**Episode #3**

**Canadian Stereotypes part 1**

The words and expressions we’re going to analyze are from the script of our episode #3. They follow the order of the video. We’re all about making your life easier. Now, let’s get to it!

Read the sentences and look at the highlighted words/expressions. Predict the meaning using the context. Choose one of the options and check using the answer key below.

**1. Today we’re going to see if these cliches stand or if they’re completely inaccurate.**

To stand means…

a) to be false b) to be true c) to be valid

Which word is NOT a synonym of inaccurate?

a) untrue b) precise c) unreliable d) faulty

**2. Before setting foot on the Great White North, I really thought this was true because Canada does indeed have two official languages: English and French.**

To set foot on means…

a) to go to a place b) to step on something c) to get stuck somewhere

The Great White North….

a) is Canada’s nickname b) is how indigenous people call Canada

c) was Canada’s name before its independence

**3. Roughly 70% of Canadians speak English fluently but only a little bit of French, mostly learnt at school.**

When we use *roughly* (adverb) and a number or percentage it means…

a) exactly b) approximately c) over d) less than

**4. Last week I was in the park and a neighbor that I barely know gave me back my son’s toy.**

Another adverb! ‘Who I barely know’ is equivalent to…

a) who I know very well – we’re close friends

b) who I know quite well – we often talk

c) who I know just very little – an acquaintance

d) who I don’t know at all – a complete stranger

**5. It’s no wonder why Canada is always among the friendliest countries in the world according to surveys.**

This phrase means

a) it’s unthinkable b) it’s no surprise c) it’s no joke

**6. However, some would argue that Canadians are overly apologetic.**

Overly means…

a) a bit b) somewhat c) extremely

Apologetic means…

a) saying you’re sorry b) saying you don’t mind something

**7. …. they’ll even say sorry if you bump into them.**

This phrasal verb could be replaced by…

a) run into b) beat into c) break into d) none of them

**8. I’ll take nice and polite any day over unfriendly and rude.**

If you take something over something else, you…

a) prefer it. b) discard it. c) ignore it.

**9. …like Nunavut where below freezing temperatures are the norm all year round.**

If something is *the norm*, it’s…

a) an exception b) the law c) expected.

**10. Vancouver, for example, has a rather mild winter with highs of 7 and lows of 2C on average.**

We’ll just help you out with this one. Just because we’re nice and friendly! Highs means the highest temperature on average. Lows are the lowest average temperatures.

Answer Key

1. c – In this context, the verb ‘to stand’ is **not** being used in its most common meaning, as the opposite of sit or lie down. It means that we want to check if the cliches are ‘valid’ or ‘effective”. Take a look at this other sentence in which ‘stand’ has the same meaning as in the video: *The protocol issued last month still stands.* It’s still valid and/or effective.

b – Synonyms are words that have the same or similar meanings to other words. Antonyms are words that have the opposite meaning. What is the opposite of inaccurate? – Accurate.

1. a – Both ‘set foot on’ and ‘set foot in’ are correct.

a – Would you like to read more about it? Check out <https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/canada/articles/why-is-canada-nicknamed-the-great-white-north/>

1. b
2. c – ‘Barely’ could be replaced by ‘hardly’. Pay attention to this other example: *The couch was so small there was barely any room for the two of them to sit together.*
3. b
4. c / a Apologetic means saying sorry or showing you regret having inconvenienced someone or upset them in any way
5. d – *Bump into someone* has two meanings. It could mean when you meet someone you know by chance, unexpectedly. In this case, it **could** be replaced by *run into.* In the example, however, it means to touch someone (usually lightly) by accident. Still not sure? Take a look at this 40 second video: <https://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/bump+into+(someone+or+something)>
6. a
7. c – *To be the norm* is the usual, the expected behaviour.