

Chatterbox #173 – Adventure in Costa Rica

Episode description

Have you ever dreamed of going on a wild adventure? Join Andrew and Suzanne, and live vicariously through Suzanne as she shares stories about her tropical excursion to Costa Rica.

Fun fact

With its rainforests, waterfalls, national parks, and volcanos, Costa Rica is a country rich in diversity. Although it only accounts for about 0.03% of the world's surface, the country contains about 5% of the world's biodiversity, or variety of life.

This biodiversity can be traced to the country's various ecosystems and climate zones. From margays to glass frogs, Costa Rica is bursting with species.

Expressions included in the learning materials

- Cha-ching
- The inner circle
- To be in sync
- To be snippy
- To live through someone/something



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: Hey everybody. I'm Andrew.

Suzanne: Hey guys. I'm Suzanne.

Andrew: And we're back with another Culips episode.

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: Today, we're gonna do a Chatterbox episode. And this is where we have a natural conversation about a topic that we find very interesting, and we think you will find interesting too. And today, we have a good one. We are going to talk all about Suzanne's trip to Central America.

Suzanne: Woohoo!

Andrew: Because, Suzanne, you recently visited Costa Rica.

Suzanne: Yeah, I did. I wanted to sing, "In the jungle, the mighty jungle, the lion ..."
But yeah, I was in the jungles, the mountains, the rainforest, the waterfalls, the coast of Costa Rica.

Andrew: Right on. This is a country I've always wanted to visit 'cause it seems so beautiful, but I've never had the chance yet. So I'm gonna have **to live through your stories** here.

Suzanne: I will make them absolutely divine so that you go there soon, Andrew, because I think you would really love it there.

Andrew: OK. Well, today, we'll find out all about it, but let's start at the start.

Suzanne: Yes.

Andrew: It's always, you know, a nice place to begin. So why did you go to Costa Rica?

- Suzanne: I went to Costa Rica because two of my friends were getting married and decided they wanted to get married in a small wedding, and they wanted a destination wedding.
- Andrew: Hmm.
- Suzanne: So at first they wanted Mexico, but they chose, oh, this really beautiful place in Costa Rica on the Pacific coast.
- Andrew: So, on the west side of the country?
- Suzanne: Yes.
- Andrew: OK.
- Suzanne: And in fact, if you see a map of Costa Rica, on the Pacific coast, there's also a spot where you ... There's a little bit of a peninsula, so we were on that west side of the peninsula in order to have the wedding. So we actually had to take a ferry. So we rented two big 4 by 4s because you're driving on some roads that are not always paved, and up mountains and down mountains, so you need a sturdy car. And we put the car on a ferry, and then took the ferry to this peninsula. Then once we got off the boat, we drove another hour to this location for the wedding. The wedding was in the middle of the vacation.
- Andrew: Mmhmm.
- Suzanne: So the first part of the vacation was in the inland part of Costa Rica, in the mountains. So it was sometimes cool, and sometimes really, really rainy because it was the beginning of the rainy season.
- Andrew: So you said that you went for a destination wedding.
- Suzanne: Yes.
- Andrew: And so correct me if I'm wrong, but a destination wedding occurs when a couple wants to get married somewhere different, somewhere far away.
- Suzanne: Yeah.
- Andrew: Like you said, Mexico or Hawaii.
- Suzanne: Somewhere other than their home. Somewhere other than where they're from.
- Andrew: And it's usually in a tropical place, right? You don't hear of people going to ...

- Suzanne: Well, no I ...
- Andrew: Greenland for a destination wedding, or perhaps you could.
- Suzanne: I've had a few friends go to Scotland, and they're not ... Maybe their family is Scottish, but they don't live there. Or a friend got married in Italy, but she's not Italian or from Italy. So those would be considered destination weddings as well.
- Andrew: Yeah, because I think a lot of couples, they look at the cost of throwing a big wedding at home, and I think the average price of a wedding is something insane, like, somewhere between 30,000 and 50,000 dollars for, you know, a big wedding.
- Suzanne: Yes. With a 100 or so people, you know.
- Andrew: And so the couple decides, "Why should we spend \$50,000 for a wedding here? We can go somewhere really cool and have a smaller wedding with just our very close friends and very close family, and spend less, or maybe the same amount." I'm not sure, depends on how fancy you want to go.
- Suzanne: Exactly. Exactly.
- Andrew: But yeah, so this is popular these days—the destination wedding.
- Suzanne: Yes, and this destination wedding was also inspired by not having as much stress. You know, to plan a wedding can be really stressful in North America.
- Andrew: Mmhmm.
- Suzanne: I think we tend to, in North America, you know, I want all of the flowers, and this, and bows, and things, and tablecloth, and chairs, and everything costs money. It's definitely a big business here in North America.
- Andrew: Mmhmm.
- Suzanne: And everything you add it's, like, **cha-ching, cha-ching, cha-ching**—adding up.
- Andrew: It adds up.
- Suzanne: Yeah. So this was also a way to have less stress and just really enjoy the moment and the meaning of the wedding. And finally, they plan on having a big party for their family members and friends here in Montreal that weren't able to come to the destination wedding.

- Andrew: So they'll have a party for everybody when they get back, but the destination wedding is just for **the inner circle**.
- Suzanne: Yes, exactly. And we had 2 weeks together.
- Andrew: Oh wow!
- Suzanne: So it was four couples.
- Andrew: So you were there for 2 weeks?
- Suzanne: I was in Costa Rica for 2 weeks, which is rare. I never take a 2-week vacation. It was a really nice change of pace, and I needed that relaxation, for sure.
- Andrew: Yeah, that's great. So when I think of Costa Rica, I immediately think of tropical jungles, mountains. And, you know, I'm a fan of wildlife and animals.
- Suzanne: Yeah.
- Andrew: So I gotta ask you, did you see anything really interesting, and really strange or scary or beautiful wildlife?
- Suzanne: Yeah, I did. So it was absolutely gorgeous to drive through the mountains. Just like you said, it's lush and green, and when you're driving up the mountains, it looks like thousands of broccolis. That you could take your fork and eat them. It's just so lush. And ...
- Andrew: Very dense vegetation.
- Suzanne: Dense, yeah. So many waterfalls and really great hiking as well. We saw so many animals. I got to hold a toucan ...
- Andrew: Whoa!
- Suzanne: On my arm.
- Andrew: Whoa!
- Suzanne: I know! I have a picture that I'm gonna post for you guys.
- Andrew: Was this a trained toucan, or did it just happen to fly out of the jungle and land on your arm?
- Suzanne: This was a trained toucan. However, there were moments where I thought it was going to go rogue and do something a little **snippy**.

Andrew: Well. They've got quite the beak, don't they?

Suzanne: They do. It's really big.

Andrew: Yeah.

Suzanne: It's, like, about 10 inches long or something.

Andrew: Wow.

Suzanne: Yeah, but it's beautiful. We did see some wild toucans also.

Andrew: Wow.

Suzanne: I saw wild parrots ...

Andrew: Wow.

Suzanne: Flying in the sky, red ones. You know the red ones?

Andrew: Wow, the big ones, like the Macaw parrots?

Suzanne: Exactly.

Andrew: Holy

Suzanne: And they say that, in the sky, they're like, "caw, caw!" Like they're really loud, and they're flying in groups of two and four. And we saw wild monkeys. We saw three different species of monkeys, Howler monkey.

Andrew: Whoa.

Suzanne: Yeah, in the morning, they would wake us up. They really have this crazy yell. At first, I thought somebody was hurt, and then they told me it was the Howler monkey. I saw another kind of monkey, but I can't ... I'm not gonna remember the other two names right now. Ugh!

Andrew: Wow.

Suzanne: I saw a Black eagle.

Andrew: A black eagle.

Suzanne: It was so big.

Andrew: Hmm, very interesting.

Suzanne: Yeah.

Andrew: They are huge ...

Suzanne: Huge.

Andrew: Aren't they?

Suzanne: He was like half my body size, a bird.

Andrew: Yeah.

Suzanne: And he was so majestic and beautiful. I think it was a he. I'm saying he, but anyway. We saw so many lizards and iguanas, and I saw an anteater.

Andrew: No way.

Suzanne: Yeah. I saw two different kinds of sloths. So those ...

Andrew: No way.

Suzanne: Yeah. These are all wild animals. We took ...

Andrew: Yeah, you didn't go to a zoo.

Suzanne: We did go to a habitat, once in the beginning.

Andrew: OK.

Suzanne: But at the end of the trip, we did a really cool tour in a very wild place, the part of Costa Rica where they do a tour, but it's ... You're in the jungle. You have to bring water. You can only access it by a boat. It's very, you know, a wild environment.

Andrew: OK.

Suzanne: And it's called Osa. It's the Osa Peninsula.

Andrew: OK.

Suzanne: And it's called Corcovado, and that's where we saw the eagle, the monkeys, the sloths. We saw the anteater. We saw a tapir. Have you ever heard of a tapir?

Andrew: I think it's similar to a monkey, no?

Suzanne: No. It's actually, if you think ...

Andrew: Dang!

- Suzanne: It's like a little bit bigger than a baby elephant, so it's huge. It's really heavy and big.
- Andrew: Whoa!
- Suzanne: It has a smooth body like a pig.
- Andrew: Yeah.
- Suzanne: But it's black. And it has a long snout, kinda like an anteater, but big ears like a mouse. So it's like a humongous-looking mouse–anteater–elephant.
- Andrew: How do you spell that? T-a-p-i-r? Tapir?
- Suzanne: Yes. Tapir, or ...
- Andrew: Oh, I'm just looking at a picture of it right now.
- Suzanne: And we saw one sleeping. He was sleeping, like, just about a metre away from us.
- Andrew: That's a very interesting animal.
- Suzanne: It's very strange.
- Andrew: I've never heard of this before. Yeah, it looks like ...
- Suzanne: I can post some pictures of all these animals. Um ...
- Andrew: It's a little bit horrifying.
- Suzanne: Yeah, he was for sure not what I was expecting.
- Andrew: There are some funny pictures of these tapirs. They're a little bit cute and a little bit frightening. I'm not sure how I feel about it.
- Suzanne: Yeah. Yup, ours was sleeping, so it was more cute than frightening. But I definitely was not expecting a large mouse-looking kind of ...
- Andrew: Creature.
- Suzanne: Yes, creature. Um, and also I got to go horseback riding.
- Andrew: Ooh. On the beach?

- Suzanne: Yeah. No ... Oh, I saw ... We saw a wild horse on the beach. He was just a wild horse, and we fed him some grass, but that was not when I was horseback riding. That's a different day. When we did make it to the Pacific coast, we saw, on the beach, a wild horse just hanging out on the beach, and he was really funny.
- Andrew: Wow, that's great.
- Suzanne: He was kind of following us. We got a little scared, but he was beautiful. I have some pictures of him as well I can post. And I went horseback riding at a place called Smiling Horses, and my horse was named Asira, and she was tall and brown, and just so beautiful and so sweet and kind. And I was happy about that because, my last experience with horses, I was in France, and I almost got thrown off the horse, so it wasn't a good experience.
- Andrew: Yeah, that's no good.
- Suzanne: No.
- Andrew: That can be quite scary.
- Suzanne: It was really scary. I was screaming. I was like, "Get me off! Get me off!" It wasn't a good experience for either of us, me nor the horse.
- Andrew: Right.
- Suzanne: However, this time, the horse was so sweet and so gentle. And they taught me some basic commands, and we really got **in sync**. And I felt very comfortable. And she even galloped and ran a few times, and that was super fun. It was actually exhilarating. And the horse trail that we were on went up to a mountain, to the top of a mountain. You couldn't really walk there. Because of the rocks and the hiking, it would be too treacherous. So it was kind of neat to be on a cliff on a horse where you're seeing something you wouldn't be able to see on foot, and I kind of felt like I was in a movie, you know?
- Andrew: Mmm, yeah.
- Suzanne: Like on this beautiful cliff, on a horse, I felt like I should be in a film or something. It was very fun. Um, and, uh, it eased my tension with horses. That was great.
- Andrew: Right on.
- Suzanne: I have a fun picture of her too. And then we did zip-lining. Have you ever tried this?

Andrew: I was gonna ask you about this because my brother visited Costa Rica.

Suzanne: Hmm.

Andrew: And while he was there, he did a lot of extreme sports.

Suzanne: OK.

Andrew: He's an extreme sports kind of guy. So in my head, when I think of Costa Rica, one of the first things that pops up is extreme sports. So I was curious, did you do any? And I guess zip-lining, yeah ...

Suzanne: It's not really extreme, I mean ...

Andrew: It's semi-extreme.

Suzanne: Yeah.

Andrew: It falls into this category, I think.

Suzanne: One of the lines that we were travelling on was 1 kilometre with no stop.

Andrew: Whoa.

Suzanne: So that's pretty intense.

Andrew: Yeah.

Suzanne: And it was above a bunch of mountains.

Andrew: Whoa.

Suzanne: So it was pretty, and I mean it was a 360 view. That was pretty intense. And then also there was a part where you jumped off a cliff, and you held onto a rope. And I don't know why, but, for me, I don't get scared. Like, everyone else screamed when they jumped off holding the rope. They were like, "ah!" It was called the Tarzan jump.

Andrew: Mmhmm.

Suzanne: And you just hold onto the rope, and, you're like ... It's attached to your harness, but you have to jump. So it's a weird feeling to actually be jumping off into, you know, a free fall. And then you swing back and forth for a while, kind of like a bungee jump, you know. And for some reason, I wasn't scared. I am very OK with that kind of stuff. I don't know why. But everyone else was, "ah," screaming.

Andrew: Yeah.

Suzanne: But so what other extreme sports did your brother do?

Andrew: Well, yeah. I think he may have done bungee jumping.

Suzanne: OK.

Andrew: And what else did he do? I think some sort of windsurfing.

Suzanne: Oh yeah.

Andrew: Or something involving a parachute. He may even have done skydiving.

Suzanne: Yeah, they have skydiving there. Yeah.

Andrew: Yeah, I think that he did that as well. And so he's very different from me because I'm not an extreme sports enthusiast, you know. I like to keep it safe. But yeah, he enjoys doing these crazy things.

Suzanne: He would get along really well with my boyfriend. I'll do a few crazy things, but I'm pretty much OK with keeping my feet on the ground. Also, in this case, we were with a group, so it was my boyfriend and I, and then a group of six other people. So we had to really agree on the activities. Not everyone was into extreme sports. So we did kind of, like, a taste of everything. Like, the guys went to a coffee plantation, and they brought back raw chocolate, which was really good.

Andrew: Wow.

Suzanne: And raw sugar, that was really good.

Andrew: Wow.

Suzanne: Yeah. And I was really into the art, the artisans, and the little boutiques around that were filled with crafts and things made by local people.

Andrew: Yeah.

Suzanne: And I bought a really nice tapestry that's handmade, to put up on the wall, and also they call them *pura vida* bracelets.

Andrew: *Pura vida*. OK.

Suzanne: *Pura vida*. That's the slogan—*pura vida*—of Costa Rica. And, um, they make these really nice bracelets, like, kind of friendship bracelets when you were a kid.

Andrew: Mmhmm.

Suzanne: But they're really good at them. And, uh, yeah, they're fun, to collect them and give as gifts. So that was really fun, to kind of shop around for handmade objects and handmade crafts.

Andrew: That's awesome. Well, Suzanne, we're almost out of time ...

Suzanne: Yeah.

Andrew: For today, but I'm gonna ask you just a couple rapid-fire questions here ...

Suzanne: OK.

Andrew: Before I let you go.

Suzanne: I'm ready.

Andrew: Before you're off the hook. OK?

Suzanne: I'm ready, yeah.

Andrew: So quickly, best food in Costa Rica?

Suzanne: Ooh!

Andrew: Tough question probably.

Suzanne: Yeah. OK, the typical food there is *casados*.

Andrew: Mmhmm.

Suzanne: Which is really ... Which is good. It's just really, basically, like a fish or something like that, like, on the *plancha*, like, the *la plancha*.

Andrew: Yup.

Suzanne: And it's with rice and beans. It's just, like, a complete meal. That's really good. But my favourite thing from Costa Rica, it's not really a meal. It's the incredible fruit.

Andrew: Ooh, yeah.

Suzanne: They just have delicious, delicious fruit: papaya, coconut. You know, drinking coconut, out of the coconuts, the *pipa*, these, and really delicious fruits, and Lizano.

Andrew: Mmhmm.

Suzanne: Lizano is a sauce that they put on everything, and it's so good.

- Andrew: OK.
- Suzanne: It's like a pseudo-spicy saucy, a sort of spicy sauce. Yeah. Oh, that's good.
- Andrew: Rapid-fire question number two—did you see any volcanoes?
- Suzanne: Wah-wah. No, I didn't. The weather didn't, uh, did not allow us to see the volcano. There was too much fog, and we weren't able to climb the volcano where we were staying.
- Andrew: Rapid-fire question number three—is the Costa Rican coffee worth the hype?
- Suzanne: Yes, Andrew, it is. It is worth the hype.
- Andrew: As you're holding your cup of coffee right now.
- Suzanne: Yes, it is very good, and I'm drinking it right now. I bought a big bag of espresso beans, and let me tell you, it's some good coffee.
- Andrew: Awesome. And final rapid-fire question—would you go back?
- Suzanne: Yes, I would go back. I would go back again without a big group of people, maybe with just my boyfriend or one friend, and I would do more activities. I would definitely do surfing and maybe diving, and other activities I wasn't able to do this time. Yes, I recommend it.
- Andrew: Well, you've certainly got me thinking about visiting Costa Rica one day. It sounds like you had a really exciting and special time. And yeah, I hope one day I can visit that neck of the woods because I haven't been ... No, I haven't even been to Mexico. In North America, it's just been Canada and USA. So, definitely, it's on my bucket list to head down south.
- Suzanne: Yeah, I can definitely give you some good recommendations in Costa Rica.
- Andrew: Right on. Well, I want to thank everybody for listening today. We hope you enjoyed the episode. And we'd really appreciate it if you could do us a huge favour by visiting iTunes and leaving us a five-star review. It will help us get the word out about Culips. And also if you could tell your friends to check us out, that would be great.
- Suzanne: Yeah. Because when you review us, it helps other people find Culips, and other people may need Culips.
- Andrew: That's right. That's right. It makes it more accessible to everyone. It makes us more visible, and it really does help.
- Suzanne: Yeah.

Andrew: As well, our website is Culips.com. That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com. And if you like Culips, you like listening to these episodes, and you find that it's helping you study English, then you may want to consider becoming a Culips member because you will get access to our learning materials. These are special study materials that we design to go along with each episode, and it will just really help you maximize your studies. And I think it's a great way to study, so check that out on the website, Culips.com.

Suzanne: Thanks everybody.

Andrew: Yeah, we'll catch you next time. Bye-bye.

Suzanne: Peace.

Detailed Explanations

Cha-ching

Cha-ching is an onomatopoeia, a word that imitates the sound it describes, such as *splash* or *buzz*. A vintage, mechanical cash register makes a particular sound when the cash drawer is opened. **Cha-ching** imitates this sound. So **cha-ching** means a large amount of money. You use this expression to indicate that something is expensive, or that someone has made or will make a lot of money. For example, if you see an extremely costly dress while shopping, and your friend asks the price, you could answer, “**Cha-ching!**”

Cha-ching is a very casual and informal expression. It is only suitable to use this expression with a friend or family member, not in polite conversation. If your boss hands you a Christmas bonus cheque, it would be inappropriate to say, “**Cha-ching!**”

In this episode, Suzanne uses **cha-ching** when talking about the cost of a wedding. She uses **cha-ching** to express that weddings are very pricey because you have to pay for a lot of different things, like the venue, attire, flowers, and food.

Here are a couple more examples with **cha-ching**:

Martha:	How's the new job going?
Megan:	I'm so happy. The pay is amazing. I make enough to pay my rent in 3 days!
Martha:	Wow, Cha-ching!

Nancy:	Did you hear about Mary?
Kevin:	What about her?
Nancy:	Do you remember how we all used to tease her because she loved doing homework and going to school?
Kevin:	I remember. I still feel bad about it. We were all so mean in high school.
Nancy:	Well, don't feel too bad. Apparently, she's now working in a lab manufacturing artificial organs and making \$175,000 a year!
Kevin:	Cha-ching! I can't even imagine making that much money. Good for her!

The inner circle

If you are part of **the inner circle** of an organization, you are part of the elite, small group of people who hold the most power within that organization. We usually talk about **inner circles** in terms of business or government. For example, **the inner circle** of a company would include those who own, operate, and make the important decisions related to the company.

You can also use **inner circle** to refer to a small, close-knit group of people. For instance, in this episode, Suzanne talks about how only **the couple's inner circle** was invited to the destination wedding. In this case, **the inner circle** refers to those people who are closest to the couple, such as best friends and family members.

So, whether we're talking about an organization or an individual, **the inner circle** always refers to the select group of people who have the most influence over that organization or individual.

Here are a couple more examples with **the inner circle**:

Terry:	Working here is so frustrating. I never know what's going on. The bosses are always contradicting each other.
Claude:	I know exactly what you mean. We just have too many managers, and they each have a slightly different idea of how everything should be done.
Terry:	You seem really calm about it. I wish that I could be too.
Claude:	It gets a lot easier if you make friends with the inner circle . If you do, the other managers will leave you alone.
Terry:	Smart!

Melissa:	What do you want to do for your birthday? Would you prefer to spend the day with just your family or have a big house party?
Will:	Could we have my inner circle of friends over for dinner, and then meet up with everyone else at a bar later in the evening?
Melissa:	It's your birthday, so we can do whatever you want!

To be in sync

To be in sync has two related meanings, one literal and one metaphorical. When used in a literal sense, **to be in sync** means to occur at the same time, whereas when used in a metaphorical sense, **to be in sync** means to be in agreement.

Sync is a shortened form of the term *synchrony*, which means at the same time. So when people or things **are literally in sync**, they are happening or moving together. Imagine a group of backup singers. When they are performing a song, the singers **are in sync** with one another. In other words, they sing the notes of the song at the same time as each other.

When people or things **are metaphorically in sync**, they are in agreement or in harmony. We often talk about people **being in sync** if they work well together because people who work well together share the same ideas and opinions, and are unlikely to disagree. If people share many of the same opinions and get along very well, they **are in sync**. For example, you **are probably in sync** with some of your friends!

Here are a couple more examples with **to be in sync**:

Rhonda:	Hey Santos. How was your evening last night?
Santos:	It was pretty fun! My sister was in town and talked me into going to see a ballet with her. I've never been interested in ballet, but I was impressed with the dancers. They were performing complex dances while moving perfectly in sync .
Rhonda:	Oh cool! I've never been to a ballet before.
Santos:	I highly suggest that you see this one.

Danica:	What do you think of our new boss, Brett?
Brett:	Everyone seems to like him a lot, but I'm not sure.
Danica:	I'm glad you said that. I was feeling pretty alone. He seems to be in sync with the rest of the team, but I don't like working with him at all.
Brett:	Well, at least we are in sync !

To be snippy

Snippy means sharp-tongued, abrupt, or rude. If someone is behaving in a rude or discourteous way by being curt or sarcastic, then they **are being snippy**. Often when someone **is being snippy**, they use few words and are blunt.

The adjective **snippy** originates from the term *snip*, another onomatopoeia, which means to cut using small, quick strokes. So **to be snippy** means to speak sharply and in a short, abrupt way.

Be careful: although **snippy** comes from the term *snip*, they do not mean the same thing. *Snip* means to physically cut, using scissors or shears, whereas **snippy** is used to describe a behavior that is impolite.

Here are a couple more examples with **to be snippy**:

Kris:	Ugh, I can't talk to Mom today.
Silvia:	How come?
Kris:	I called her to apologize about not being able to make it to Thanksgiving dinner this year. She was so mad that she wouldn't even listen to my apology. She was so snippy ! She just kept saying, "Whatever." That's all she would say to me.
Silvia:	That sounds like Mom. You should give her a couple days to calm down. I'm sure she'll be more reasonable soon.

Jordan:	You never call anymore!
John:	That's ridiculous. I called you last month for your birthday.
Jordan:	That doesn't count.
John:	Fine! From now on, I won't call at all!
Jordan:	Don't be snippy ! I was just trying to express how I would like to talk to you more, not just on special occasions like birthdays and Christmas.
John:	Sorry. I'm not a phone person, so if I call at all, regardless of whether it is for a special occasion, I am making an effort.
Jordan:	No worries! Let's just forget I said anything.

To live through someone/something

Depending on the context, **to live through someone** or **to live through something** can mean to experience what someone else has experienced by watching, hearing, or reading about it, or it can mean to survive an unpleasant event or situation.

To live through someone or **to live through something** can mean to experience the achievements, feelings, or adventures of another person as though they were your own. In this episode, Andrew says that he will **live through Sue's story of her trip to Costa Rica**. In other words, Andrew is saying that he will experience Costa Rica by listening to Sue's story. He will imagine himself in Costa Rica while Sue talks about her experience, and he **will live through her story**.

We often use **to live through something** when talking about an unpleasant event, like a natural disaster, catastrophe, or accident. For instance, if someone were in Thailand when the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami hit, they could say, "I **lived through the tsunami**." **To live through something** is also used to talk about difficult personal events, like a divorce or a health problem. Just substitute the word *something* for the unfortunate event that you experienced.

Here are a couple more examples with **to live through someone/something**:

Amanda: I haven't seen you in a long time. How have you been?

Donnie: To be honest, I haven't been doing well.

Amanda: How come?

Donnie: I **lived through a bad car accident** several months ago. I've been in physiotherapy ever since then. And if that wasn't bad enough, my girlfriend left me last month.

Amanda: What terrible luck. I'm so sorry. Things can only look up from here.

Nevena: For some reason, I've always wanted to be a painter.

Lawrence: Being a painter could be fun, but it's not a very stable job. Why don't you just **live through Neil**? He's been making a living off painting for years.

Nevena: Great idea! I'll make him tell me all about his work the next time I see him.

Quiz

1. What does *to be snippy* mean?

- a) to be talkative
- b) to be silent
- c) to be abrupt
- d) to be cut by shears

2. Which of the following is the best example of an inner circle?

- a) a small, close-knit group
- b) a large, diverse group
- c) a small, diverse group
- d) a large, close-knit group

3. If you hear someone say “cha-ching,” you know they are taking about _____.

- a) money
- b) dancing
- c) cash registers
- d) vacations

4. If you are metaphorically in sync with someone, you share the same _____.

- a) car
- b) boss
- c) power
- d) opinions

5. True or false: If you go on vacation with someone, you are living through them.

- a) true
- b) false

Quiz Answers

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

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
Business manager: Tsuyoshi Kaneshima
Project manager: Jessica Cox