

EPISODE 14: TWITTER QUESTIONS

C: OK, recently, Twitter was taken over by a billionaire, I believe.

A: I think, or a trillionaire.

C: Yeah. And...and some people are coming...

A: I don't know if he's still a billionaire.

C: Yeah, maybe not now, he had to pay a lot for it.

A: And then he's lost a lot since.

C: He's lost a lot, yeah. And Twitter is losing a lot of its...Well, people who use that platform.

A: Yeah. Some tweeters.

C: Yeah, tweeters, some people...Ah! Do you know where the name Twitter comes from?

A: The sound that a bird makes?

C: Yes. And do you know why it was called Twitter?

A: No.

C: Because the sound that a bird makes, and one of the cofounders of Twitter was a huge fan of basketball player Larry Bird.

A: Larry Bird, excellent.

C: So Larry Bird was the, you know...

A: OK and related to the word Twitter in in your lexicon...

C: Yeah.

A: The insult to be a **twit** that existed.



C: Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

A: Not a compliment.

C: Not a compliment, no.

A: You're such a twit.

C: Yeah. Yeah.

A: That's a great word. That's a super light insult, I think.

C: Yeah.

A: I mean, not fighting words. I don't think it's sexist. I don't think it's racist. It's just you're an idiot.

C: You're an idiot. Yeah. You're not being very smart, in that moment or something. But again, a word like tweet, to tweet and Twitter...

A: Well, but tweet is the verb for to tweet is the sound...That Tweety bird from the cartoons.

C: Yeah. Yeah. But again, 20, 25 years ago, only proficiency students would have known the verb tweet. It would not have been a verb that people would have known the meaning of.

A: Yes. But nowadays all students know the verb but don't know the origin.

C: Don't know the origin, yeah.

A: So it's the same thing, pretty much.

C: They certainly don't know it comes from Larry Bird.

A: Yeah, that I did not know. Larry Bird from what state?

C: That I do not know.

A: And what city? The name of the city. Town. He is from French Lick.

C: Right?



A: Indiana.

C: OK.

A: Yes. Right next to Illinois. French Lick. That's a great name of a town...

C: That sounds...OK. Let's move.

A: Yeah. Yeah.

C: One of the things... if I were to move away from that platform, which a lot of people are doing...

A: Do you actually tweet? Are you a tweet?

C: I'm not a tweet.

A: OK

C: No, I...I used it a little bit during the confinement. I think a lot of people went there because it was just one of those things, social.

A: So does our school have a a Twitter account?

C: EIM does not. Not yet.

A: OK

C: But we could work on that.

A: But not yet.

C: Not yet, no.

A: **Is it really worth (it)...**?

C: **In the pipeline?** Is it worth the energy?

A: I mean, I think we should start a Myspace page 1st. And then we can, we can get a Twitter account.



C: Retro retro. I like it. Now, one of the things I would miss...some of these kind of random questions that come up.

A: OK

C: The people then get, you know...

A: The hive mind is this...

C: Yeah, it's just you're **scrolling down** and you find this question you think, oh, OK and then you see yo'veu got 1000 responses and you're curious to see what people...

A: OK.

C: So I'm going to throw some of these at you. For example. Uh, what's the most useless thing you still have memorized?

A: Ohh, shoot. Umm maybe my some of my closest friends phone numbers from when I was in junior high school?

C: Do you still remember phone numbers?

A: Yes. Oh, a couple I could...I mean, can I say one?

C: No.

A: Oh no. Because his parents still have it.

C: Exactly. No.

A: OK, I guess it's not that useless because my friend's parents still have those numbers.

C: OK.

A: OK. I don't know. I, I really don't know. I mean, I, I could be...I could be a very **classy** musician and say it wasn't actually necessary to memorize scales because the scales are actually just a series of arpeggios played on top of each other. So that's my answer.

C: My answer to that immediately was something music related, as well.

A: OK.



C: So if you get this, every good boy deserves fudge.

A: Sure, no. But for me that's absolutely relevant because my...my sight reading skills are shite.

C: OK.

A: Yeah, it's the, it's the lines. Of the partitura, of the...yeah, the staff lines.

C: OK

A: And what about the spaces?

C: No, I don't.

A: It's face it's F A C E It's the easiest one

C: OK. That *is* easy.

A: It's way easier than every good boy does fine

C: Does fudge,

A: Does fudge? I thought it was does fine.

C: No, does fudge. Cause fudge was like this kind of chocolate bar.

A: Right? That we would eat.

C: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. That's what we learned it.

A: OK. There's a good one. I don't think we...we haven't talked about this. Maybe a topic for another episode. But euphemisms for bad words...Fudge is for the F word. Like Fudge you man. Or he really fudged it up. That's a kind of common thing to say, and it's because of that.

C: It's because of that.

A: Yeah. So that's, yeah, the the most useless thing I've memorized.

C: Next question, do you trust expiry dates on food or not?



A: Um...

C: It's a yes or no question.

A: I'm a linguist. I debate the use of the verb trust. I would say do you **abide by**?

C: OK, do you abide by?

A: Umm, I would abide by my sense of smell and sight. I would abide by my senses before I would abide by an expiration date within reason. I mean, talk about a couple of days, a month, a week, month.

C: Expiration date. Yeah, I would say expiry date. But expiration date...

A: For me, it's expiration date.

C: Yeah

A: You say expiry. What was the question?

C: In the question...It was expiration.

A: So that's gotta be it. I mean, if it was a tweet from the, uh, sorry, a tweeter from the US, it it would have to be expiration.

C: Um, if someone handed you a box filled with items you have lost in your life, what would you be most excited to get back?

A: Shoot, that's a great question. It's for sure...It's for sure a T-shirt. I had so many of my great T-shirts have disappeared. I wouldn't mind having my *pollos hermanos* T-shirt from Breaking Bad right back. That's just up and left. I mean probably got stolen because it was so cool. I think maybe some of those cool T-shirts or my soul, that would be nice as well. What about you?

C: I'm going with the T-shirts as well but it's a little bit different because I've actually kept a lot of my band T-shirts.

A: Oh, I, in theory I kept them too. But they disappeared.

C: Yeah, but what happens is after 20-30 years, the quality wasn't that great and they've got holes in them...



A: Oh, but they're so soft, like, oh my God, the cotton. Just...the cotton from back in the day is just amazing.

C: But you can't wear them out anymore. And I'd love to go back and have them, you know, brand new.

A: Brand new. OK, that makes sense. Sorry. Another language point.

C: Sure.

A: So in Spanish, 'ser un copión'...

C: Hmm.

A: Right? Somebody who copies someone else? What do you call that person? Like in in class, little kids. Like 'ohh, he's a'...I don't know if we have the same expression.

C: OK, copy as in cheat?

A: Or copy or mimic or just kind of probably cheat, but...

C: **A copycat?**

A: Copycat, exactly. I love that.

C: Yeah, yeah. And next question? Without saying where it's from, what is your favorite movie quote?

A: No, Walter, you're not wrong. You're just an *****. I think we can say that. Can we swear? We haven't done much swearing.

C: No, you do. You do. Everybody's noticed.

A: Really? Well, great, I'm representing...this is what a graduate Student... you know? That's what we talk like. What, uh... for you? By the way, do you know what movie it's from? Mine?

C: Enlighten me.

A: Really? 'No, Walter, you're not wrong. You're just an *****. Am I wrong? Am I wrong? Over the line? Over the line, Donnie'. Big Lebowski?



C: I need to rewatch that.

A: Oh, my God. Yes you do, Sir. Yes, you do. What about you?

C: In a galaxy far, far away?

A: Come on. Really?

C: Everybody knows...

A: Is that even a quote? Is that a quote? It's not even said! It's not said.

C: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

A: That's a...What would you call that? Taking the visual text from a movie.

C: From a movie, yeah. Everybody knows immediately which movie you're on about.

A: I guess. Yeah, you're on...

C: The same though, I think 'elementary, dear Watson', I believe, was never actually written in any of the Sherlock Holmes books.

A: Really? Did that come from movie or TV show?

C: I think it's from from a movie.

A: Maybe the original? But isn't it 'my dear Watson'? Or is it 'dear Watson'?

C: 'Elementary, my dear Watson' yeah.

A: I think it's my giving that...that kind of like diminutive...'cariño' like caring sense.

C: What songs have dark lyrics that people don't really notice when singing along?

A: Oh God, that's a great question. I know there are a bunch that I like. Oh, The Police. Is it...

C: Every Breath You Take?

A: Every Breath You Take. Yes. The most romantic song ever that's about **a stalker**.



C: Yeah.

A: That's a good one. I like that. The song Time by Pink Floyd, I don't know if people sing along to it, but it's really dark and depressing for like a 30 year old.

C: Yeah.

A: They are British, you know, so it makes sense they had a very gray outlook, you know, ticking away the moments that make up a dog day I think it is? A 30 year old writing as if they were 95.

C: Yeah.

A: it's quite dark. For you?

C: I think a lot of the pop songs in general, a lot of people don't really realize that the lyrics can be quite dark, even something like Britney Spears the 'Baby Hit Me One More Time'. It's a little bit...yeah.

A: Was that...? I don't even know what that song's about. It's not...it's not about gender violence?

C: Well, I would hope not, but I mean, that's just one way...

A: Interesting. Related to this, I can't give an example of lyrics, but you know that music has always had a real revolutionary quality. There's certain types of African music, so from the Ivory Coast and the type of music called Sukus Music is super happy sounding. Super happy. And it kind of evolved under different military dictatorships to have these seemingly **flowery lyrics** that were just, you know, thinly veiled metaphors for social problems. Because we all know that that fascist governments and dictatorships aren't usually clever enough to understand metaphor. So super happy dance music that at the same time was being a protest.

C: What's something dumb you believed as a kid?

A: Oh, I got a great one. So, at some point when I was... so I've on and off throughout my life, I've kind of bitten my nails. I've been a nail biter. Not to the point of getting it down to a painful level. I think it's a laziness thing that I never have a nail Clipper. I remember hearing I must have been like seven. I heard something on the news about how a horse swallowed a nail, you know, and this huge stone grew in its stomach.

C: OK



A: Right! So what was the nail that it was talking about?

C: Your...

A: No, it wasn't talking about a fingernail. It was talking about a metal nail.

C: Okay.

A: And I continued to bite my nails on and off, but I made sure never ever...

C: To be around the horse?

A: Swallow! No, to swallow any...because I figured...

C: Ah! You thought it's gonna happen to you.

A: I figured the horse swallowed like one of his nails, even though they're called hooves.

C: Yeah.

A: And then this giant stone grew in his stomach.

C: We had something similar, well, in the sense of about an animal. But we were always told that at night when the bats came out, because we would have bats in our area.

A: Sure! Bats are wonderful creatures.

C: That, you know, if a bat landed on your head it would be stuck there like you would you know, you'd have to go to the doctor. They'd have to you know, take a...And now I realize so many years later it was just our parents getting us to go in.

A: Oh! That's so funny.

C: So at the moment that kind of night fell and there was a bat around all the kids would just go **scurrying**.

A: Ah, also this was a **cunning** thing.

C: Yeah. Yeah. All the parents got together and said I've got a good idea here to get the kids back home.



A: You know the bats are kind of one of the most maligned animals like yes there's the whole rabies thing which is horrible but.

C: Yeah, not great.

A: Guano is a source of fuel. And they eat mosquitoes. They eat lots and lots. There's a great story of from my favorite band, the Grateful Dead, who played at the foot of the pyramids in Egypt in 1978 for like 200 people. And they were out there playing. And, you know, the sun went down and the mosquitoes just came out and they were on there just getting eaten up. And they said after 10 minutes the bats came out and they're sitting there playing, you know, and they're, they're always in there, different states of inebriation. As well, I'm sure. But this actually happened. The bats just started coming down and eating the mosquito buffet. And they said this, just everybody from the bench just embraced the fact that bats were wonderful!

C: Yeah

A: And completely saved the night for them.

C: OK. Also, as a kid, maybe you're the same. We're always told, you know, you're sitting too close to the TV.

A: Oh yeah, you'll go blind and you'll ruin your eyesight. Sure.

C: You know, that's completely false.

A: It wasn't from radiation.

C: It's from radiation, yes. Originally in the early 60s, that was the whole thing. If you sat too close to the TV...nothing to do with your eyesight.

A: OK.

C: It was like you really could get some radiation.

A: When we were kids there was still some radiation emanating from the...

C: Not really, no.

A: OK

C: And nowadays smart TV there's not, you know, not at all.



A: Sure

C: But still we say to the children, we say to kids 'don't sit too close to the TV, you'll ruin your eyesight'.

A: I feel like...No, no. I think that it's true that reading something too close there's...I don't...I still don't believe it's good for your eyes.

C: The last thing you ate is your nickname. What is it?

A: I don't know what the word is in English. Is it Clementine or is it Mandarin? I would say orange.

C: OK.

A: I'm good with that. That is a nickname. Is your...Oh, there's so many vulgar.

C: Yeah, it's one of those.

A: What about you? What's your...?

C: Chocolate.

A: Chocolate. OK, all right.

C: Yeah. The last thing you Googled is what kills you. So how do you die?

A: I think I googled the brand of the, like, beanie cap that I really love. This I guess shout out to one of our hopeful sponsors, smart wool. These Merino like wool, beanie like winter type of hats. They're so soft you would never know it was wool. And I realized that mine had a couple of holes in it and I'm like, ooh, I'm going to need a new one. So maybe shoved into my throat so I couldn't breathe. For you.

C: Oh, it's terrible. It's Mickey Mouse.

A: Not surprising. Definitely, definitely a serial killer. No, no, not for you. Because of Mickey Mouse.

C: Yeah. But I was good because I had an activity that was working on it was about Walt Disney. So when I read the question, I went to the computer. The last thing I googled was Mickey Mouse. So the idea that Mickey Mouse kills you is quite, quite **haunting**.



Vocabulary bank

a twit = a silly or foolish person

Is it really worth (it)...? = will something be useful or enjoyable if you make the effort to do it

In the pipeline = in the process of being planned/developed

scrolling down = to move lower through text/graphics on a screen

classy = stylish or sophisticated

abide by = accept (rules) without any objection

A copycat = a person who copies another person in behaviour/appearance

a stalker = a person who harrasses another with obsessive attention

flowery lyrics = words of a song that are elaborate with eloquent expressions

Scurrying = move quickly with short steps

Cunning = skilful, but often using deceit

Haunting = poignant: beautiful but sad at the same time



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