



Read the science fiction, *Time Zone* by Kevin J. Anderson and answer the questions that follow. ▶ LS 3.2.1

STREAM

I had just got home from work, ready to start dinner for myself, when the phone rang. It wasn't even 5:30 yet.

"Ronnie! Are you all right? We're so worried!" It was my parents, back in Wisconsin.

"Of course, I'm all right. I just walked in the door from work. Did you forget about the time change again? I'm not usually home this early."

"You're two hours earlier, remember?"

"No, the earthquake!" my mom said. "It's been on the news non-stop."

My dad broke in, talking on the extension. "A major quake. San Francisco is levelled. We couldn't get through. The phone lines have been jammed for more than an hour, but we tried and tried."

I looked around my intact townhouse. "Everything's normal. No earthquake."

Beau snorted and wagged his tail so forcefully that his entire body wobbled. I bent over to pat him on the head, hard.

"We're watching the report on Fox right now," my dad said. "Total destruction. We thought you were hurt. We couldn't get through."

I thought about fake news. My parents have often been duped. "No quake, honest. Not even a little."

My mom was crying. My dad was tense. "I'm reading the news right now! Magnitude 6.0 earthquake hit the East Bay at 5:35 P.M."

I looked at the clock on the wall. "It's not even 5:35 yet. You're forgetting the time change again. You're two hours ahead."

At my feet, Beau whined and barked, much more agitated than his usual excitement about my lukewarm affections. Then he began to howl.

"I'm so glad." Mom's voice showed her disbelief. "I don't know how to explain it."

I tried to calm the dog, but Beau was going crazy.

"Nothing to worry about, Mom." I assured her.

The clock hit 5:35.

The ground started to shake beneath my feet.

(Adapted from : <http://dailysciencefiction.com/science-fiction/science-fiction/kevin-j-anderson/time-zone>)

#### Learning Objectives:

##### Pupils will

- understand specific details and information in simple longer texts
- use with some support familiar print and digital resources to check meaning

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☐

- read and enjoy fiction / non-fiction and other suitable print and digital texts of interest

☐

**A Match the words with their meanings.** ▶ LS 3.1.4

1. extension

2. intact

3. lukewarm

4. agitated

5. assured

(a) anxious and nervous

(b) told somebody something is definitely true

(c) complete and not damaged

(d) extra telephone line

(e) not interested

**B Tick (✓) the correct statements.** ▶ LS 3.1.2

1. Ronnie has just got home from work when the parents called up. ☐
2. The parents called because they missed the son. ☐
3. The parents had read that a major earthquake had hit San Francisco. ☐
4. Ronnie works and lives in San Francisco. ☐
5. Ronnie is worried that there would be an earthquake. ☐
6. Ronnie and his parents live in the same time zones. ☐
7. Ronnie's parents heard news that an earthquake had hit the East Bay at 5.35 p.m. ☐
8. Ronnie looked at the clock on the wall and it was not 5.35 yet. ☐
9. Ronnie's parents could not understand why there was a report of an earthquake when Ronnie claims there isn't. ☐
10. At exactly 5.35, the ground started to shake beneath Ronnie's feet. ☐

**C Choose no more than three words and/or a number from the text for each answer.** ▶ LS 3.1.2

|                                                                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Time difference                                                                      | 1. |
| Place where parents stay                                                             | 2. |
| Place where the son works                                                            | 3. |
| The news report about San Francisco                                                  | 4. |
| What Ronnie thought about the news his parents heard until the ground began to shake | 5. |

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