

Kids: Lingokids.

[laughter]

Speaker 1: The Lingokids friends usually spend summer together, but this year, Lisa, Cowy, and Billy are in one place, and Elliot is far away, in another part of the world.

Lisa: Summer isn't as fun with Elliot gone.

Billy: [chirps]

Cowy: I wonder what Elliot is doing.

Speaker 1: Maybe we can help our Lingokids friends connect, even though they're in different countries. Welcome to Stories for Kids, by Lingokids, where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us and the fun of play learning. Lingokids listeners, do you want to travel in time?

Cowy: Yes.

Lisa: Yes.

Speaker 1: Lingokids listeners, we'll be using technology to help our Lingokids friends get in touch with Elliot. It's important to ask for an adult's help when using a mobile phone. We'll be using a ball to explain some science. As you listen, you can hold a ball and follow along. Lisa, Cowy, and Billy are having a blast this summer, in sunny southern California. It's on the west coast of the United States. The beach is the perfect place to beat the summer heat.

Cowy: Let's splash around to cool down.

Lisa: The ocean is so big.

Speaker 1: This is the Pacific Ocean. Guess who's on the other side of this ocean? Elliot.

Billy: [chirps]

Speaker 1: Right, Billy. Elliot's on the east coast of Australia, in a place called New South Wales.

Billy: [chirps]

Lisa: Great idea, Billy. Let's video call Elliot.

Speaker 1: Elliot isn't awake yet, Lisa. It's ten o'clock in the morning here, but it's three o'clock tomorrow morning for Elliot.

Lisa: Huh? Tomorrow?

Billy: [chirps]

Cowy: Three o'clock? Crazy.

Speaker 1: I know. I'll try to explain. Grab that beach ball, Lisa.

Lisa: Okay.

Speaker 1: Put one hand on top and one on the bottom.

Lisa: Like this?

Speaker 1: Perfect. Your hands are at the north and south poles.

Lisa: Oh, the ball is Earth.

Speaker 1: Yes. Tilt the ball just a little. Now, Cowy, slowly turn the ball, so it spins. It takes 24 hours for Earth to do one spin. See how when one side of the ball is facing the sun, the other side is not?

Lisa: Oh, the sunny side is day and the dark side is night.

Speaker 1: Right. Imagine 24 stripes, or zones, around the ball, going from the north to the south pole. If you travel within the same stripe or zone, time stays the same. Guess what happens when you leave your time zone? Time changes.

Cowy and Lisa: Whoa.

Speaker 1: That's why it's a different time where Elliot is, in Australia.

Billy: [chirps]

Speaker 1: Sure, Billy, we could go online to find what time it is for Elliot, or we can count it ourselves. It's 10:00 AM here in California. As we move east around the globe, how many time zones do we cross?

Billy: [chirps]

Speaker 1: New South Wales is 17 hours ahead of us.

Cowy: When can we call Elliot?

Speaker 1: Let's call at 5:00 PM tonight, before dinner. That's 10:00 in the morning for Elliot.

[phone rings]

Elliot: Hello?

Lisa: Surprise, Elliot.

Elliot: Wow, hey guys.

Cowy: We miss you.

Elliot: I miss you too. You're in bathing suits.

Lisa: We're in California, on the beach. It's hot and fun.

Cowdy: It would be more fun with you, Elliot.

Billy: [chirps]

Elliot: I'm wearing a puffer jacket, Billy, because I'm going skiing.

Lisa: Skiing in the summer?

Elliot: It's winter here.

Lisa: What? How could it be summer here and winter there?

Speaker 1: [chuckles] Toss me our beach ball again, Lisa. Imagine a line around the middle of the ball. The top half is called the Northern Hemisphere. The bottom half is the Southern Hemisphere. Which half are we in?

Lisa: I think the North.

Speaker 1: Yes.

Elliot: Then I'm in the South.

Speaker 1: That's why Australia is sometimes called The Land Down Under. While we are in summer--

Elliot: I'm in winter.

Cowdy: We're hot and he's not.

Elliot: Hey, I can't wait to play with you guys. Maybe I'll bring back some snowballs. [chuckles]

Lisa: That's silly.

Speaker 1: Well, although we're hours apart, I'm thankful technology can bring us together.

Elliott: Me too.

Lisa: Me three. Bye, Elliott.

Billy: [chirps]

Elliott: See you soon.

Speaker 1: In no time, Elliott will be with us. Same time, same place, same season.

Cowdy and Lisa: Yes.

[laughter]

Speaker 1: Lingokids listeners, we had a great time today, connecting with our friend Elliott. We learned that time zones help us keep track of time while the Earth spins. We also learned that, as the Earth circles the sun, where you are on the planet determines the season. Lingokids listeners, can you draw a picture of what your weather is like right now? You can ask a grown-up to help take some pictures and send them to us, so we can share on our social media.

If you are ready for interactive play learning time, explore our Lingokids app. It offers fun and educational songs and games to help kids ages two and older learn and develop important skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. That's the power of play learning. See you in our next episode.

[00:06:47] [END OF AUDIO]