

FUMC ESL 4-14-2011

1-The family across the street park their old **beat up** cars in their front yard. It is really an **eyesore**. I wish they would take them to the **dump**.

Dump can be a noun or a verb. In this sentence it is a noun meaning a place where you take items no one wants. Dumping, means quickly throwing something out. You can also talk about a person's room as a dump. EX: This place is a dump. You should clean it up.

Do you have a dumpster at your apartment? What kind of things are not allowed in the dumpster. Are there any eyesores in your neighborhood?

2-Steve and I were talking about Belinda's imminent marriage. It was a good conversation until I asked if he and Lisa had thought about marriage. Steve really **clammed up** then.



Clams are bivalves with shells of equal size. When disturbed, they close up their shells. This is where we get the phrase "clam up"

Some people do not like to talk about personal matters. They might "clam up" when you asked a personal question. In your culture, is it impolite to ask about personal matters? What kinds of things is it OK to ask about? (Examples: age, sexual orientation, marital status, weight, personal info like address and phone number)

*Something that is **imminent** will happen very soon. Someone that is **eminent** is well-known and respected. These words are pronounced the same.*

3-My uncle **totaled** his car last week. It's too bad because it was less than a year old. Still, we are lucky nobody was hurt.

Have you ever totaled a car? Is driving more dangerous in the U.S. or in your home country?

4-I **take my hat off to you** for volunteering at the Alzheimer's center. It's not always easy to spend time with people who have **lost their minds**.

What kind of volunteer work have you done? Would you prefer working with seniors, or working with small children?

5-My company asked me to spend three months in Italy beginning next month. I'm taking a **crash course** in Italian.

Many language schools offer crash courses. These are courses which teach you the basics of language in a very short time. Have you ever taken a crash course at a language school? Where did you learn to speak English?

6-The **bullies** pushed the child in the dirt, then threw his bicycle in the **ditch**.

Were you ever the victim of a bully in school? Have your children been victims of bullies? What do you think is a good punishment for bullies?

7-Our band has a **gig** during South by Southwest. My mother danced a **jig** when I told her. She is hoping I'll be discovered by a record producer.

Name something that would make you dance a jig.

What is wrong with these sentences?

1. The chicken acrossed the road.
2. The flowers were placed on the alter at the front of the church.
3. I'm really ascared of snakes.
4. When will my prescription be avaidable?
5. I should have boughten more bread when I went to the story yesterday.
6. Bren choosed to buy the red shoes, though they were more expensive.
7. Mother still writes in her dairry every night.
8. Dad deviced a good solution for the leaky faucet.
9. He loves to sing, but he doesn't have no talent.
10. I have drank chocolate milk since I was a small child.
11. Grandpa fell to the floor and turned white. We thought he was dyeing.
12. This pig is the fatter of the three.
13. You should have went to the airport earlier if you wanted to catch your flight.
14. He don't have any money to pay for college.
15. I want to help the problem of poverty in the world.

Discussion Questions (Teachers encourage students to lead discussion.)

1. Talk about the changes you have experienced since moving to the U.S.
2. What changes have you made in your personal life recently?
3. Are you happy with the changes you have made?
4. Are you a person who adapts to change easily?
5. If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?
6. Is it possible for a person to change their personality?
7. Have you ever made a radical change to the way you wear your hair or the way you dress?

TOEFL Listening Quiz

1. What had the man assumed about the woman's daughter?
a- She was younger.
b- She was having a birthday party.
c- She was joking with him.
d- She would invite him to her house.

2. What had the woman assumed about the presentation?
a- There would not be any handouts.
b- Anne would finish the handouts.
c- Anne would not make the presentation.
d- The presentation had already been made.

3. What had the woman assumed about the health center?
a- The health center was in the student services building.
b- The health center was in the union.
c- The health center was on North Campus.
d- The health center was not on campus.

4. What had the man assumed about Bill?
a- Bill did not do much traveling.
b- Bill did not take the class.
c- Bill did not read novels.
d- Bill did not like to read.