

FUMC ESL 4-30-2018 ADVANCED LESSON

TOEFL Vocabulary Exercise

Read the article. Define the underlined vocabulary. Tell in your own words what it means.

An estimated 26 million animals are used every year in the United States for scientific and commercial testing. Animals are used to develop medical treatments, determine the toxicity of medications, check the safety of products destined for human use, and other biomedical, commercial, and health care uses.

Proponents of animal testing say that it has enabled the development of many life-saving treatments for both humans and animals, that there is no alternative method for researching a complete living organism, and that strict regulations prevent the mistreatment of animals in laboratories.

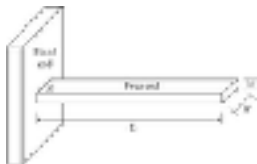
Opponents of animal testing say that it is cruel and inhumane to experiment on animals, that alternative methods available to researchers can replace animal testing, and that animals are so different from human beings that research on animals often yields irrelevant results.

Discuss: Are you a proponent or opponent of animal testing? Defend your opinion.

Nancy: The engineer had a legitimate reason for altering the architect's design. The engineer felt the strength of the steel was not sufficient to support the many cantilevered platforms in the architect's design.

Jo: Yes, I understand. But I'm concerned the engineer is being a little too particular. The architect maintains he has designed many buildings with these cantilevered platforms and there has never been a problem. I feel this is a spurious argument on the part of the engineer. The platforms span only a few feet. Certainly, the massive steel beams can support such a small platform. I find it striking that the engineer would take it upon himself to change the architect's design.

Nancy: The engineer did not make a spontaneous decision. He consulted many structural experts before making the alteration. In the end, he decided safety trumps aesthetics.



NOTE: (This is an image of a cantilever. In this case, the building had many decks that extended beyond the structure, or were cantilevered)

1. What does the statement, “safety trumps aesthetics” mean? Do you think it is normal for architects who tend to be artistic, and engineers who tend to be more knowledgeable about structure to disagree on design? Have you ever experienced one of these disagreements?
2. What would you do if your architect and your engineer didn't agree about the building's design?

Words with very different meanings: Read and discuss. Try to use each word in a sentence. Be sure you clearly understand the vocabulary in the example sentences.

grating: a metal frame with bars across it that covers a hole or window. EX: Because this is a high crime neighborhood, all the houses have gratings on their doors and windows. (It is also correct to use grate for grating in this context. EX: metal grates on the windows)

grating: an unpleasant and annoying sound. EX: The principal had a grating voice that was very hard to listen to, especially when magnified over the loudspeaker.

maintain: to make something continue in the same way or at the same standard. EX: Britain and the United States have maintained close ties for years.

maintain: to care for something by keeping it in good condition. EX: Lots of money is required to maintain a house as big as this.

maintain: to strongly express an opinion. EX: From the beginning, James has strongly maintained he is innocent.

offend: to make someone angry or upset. EX: The senator's remarks that women should stay home and raise the kids rather than getting involved in politics deeply offended many women in his own party. (You can use the adjective, **offensive**, to mean the same thing. EX: His comments were offensive to women. See below for another meaning for offensive.)

offender: someone guilty of a crime. EX: Joe received only a fine because he was a first-time offender so the judge treated him leniently.

offense: a crime. EX: Drunk driving is a very serious offense, punishable by jail time.

offense: the part of a sports team that tries to score points. EX: Our defense is incredible, so we can prevent other teams from scoring, but our offense is non-existent. (Note the difference in pronunciation in these two definitions of offense.)

offensive: an attack. EX: The military offensive against the extremists was ultimately successful, though many lives were lost in the process.

Used as an idiom—- Please don't **take offense**, but I prefer to spend the holidays with my own family. **No offense taken.** I just wanted to make sure you were not alone for the holiday.

Discuss:

1. Do you have many high crime areas in your city? What steps do people take to prevent break-ins?
2. Does the joy of having a big house with lots of rooms make up for the maintenance required to keep it up?
3. Do you think it is fair that two people who committed the same crime are treated differently depending on their criminal history? For example, a repeat drunk driver might be sentenced to jail while a first-time offender might get off with a fine? In the U.S. these decisions are usually left up to the judge to decide. The jury determines guilt and the judge determines the sentence. Is that the way it works in your country?