

Ethan Grady

Professor Lynn

ESS 221

April 24, 2023

Foul (Fun fact, Midwesterners can't say follow) me to the city!

*This piece is meant to be read in a thick, Minnesota/Wisconsin accent as Pam the bat is a Midwestern mom at heart. All this really entails is plugging your nose. As I recognize that not all of you are familiar with Midwestern sayings and mannerisms, I will be translating. Prior to the making of this, I did some intense emersion research by spending several years with my mother and her sisters.*

Helloooooo my sweets! Pamela here. I'm soooo excited to bring you all along on my family's summer get away up North (often, in Midwestern tongue, this means going camping. Pam is not going camping though)! This year is an extra special year because we have just welcomed our new pup to the family, Mason, and for the first time ever, we are heading to the big city!

February 26, 2023

Puthergoin eh (this is a common midwestern expression simply meaning, "Let's get going")! We had to be up nice n early to avoid the grey duck (goose) traffic on the way there. If I had my druthers (this is the Midwestern mother's way of saying, "if I had my way"), we'd have been up hours ago. Butcha know, growing pups need their sleep, and we don't want little Mason getting cranky on us during our little road trip. Once we finally got everyone settled, we set off on the expressway (highway) to our new home in San Antonio!

March 18, 2023

We finally made it a couple a nights ago! This new cave's a little different than we're used to doncha know? All these stop n go lights (traffic lights to us commoners) are making it a little harder to know when to eat. And boy do these pups need to eat. I asked them a million times tonight, "Jeet? Jeet? Jeet?" (this is how midwestern women make sure you're eating enough. It is the shortened version of, "Did you eat") You'd think with those big ears they'd be able to listen to their mother. It seems like everyone is havin the same problems though. Even Janice with her new pups seem to be missin out on the hot dish (this just means food, often used when describing a casserole) every night. But tough tomatoes (tough luck), we truck on.

June 19, 2023

Oh, for cute (This is how midwestern women will say for goodness' sake, how cute) little Mason is growing up so fast! Just the other day, he slept till almost 50 minutes after sunset. We barely even got to the hot dish ourselves for crying out loud! I thought for a moment maybe he had the holler tail (a midwestern way of saying someone is sick.) He's started getting his food all by himself just like his brothers and sisters. We've really settled in now. But oh jeez (the midwestern way of expressing disappointment) was it a struggle at first. We used to get out even a little before sunset when we were in Bracken. You know what they say: the early bat gets the beetle!

September 28, 2023

It's been an amazing trip up North (again, Pam and her kids did not go camping) everyone! We had a nice warm vacation, and we look forward to doing it again next year! Maybe we'll stay even longer next year because uffda (this is what Midwesterners say when they are amazed or in disbelief) was it nice in the city! I know that Janice is staying another month or so and she has been for some time. Janice has a nice little place in Bracken right by the crick (a midwestern creek). But we gotta be headin home now. Puthergoin eh!

A note from the author:

Much of this is based on real Mexican free-tailed bat emergence patterns. In our study, we found that urbanized roosts emerged later than natural roosts. The ending is in reference to our first research question that was left unanswered. Overwintering is an emerging pattern among bats in Bracken Cave and we wanted to see if this was consistent among other roosting locations. I did however speculate when I referenced traffic lights as it is not confirmed that light pollution has been causing these later emergence times.

All of the terminology in this is based on real midwestern sayings. It may sound like gibberish, and you may wonder why there's almost never a "g" at the end of present tense verbs. But this is exactly what they sound like.