

**FUMC ESL 11-7-2011 Advanced Lesson**

You can, tear your shirt, tear a muscle, tear out of the room, tear up an envelope, tear into a lazy employee, tear off the label or tear into your barbeque sandwich. You can be torn up about a death in the family. The country can be torn by war.

Don't get tear (rhymes with air) confused with tear (rhymes with ear).

**Figure out the correct verb form of tear for the blanks below.**

1. Jennifer is \_\_\_\_\_ out her kitchen. She wants a modern, new kitchen.
2. The manager \_\_\_\_\_ up the singer's contract because she failed to show up.
3. Jack \_\_\_\_\_ into the front desk clerk for failing to answer a guests call.
4. A big gust of wind \_\_\_\_\_ our front sail.
5. Darn! My brand new jeans are \_\_\_\_\_ at the seams.
6. We were \_\_\_\_\_ about whether to invite my son's girlfriend to go with us.
7. The dog was \_\_\_\_\_ up my new shoes.
8. My shirt \_\_\_\_\_ when I climbed through the barbed wire fence.
9. The lineman tried to tackle the quarterback, but he \_\_\_\_\_ free and ran for a touchdown.
10. She made everyone take off their shoes inside to avoid wear and \_\_\_\_\_ on the carpet.
11. My mother would \_\_\_\_\_ me to pieces if she knew I went downtown alone last night. She would \_\_\_\_\_ me limb from limb.
12. The death of those little children in the explosion \_\_\_\_\_ my heart out.
13. Figuring out income tax is so frustrating. It's enough to make you \_\_\_\_\_ your hair.
14. The kidnapper \_\_\_\_\_ the child from his mother's arms.
15. The city is \_\_\_\_\_ down the old power plant to make room for condos.
16. You kids stop \_\_\_\_\_ around the restaurant. Sit down in your chairs and be still.
17. My parents constant bickering finally \_\_\_\_\_ the family apart.
18. The police \_\_\_\_\_ the place apart looking for the murder weapon.
19. Maria's mother is always \_\_\_\_\_ her down even though she does well in school and is very popular.
20. I'll help you shorten your shirt if you will \_\_\_\_\_ out the old hem.

You can also use "tear" as a noun. As in, "There is a tear in your pants."

**Write a sentence with each verb form of "tear"**

- (was tearing) \_\_\_\_\_
- (tears) \_\_\_\_\_
- (will tear) \_\_\_\_\_
- (tore) \_\_\_\_\_
- (were torn) \_\_\_\_\_

**Students read aloud this excerpt from Funny in Farsi by Firoozeh Dumas. Underline vocabulary or phrases which you do not understand.**

*Moving to America was both exciting and frightening, but we found great comfort in knowing that my father spoke English. Having spent years regaling us with stories about his graduate school years in America, he had left us with the distinct impression that America was his second home. My mother and I planned to stick close to him, letting him guide us through the exotic American landscape that he knew so well. We counted on him not only to translate the language but also to translate the culture, to be a link to this most foreign of lands. He was to be our own private Rosetta Stone.*

*Once we reached America, we wondered whether perhaps my father had confused his life in America with someone else's. Judging from the bewildered looks of store cashiers, gas station attendants, and waiters, my father spoke a version of English not yet shared with the rest of America. His attempts to find*

*a “water closet” in a department store would usually lead us to the drinking fountain or the home furnishings department. Asking my father to ask the waitress the definition of “sloppy Joe” or “tater tots” was no problem. His translations, however, were highly suspect. Waitresses would spend several minutes responding to my father’s questions, and these responses, in turn, would be translated to us as, “She doesn’t know.” Thanks to my father’s translations, we stayed away from hot dogs, catfish and hush puppies and no amount of caviar in the sea would have convinced us to try mud pie.*

1. When did Firoozeh’s father live in America?
2. How did Firoozeh’s father disappoint her and her mother?
3. What does the author mean when she says her father would not only translate the language, but also the culture?
4. Do you need a cultural translator?
5. Who in your family speaks the best English?
6. Do you rely on them to be your translator? Are they more dependable than Firoozeh’s father?
7. Does this sound like your experiences the first few months in America?
8. Did you have trouble translating menus?
9. Is it difficult to find what you want in a department store here?
10. Where would you go to buy tools such as hammers, screwdrivers and drills?
11. Where would you go to buy electronic equipment?
12. Did you have to buy a new cell phone when you came to America or did yours work here?
13. How are your children coping in America? Better than you or worse?
14. Talk about one of your early experiences in America.