

Catch Word #271 – Seen better days

AD-FREE

Episode description

There are many different ways to talk about things that are old and worn out in English. In this episode, Andrew and Suzanne teach you two idiomatic expressions you can use to describe these things: seen better days and worse for wear.

Catch Word is the Culips vocabulary series designed for intermediate and advanced English learners. This series teaches you how to use everyday expressions, idioms, and slang to improve your speaking and listening skills.

Fun fact

In this episode, Andrew and Suzanne talk about giving old things new life by fixing them up. What's interesting is that sometimes people do just the opposite: they buy new things and intentionally make them look old. This technique is known as distressing. It involves creating artificial signs of wear and tear in order to give items a vintage appearance.

Expressions included in the study guide

- Seen better days
- Worse for wear
- TLC
- Heyday
- Past its prime
- Wear and tear



Transcript

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.

Andrew: Catch Word #271, Seen better days, featuring Andrew and Suzanne.

Joining me today is my cohost, Suzanne. Hello, Suzanne.

Suzanne: Hello, Andrew, and hello to all of our listeners out there.

Andrew: So, Suzanne, I have a little story to share here with you to kick off this episode, and it's connected to the theme for this episode, OK? So, I'm gonna make the tie-in here as I tell the story. But as you, Suzanne, and as all of our listeners know as well, my wife and I have been renovating an old house that we bought here in Seoul. And it's been something that we've been working on for like the last, well, long time. It's been a few years in the making. And we're working with a design company to renovate the house because we don't really know how to renovate a house ourselves. So we're working with a design company and we're collaborating with them about how we want the house to look.

And the design company really wanted to totally redo the whole entire house and replace all of the original features with new things and new parts. But as a lover of history and antiques and vintage things, that really broke my heart because the house is quite old, it was built in the 1950s, and there are just some cool features to the house that you don't see around the city too often these days because Seoul is a city that's always changing and it's very much a place where it's out with the old and in with the new. And that makes me a little bit sad. I don't want to go out with the old. I want to keep the old to some extent.

So we had to really beg and plead with a design company to keep some of the original features in the house. And to be honest with you, I wasn't very successful at that negotiation. But one thing that we did manage to keep was the front gate to the house.

And the reason why the designer didn't want me to keep the front gate originally is because she told me that it had **seen better days**. OK, the gate was old and a little bit rusted, and it just didn't look very nice. But I successfully convinced her that if we gave it some **TLC** and a new coat of paint, it would look as good as new. And she agreed and said, "OK, if you guys paint it, and if you give it some **TLC**, then you can keep the front gate. I will be all right with that." So, in the end, we were able to keep this one kind of vintage part of our house, and it's right there to greet the guests as they come and visit. And, yeah, now we have this like little neat piece of history at the front of our home.

Suzanne: I love that story, Andrew. That's great. I'm so glad that you were able to keep that special little part of the house, the original piece. And in fact, this episode is dedicated to talking about things just like that, just like the front gate that, as you said, had **seen better days**. So, listeners, in this lesson Andrew and I are going to teach you about two idiomatic English expressions that you can use to talk about people or objects that are older or maybe worn out or deteriorating. And those two expressions are **seen better days** and **worse for wear**. **Worse for wear**.

Andrew: That is right, **seen better days** and **worse for wear**. And I think both of those expressions could be used to describe the front gate that I had at my home before we fixed it up.

Sue, let's get started with this lesson and we'll talk about the first key expression, which is **seen better days**. **Seen better days**. And astute or very observant listeners will have noticed that "seen" is actually the past participle of the verb "see," right? And it's in that form because I think we usually use this expression almost always in the present perfect, right? We'd say something has **seen better days**. Suzanne, am I correct about that? Could you say like that thing, something saw better days or will see better days? That sounds unnatural to me. I think it's always **seen better days**.

Suzanne: Yeah, it is always used with has or it had **seen better days**. If say you got rid of the gate, for example, you're like, "Well, we had to get rid of it because it had **seen**

better days,” right? It is now gone. It is done with. So, yeah, you could use it with has or had depending.

Andrew: Right. So we’ll use it with a kind of present perfect or past perfect. And in fact, you know, going back to that story about the gate, I can describe it as saying it had **seen better days** because we’ve fixed up the gate now and we’ve painted it and it looks great now. So right now it’s in very good condition, but before it had **seen better days** until we fixed it up.

So let’s get into the meaning about **seen better days**. And essentially it is just an expression that we use to describe something or someone, right? It could also describe a person who has really aged or maybe is worn out or deteriorated. And we usually, I think, use it to describe things and people that are old, right? It’s like they’ve just been around for a long time and with all things, with time comes deterioration, right? And nothing can last forever. So, the more time goes by and the more aging that occurs, this is the type of situation where we would want to use an expression like this to describe that process.

Suzanne: Yeah, and I just wanted to add some of the literal meanings here in this phrase, because when something has **seen better days**, it literally means that there was a point when it was young and new and fresh, and those were the days in which it was in its glory, right? It was shiny and new and, for lack of a better word, in its perfect stage of life.

Andrew: In its **heyday**, so to say.

Suzanne: **Heyday**, right. Exactly. The gate, for example, maybe 30, 40, 50 years ago, it was in a great condition. And it enjoyed many opening and closing and people walking through, and use of that gate was quite easy, and, you know, it wasn’t rusted or anything like that. And so now those days are gone. And so that’s what we literally mean when it’s **seen better days**. It lived through a period of time where it saw very good days.

Andrew: I think it’s easier to understand this if you think about a person, right? Maybe think about like somebody who’s in the prime of their life, maybe in their late teen years or their early twenties, right? And they’re like really young and youthful and full of life. And

then if you compare that person to when they're at the end of their life, maybe, you know, once they get up there in age and the body starts to break down, right? You have aches and pains and walking around is more difficult. Well, you'd say, "Oh, that person has **seen better days**," right? Like when they were younger, of course, they really enjoyed their life. They lived life to the fullest. And of course, you can't do that forever. And so, as you get older, then, yeah, things get more difficult. And you could say that person has **seen better days**. And that's like very easy to visualize, right? They're actually doing the seeing of the good, happy times in their life.

Suzanne: Yeah, exactly. Yes.

Andrew: So, Suzanne, now that we know the meaning of this expression, why don't we take a listen to some examples so we can learn how English speakers use this expression in a natural way?

Friend 1: Hey, what's wrong with your laptop? It seems really slow.

Friend 2: Yeah, it's definitely **seen better days**. I think it's time for an upgrade. This old thing just can't keep up with the latest software.

Friend 1: Maybe try getting one around Black Friday. There are usually great sales then.

Andrew: OK, let's break this example down. So, in this example, we hear two friends having a conversation about a very slow and old laptop. And one of the friends says that the laptop has **seen better days**. So what this communicates is that the laptop is quite old. Maybe it's **past its prime**, and it's just not operating as it should be. And that happens with lots of computers and electronic items, right? When they first come out, they're really fast and sharp and amazing. And they're like the newest, latest, greatest thing. But then as time goes on, well, they get slow and they wear down, and eventually they need to be replaced. And, Suzanne, we know all about that, don't we?

Suzanne: Oh, yeah, especially with the computers, for sure, right? Technology.

Andrew: Shall we listen to another example?

Suzanne: All right, sounds good.

Friend 1: Look at this chair I found at a garage sale. Do you think we could still use it?

Friend 2: Huh, well, it's definitely **seen better days**. But with a little bit of **TLC**, it could be a nice addition to our study room.

Friend 1: Yeah, that's what I was thinking. We could give it a fresh coat of paint and fix the wobbly legs. It just might turn out to be a great fit.

Suzanne: All right, so I'm going to break down this example. So, we have two friends that are perusing a garage sale on the weekend. It's always a fun activity. And they find a kind of pretty worn-out chair. But one of the friends really sees the potential in this chair and pulls it to the fore and points it out. And the other friend says, well, you know, it's definitely **seen better days**. It's definitely worn out. It's definitely **not in its prime**, right? And they are convinced, right? They're convinced a little bit of **TLC**, a little bit of tweaking here and there, it just might be a nice chair for their study room. So they're going to give it a new life and maybe it'll see a few more better days.

Andrew: Right. So, when they say is definitely **seen better days**, they're just communicating that it's in bad condition in the present right now.

Suzanne, an expression that's come up a few times in this episode so far is **TLC, TLC**. And I just realized that we haven't explained what **TLC** is. Do you wanna go for it? Could you break it down for us?

Suzanne: Of course, it stands for tender loving care, **TLC**. And it means you're giving it some love, right? You're giving it some tender loving care, basically. And you can really use that with anything that is in a worn-out state or, you know, ah, it just needs a little **TLC**. It just needs a little love, a little care, and we'll bring it back to life.

Andrew: Another cool expression that came up in that example was wobbly legs, wobbly legs, describing the chair legs, right? Just like a human has legs, a chair also has legs, and we can use this word wobbly to describe the legs of a chair or a human, actually. And it's a fun word to say. I love pronouncing this word, wobbly, but what it means is like really loose and not stable at all, right? So you could think of it almost being like rubber. Like if you had rubber legs and you were trying to stand up on those rubber legs and you were just shaking from side to side because there was no stiffness to the legs. They were really like soft and gooey and flexible. That is kind of like what wobbly means.

Suzanne: Yeah, that is a fun word to say wobbly legs, wobbly, wobbly. In fact, the meaning feels the way it feels in your mouth when you say the word wobbly, wobbly, wobbly, right? It kind of has like the same feeling of the way it's pronounced.

Andrew: Let's jump into our second key expression for this lesson and it is **worse for wear**. **Worse for wear**. And I'll just break down the spelling because that might be hard to break apart this expression if you're just listening and not following along with the transcript. So worse is spelled W-O-R-S-E. Then we have the preposition for, F-O-R, and then finally wear. And wear here is spelled W-E-A-R, which means to use something so much that it is no longer any good anymore. And so, we use this expression, **worse for wear**, again, to describe things or people who are in a very poor condition or in a deteriorated condition because they have experienced a lot during their life, maybe **wear and tear** or damage or hardship. So because they have endured a difficult situation during the course of their lifetime and they're kind of **worse for wear**, they're in a bad condition as a result.

Suzanne: Yeah, I think a common example is maybe like we said, as you get older, like a body part, right? Like your hip, maybe you wake up, you're like, "Oh, hip pain," or "my shoulder." It's like a little **worse for wear** there, my shoulder, right, because I maybe had an injury or I went through, you know, a damage or something like that in a body part. So you could really use it for not just objects or people, but actually like parts of your body as well.

Andrew: Have you ever had a friend who's had like a really old beater car? And maybe that friend offered you a ride one day and you're riding in their car and it's just like barely hanging on, right? Like the muffler's like, blup, blup, blup, blup! And the car is kind of shaking. You're, like, oh, this car is **worse for wear**, like it's **seen better days**, right? Because the car is old and been through so much, it's not doing very good anymore.

Suzanne: Totally.

Andrew: A couple of other interesting ways that you could use this expression, **worse for wear**, like you could actually use it to describe human relationships too, right? You could say, oh, that couple's relationship is **worse for wear**. Like they've been through so much together and it's kind of rocky right now, like the relationship isn't very good.

Suzanne: Yeah, absolutely. Like something that has gone through a hardship, right? Like anything that could pass through a difficult time or, you know, deteriorate over time, which includes relationships, which includes those kind of intangible things, as well.

Andrew: Mmhmm. Or even somebody's reputation, like, you know, think of a celebrity who's had a scandal, right? Their reputation could be really, really good and then some scandal breaks out or they do something bad and suddenly people kind of turn on them and their reputation isn't as good as it used to be. You could say that person's reputation is **worse for wear**.

So, I'm pointing out these things just because I want to show everyone how versatile this expression is. We can use it to talk about things from our body parts to cars to reputations and relationships. It's really quite a versatile expression.

And I think now that we've discussed the meaning, we should take a listen to a couple of examples. So, Sue, let's check out the first one.

Employee 1: I noticed your favourite coffee mug is chipped. What happened?

Employee 2: Yeah, I dropped it by accident, but it still holds my coffee just fine.

Employee 1: I don't know, looks a little **worse for wear**. Maybe it's time to get a new one.

Andrew: In this example, we hear two coworkers talking about a coffee mug. And one of the coworkers points out that the coffee mug looks **worse for wear** because it's got a chip in it. And a chip is what we call when like a little piece of the mug breaks off. So the whole mug didn't shatter and break, but maybe it cracked, and a little piece of the coffee mug broke off. So, yeah, the other coworker says, I dropped it by accident. It's chipped, but it's still OK. But his coworker said, you know, maybe you should get a new one. That mug looks **worse for wear**, meaning that it's **seen better days**, right? Suzanne, it maybe was a nice mug at one point, but after being dropped, it went through that difficult experience of being dropped on the floor and now it's not so good.

Suzanne: Yeah. It's maybe on its way out. It's like closer to being on its way out than on its way in, exactly.

Andrew: Let's take a listen to the second example now.

Friend 1: Hey, did you see Lisa today? She seems really down and isn't her normal perky self.

Friend 2: Yeah, she's definitely looking **worse for wear**. I think she's been under a lot of stress at work recently.

Friend 1: Let's invite her for a coffee or a walk soon so we can check in and see how she's doing.

Suzanne: So, in this example, we have two coworkers and Lisa, their mutual friend, doesn't seem herself, doesn't seem like she's her normal perky self, her, you know, upbeat, joyful, energetic self. So maybe she looks a little worn down and **worse for wear**, you know? She's under a lot of stress. She's had a lot of **wear and tear**, maybe in the last few weeks, maybe staying up late, having anxiety, who knows? And she looks a little

worse for wear. And so they decide, you know what? Let's check in with her and give her a little **TLC**, right? This is what they're thinking. Go for a walk, have a coffee, give her some friendship. And maybe that'll help her perk back up again and get back to her normal self.

Now to the person themselves, you may not say, "Hey, you're looking a little **worse for wear**." It might not be a nice thing to say, but maybe in a loving tone or in an intimate moment, it's like, "You know, I've noticed that you've been looking a little **worse for wear**. You haven't been your normal self. Is there anything I can do to help?" That might be a nice thing to say, not like a "Hey, you look bad."

Andrew: Yeah, no, Suzanne, I think you made a great point right there. Like, this expression if said in a loving way and from a place of care, can actually be a really nice way to tell somebody that something looks wrong with them. Like, Suzanne, if you saw me one day and I had darker circles under my eyes than I usually do or if I just looked, you know, super tired or maybe my skin was really blotchy and red and I just looked terrible, right? If you said, "Andrew, you look awful," you know, then I'd probably be like, "What? Come on!" I might be a little offended. Like, Suzanne, what are you talking about? But if you said, "Oh, Andrew, you're looking a little **worse for wear**." Like, "Are you doing OK?" you know, and if you are honestly checking in on me to see how I was doing from, you know, a place of concern, then I think this is actually a really nice expression to use in that situation. It's softer than saying you look terrible, or you look like garbage or something like that.

Suzanne: Yeah, no one wants to hear that.

Andrew: OK, well, everyone, I think that will bring us to the end. It's a wrap. So, thank you for tuning in and studying English with us today. And if you made it here all the way to the end, congratulations, you did a great job.

Suzanne: Just to recap, we've looked at two idiomatic expressions that both describe people or objects or things or even intangible things that refer to something that maybe

was better in the past but has become old and worn out. We've looked at **seen better days** and **worse for wear**.

Andrew: If you have any questions or comments about this episode, then please get in touch. You can leave us a comment on our website, Culips.com, or on our discussion form, which you can also find on the website, and share your thoughts and opinions with us. We're dying to hear from you. So that is it for us for now, everyone, but of course we'll be back soon with another brand-new episode and we'll catch you then. Goodbye.

Suzanne: Bye!

Andrew: That brings us to the end of this lesson. Talk to you next time, bye!

Detailed Explanations

Seen better days

Idiom, informal

Seen better days is an idiomatic expression we use to describe something or someone that was once in a better state and is now in a worse condition. When we say something has **seen better days**, it means that it has deteriorated over time. It's usually used for objects that are in such a bad condition that they can't be used anymore and need to be replaced or renovated.

This phrase can be applied to various things that have experienced a decline or become less functional over time, such as houses, pieces of furniture, clothes, gadgets, and more. For example, if you see an old sofa that has been used for many years and has lost its original look, you can say that it has definitely **seen better days**.

As Andrew explains in this episode, the expression **seen better days** can be also used when talking about people. If a person has **seen better days**, it means that they're in a worse condition than they used to be, usually in terms of their health and well-being, but sometimes in terms of their success as well. The expression **seen better days** serves as a euphemism; it's a more polite way to say that someone is aging or that something is no longer in its best condition.

Here are a couple more examples with **seen better days**:

Keith: Look, I found this old camera in the attic. Do you think it still works?

Lynn: It's hard to say. It's definitely **seen better days**. I'll ask your dad to take a look at it and see if you can still use it.

Bryan: Have you seen Katy lately?

Tina: Yes, I ran into her yesterday. She looks like she's **seen better days**.

Bryan: Oh no, is she OK?

Tina: She's been under a lot of stress at work, and it has really affected her. She looked exhausted.

Worse for wear

Idiom

Worse for wear is an idiomatic expression we use to talk about something or someone that appears tired, damaged, or worn out. If a thing is **worse for wear**, it means it's been used a lot and, as a result, it doesn't look or function as well as it used to. If a person looks **worse for wear**, it means they've faced tough experiences and it's visible from their exhausted appearance.

The expression **worse for wear** can be used when describing anything that isn't in good condition anymore. It's easy to remember this expression if you imagine a pair of shoes that you've been wearing for years and now they're in poor condition: there are holes in them, the soles are worn out. You can say this pair of shoes is looking **worse for wear**.

The phrase **worse for wear** is often used with the modifiers "a little" or "a bit" to show a small amount of damage. For instance, if a car looks a little **worse for wear**, it means that it's not in perfect condition, but it can still be used.

As Andrew and Suzanne mention, the expression **worse for wear** can be used to describe people and relationships as well. For instance, if a person has been through a hard time and they look tired, we can say they look a little **worse for wear**. This would be a nicer and more polite way to express your concern about them, rather than simply saying that they look bad.

Here are a couple more examples with **worse for wear**:

Abigail: I was making breakfast and couldn't help but notice that your frying pans are in terrible condition.

Paul: You're right. They do look a bit **worse for wear**. I've been thinking about buying a couple of new ones.

Colin: You seem tired. Are you OK?

Eleanor: I'm feeling a bit **worse for wear**, to be honest. My son wasn't feeling well and we had to bring him to a doctor in the middle of the night. I only got a couple of hours of sleep.

Colin: That sounds terrible! Here, let me make you a cup of coffee.

TLC

Abbreviation, informal

TLC stands for tender loving care, and the abbreviation is more commonly used than the full form. When we say that something or someone needs some **TLC**, we mean they need extra attention or care because they don't look or feel good.

This expression can be used with objects, animals, or people. We usually use this abbreviation either with the verb need, as in "it needs some **TLC**," or the verb give, as in "to give something (or someone) a little **TLC**."

In this episode, **TLC** is used several times. First, when talking about the front gate to his house, Andrew says, "If we gave it some **TLC** and a new coat of paint, it would look as good as new." Then, in the second dialogue example featuring the idiom seen better days, two friends talk about an old chair that needs a little **TLC**. Finally, when discussing the dialogue example about a tired coworker named Lisa, Suzanne uses the phrase "give her a little **TLC**." In all these examples **TLC** simply means taking special care of something or someone, showing them some love, being kind and gentle with them.

Note that **TLC** is an informal expression, so it's more appropriate in casual conversations rather than formal situations.

Here are a couple more examples with **TLC**:

Angela: Oh no! I've been so busy I've completely neglected my plants. Look at this one, it's all dry and yellow!

Greg: Don't worry. I'm sure you can still save them. All you have to do is give them a little **TLC**. Some watering, pruning, and fertilizer should do the trick.

Fiona: Guess what! We adopted that puppy I told you about!

Miles: Wow, that's amazing! How has he been adjusting to his new home?

Fiona: Well, to be honest, he seems a bit scared. He spends most of the time hiding under the couch.

Miles: That's completely normal. He just needs a little **TLC**. Make sure he feels safe and loved by taking good care of him. I'm sure he'll start feeling more comfortable after a while.

Heyday

Noun

When defining the idiom seen better days, Suzanne explains that it means a period when something was in its glory, in its perfect stage of life. Andrew adds to her explanation by saying “in its **heyday**.”

Heyday is a word we use to describe someone or something’s best and most successful time. When we say that someone or something is in their **heyday**, it means they’re at their peak, doing really well, or having a great time. For example, the **heyday** of a company is the period when it’s very successful and profitable.

The word **heyday** can also refer to the time when something or someone was popular or powerful. For instance, in their **heyday**, VHS tapes were the only format for watching movies and recording television shows. VHS tapes were once very popular, but they’re rarely used these days as they’ve been replaced by digital streaming services.

Overall, the phrase in its **heyday** is often used to reminisce about the past, to express a sense of nostalgia, and to talk about the good old days.

Here are a couple more examples with **heyday**:

Sara: Is that a Nokia? I can’t believe you still have one of those!

Anthony: I haven’t used it in ages since I switched to smart phones, but I couldn’t bring myself to get rid of it. I wanted to keep it as a souvenir, you know.

Sara: I totally get it. Nokia phones were iconic in their **heyday**.

Anthony: Yeah, they were the best. Look, it still works!

Phyllis: It’s amazing that you still run every morning, Grandpa. I really admire that!

Grandpa: Thank you, my dear. I wish I was young like you! In my **heyday**, I could run for miles without breaking a sweat. I was in great shape then, but I’m older and slower now.

Phyllis: You’re doing just great! You’re a true inspiration for me.

Past its prime

Idiom

Past its prime is an idiomatic expression used to describe something that is no longer at its best. The word prime refers to a time when something or someone was in their peak condition or performance. If something or someone is **past its prime**, it means that they reached their best time in the past and have gotten worse since then.

When something is **past its prime**, it means it's not in its best condition anymore or it's not as good as it used to be. We can use this phrase when talking about things or people that have become less successful or worse over time. For example, an actor who was once very popular but now isn't can be described as **past his prime**.

In this episode, Andrew uses the expression **past its prime** when breaking down the dialogue example about an old laptop. Suzanne then explains the dialogue example about an old chair and uses a variation of this expression, **not in its prime**. Both expressions mean that those things are no longer as good as they used to be and have become worse over time.

The expression with the opposite meaning is **in its prime**, which essentially means the same thing as **in its heyday**. Andrew uses this expression in this episode when comparing a young person in the prime of his life to an older person who has seen better days.

Here are a couple more examples with **past its prime**:

Felicity: Someone sent me a friend request on Facebook. I haven't checked it in months!

Ben: I don't really use it these days either. It feels like Facebook is **past its prime**.

Felicity: Totally agree. People are more into Instagram and WhatsApp now.

Carol: I was walking in our old neighbourhood today and when I saw my old school building, I couldn't believe how bad it looked!

Rick: Oh, yeah, I heard they had to shut down that school a long time ago. The building is definitely **past its prime**. It wasn't safe anymore.

Carol: So sad!

Wear and tear

Noun phrase

Wear and tear is a phrase that's used to talk about the damage that happens to things over time. If something has **wear and tear**, it means it has been used a lot and has scratches, dents, or other signs of use.

We use this expression when talking about objects like furniture, clothes, or cars. For example, if you have a favourite shirt that you've worn many times, eventually it'll start to show signs of **wear and tear**, like small holes or faded colours. **Wear and tear** is the natural result of using something over a long period.

When explaining the meaning of the idiom worse for wear, Andrew says that it's used to describe things or people who are in very poor condition because they've experienced **wear and tear**. It means that the idiom worse for wear can be used to talk about things that have been used a lot and show signs of damage.

When applied to people, **wear and tear** is used metaphorically and describes the effects that daily activities, stress, or responsibilities can have on a person. For instance, if someone looks exhausted, you can say they've had a lot of **wear and tear**.

Here are a couple more examples with **wear and tear**:

Scarlett: We've decided to sell our old house.

Eddie: That's great! Is it in good condition?

Scarlett: Pretty much. We will have to fix some general **wear and tear**, but it shouldn't take too long.

Toby: I saw your cousin in a café the other day. I noticed that he was limping. Is everything OK with him?

Elsa: Oh, it happens. He's been an avid basketball player for years. All the jumping has caused some **wear and tear**, so his knees bother him every now and then. But overall, he's doing fine.

Quiz

1. **What phrase can you use to describe an old car that used to be good but is now in poor condition?**
 - a) it has been better days
 - b) it has seen better days
 - c) it has saw better days
 - d) it is seen better days

2. **If a person looks worse for wear, it means they feel _____.**
 - a) ashamed
 - b) unsuccessful
 - c) tired
 - d) worried

3. **If someone says, “This table needs some TLC,” they mean that _____.**
 - a) it’s new and in perfect condition
 - b) it requires attention to improve its condition
 - c) they want to get rid of it
 - d) it’s completely broken

4. **Which of the following does NOT define in its heyday?**
 - a) at its peak
 - b) in its perfect stage of life
 - c) when it was popular
 - d) not in its best condition

5. **If a person has had a lot of wear and tear, it means they _____.**
 - a) have had a difficult time in their life
 - b) have worn a lot of different shoes
 - c) have had a successful time
 - d) have carried something heavy

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Talk about an item that you own that has seen better days.
2. Have you ever felt physically or emotionally worse for wear? Describe the situation.
3. Tell about a situation when someone or something needed some TLC.
4. Talk about something that's past its prime.
5. What are some common signs of wear and tear that you notice in everyday objects?

Quiz Answers

1.b 2.c 3.b 4.d 5.a

Episode credits

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Image: Pixabay (Pexels.com)