



## Video 2 –Real Vocabulary: when do you say *awesome*?

Hi there! Have you ever wondered what the correct meaning of *awesome* is, and how it should be used?

For example, suppose one of your friends is telling you about a concert they've just been to, and they say: "Oh wow, we really loved it – the band was awesome!"

Is this an acceptable use of *awesome*?

People often use *awesome* like this – as an alternative to words like *fantastic* or *great*. But this use of *awesome* has only been around for 20 years or so.

In its original meaning, *awesome* is used for describing something that inspires feelings of "awe" – a mixture of wonder and fear. So you might talk about the awesome sight of the Grand Canyon or the awesome power of a volcano erupting. So some people will tell you it's wrong to use *awesome* just to talk about something you liked or enjoyed, like a concert or a party.

But it all depends on the context: as the Macmillan Dictionary tells you, this meaning of *awesome* is informal, and is used mainly by younger people. The situation we're talking about here – a chat between friends – looks like the right kind of context, so in this case using *awesome* is perfectly acceptable.

In my next video I will cover the question: is it OK to ask "Can I get a coffee?"

Thanks for watching!