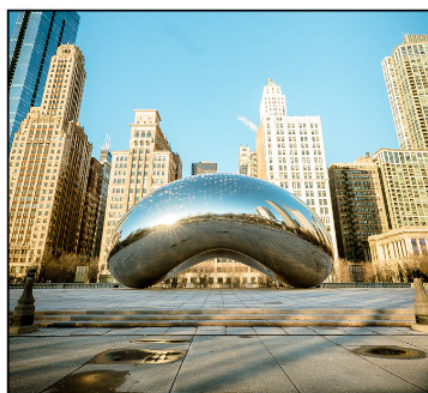




## Episode 26: Visiting Chicago

Hi! If this is your first time listening to our podcast, this is an opportunity for upper level English learners to practice listening skills and learn new vocabulary by listening to authentic conversations.

In today's episode Donielle and Khristyna are talking about Chicago, which is one of the largest cities in the U.S. You'll hear about our experiences living in and visiting Chicago, plus some suggestions for things to do and see if you travel there.



"The Bean" at  
Millenium Park

Willis Tower



Architectural Boat Tours



Chicago Style Deep Dish Pizza



Chicago Style Hot Dog



Chicago Mix Popcorn



Italian Beef

**\*You can also read the [transcript](#) for this episode.**

See the following pages for vocabulary and language focus from this episode.



## Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

<b>It's been going around</b>	When people say something's "going around" it usually means that there is a virus that is has been especially prevalent lately.
<b>walk it</b>	describing a destination that is within walking distance. • Q: Can we <u>walk it</u> ? A: You can, but it's pretty far.
<b>dragging</b>	extremely tired or slow, as in movement • We had been out late the night before, so we were kind of <u>dragging</u> .
<b>circle around</b>	act of moving in a way that forms a circle. In this case, the person drove past us, turned around and approached us again from the other direction.
<b>flag [someone] down</b>	to cause a vehicle to stop by waving at its driver • I <u>flagged down</u> a cop.
<b>cop</b>	informal term for police officer
<b>pile [into sthg]</b>	move as a group of people into a vehicle or place quickly • We all <u>piled into</u> the police truck.
<b>make it [to a destination]</b>	succeed in getting there, especially in time to do something • That's how we <u>made it</u> to the ship • Despite the traffic, we <u>made it</u> on time.
<b>full of [oneself]</b>	conceited, self-centered; thinking of oneself as very important in an annoying way • The politicians were very <u>full of themselves</u> .
<b>full of hot air</b>	describing someone who talks a lot without saying anything of value or meaning
<b>for my money</b>	in my opinion or judgment • <u>For my money</u> , "the Windy City" refers to the actual wind and cold.
<b>dense</b>	contains a lot of things or people in a small area • LA is bigger by size, but Chicago is more <u>densely</u> populated
<b>not care for [sthg]</b>	polite way to say that you don't like something. • He was from New York and <u>didn't care for</u> Chicago very much.
<b>derogatory</b>	offensive; showing a lack of respect for someone or something. • When people are given a <u>derogatory</u> name, sometimes they embrace that term and use it in a positive way.
<b>poke fun at [someone or sthg]</b>	tease or ridicule (someone or something) in a mocking way. • They adopted that name, sort of <u>poking fun at</u> that [derogatory description]
<b>call in</b>	call your employer to say that you are unable to go to work to work that day. • You can't just <u>call in</u> and say you can't <u>make it</u> to work because the weather is bad.
<b>moniker</b>	A nickname • I didn't <u>care for</u> that <u>moniker</u> too much.

## Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

<b>skyscraper</b>	a very tall building
<b>institution</b>	Something described as “an institution” is a place, custom, or tradition that has existed for a long time and is accepted as an important part of a specific society.
<b>AKA</b>	abbreviation for “also known as” - used when you state an alternate name for something • Chicago has the Willis Tower, <u>AKA</u> Sears Tower.
<b>tilt</b>	the state of having one side higher than the other • The window is <u>tilted</u> so it feels like you’re looking straight down.
<b>mob/mobster</b>	a secret organized group of criminals/a member of that crime organization • Chicago is the setting of many movies about <u> mobs </u> and <u> mobsters </u> .
<b>load up on [sthg]</b>	phrasal verb: to take, buy, eat or drink a large amount of something. • When I go to Chicago, I always have to <u>load up on</u> groceries from Ukraine.
<b>big name people</b>	well-known celebrities • There were a lot of <u>big name people</u> at the event.
<b>lengthwise</b>	in the direction of the long side of something • A pickle spear is one that has been cut in quarters <u>lengthwise</u> .
<b>a dash of [sthg]</b>	a small amount of something that is mixed with or added to something else • The last step in making a Chicago style hotdog is to add <u>a dash of</u> celery salt.
<b>soggy</b>	heavy with water or moisture; completely wet and usually soft • Dip the sandwich into the sauce, so the bun gets <u>soggy</u> .
<b>I'll have to take your word for it.</b>	believe what someone says about something without seeking further information or proof. In this case, the joke is that Donielle, a vegetarian, is not going to try the sandwich to find out if it really is delicious (because it is made with meat).

### Join the Conversation

- Have you ever been to Chicago? If so, what was your impression of it? What did you do and see there? If not, would you like to go? Why or why not?
- What do you think of the foods that were described in the episode? (See images on the first page of these notes.) Have you tried any of these?
- Take a look at the website [choosechicago.com](https://choosechicago.com) and read about some of the attractions, festivals, or activities. Share with a partner or group some things you would like to experience.
- Chicago is known for its weather extremes: it can get very cold in the winter, and very hot in the summer. If you had to choose either the winter or summer to visit, which would you choose and why?
- In the episode, you heard some nicknames for Chicago (The Windy City, The Second City, etc.) Do you know any nicknames for other U.S. cities? Are there any interesting city nicknames in your home country? What is the meaning behind them?



# Thanks for checking out our podcast!

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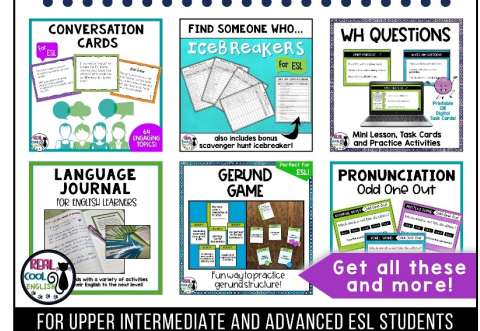
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