

## Chatterbox #256 – Working from home

### Episode description

It's 2020 and much of the world is working from home; for many, it's the first time. In this Chatterbox episode, Andrew and Suzanne talk about their home offices and how the work from home experience has been for them.

### Fun fact

Working from home reduces stress, increases productivity, and is eco-friendly. That's why, before the pandemic, the number of people who worked from home had increased by 140% since 2005.

### Expressions included in the study guide

- It's been a minute
- It's funny because
- Per se
- Paint a mental picture
- Piece of work
- Feng shui



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## Transcript

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Note: The words and expressions that appear in **bold text** within the transcript are discussed in more detail in the Detailed Explanations section that follows the transcript. The transcript has been edited for clarity.

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**Andrew:** Hello, everyone. My name is Andrew.

**Suzanne:** And I'm Suzanne.

**Andrew:** And this is the Culips English Podcast.

**Andrew:** Today, we have a Chatterbox episode planned for you. Chatterbox is the Culips series where you get to listen in to completely natural English conversations between two native speakers. And today I'm joined by my cohost, Suzanne. Hey there, Suzanne.

**Suzanne:** Hey, Andrew, it's so great to talk to you.

**Andrew:** **It's been a minute**, hasn't it?

**Suzanne:** Yeah, it totally has. How's it going?

**Andrew:** I'm doing pretty well, Suzanne. And today we have an interesting topic for our listeners. We're talking all about working from home and home offices.

**Suzanne:** Yes, something a lot of us can relate to in some capacity.

**Andrew:** Absolutely. There are so many people around the world these days working from home, and so we thought it would be a great topic to talk about.

**Andrew:** But just before we get into it, we should let all of our listeners know about the study guide, because there's a study guide available for this episode on our website, Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com. And in the study guide, there is a transcript. So, everyone, we'd encourage you to download the study guide and follow along as you listen to our talk here today.

**Suzanne:** Yes, the study guide is a great resource. So check it out.

**Andrew:** We are talking today about working from home because, I think like many people around the world, you and I have been working a lot from home over the last several months with this whole COVID global pandemic situation going on. And just a second ago, before we started recording, we were comparing our home office setups.

**Suzanne:** Yes.

**Andrew:** Let's start by talking about what you do at home. So when you're working at home, what exactly are you doing?

**Suzanne:** Yeah. So **it's funny because** before COVID, I actually was still working from home. I've always worked from home, but I would have people come over. So now it's all online. It's all virtual. That's the difference.

**Andrew:** OK.

**Suzanne:** So I coach pronunciation, for actors, mostly. Yeah, that's what I do. I work with actors on accents, dialects, and the American accent for acting purposes. So not changing people's accents for their daily life, but for a role for the, a part that they're gonna play.

**Andrew:** So, if some actor gets cast in a movie and they need to have a British accent for the role, then you would coach them on how to achieve that British accent, right?

**Suzanne:** Exactly. Yeah. I have a few clients who are British and francophone. But say I have British students who need an American accent.

**Andrew:** I guess, actually, my example was a poor example because of course you are American, so it would make more sense if you teach them the American accent.

**Suzanne:** But I teach all accents. So I teach people to do, you know, different kinds of English-speaking accents, but also, like, a German accent, a French accent, a Hindi accent, whatever the part calls for. Yes, so I also teach foreign accents, and then also native-speaker accents. And I specialize in American accent, just because that's where my research is. But, yeah, so that's what I do. And it's actually very easily done from home or from a computer.

**Andrew:** Right. You don't really need an office **per se** for that kind of work, right?

**Suzanne:** No, you can do it anywhere. You could be on vacation, really, and be coaching, so—as long as you have strong internet.

**Andrew:** Right. You need a strong internet signal. So, before COVID happened, most of your clients were coming to your house then and you'd meet one-on-one and work together that way. But now that COVID has hit and that's not really safe to do, you've transitioned more to online work. I guess you're using, like, video chatting software like Zoom or Skype for this?

**Suzanne:** Exactly. Yes, mostly Zoom, because we can record the sessions, which is invaluable for the students to play again and again over the week. Totally. We're using video conferencing, and also apps, we use video apps. So a lot of my students will record the homework that I send them on the Marco Polo app, and then I can watch it and give notes and send them a video in return, which is great. So I can work with them that way.

**Suzanne:** Or they could even do like a, kind of, I have some of my students who are working on English, like, as a second language. I have two students that I work with for English fluency. So not—so it's for specific purposes. I have one, someone who owns their own business, and also someone who is, as an actor, learning to be more fluent so they can work with English-speaking directors and producers. And I have them do videos where they present their work, or present making a smoothie or activities that they can record on a video on that app.

**Andrew:** Cool. So let's get back now to the home office setup. So we know that you're working a lot online. But you're, you've kind of moved your home office into your bedroom, right? And you were showing me some of the features of the home office. Could you describe them? Of course, our listeners can't see your bedroom, but you could describe how it's set up for them. **Paint a mental picture** for them.

**Suzanne:** This is a **piece of work**.

**Andrew:** A **piece of work**, a masterpiece.

**Suzanne:** Oh, yes, there's sarcasm in my tone. I have two kitchen stools with boxes on top of them and then my computer on top of that, and my microphone on top of the other stool to help me with the height so that I'm not leaning over, looking into a computer and hurting my neck. I'm sitting on the bed. I have my waters on the nightstand. I have my ...

**Andrew:** Your cables, your extension cords.

**Suzanne:** Yes. I don't know if you guys know MacGyver, but he was a character in an old TV show back in the day, an American TV show. I don't know if he was a cop or a vigilante.

**Andrew:** I think he was a detective, maybe.

**Suzanne:** Maybe, yeah, whatever, he fought crime, but like he never had the right tools. He always had to be, like, get me a rope, a dental floss, and some tape. And then he'd, like, somehow, you know, like, he'd make a radio out of random things that he would find in a house. Right? Like he would come up with, like, this brilliant, you know, way of doing it. So I sometimes feel like I'm MacGyver-ing my, my workspace to try to make it something it's not.

**Andrew:** Right. Another word that we could use to describe it is makeshift, right? It's kind of a makeshift office. It's something that you just assembled very quickly, without, you know, planning it or designing it. It's almost temporary, too, makeshift is when something is makeshift, it's not for forever. It's not permanent.

**Suzanne:** Right. It's not meant to last. It's not made to last.

**Andrew:** So, Sue, I'm kind of in a similar situation to you, you know.

**Suzanne:** Yeah. What's yours like?

**Andrew:** Yeah, my full-time job, of course, is I work at a university as an English instructor. But the whole university went online for the last semester. And even now we are in the summer session, and I'm teaching a summer course, but it is all entirely online, as well.

**Andrew:** So I have an office at the university, but I share it with another professor, and he is a new father and he lives in a very small apartment and he has a baby. And he finds it very hard to work at his apartment with the baby crying. He can't make lecture videos for his students with his baby crying in the background. So we kind of made an agreement that he will take the office for filming his videos and I will work from home because I don't have a crying baby, so I can do it comfortably at my house.

**Andrew:** So, yeah, my house right now, my apartment, is kind of a makeshift office, makeshift film studio, because the way that I am teaching my students is a kind of blended mixed methods approach where I am doing some video recordings and some lecture recordings, uploading them to the internet so that students can watch. And then we're also using a video chatting software called Zoom to meet together so that we can practice conversation and so that I can, you know, give them feedback and all of those things that students need for a conversation class, right?

**Suzanne:** And do you do breakout rooms and have annotation and kind of also utilize all of those tools on Zoom, as well?

**Andrew:** Yeah. So that is one cool feature about Zoom is you can do these things called breakout rooms, which are just kind of small group meeting rooms, right? So, I can bundle, bundle or group students together and have them work on small, small group activities and speaking tasks, and that kind of thing. And, yeah, it's not a perfect replacement. I still think that, you know, probably in the classroom is the best way to actually practice speaking and to do conversation activities.

**Suzanne:** Yeah, for sure.

**Andrew:** You know, I've had students abuse the Zoom situation, because they will be Zooming in from the subway, from the bus, driving in their car, on the beach, in the park, all sorts of different places.

**Suzanne:** What? Oh my gosh, that's crazy. And so they're not even really fully paying attention to the class.

**Andrew:** Yeah.

**Suzanne:** They're driving, right?

**Andrew:** Right. Yeah, I had that student hang up. I said, “Don’t drive and Zoom in. You are absent from this class. That is not participating.” It’s unfortunate because, you know, half, or more than half, of the students are really engaged and, you know, they want to get the value that they paid. They’re paying tuition fees. They want to get that value and learn something from the class, right? Whereas other students are using it as an excuse for an extended vacation, or even while we are doing the Zoom live lessons and conversation activities, maybe they’re at home, but they’re not really focused. You know, I can see them moving their fingers on the keyboard playing games or watching YouTube videos. So that’s one of the challenges I think that all teachers are facing.

**Suzanne:** It’s funny, I think, in their mind, they think it’s better to be in person. And I think to some extent it is better. However, I would say that with my work, what’s great about doing online work is we can video record our whole session. And I can get up very close into the camera to the point where they can really see inside my mouth, which is something that they would never be able to do in person. I mean, I just would never get that close to somebody.

**Andrew:** Especially after COVID.

**Suzanne:** Exactly. And I had one student actually message me and say, no, I was like, hey, I just wanted to check in and see if you want to join our class. We’ve been having a class every week and you used to be in the class, and would you like to continue to join? I just, you came up in my mind. I thought it would be cool to reach out see how you were. And the student told me that they really are against online stuff. And I’m, like, oh, well, I was, like, that must make things tough for you. But also, just so you know, because of the nature of what we do, we’re not going to be in person for a long time. Because, I mean, for my work, because we can’t wear a mask, right? We have to, I need to see their mouth. And we need to be closer than 2 metres because I need to see what’s going on. And we’re talking about overarticulation where we’re, like, you know, like, spitting, and there’s no way we can be in person until there’s, like, a vaccine.

**Andrew:** Yeah, that is totally true.

**Suzanne:** Yeah. So. I was like, it might be a long time till we see each other unless you want to adapt to the way things are.

**Andrew:** There are pros and cons to learning and teaching online. Absolutely.

**Suzanne:** Yeah.

**Andrew:** I think one of the things that you just mentioned about the recording aspect, that's really awesome. And, yeah, definitely recording, keeping a record. And for students being able to go back and review the material that we've covered in such detail, that's really, really cool. And I find also for students making presentations. Making a presentation through Zoom is a lot less stressful for them than making a presentation in real life. So, yeah, there are definitely some advantages to Zoom.

**Andrew:** I still think, you know, I personally, I prefer getting out into the classroom, meeting with students in real life, talking with them in a more natural environment, because, I don't know, inviting them into my home here is a little bit strange as well. But that's one of the things that I've installed in my house, in my quote, unquote home office is this green screen that you see behind me, Suzanne. And the green screen allows me to change the background image on Zoom. The nice thing about the green screen is it allows me some separation between my home life and my work life. So if, you know, I'm really busy in the morning and I didn't make my bed, or if I have books lying all over the floor behind me, then I can just turn that off and nobody needs to see that, which is really cool. It's a nice feature, being able to have that balance between work life and professional life like that.

**Suzanne:** I envy you, because I'm always rushing to make my bed and there's, like, all these pillows. And I don't even know if people can tell if it's made or if it's just a bunch of pillows, like, behind me. You know?

**Andrew:** I think your background looks pretty good. I think you got a pretty good setup there. But it's funny, Suzanne, that we were both just laughing about how we're kind of spending a lot of time at home, working at home, and we're crammed into these smaller spaces than we're used to. But we're making it work, right?

**Suzanne:** You're working in your space close to your bedroom, and I'm working in my bedroom. And so there, there are experts that point out that you could actually damage your sleep patterns if you're working or doing, kind of, very awake activities, activities that require you to be very alert in your resting space.

**Andrew:** Right.

**Suzanne:** And the reason why I'm in the bedroom is—we actually do have a second bedroom office. However, my fiancé, Olivier, he is using that room because he is also working from home, which is new. So he usually didn't work from home. So that's the big difference. And I usually worked in the main living area. But we decided it was healthier for our relationship and for just, like, the **feng shui** of the house, in a way, to not be working and talking and teaching or having meetings in the shared space. Like, for us to each have a private space, and then kind of move into the kitchen or the living room when we need to rest or just, kind of, get away from the work. But for me, it's difficult, because it is harder for me to sleep.

**Andrew:** OK, so it has been affecting your sleep because you've moved your professional activities into that, kind of, restful space of the bedroom.

**Suzanne:** Yes. So what I've had to do, Andrew, it's kind of, like, do a ritual. So, like, at the end of the evening, I move everything out. I, like, bring it back into bedroom mode and I kind of, like, I spray lavender sheet spray and, and I, like, dim the lights and I make it, like, into a bedroom vibe, so that I can kind of turn off in my mind. And this really helps me to have that work life–rest balance.

**Andrew:** That's awesome. I should try doing something like that because, to be honest with you, the first thing that I see when I open my eyes is my computer and my desk and–

**Suzanne:** Oh, no.

**Andrew:** I don't know, maybe I need to orientate my bed a different direction or something to keep that a little bit separated, but–

**Suzanne:** Right. Yeah, good idea.

**Andrew:** Don't think it's been affecting my sleep too much. There are definitely a lot of perks to working at home, as well. You know, like, you get a little bit of extra sleep, you don't need to commute in the morning. You can do your work at any time of the day, right? Like, usually I have a set class schedule. This class is from 11 a.m. till 12:30 p.m., something like that. Now I could film the lecture video from that class at 3 a.m. in the morning if I wanted to, doesn't really matter when I do it. So the flexibility of the schedule is something that I enjoy, as well.

**Andrew:** So there are some perks to doing it but, yeah, this is one big negative, I guess we could say, is that the boundary between, you know, our restful space, our home, and then our professional workspaces totally evaporated. But I like this idea. That's great that you can just pack it up and put it away every night. I guess that's that MacGyver ability coming back, Suzanne.

**Suzanne:** It's definitely more work. It's annoying. I'd rather be able to just, like, leave the room and be, like, OK, it'll be there tomorrow when I get back. But the ritual of it does help, even if it's not, even if it's kind of, like, tedious to do every evening. It's where we're at, right? It's where we're at right now. We gotta adapt. We have to adapt to the changes of the world. And, you know, it won't ever be the way it was, even if we do, hopefully, go back to the classroom or invite people over, we still have to be careful or, you know, take precautions and things, so it's, it'll never be carefree.

**Andrew:** Right. So this is kind of the, the new normal, as people are calling it, the new normal. And we'll just have to wait and see what happens.

**Andrew:** But it's cool, Suzanne, that at least we are both still working, right? We are very, very fortunate in that regard, that we're able to transition to working from home. I know that's not the case for everybody, but we are the lucky ones. And I'm curious about our listeners, because I know COVID has been affecting almost every country on Earth. And I'm sure a lot of our listeners can sympathize with us, and because they are going through the exact same thing where they are working from home.

**Andrew:** So, listeners, we would love if you sent us an email, dropped us a line and let us know what your home workspace is like and if you enjoy working from home, or if you hate it, just let us know how it's going. We would really be interested to hear about everyone's special work situations.

**Suzanne:** And our email is [contact@Culips.com](mailto:contact@Culips.com).

**Andrew:** Guys, if you like studying with Culips, if you enjoy listening to us and learn a lot with us, then please support us. One of the best ways that you can do that is by becoming a Culips member. And there are a lot of perks to becoming a Culips member, such as you will get unlimited access to our study guide library. So, we make a study guide for each and every episode. It is jam-packed with a lot of material that is designed to help you improve your English and make studying with us more enjoyable and, really, more efficient. So, to sign up and become a Culips member, just visit our website, [Culips.com](http://Culips.com) and you can do that.

**Andrew:** But that's not the only way that you can support us. You could also follow us on social media, or tell your friends about us, or leave us a nice review and a five-star rating on Apple Podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts.

**Suzanne:** All right, well, thank you guys so much for listening. And stay tuned for another episode coming to you soon. We'll talk to you all soon. Bye.

**Andrew:** Goodbye.

## Detailed Explanations

### It's been a minute

#### Slang

**It's been a minute** is slang for **it's been a while**. It's most often used when two people are meeting up after having not seen each other for a long period of time. It can also be used to replace **it's been a while** in any casual, informal situation.

In **it's been a minute**, minute is used ironically or with humour to mean a long time. This is unlike when you're telling time, when a minute means 60 seconds, or when you say, "Give me a minute" or "Just a minute," when minute means a short period of time.

Here are a couple more examples with **it's been a minute**:

**Roderic:** Lunch is ready.

**Mona:** Mmhmm.

**Roderic:** Busy?

**Mona:** Yup.

**Roderic:** Oh, is that a new story you're working on?

**Mona:** Yup.

**Roderic:** Really focused?

**Mona:** Yup.

**Roderic:** Well, **it's been a minute** since you had one of your epiphanies. I'll leave your lunch here so you can eat when you get hungry.

**Mona:** OK, yup, thanks.

**Sanjay:** I heard you saw Billie the other day!

**Hotaru:** Yeah, we were passing each other on the street.

**Sanjay:** **It's been a minute** since we all hung out, hasn't it?

## It's funny because

### Phrase

**It's funny because** is a phrase used in many different situations and can change its meaning depending on the situation. In this episode, Suzanne says, "**It's funny because** before COVID, I actually was still working from home." She doesn't mean funny in the traditional sense, but rather that it's ironic, odd, or peculiar. **It's funny because** in this situation means strange, weird, peculiar, odd, suspicious, or dubious. You can also say **it's funny how**, **that's funny because**, or **that's funny how**.

A common use for this phrase is **it's funny because** it's true. This is often used when something unfortunate, ironic, or humorous happens.

The final situation where people use **it's funny because** is to explain the punchline of a joke (though it's better if you don't explain a joke).

Here are a couple more examples with **it's funny because**:

**Touru:** How did you do on the test?

**Hamza:** I passed, but barely. You?

**Touru:** Same.

**Hamza:** Katy got a perfect score, again.

**Touru:** Just like always.

**Hamza:** **It's funny how** she always does so well but I never see her study.

**Touru:** And she always looks like she's sleeping during class.

**Hamza:** I wish I knew her secret.

**Nadia:** What are you up to tonight? Caitlyn and I are going to the movies.

**Latifa:** Really? **That's funny because** Caitlyn told me she has to help her mom at the store tonight.

**Nadia:** Oh. Uh. That is funny. Well, gotta run. Have a good night.

## Per se

Adverb

**Per se** is an adverb that means by itself, in itself, or with respect to its inherent nature. When you add **per se** after a noun, you're saying that noun is being considered on its own, rather than in connection to other things.

In this episode, Andrew says, "You don't really need an office **per se** for that kind of work." This means that an office isn't really required for Suzanne's type of work. She can work from any quiet space with the right equipment. **Per se** is often misspelled as per say. It is a Latin phrase that has been adopted into the English language.

Here are a couple more examples with **per se**:

**Miksa:** OK, so we're almost done with the report. Let's just go through the spreadsheets and make sure we have the correct numbers.

**Victor:** We do. I'm the one that put them in there.

**Miksa:** Oh, I don't mean that the numbers are wrong **per se**! I'm just saying that we should always double check our spreadsheets, just in case there's a formula that's wrong or maybe a typo that slipped in. Accidents happen, you know!

**Victor:** Oh! OK, that makes sense. Sorry to get defensive.

**Miksa:** No worries! Here, you check the first half and I'll do the second half.

**Tobias:** Man, I'm glad we came out to karaoke! This is way more fun than I thought it would be. Wait, what's wrong? I thought you liked that song!

**Shawn:** I do. It wasn't the song **per se** that was the problem.

**Tobias:** It wasn't? Then what was?

**Shawn:** Your singing. Your singing was the problem.

**Tobias:** Rude!

**Shawn:** You asked.

## Paint a mental picture

Phrasal verb

When you **paint a mental picture**, you're describing something with words so that the listener or reader can see that picture in their mind. You give a representation or an account. Writers often **paint mental pictures** for readers, using their imaginations to write a description that evokes specific images or feelings in the reader's mind.

Here are a couple more examples with **paint a mental picture**:

**Tianna:** Then he woke up, and his face was covered in it! I was laughing so hard!

**Anya:** That's so funny! Wow, talk about **painting a mental picture**.

**Tianna:** I know, right? I keep remembering and laughing all over again.

**Feri:** Have you read this book yet?

**Osain:** Which one? Oh, yeah, I did, a while ago. Why?

**Feri:** I was wondering if it's any good. I'm going on a road trip with my parents and I need something good to keep me from going insane in the car.

**Osain:** Hmm, that one is OK. But let me see ... Here, try this one. It has a similar plot, but the author's writing is far better. She really knows how to **paint a mental picture**, so you feel like you're actually there with the characters.

**Feri:** Oh, cool. And it's nice and long, so it should last me the whole trip.

**Osain:** There's a sequel. You should get that, too, just in case.

**Feri:** Smart! I will. Thanks!

## Piece of work

Noun phrase

A **piece of work** is someone or something that is unique, complicated, strange, or eccentric. It is often said in a sarcastic way, much like Suzanne said it in this episode. When something is a **piece of work**, it is messy, disorganized, or not the norm in some way. When a person is called a **piece of work**, that person is usually difficult to understand, complicated, or strange.

Here are a couple more examples with **piece of work**:

**Mae:** Ugh, I can't stand that Cain guy. He's so rude!

**Layton:** Cain? Oh, come now. He's obviously a **piece of work**, but he's not all bad.

**Mae:** He told me I was ugly. For no reason. He just walked up and called me ugly.

**Layton:** Well, OK, yeah ... That's rude. But I know him. He probably had some reason. Did you ask him why he was calling you that?

**Mae:** Of course not! I yelled at him and ran away. Besides, I don't care about his reasons. You don't just walk up to someone in the hall and call them ugly.

**Rebekah:** Have you been to see the new offices yet?

**Leia:** Yeah, I went yesterday.

**Rebekah:** They're a real **piece of work**, aren't they?

**Leia:** You can say that again. Did you see how many doors we'll have to go through to get to the printers? I counted. It's six. Six doors.

**Rebekah:** The executives and designers really didn't think about how we use the space, did they?

**Leia:** Obviously not. It's a shame because I do really like the colour scheme they picked.

**Rebekah:** And the wood trim against the chrome hardware—beautiful.

**Leia:** Maybe we can sneak a printer into one of our cubicles.

## Feng shui

Noun

**Feng shui** is the ancient Chinese belief that the way your house is built or the way you arrange objects affects your success, health, and happiness. It is also the Chinese art of creating harmony in your space. The art of **feng shui** includes a whole system of laws and rules designed to control the flow of energy.

However, native English speakers use the term in a less literal or traditional sense. For example, in this episode, Suzanne says that she and her fiancé decided not to work in their shared living space because of their house's **feng shui**. This doesn't mean that they practice the Chinese art, but rather that they wanted their home to be welcoming and happy.

**Feng shui** is a Chinese word that, like *per se*, has been incorporated into English without changing and still retains its original meaning. This usually happens because there is no equivalent word in English.

Here are a couple more examples with **feng shui**:

**Zakaria:** Now, according to our board of directors, the new design for the offices must promote **feng shui**. Is this something your firm has expertise in?

**Max:** We don't practice **feng shui**, but we can take into consideration movement through the space, as well as the colours required to ensure a productive and calm environment.

**Zakaria:** I believe that's what we're looking for. Please provide a few mock-ups for the next board meeting in a week.

**Max:** We will. Thank you for this opportunity.

**Aminah:** Are we ever going to adopt a dog like you promised last year?

**Ewan:** I dunno. Do we really need one?

**Aminah:** Yes. It's good **feng shui** to have a loving animal in your home. And dogs are the most lovable of them all.

## Quiz

**1. What does it mean when you call someone a piece of work?**

- a) they are difficult to understand, complicated, or strange
- b) they are fit and athletic, and often go to the gym
- c) it takes a lot of work to get along with them
- d) they look like they belong in an art gallery

**2. Which of the following means to use words to create an image in someone's mind?**

- a) write a poor description
- b) paint a picture on a canvas
- c) use your words
- d) paint a mental picture

**3. In this episode, when Suzanne says "it's funny because," what does she mean?**

- a) it's really hilarious
- b) it's not funny at all
- c) it's odd or peculiar
- d) it's sad or unfortunate

**4. Which of the following terms are not technically English words, but are used by native English speakers as if they are?**

- a) fang sway and per say
- b) feng shui and per se
- c) minutes and seconds
- d) mental picture and per say

**5. Which of the following might you say to a friend you haven't seen in a while?**

- a) it's been a minute
- b) it's been a second
- c) it's been an hour
- d) it's been a day

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## Writing and Discussion Questions

1. At the beginning of this episode, Andrew greets Suzanne with, “It’s been a minute.” What are some of the ways you greet your friends when you haven’t seen them for a long period of time?
2. Describe a situation where you could have used the phrase “it’s funny because” (in any of its forms and meanings).
3. Authors often paint a mental picture for their readers. What was the last thing you read that painted a beautiful mental picture for you, and why was it so vivid?
4. Is there someone in your life who is, in your opinion, a real piece of work? In what way is that person a piece of work?
5. Do you ever consider the feng shui of your space? Look around and describe a few things you could change to improve its feng shui.

## Quiz Answers

1.a    2.d    3.c    4.b    5.a

### Episode credits

Hosts: Andrew Bates and Suzanne Cerreta

Music: *Something Elated* by Broke For Free, *Let It Go* by Scott Dugdale

Episode preparation/research: Andrew Bates

Audio editor: Andrew Bates

Transcriptionist: Heather Bates

Study guide writer: Lisa Hoekstra

English editor: Stephanie MacLean

Business manager: Tsuyoshi Kaneshima

Project manager: Jessica Cox

Image: Aleks Marinkovic (Unsplash.com)