're going over bumps or ridges, or going over corduroy. Do you know what that is?

**Travis:** That's where other people have skied and they have left lines?

**Teresa:** No. It's when it is, um, combed snow from a machine. Um, and it's second-best to fresh powder. It's very easy to ski across. There's no, like... I wanna say, like, rocks of ice or snow, or anything like that, right? It looks like corduroy pants.

**Travis:** Oh, okay. Cool!

**Teresa:** Here's one. What do you think that dump means, as far as ski lingo?

**Travis:** Is it when you, like, are skiing and you kind of bail out and to fall over?

**Teresa:** Oh, no. That's not it. That's called something else—

**Travis:** [simultaneously] It's when you poop your pants?

**Teresa:** [laughs] No. A dump... is a snowing term, where you want there to be a lot of snow late in the afternoon, after you're done skiing in the morning, so that you can have good slopes in the morning.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Teresa:** Yeah. That's a dump.

**Travis:** So dump in the afternoon. Ha, we're gonna swoon. Dump in the morning...

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Uh, don't—don't do it yet. Just wait.

**Teresa:** Yes. Here's one that I used to do with my hat and my goggles.

**Travis:** Okay, wait. Dump in the afternoon—

**Teresa:** [simultaneously] It's called—[laughs quietly]

**Travis:** —good skiing soon.

**Teresa:** Oh!

**Travis:** Dump in the morning, um... the squirrels give warning.

**Teresa:** The squirrels.

**Travis:** Yeah. That's the chatter, that you get from the squirrels?

**Teresa:** Oh, I see.

**Travis:** Who are in the trees like, "Don't do it!"

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** Actually, I don't know—you never said it was dangerous if it dumps in the morning. It's probably fine then, too.

**Teresa:** No, it's g—it's probably good. I mean, visibility is something that you want to watch out for, because if it's snowing quite heavily it—

**Travis:** Dump in the afternoon, good skiing soon. Dump in the morning, that's also good.

**Teresa:** Okay. [laughs] Keep—keep workshoppin' it.

**Travis:** Yeah, something like that.

**Teresa:** Uh, a gapper is someone whose hat doesn't come quite down far enough to meet the top of their goggles.

**Travis:** They're gonna get a sunburn.

**Teresa:** Because ski goggles are something that you should also wear. I think I'm... I'm of the time period where we definitely wore goggles, not helmets. But... so, uh, their hat or their helmet leaves a big, wide gap.

**Travis:** A sunburn.

**Teresa:** Maybe.

**Travis:** You can get a sunburn out there! All that white? It's gonna bounce.

**Teresa:** You definitely can. You definitely can.

**Travis:** Bounce all that sunlight right back in your face.

**Teresa:** Um, what about a kicker?

**Travis:** That's someone on the football team who is—no. Uh, a kicker... is the person at the top of the mountain who says, "Get down there!" And pushes 'em.

**Teresa:** [laughs] No. It's like a little jump in the middle of a run, right? It's—you can definitely grab some air.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, let's see. Um, oh! What about a onesie?

**Travis:** That's an outfit.

**Teresa:** It is an outfit! It's a re—

**Travis:** For babies.

**Teresa:** Nope. It's a—

**Travis:** For ski babies.

**Teresa:** —ski—skiing adults sometimes...

**Travis:** Adult babies?

**Teresa:** ... wore onesies. Especially in the 80s. It was a combined pant and jacket combo, right? It was very stylish. It made it harder to pee! But it was, um, the pants and the jacket, and it was all zipped up, all in one.

**Travis:** I do like that.

**Teresa:** I like it too. I had one of those. So, I talked about the wedge or the pizza. What do you think the opposite of the pizza is?

**Travis:** It's the French fry.

**Teresa:** That's right!

**Travis:** That one I know.

**Teresa:** Absolutely. When your skies are parallel, that is the french fry. When they are in a wedge, it's a pizza.

**Travis:** Pizza to slow down. French fry to go.

**Teresa:** Ooh! You got it.

**Travis:** I'm ready to hit the slopes. Let's do it, baby!

**Teresa:** [laughs] What about a ski bum?

**Travis:** Oh, is that someone who just hangs around all day doing nothing else?

**Teresa:** Uh, someone who moves to a ski town, usually takes up just enough employment to pay for their skiing habit.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** And sometimes they are even lift workers, or resort workers. And so they just, you know, they feed their habit there.

**Travis:** I get it. Alright. That's gonna do it for us, folks. Um, listen. If you want to go skiing, I'm not gonna tell you not to. Have fun out there!

**Teresa:** It's sounds like you're telling us not to.

**Travis:** I'm explaining why I'm not. Right? This is my own opinions about my own safety and body, and how important this temple is to me.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** That's where I'm at. But you guys can do whatever you want. Um, we wanna say thank you to our editor, Rachel, without whom we would not be able to make this show. Thank you to our researcher, Alexx, without whom we would not be able to make this show. And thank you to you for listening. Thank you! Happy New Year! Welcome in!

**Teresa:** Yeah!

**Travis:** Um, also, go check out [mcelroymerch.com](http://mcelroymerch.com) for all the cool merch there. Oh, if you haven't yet, we still have a few Champions Grove packages left. We're putting those on sale—er, the ones that are left. Uh, the, uh—I think the Huntsmans packages will be on sale through the 18th, so don't miss your chance to do that. New year, new sale. That kind of thing. [Championsgrove.com](http://Championsgrove.com) to get all that information.

What else, Teresa?

**Teresa:** We always thank Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Also, thank you to Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group, Shmanners Fanners. If you love to give and get advice from other fans, go ahead and join that group today. Also, like we mentioned at the beginning, please continue to send your topic suggestions, your etiquette questions, your idioms, to [shmannerscast@gmail.com](mailto:shmannerscast@gmail.com), and say hi to Alexx, because she reads every single one.

**Travis:** And that's gonna do it for us, so join us again next time.

**Teresa:** No RSVP required!

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

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

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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