

Chatterbox #170 – Sue's trip to Orlando

Episode description

Need a new item for your bucket list? After listening to this episode, you may just add Orlando. Join Andrew and Suzanne as they talk about all the fun things Suzanne did while in Orlando!

Fun fact

Opening on June 7, 1990, Universal Studios is a theme park that brings your favorite movies and television shows to life with the help of consultants like Steven Spielberg.

Steven Spielberg helped create the long-running E.T. Adventure, a ride, based on the movie *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, that also ran in Japan from 2001 to 2009.

Expressions included in the learning materials

- Cutting edge
- A bucket list
- An amusement park
- A love–hate relationship
- To wind up



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.

Andrew: Hi, I'm Andrew.

Suzanne: Hi, it's Suzanne.

Andrew: And you are listening to Culips.

Suzanne: Yay!

Announcer: If you want to learn English for everyday use, you've come to the right place. At Culips, we help make English understandable. By listening to our podcast, you can learn natural expressions and conversational structure. If you're interested in learning more about Culips and what we do, check us out on Facebook or our website, Culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. Thanks for listening. We hope you enjoy this episode.

Andrew: Hey Suzanne.

Suzanne: Hey Andrew. How are you?

Andrew: I'm pretty good. How are you?

Suzanne: I'm doing great. I just got back from a great trip.

Andrew: A great trip. Where did you go?

Suzanne: I went for 6 days to sunny, warm Orlando, Florida.

Andrew: Ooh, Orlando, Florida.

Suzanne: Yes.

Andrew: I've never been there before.

Suzanne: Really?

Andrew: How was it?

Suzanne: Super warm compared to the Montreal weather. I left Montreal, and it was minus 10, minus 8 degrees Celsius.

Andrew: OK.

- Suzanne: And I arrived in 29 degrees Celsius in Orlando. It was so nice and sunny.
- Andrew: That's a change of almost 40 degrees.
- Suzanne: Yeah. It was a big change and a welcome change. And every day, the sun was shining.
- Andrew: That is amazing. I'm so jealous.
- Suzanne: Yes, I would be jealous too. No offense, but it was nice. And, uh, I got to go to a conference there for applied linguistics, which is what I study.
- Andrew: OK.
- Suzanne: And I got to meet a lot of really interesting researchers who are doing some fantastic work in the field of language learning ...
- Andrew: Wow!
- Suzanne: And ESL and EFL, so English second language and English foreign language studies.
- Andrew: OK.
- Suzanne: And I took some great notes. We had some great chats and cocktails by the pool.
- Andrew: It's fun. Conferences can be really fun like that because, in the morning, it's serious business.
- Suzanne: Yes.
- Andrew: You're listening to presentations or participating in workshops, but then in the evening, you get to eat dinner with your colleagues, and like you said, and have a cocktail or two.
- Suzanne: And unwind by the pool with a fruity cocktail and some delicious dinner. And, um, what was really wonderful is that I was sponsored by a grant, a travel and conference grant from an organization called VASTA, which is Voice and Speech Trainers Association. And that's a theatre speech organization, and they sponsored me. So what's wonderful is that I was able to do this at a minimal cost to myself, which was very beneficial.
- Andrew: That is the way to do it.
- Suzanne: Yeah. That's the way to travel to Florida.

- Andrew: Unfortunately, when I was a student, the conference that you are talking about was in Toronto, so I didn't go. But had it been in Orlando, maybe I would've gone.
- Suzanne: Yeah. I went to the one last year as well in Toronto, but I had never been to Toronto before, so I definitely ...
- Andrew: Ah.
- Suzanne: I enjoyed it because it reminded me a lot of New York City, and I missed New York City, so it was fun. You don't like Toronto so much, or?
- Andrew: Well, I have **a love–hate relationship** with Toronto. Let's put it that way. I do like Toronto, but I also don't like Toronto. Let's just say Toronto's OK. I have no strong feelings of love for Toronto and no strong feelings of hate for Toronto. It's just an average place for me.
- Suzanne: Hmm. I hear you.
- Andrew: But you mentioned you were in Orlando for 6 days.
- Suzanne: Yes.
- Andrew: Was the conference that long?
- Suzanne: So I guess I was there from the 8th through the 14th, and the conference was, I guess, 5 nights, 4 days—Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and then Wednesday. Wednesday, let me tell you about Wednesday.
- Andrew: Hmm, what did you do on Wednesday?
- Suzanne: One of my good friends, who you know as well, who was a PhD student at Concordia ...
- Andrew: Mmhmm.
- Suzanne: Where we studied. Her and I bought tickets, expensive tickets, to Universal Studios.
- Andrew: Ooh.
- Suzanne: Park-to-park, double park, tickets for Wednesday.
- Andrew: Ah.
- Suzanne: So that we could go to The Wizarding World of Harry Potter.
- Andrew: The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, very nice.

Suzanne: Have you read the Harry Potter books?

Andrew: No.

Suzanne: What?

Andrew: I read the first one.

Suzanne: Andrew, that is unacceptable behaviour.

Andrew: I read the first one.

Suzanne: And that's it? You were turned off and abhorred, and didn't want to read anymore?

Andrew: No, I think I was just in the wrong state of mind at the time to be into Harry Potter.

Suzanne: OK.

Andrew: But I've seen the movies. It's a cool series. I can understand why people like it.

Suzanne: Sure. OK. I'll take that as a good excuse. Though it was so exciting. We bought the tickets.

Andrew: Uh huh.

Suzanne: We got there, and they have not just *Harry Potter* world, obviously. There's also the *Despicable Me* world, like with all the Minions.

Andrew: Oh, cool.

Suzanne: And also *The Simpsons*.

Andrew: Wow.

Suzanne: They have the whole Simpsons' neighbourhood in Springfield and everything, and the Kwik-E-Mart, and you could just go in to everything.

Andrew: Wow.

Suzanne: And then, they also have *Spiderman*, and they have *Jurassic Park*. And they have basically all of the movies made by Universal. And we started at Diagon Alley; we basically took the journey that Harry Potter takes, like, in the first book.

Andrew: OK.

Suzanne: And we started in Diagon Alley. But what was so cool was that Diagon Alley is kind of hidden, and you have to kind of, like, find a way to get in there. And then once you do, it is just like the movie, and there are all the shops from the movie. You could go to Ollivander's Wand Store.

Andrew: OK

Suzanne: And we went there, and we got to pick out a wand.

Andrew: OK.

Suzanne: And we bought the interactive wand.

Andrew: OK.

Suzanne: So that you can actually go around the parks and do spells.

Andrew: Tell me about these wands. What could you do with them? What spells could you cast?

Suzanne: Well, when you buy your wand, it comes with a map of Diagon Alley and also Hogwarts, and it tells you different stops along the way that you can go to and do specific spells. And they tell you what to do with your wand, where to stand and what to say, and the movement that you should make with your wand. And I think it's the sensor in the wand that is picking up on the sensor near the building.

Andrew: No, no, no, no. It's magic.

Suzanne: I know. I know it is magic. And there I was with, like, little kids, maybe ages 6 and 7, and then there was me of course.

Andrew: Mmhmm.

Suzanne: And one of the things I got to do was that I stood in front of this big umbrella with this kind of crazy bucket underneath full of water. And when you did the spell, the water would spray out of the umbrella and spray everyone around us. So it was so fun because sometimes you weren't sure if you were gonna get it right. But when you did ...

Andrew: Ah.

Suzanne: It sprayed everyone and really surprised everybody, and it was so much fun. And there were a bunch of spells like that, where there ... Where water would spray or lights would come on, or plants would start to dance, or dancing plants.

Andrew: Whoa.

Suzanne: Um, we also drank butterbeer, which I have to say was very good.

Andrew: Whoa.

Suzanne: It's non-alcoholic. It's, uh, kind of like a cream soda ...

Andrew: OK.

Suzanne: With, like, a vanilla–butterscotch thing going on. It was so good.

Andrew: Interesting.

Suzanne: Yes. Very, very good.

Andrew: That's very cool.

Suzanne: Yes.

Andrew: And so *Harry Potter* world is **an amusement park**?

Suzanne: Yes.

Andrew: Were there any rides?

Suzanne: Yes.

Andrew: Any roller coasters or?

Suzanne: Amazing ones, yes. My favourite one was Escape From Gringotts. So Gringotts is the bank, and there were actual goblins. That's what they were, goblins. And they were really high up in the bank, so it's like you're walking into a bank, and it's like there are tellers on the sides. And there are the ropes, like when you go to a bank, and the line for the ride was in the middle, through the ropes, as if you were in line for the bank. And on each side, there are all these goblins. And they're like the real goblins in the movies.

Andrew: Whoa.

Suzanne: And I think people are programming them or running them like a puppet underneath the platform 'cause they're really high up.

Andrew: Ah, they're being operated.

Suzanne: Operated by a human.

Andrew: OK.

Suzanne: Because they look up and answer you. Like, you can talk to them.

Andrew: Oh, they're interactive

Suzanne: They're interactive.

Andrew: Whoa.

Suzanne: Exactly. So what was so fun was that the line for the ride was actually an adventure, so you didn't mind to wait in line. And then we went down the stairs, and we saw the newspapers with the moving pictures in them.

Andrew: Mmhmm.

Suzanne: And then we kept going, and we got deeper and deeper, and then we were on the ride.

Andrew: Whoa.

Suzanne: And they gave you 3D glasses.

Andrew: OK.

Suzanne: And there were times—it's a real roller coaster—but they had images flying by you, so it felt like you were falling in the sky. And it really gave the impression that you were flying on the broomstick, and it was incredible. It was really, really fantastic. It was magical, no pun intended. And I had a perma-smile on my face, or a permanent smile, the whole day.

Andrew: The whole day.

Suzanne: Yeah.

Andrew: Now, that ride seems like it might be a little intense for kids. Were there kids on this ride?

Suzanne: A lot of kids on the ride. However, they do warn you that if you have motion sickness ...

Andrew: Mmhmm.

Suzanne: Or if you're pregnant ...

Andrew: Mmhmm.

Suzanne: You should not go on this ride. And it's very true because there were times when I was like, "OK, maybe I should not have eaten lunch right before this ride." I went on that ride twice.

Andrew: Twice.

Suzanne: There was also a ride in Hogwarts, and it takes you all around the mansion, which was really cool.

Andrew: Very cool.

Suzanne: Um, the school. And then, there's also two other rides that we didn't go on because they were just sort of boring roller coasters inside the *Harry Potter* world, and we preferred the kind of 3D interactive kind of rides.

Andrew: The **cutting-edge** rides.

Suzanne: **Cutting edge**, yes.

Andrew: Very cool.

Suzanne: Yeah.

Andrew: And apart from the conference and *Harry Potter* world, did you get up to anything else in Orlando? Did you have any extra free time?

Suzanne: We did. We had ... We got to celebrate a birthday with some friends.

Andrew: Mmhmm.

Suzanne: And we went to go sing karaoke.

Andrew: Oh, a classic.

Suzanne: Yes. And this was not in a private room. This was in front of a whole audience, so that was quite fun.

Andrew: OK. What song did you sing?

Suzanne: I sang ... I sang a couple songs. I sang "Proud Mary."

Andrew: OK.

Andrew: You know?

Andrew: Mmhmm.

Suzanne: By Ike and Tina Turner.

Andrew: Mmhmm.

Suzanne: Um, I sang "Are you Gonna Be My Girl" by Jet. Do you know the song?

Andrew: I ... No.

Suzanne: "One, two, three, take my hand and come with me ..."

Andrew: Oh yes. I do know this song, yes.

Suzanne: "Because you look so fine that I really ..." Yup. Um, and then, I also sang a duet with a gentleman that I met there that was, um, he was like, "Hey, would you like to do a duet?" And I said, "Sure." So do you know that song by Pink, "Just Give Me a Reason"? Um, no?

Andrew: Hmm. I'm sure I would recognize it.

Suzanne: "Just give me a reason. Just a little bit's enough, na, na. We're not broken ..."

Andrew: No. I don't recognize it, sorry.

Suzanne: No? Anyway, it's quite a good song actually.

Andrew: OK.

Andrew: But, uh, yeah, so those were three songs that we sang. There wasn't a lot of time to sing because there were a lot of people and ...

Andrew: You have to share the stage.

Suzanne: You have to share the stage.

Andrew: Mmhmm.

Suzanne: Yeah, totally.

Andrew: Cool. Well, it sounds like you had, uh, a very fun 6 days in Orlando.

Suzanne: It was lots of learning, lots of playing. It was fun. If you do **wind up** in Orlando, I wanna hear about what you chose to do.

Andrew: OK.

Andrew: Because there's so much to do and see there.

Andrew: I've never been to Florida, but ... And honestly, it's not high up on **my bucket list** of places to go, but that doesn't mean I don't wanna visit someday.

Suzanne: You may find yourself there someday. You know.

Andrew: You never know when a conference will come up, and I'll be there.

Suzanne: All right.

Andrew: Well, Suzanne, I think that's all we have time for today, so I wanna thank everybody for listening.

Suzanne: And also I wanted to remind everyone to check out our website at Culips.com, and visit us on Twitter and Facebook. We like visits.

Andrew: Awesome. Bye.

Suzanne: Bye guys.

Detailed Explanations

Cutting edge

Cutting edge means modern, advanced, or innovative. The expression **cutting edge** can be used to describe anything that is new or trendy, such as an art piece, a piece of technology, or a scientific discovery or process. For instance, Pokémon Go is **cutting edge** in mobile gaming, and artificial organs are **cutting edge** in medicine.

In this episode, Andrew and Suzanne mention that the 3D rides at Universal Studios are **cutting edge**, meaning the rides are state of the art. In other words, Andrew and Suzanne are saying that the rides at Universal Studios are innovative. So the rides are **cutting edge** because they involve 3D technology, which makes the experience of riding a roller coaster completely different.

Here are a couple more examples with **cutting edge**:

Heather:	What music are you listening to? It sounds awful!
Jacob:	You just think it sounds bad because it's new and cutting edge . You should listen to this guy. He's an awesome underground DJ from Paris. I've never heard music like this.
Heather:	I don't think bad music is cutting edge , Jacob. People have been making terrible music for a long time.

Pam:	Hey Ian. How was your weekend?
Ian:	Not great. My phone broke.
Pam:	Oh no! What happened? Are you going to get a new one?
Ian:	Clumsy me, I dropped it off my balcony! And yes, I need to get a new one. I don't know what to get though.
Pam:	You should get something really fancy, like one of those new phones that are so big that they're hard to hold.
Ian:	Why would I want a phone like that?
Pam:	Because they're cutting edge !

A bucket list

A **bucket list** is a catalog of all the things someone wants to do before they die. Usually, a **bucket list** isn't a written, physical list, but instead, is a metaphorical list of the activities and events that someone hopes to experience one day.

Is there somewhere that you've always wanted to travel? If so, that place is on **your bucket list**. Is there an activity that you've wanted to try or a hobby that you've wanted to take up? Those are on **your bucket list** too!

Almost anything can be on a **bucket list**, as it's made up of whatever you hope to do one day. However, items on a **bucket list** are different from normal life goals, like getting good grades or a promotion. In other words, a **bucket list** is unique to each person and is composed of anything special that a person dreams of experiencing before they die.

Here are a couple more examples with **a bucket list**:

Elyse:	How are you?
Greg:	Great! I just got back from a wonderful vacation.
Elyse:	Good for you. Where did you go?
Greg:	My wife and I went on a road trip across Canada. We drove all the way from the East Coast to the West Coast.
Elyse:	That must have been amazing. I'm so jealous. Driving across Canada is definitely on my bucket list .

Hannah:	I can't believe that I'm almost 30 years old. It's time that I started doing some of the things that I've always dreamed about, like visiting Ireland. What about you? What's on your bucket list ?
Dane:	I'm not sure. I guess I've always wanted to travel to India.
Hannah:	That's pretty cool. What else?
Dane:	Well, I would really like to go skydiving.
Hannah:	No way, me too! I've always been too scared to actually do it. Let's do it together!
Dane:	All right!

An amusement park

An amusement park is a type of park with activities and attractions. Most **amusement parks** are designed for people to spend the whole day there. The main attractions at **amusement parks** are usually rides (eg, roller coasters and Ferris wheels), games (eg, arcades or shooting galleries), and activities (eg, fireworks and parades). Some **amusement parks** also have live shows and interactive experiences.

Many **amusement parks** have themes. The most popular **amusement parks** in North America are the Disney parks (Disneyland and Walt Disney World) and the Universal Studios parks (Universal Studios Orlando and Universal Studios Hollywood). Some famous **amusement parks** in Canada are Six Flags and Canada's Wonderland.

Amusement parks are a very popular summer activity for many people in North America, especially families with younger children.

Here are a couple more examples with ***an amusement park***:

Wendy:	I'm not sure what I should do for my birthday. Do you have any brilliant ideas?
Pat:	Hmm, what about going to an amusement park ?
Wendy:	I've never been to an amusement park before. Aren't the rides scary, especially roller coasters?
Pat:	Some people think they're scary, but I think they're a lot of fun. If you've never ridden a roller coaster before, you have to try it. I think you'll love it.
Wendy:	I'm convinced. Roller coasters for my birthday it is!

Sara:	So, David, where are you planning to go for your vacation?
David:	I'm going on an amusement park road trip! A couple friends and I are driving across the United States, and are going to visit as many parks as we can.
Sara:	Wow, you must really love amusement parks .
David:	One of my friends is obsessed with them, so we decided to visit as many as we can.
Sara:	I hope you guys have a great time!

A love–hate relationship

When you have a **love–hate relationship**, you alternately love and hate a person or a thing. The expression **a love–hate relationship** can be used when you feel ambivalent or have mixed feelings about someone or something. In other words, **a love–hate relationship** means that you have inconsistent feelings.

For instance, many people have a **love–hate relationship** with dessert. They love the way it tastes, but they hate how bad it is for their bodies. In this episode, Andrew mentions that he has a **love–hate relationship** with Toronto. This means that he has mixed feelings about Toronto; there are things that he loves about Toronto, and there are things that he hates about Toronto.

Here are a couple more examples with **a love–hate relationship**:

Allan:	Hi Rachel. How was your weekend?
Rachel:	It was so awesome! Chelsea and I went camping and had a ton of fun!
Allan:	Hold on a second. Weren't you just telling me last week that she drives you crazy, and you are always fighting?
Rachel:	Yeah, that's right. I guess you could say we have a love–hate relationship .
Allan:	Well, I'm glad you both had a great weekend.

Henry:	I've been thinking about finding a new apartment, but I haven't made up my mind.
Olivia:	Your apartment is great! Why would you want to move?
Henry:	I have a love–hate relationship with it. It is always cold, so I love it during the summer because I can cool off, but hate it during the winter because I am always freezing.
Olivia:	That's a tough one!

To wind up

The expression **to wind up** means to arrive in a particular place or situation. In this episode, Suzanne recommends that you visit Universal Studios if you ever **wind up** in Orlando. In other words, Suzanne is saying that if you end up in Orlando, Florida that you should take the time to visit Universal Studios.

To wind up can also mean to bring to a conclusion. So you can use **to wind up** to talk about finishing something. For instance, if you are just finalizing a report for work, you can say to a co-worker, "I am just **winding up** this report."

Be careful: if you are asking someone to finish a task or to stop what they are doing, the expression **to wind up** is not appropriate. It can come off as impolite or rude. For example, if you are in a rush to catch a bus and you are talking to your landlord, it would be rude to say, "Can you **wind up** the conversation?"

Here are a couple more examples with **to wind up**:

Liam:	Hi Amelia! Did you have a good time last night?
Amelia:	It was different.
Liam:	What do you mean?
Amelia:	I went for dinner with a couple friends, and then, we wound up going to Mount Douglas, where we went for a 2-hour hike in the dark. I didn't get to bed until past midnight!
Liam:	You're right. That is different.

Michael:	Kate, a few of us are going to head out for some drinks after work. Do you want to come?
Kate:	Sure! Let me wind up this client proposal, and I'll grab my coat and meet you at the front.
Michael:	Great! I'll tell the others.
Kate:	Perfect!

Quiz

1. If you say something is cutting edge, what are you saying?

- a) Something is very sharp.
- b) Something is new and innovative.
- c) Something is handmade.
- d) Something is shaped like a blade.

2. True or false: A bucket list consists of all the things you want to do before you die.

- a) true
- b) false

3. Which of the following can mean to arrive somewhere?

- a) to wind out
- b) to wind right
- c) to wind down
- d) to wind up

4. How do you feel if you have a love–hate relationship with something?

- a) You don't care about it.
- b) You love it sometimes and hate it sometimes.
- c) You only hate it.
- d) You only love it.

5. Which of the following would you find at an amusement park?

- a) rides
- b) live shows
- c) games
- d) all of the above

Quiz Answers

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

Episode credits

Hosts: Andrew Bates and Suzanne Cerreta
Episode preparation/research: Andrew Bates
Audio editor: Andrew Bates
Transcription: Transcript Heroes Transcription Services
Learning materials writer: Morag St. Clair
English editor: Stephanie Minelga
Webmaster: Hussain Mohammed
Business manager: Tsuyoshi Kaneshima
Project manager: Jessica Cox