Exact answers nobody asks for

Three helpers answer how long, when and in which tradition, and the room picks the next sitting without asking.

TARA · CONTINUE · CHAPTER 2 OF 5

Three things this chapter teaches, carried by one evening.

RUNNING EXAMPLE

Twelve minutes at 21:00, just after an awe event, with quiet hours on and a request to mix Theravada and Yogic material under a lineage-bound persona: three buckets, two tags and a refusal — while the room offers its next unfinished sitting under a fixed “12 min”.

LISTENING TIME

About 37 min · 28 slides

YOU WILL LEARN

1. **Minutes become candidates**
   Buckets admitted by their minimum, not a session that fits.
2. **The hour becomes a tag**
   Stored bands and signals, filtered by flags the caller sets.
3. **Lineage becomes permission**
   The persona mode decides; the record’s own flag never refuses.

By the end you can say what each helper returns, what it leaves to its caller, and that no caller was found.

Minutes into buckets

Five bands of minutes, the edges between them, and what twelve minutes admits.

Section 1 of 4

1 **Minutes into buckets**
Five bands, inclusive edges, a minimum that admits.

2 **The hour and the signal**
Ten tags from a supplied hour, six signals, two flags.

3 **Lineage and permission**
Eight records, and one persona mode that decides.

4 **Three answers, no caller**
The worked case, and what the room does instead.

> A bucket names a band of minutes; it does not choose a session length.

Twelve minutes, nine o’clock, after awe

One evening goes to three helpers, and comes back as three separate answers.

Illustrative case · executed library behaviour

“Twelve minutes, at night, after something beautiful”

Declared inputs run through the pinned helpers; no member data.

Three buckets for twelve minutes

Micro, Short and Standard, admitted by their minimums.

Night and Awe-Inspired

From the hour and the signal; both survive quiet hours.

The mixed request is refused

Theravada with Yogic needs a comparative persona.

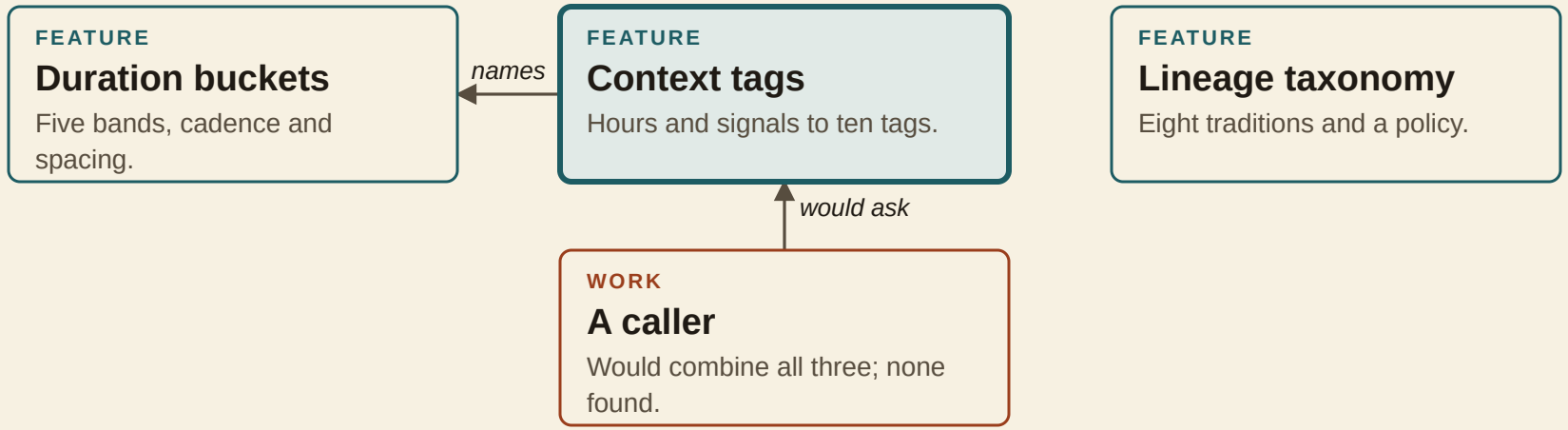
Three helpers, three answers, no single score.

> Treat each answer as an input to a decision, not as the decision.

Three models, three questions

Shared identifiers link the records without joining the helpers that read them.

Source relationship specimen · pinned feature modules



Knowledge Intent

Three feature models; the arrows are identifier references, not calls.

> Keep candidate time, situational framing and tradition policy separate.

Five bands of minutes

Each band carries a range, a cadence, a default length and a minimum gap.

Bucket	Minutes	Cadence	Default	Minimum gap
Micro	0–2	interrupt	2 min	0.5 h
Short	3–10	daily	7 min	8 h
Standard	11–25	daily	15 min	12 h
Long	26–60	weekly	45 min	72 h
Retreat	61 and over	retreat	90 min	168 h

> Read all five fields before treating a band as a recommendation.

Whole minutes land; fractions between bands throw

The lookup includes both ends of each band, and a half minute between two bands throws.

MICRO · SHORT

2 → Micro · 3 → Short

Both ends of each band are included.

BETWEEN

2.5 throws

SHORT · STANDARD

10 → Short · 11 → Standard

Twelve minutes lands inside Standard.

BETWEEN

10.5 throws

STANDARD · LONG

25 → Standard · 26 → Long

The same rule, a band further on.

BETWEEN

25.5 throws

LONG · RETREAT

60 → Long · 61 → Retreat

Retreat has no upper limit.

BETWEEN

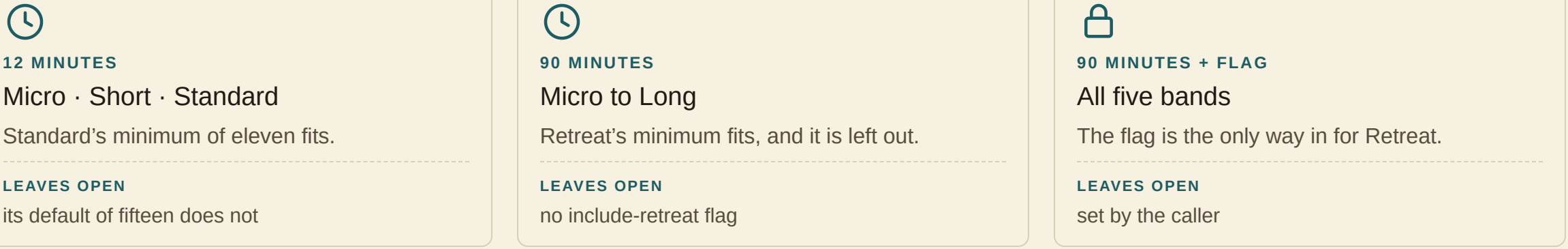
60.5 throws

Executed lookups on both sides of every boundary, and halfway across it.

> Round to whole minutes before looking a band up.

Twelve minutes admits Standard

Availability compares each band’s minimum, so a band whose default is longer still appears.



The availability helper returns bands; it starts nothing.

> A candidate band is not a promise that its default session fits.

Four checks keep the bands in shape

Coverage, fields, cadence and continuity are checked separately.

COVERAGE

Five identifiers, once each

No duplicates, none of the five missing.

REPORTS

duplicate · missing

FIELDS

Whole minutes, fitting default

Ranges are whole numbers; the default sits inside.

REPORTS

invalid · inconsistent

CADENCE

Fixed by identifier

Micro interrupt; Short, Standard daily; Long weekly.

REPORTS

inconsistent

CONTINUITY

From zero, without gaps

Each band starts one minute after the last.

REPORTS

inconsistent

What the duration validator checks, and what a broken catalog reports.

> A catalog that passes is well formed; it has not recommended anything.

The hour and the signal

A context tag, the ten in the catalog, the day’s four bands, and the quiet-hours filter.

Section 2 of 4

1 Minutes into buckets
Five bands, inclusive edges, a minimum that admits.

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> The helper matches what it is told; it senses nothing.

A tag is metadata, not a sensor

Window, trigger, hour bands, default buckets and theme bias travel in one record.

Pinned catalog record · no member data

awe-inspired · context tag

tag and name	`awe-inspired · Awe-Inspired`	One of ten records.
window, quiet flag, trigger	`event-recovery · kept · environmental`	Not suppressed by quiet hours.
what selects it	`awe-event · preferred 05–23`	The signal selects; the band is only stored.
what it leans towards	`Micro · Short · Standard · awe`	Default buckets and a theme bias.

One context record, read field by field; no live clock, calendar or sensor.

> Keep the signal that selected a tag apart from the defaults the tag carries.

Ten tags, four by the clock

Every context tag, what selects it, whether quiet hours drop it, and what it leans towards.

Tag	Selected by	Quiet hours	Default buckets	Theme bias
Morning	05:00–10:59	dropped	Short · Standard	presence · breath · gratitude · focus
Midday	11:00–15:59	dropped	Micro · Short	focus · presence · breath
Evening	16:00–20:59	dropped	Short · Standard	release · gratitude · equanimity
Night	21:00–04:59	kept	Micro · Short	sleep · release · surrender
Pre-Meeting	calendar-event-starts-soon	dropped	Micro · Short	focus · breath · courage
Post-Stress	stress-response-ended	dropped	Micro · Short	grounding · release · breath
Transition	activity-boundary	dropped	Micro · Short	presence · grounding · focus
Sleep Onset	settling-for-sleep	kept	Short · Standard	sleep · body-scan · surrender
After Conflict	conflict-ended	dropped	Short · Standard	lovingkindness · equanimity · release
Awe-Inspired	awe-event	kept	Micro · Short · Standard	awe · gratitude · perspective

> Quiet-hours sensitivity is declared tag by tag, not inferred from how a tag is chosen.

A day in four bands

Each band includes its first hour and excludes its last, and Night wraps past midnight.

Local hours as the caller supplies them; the helper has no time zone

00:00	05:00	11:00	16:00	21:00
Night, continued	Morning	Midday	Evening	Night begins
The wrapping band runs until 05:00.	05:00 up to 11:00.	11:00 up to 16:00.	16:00 up to 21:00.	The running example’s hour.
Executed	**Executed**	**Executed**	**Executed**	**Executed**
00 and 04 → Night	05 and 10 → Morning	11 and 15 → Midday	16 and 20 → Evening	21 and 23 → Night

The time-of-day bands in local hours, with executed results at each edge.

> The caller supplies a whole local hour; the helper only matches stored bands.

Signals in any order, tags in one

The helper collects the selected tags, then reads them back in catalog order.

	What the caller sends Four signals, one of them twice.	What comes back Three tags from the catalog.
Order	awe · stress ended · meeting soon · awe	Pre-Meeting · Post-Stress · Awe-Inspired
Repeated awe	sent twice	one Awe-Inspired
Order decided by	the caller	catalog position
What the order means	nothing the helper reads	nothing about urgency

> The returned order is the catalog’s, whatever order the signals arrived in.

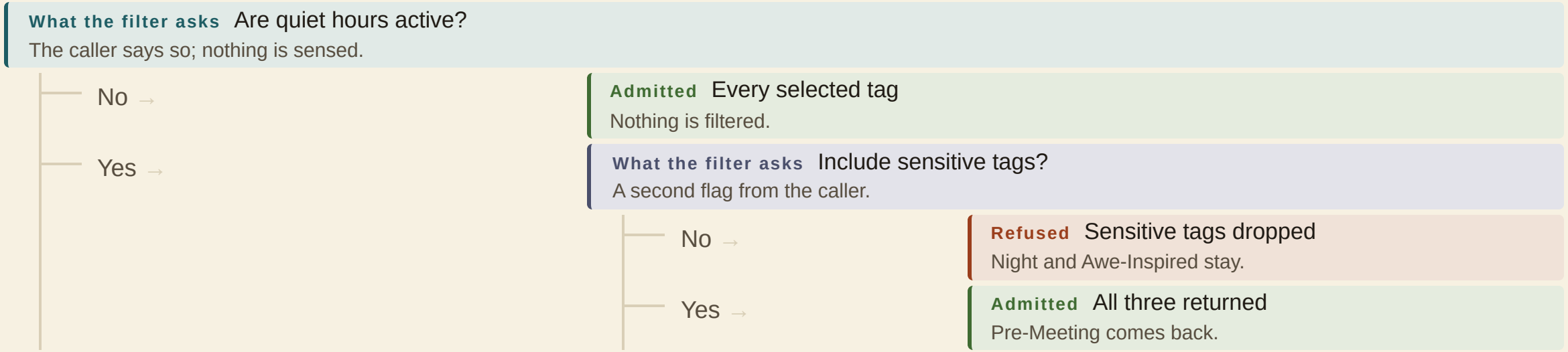
The same call, read from both ends.

> Do not read the returned order as a priority.

Quiet hours drop what is marked sensitive

The filter runs after the hour and the signals have chosen, and a caller can switch it off.

At 21:00, the hour and the signals have selected their tags.



The quiet-hours filter in recommendContextTags, applied after selection.

> Quiet hours and the override are both inputs; the helper decides neither.

The tag catalog checks itself, not the world

Identity, pinned policy, list values and trigger mappings are checked separately.

IDENTITY

Ten tags, named

All ten, once each, with a display name.

REPORTS

duplicate · missing

PINNED POLICY

Window and quiet flag fixed

Each must equal the value set for its tag.

REPORTS

inconsistent

LISTS

Known, unrepeated values

Buckets and themes known, at least one; no repeats.

REPORTS

duplicate · invalid

MAPPINGS AND BANDS

The right signal, a real band

Whole hours, not empty; overlap is not checked.

REPORTS

missing · invalid

What the context validator checks, and what it does not.

> A valid catalog is still configuration until a caller supplies trusted inputs.

Lineage and permission

Eight lineage records, one of them read closely, and the resolver that says yes or no.

Section 3 of 4

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> For known lineages, the persona mode decides; the record’s own flag never refuses.

Eight traditions, named

Each record pairs a tradition with named teachers, named texts and a syncretism flag.

Lineage	Named teachers	Named references	Syncretism flag
Secular Breath Awareness	Mara Adele	MN 118 · MN 10	no cross-lineage
Theravada Anapanasati	Gautama Buddha · Buddhaghosa	MN 118 · MN 10	no cross-lineage
Mahayana Bodhicitta	Shantideva · Avalokiteshvara Tradition	Bodhicaryavatara ch. 3 · Heart Sutra	no cross-lineage
Vajrayana Tara Devotion	Padmasambhava · Yeshe Tsogyal	Twenty-One Taras · Green Tara Sadhana	no cross-lineage
Yogic Pranayama	Patanjali · T. Krishnamacharya	YS 2.49–2.53 · Hatha Yoga Pradipika ch. 2	no cross-lineage
Bhakti Devotional Prayer	Mirabai · Narada Bhakti Tradition	Bhagavad Gita ch. 12 · Narada Bhakti Sutra 1–6	no cross-lineage
Advaita Self-Inquiry	Adi Shankara · Ramana Maharshi	Vivekachudamani · Upadesa Saram 19–20	no cross-lineage
Comparative Contemplative Study	Tara Editorial Board · Sophia Source Review Desk	Editorial Policy 1.0 · Editorial Guide 1.0	cross-lineage, comparative only

> A record is attribution metadata, not proof of authorization or initiation.

One record: people, texts, a disclosure

Teachers and texts stay distinguishable from the policy that travels with them.

Pinned catalog record · no member data

theravada-anapanasati · lineage record

identifier and family	`theravada-anapanasati · theravada`	One of eight records.
named teachers	`Gautama Buddha · Buddhaghosa`	Root teacher and commentator.
named texts	`MN 118 · MN 10`	Anapanasati and Satipatthana suttas.
syncretism and disclosure	`no cross-lineage · no comparative`	“Do not merge with non-Theravada prescriptions.”

One lineage record, read field by field.

> Keep attribution, disclosure and permission as separate evidence.

Mixing traditions needs a comparative persona

The resolver asks whether the request mixes lineages, then whether the persona is comparative.

A persona is asked for material from one or more lineages.

What the resolver asks Does the request mix lineages?
More than one, or not the primary.

- No → **Admitted** One lineage: allowed
  Unless a declared frame differs, or the lane is comparative.
- Yes → **What the resolver asks** Is the persona comparative?
  The gate for a mixed request.
  - No → **Refused** Refused: comparative required
    Theravada with Yogic, lineage-bound.
  - Yes → **Admitted** Allowed, comparative disclosure
    Even from the Theravada primary.

The permission rule in resolveLineagePersonaPolicy for a requested set.

> The running example is refused because its persona is lineage-bound, not because of its record.

A declared frame can refuse on its own

Without a comparative persona, a declared lineage adds a reason even when nothing is mixed.

	A mixed request Theravada primary; Theravada and Yogic; lineage-bound.	A declared other frame Bhakti primary; Advaita declared; general persona.
Cross-lineage	yes	no
allowed	false	false
requiredPersonaMode	comparative	lineage-bound
Reason	mixed material needs a comparative persona	declared Advaita; off-lineage needs comparative framing
Disclosure	comparative framing only	Bhakti prayer framing

> Both are refused; only the reasons say why, and the declared case’s required mode still reads lineage-bound.

Two ways to be refused, with different required modes.

> Read allowed and the reasons; the required mode alone can mislead.

An unknown lineage is refused, not ignored

A comparative persona still needs every compared lineage to exist in the catalog.

Executed answer · declared input · no member data

theravada + unknown-lineage · comparative persona

allowed	`false`	Refused, although the persona is comparative.
requiredPersonaMode	`comparative`	A mixed request always needs one.
disclosureLabel	`Comparative framing only`	No off-lineage prescriptions.
reasons	`all compared lineages must exist`	The only reason returned.

The resolver’s answer when a compared lineage is not in the catalog.

> Parse untrusted input at the boundary; this check covers one branch only.

What the lineage check covers, and does not

Coverage, attribution and the syncretism gate are checked; the disclosure and dates are not.

COVERAGE

Eight lineages, eight families

Each identifier once; every family present.

REPORTS

duplicate · missing

ATTRIBUTION

A teacher and a text each

No repeated identifier inside a record.

REPORTS

missing · duplicate

SYNCRETISM

Cross-lineage needs a gate

Comparative lane must allow it, with a persona.

REPORTS

inconsistent

NOT CHECKED HERE

Disclosure, locale, date

Checked by the contract schema instead.

REPORTS

nothing reported

What validateLineageTaxonomyCatalog checks, and what it leaves to the contract schema.

> A valid catalog is necessary evidence; cultural and rights review stay separate.

Three answers, no caller

The running example’s three answers side by side, the implementation that produced them, and the room.

Section 4 of 4

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> Three exact answers still need someone to ask for them.

Three answers that nothing joins

Twelve minutes, the night and a mixed request come back as three results, not one choice.

Illustrative case · executed library behaviour

Twelve minutes, 21:00, awe, Theravada with Yogic

The running example’s three executed answers, side by side.

Micro · Short · Standard

Standard’s fifteen-minute default does not fit twelve.

Night · Awe-Inspired

Both kept; Night’s buckets leave out Standard.

Refused, comparative required

A mixed request under a lineage-bound persona.

Three answers that no helper combines.

> Carry each answer, and what it leaves open, to whoever owns the choice.

Three places the catalogs live

The handbook, the contracts and the feature modules are separate implementations.

HANDBOOK

Schema-backed data, described

The documentation model.

HERE

read, not run

CONTRACTS

Zod schemas and arrays

Checks disclosure, locale and review date.

HERE

cross-referenced

FEATURE MODULES

Constants, lookups, validators

Procedural checks of their own.

HERE

executed in this chapter

Three implementations of one set of catalogs.

> Bind each claim to the implementation that produced it.

The room offers the next sitting

Today’s sit is the first one not yet finished, under a label that always says twelve minutes.

Implemented UI · component identical at 1ceae52 · the product’s own room data



Pinned Tara room · two sittings finished · no service answered.

1 Twelve minutes, printed

A fixed string; nothing asked how long the member has.

2 Five minutes, by path order

The first unfinished sitting; no bucket, hour or signal chose it.

3 A teacher, no tradition

A name and the path; no lineage disclosure.

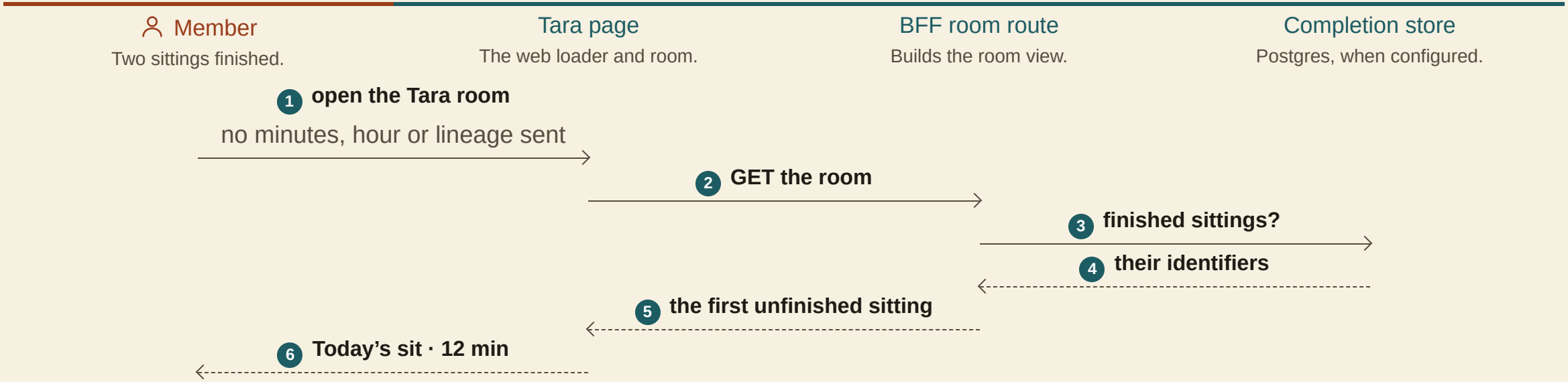
Three parts of today’s sit, numbered in reading order.

> The room consults no duration, hour, signal or lineage to choose the sit.

Opening the room, as the code runs

The request for today’s sit carries the member and nothing about their evening.

A member opens the Tara room at 21:00 with twelve minutes.



The Tara room’s data path, traced from the web loader and the BFF route.

> Prove a consumer before claiming recommendation behaviour.

What to carry out of this chapter

Three habits for reading any helper that answers a question nobody has asked yet.

REMEMBER

1. **A candidate is not a fit**
   Standard admits twelve minutes and defaults to fifteen.
2. **The caller owns the clock**
   Hour, signals and quiet hours all arrive as inputs.
3. **The room asks none of them**
   Today’s sit is the next unfinished one, under a fixed 12 min.

NEXT · CHAPTER 3 OF 5

Tara scheduling and reminders

Next: scheduling and reminders — an evening return moved to the morning by quiet hours. →

> Every answer in this chapter is exact, and none of them reaches the room.