

**Harold and Maude - Clip 5: Backing away from life** • 1971 US/UK 54:36 - 58:24 c.3.5 min. Bud Cort, Ruth Gordon [32 H & M 5 - YouTube](#) [IMDb](#)

- **grammar points:** pres. perf., would, past contin., passive, as if, as well as, can
- **phrasal verbs:** pick up, cheat yourself out of, clean up, get out, mix up, knock down, blow out, leap up, go up, turn out, come in, put up, reach out, back away from, get hurt
- **idioms:** I sure am, be bound to, Well, you know, figure, over, just right, right then, take a chance, even, otherwise

.....  
HAROLD:

I **sure am picking up** on vices.

MAUDE:

Vice, virtue...

It's best not to be too moral.

You **cheat yourself out of** too much life.

Aim above morality.

If you apply that to life...then you're **bound to** live it fully.

HAROLD:

I **haven't** lived.

I've died a few times.

MAUDE:

What was that?

HAROLD:

**Well**,...uh...

the first time was when I was at boarding school, in the chemistry lab.

I was in there **cleaning it up**,

so I decided I'd do a little experimenting, **you know**.

So I **get** all this stuff **out** and begin **mixing it up**.

It was very scientific.

There was this massive explosion.

It **knocked me down**, **blew out** a huge hole in the floor.

There was boards and bricks and flames **leaping up**.

I **figured**, you know, time to leave.

My career in school was **over**.

So,..I went home.

My mother **was giving** a party,

so I **just went right up** the back stairs into my room,

**turned out** the light, and, I **got** this funny feeling.

The doorbell rang.

I **went out** onto the banister,

and these two policemen **came in**, found my mother, and...told her that I **was killed** in the fire.

She **put** one hand **up** to her forehead.

With the other one, she **reached out**,

**as if** groping for support,

and with this long sigh, she collapsed in their arms.

...

I decided **right then** that I enjoy being dead.

MAUDE:

I understand. A lot of people enjoy being dead,  
but they're not dead, really.

They're **just backing away from** life.

**Reach out.**

**Take a chance.**

**Get hurt, even.**

But play **as well as** you **can**.

Go team Go!

Give me an L! Give me an I!

give me a V! Give me an E!

L-I-V-E, live!

**Otherwise** you've got nothing to talk about in the locker room.

HAROLD:

I like you, Maude.

MAUDE:

I like you, Harold.