[…]

Yes. It’s very much a personal amount of money. It’s pretty much nothing.

It’s pretty much nothing to you. So “peanuts” is just a small amount of money that doesn’t interest you, that’s not exciting to you. But to some people even peanuts is exciting.

Hey I will grab any change I see lying around. 10 cents, that’s great.

You’re one of those people, are you?

Yea.

Hey, nothing wrong with that.

I mean it adds up.

Ok Morag. I think we should give a couple of examples with this expression “peanuts”.

Let’s go!

“How did your job interview go this afternoon?

The interview went well. But in the end, I turned down the job offer.

Oh, really? Why?

The salary, to be honest, they wanted to pay me peanuts. You know, at this point in my life, I just need to make a little bit more money.

I totally get it.”

In this example, a company offered a man a job but he turned it down because the salary was too low. In the man’s opinion, they wanted to pay him peanuts or just not enough money. Because of this, he ended up telling the company that he couldn’t work for them.

Alright, very good! Let’s give one more example with peanuts.

“Wow, nice car, Chelsea! Is it new?

New to me, yep! I picked it up for peanuts at an auction last week.

That’s awesome! I just love a good bargain.

Me too!”

In this example, a woman named Chelsea tells her friend about a car that she bought last week. Now Chelsea bought this car at an auction. This is a place where you can buy used items by bidding on them. Often people can buy things for really great prices at an auction and this was the case with Chelsea. She picked up or bought the car for peanuts. She got a really great deal on the car. Morag, have you ever been to an auction before?

Yes. I actually quite like auctions, the whole experience of them, especially because you can pick up things for peanuts, for nothing. Often there will be boxes of miscellany at smaller auctions and you can just end up picking up mystery gifts and wonderful things and see what’s inside. Super fun!

Boxes of miscellany, wow! I like this expression, so just random things, right?

Pretty much just random items, often those sorts of boxes of miscellany end up at auction houses at the end of estate sales and things like that. If people are clearing out whole homes, you’ll end up with just a box that gets donated to an auction house and they’ll just get rid of things.

That’s really cool! And you know what, Morag, I think we should save talking about auctions for a whole Culips episode because auctions and auction culture is really fascinating. So stay tuned for a Culips episode about auctions everyone. But for now, we should move on to our second expression and it is “chump change”. Chump change, chump c-h-u-m-p change c-h-a-n-g-e, like coins or small amounts of money, right? Chump change.

Chump change?

Yea, this one’s a fun one.

What does this one mean, Andrew?

Well it actually has the exact same definition as peanuts. Chump change is just a very small amount of money, an insignificant amount of money. And again it depends on the speaker, right? To a student, chump change might be a dollar but to a billionaire, chump change might be as high as a million dollars. It just depends on your perspective. But it’s always an amount of money that’s small to you.

Because the word “chump” is an older slang term for someone who was a real loser. It’s money that a fool would think is a lot.

Yea, you’d have to be stupid to think that chump change is a lot of money. I remember this word “chump” used to be popular when I was an elementary school student. Kids would make fun of other students by calling them “chumps”. Like “Oh, that guy, he’s such a chump!”.

That’s great!

It’s very kind, right?

It’s not that harsh a word but it’s a bit of an older slang term so that’s kind of adorable.

So to summarize one more time, chump change is just a small or unimportant amount of money and it’s time for examples. We’re gonna give you two examples with this expression “chump change”.

“If I was a professional basketball player, I’d totally drive a Lamborghini.

What? Are you serious, Dan? They’re insanely expensive! Like over $200,000 expensive.

What’s your point? That seems like a lot of money to us. But to a pro athlete, that’s chump change. Come on!”

So in this example, a guy named Dan tells his friend that if he were a pro basketball player, he would buy a brand new sports car, a Lamborghini. Dan’s friend thinks that’s ridiculous because Lamborghinis are incredibly expensive. But Dan doesn’t agree. He thinks that’s because pro basketball players make so much money that the $200,000 price tag is just chump change to them. So in other words, $200,000 would be a small amount of money to someone who earns millions of dollars a year.

I don’t know, still seems like a lot of money to anybody, $200,000.

There’s just so much you could do with that. You could buy like 8 cars, if you wanted to.

So you would have to have a really high salary for that to be chump change. Alright, let’s do our final example with chump change!

“Hey, there’s a really good concert this weekend. A jazz band all the way from New York City. It’s gonna be great! You wanna come?

Sounds cool but I don’t know! Is it gonna be expensive? I’m on a budget.

No, it’s totally cool. Tickets are only 5 bucks.

5 bucks? What? That’s nothing!

Yea, chump change!

Ok cool! Let’s go!”

In our final example, two friends talk about going to a jazz concert on the weekend. However, one friend doesn’t wanna go because he’s afraid that it will be expensive. After all, he’s on a budget, which means he’s trying to save money. But his friend tells him not to worry, the ticket price is really low, it’s chump change. It’s only $5.

Now this one I agree with. 5 bucks for a show. That’s a good deal!

That’s a good deal! And a jazz band, all the way from NYC at that.

Wow!