

FUMC ESL 6-21-2010

Vocabulary

alert: an adjective describing a condition. If you are alert, you are paying full attention to things around you and are ready to deal with anything that might happen.

Example: You must stay alert when you walk home alone at night. The escaped prisoner was spotted by an alert neighbor.

Alert can also be a verb. Example: The policeman alerted the neighbors that a prisoner had escaped.

Alert can be a noun. Example: An alert was issued to the neighbors about an escaped prisoner.

When people are on the alert they are aware and paying attention.

Aware is a word that is very similar to alert. Be aware or be alert, have the same meaning. However, you would say, "Are you aware that there is an escaped prisoner in the neighborhood?", not "Are you alert that there is an escaped prisoner?"

Alert implies a higher level of awareness.

Risk: a chance that something unpleasant will happen. Example: There is a risk of high winds today because of the hurricane off the coast. If a person is a risk, they are someone who might cause harm. If you risk something, you do it even though it might result in a bad situation. Example: I risked a look back to see if the man was following me.

If you are at risk, you are in danger. Example: People are at risk of starvation after the earthquake.

What would this sign mean? SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK

If you run the risk of something, you choose to go ahead with dangerous action.

Risky: a situation that is dangerous. Example: Driving too fast is risky behavior.

Idioms

Match the idiom to the correct definition

safety in numbers	paying attention to the situation
throw caution to the wind	avoid taking any risks
on the alert	examine the situation before acting
on the safe side	being part of a group makes you feel more secure
wide-awake	stop caring about danger and begin taking risks
look before you leap	not drowsy, very attentive or alert

Which idiom matches this situation?

1-When you walk out through the dark parking lot at night, be sure you have several people with you.

2-Before I drive to a strange town, I carefully look at a map so that I know where I am going.

3-After a short nap and several cups of coffee, I wasn't sleepy.

4-I decided to climb the mountain, even though I had no equipment and no experience.

Discussion

When are you most afraid?

Are you more afraid living here than living in your own country?

What is your greatest fear?

Do you enjoy risky activities?

What is the riskiest thing you have ever done?

What part of the day are you most wide awake?

Do you drink coffee to wake up when you are drowsy?

Are you good at sensing danger?

We have a saying, "Better safe than sorry." What do you think that means. Give an example.

What country is most "at risk" of having major troubles?

Are you a person who "throws caution to the wind"?

Who is the person in your family who is most concerned with safety.

What do you do to keep your family safe?

What are some risks worth taking?

Is it possible to be too cautious?