

I. Writing Assignment:

Write a short paragraph describing your first day in the U.S.. When everyone is finished, take turn reading them to the class. Teachers, make corrections where necessary.

II. Reading Comprehension

Teachers: Assign each student a paragraph to read silently. After reading, they should turn their paper over and tell what their paragraph said. Then the student should read the paragraph aloud. Teachers: ask if there are words or phrases that they don't understand.

A. I have a new roommate this year named Jackie. Jackie is driving me crazy. She leaves dirty dishes in the sink. She takes food out of the refrigerator that I bought for my lunch. She even borrowed a blouse from my closet without asking. And when I asked her about it, she just shrugged like it was no big deal. If this keeps up we may come to blows.

B. I never eat breakfast. My mother always made me eat something before I left for school. Now that I live alone, I don't eat anything in the morning. I hate eggs and toast. Bacon is bad for you. I'm allergic to orange juice and the smell of coffee makes me nauseous. A breakfast like that is not a good start to my morning. That's why I skip the whole thing.

C. Lee and Lin just moved to Oklahoma. Lin fears a tornado will strike their area. She is afraid she will panic. So Lee made a plan. They agreed they would go inside the closet under the stairs. They packed a box to keep in the closet. Inside they put bottled water, flashlights and batteries. They also put in a first aid kit with bandages and anti-biotic ointment. Lin feels better now that they are prepared.

D. Marta owned a donut shop on Chavez St.. One day as she came to work she looked around and realized that Chavez St. was a mess. There was trash on the sidewalk. Someone had written graffiti all over the walls of the businesses. Several storefronts needed painting. She organized a clean-up. The local store owners all agreed to re-paint and pick up trash. She got local high school students to clean off the graffiti. Thanks to Marta, the street looks great now.

E. Lara's son, Jack, is studying to be a pharmacist. Jack has always wanted to do something in the medical field. He thought about medical school. But it takes years to be a doctor and medical school is very expensive. Jack didn't want to be a nurse. He was very good at chemistry and thought pharmacy might be a good major. One day he hopes to have his own pharmacy. Lara is very proud of him.

III. Idioms and Phrases with "cut"

Read the statement and the example. Then give another example that you make up.

1. When you remove something with a knife or scissors you **cut it off**. EX: He cut off a piece of cheese and gave it to the child.
2. When you stop the supply or flow of something, you **cut it off**. EX: The utility company cut off his electricity because he had not paid the bill in months.
3. The date when something will be cut off is the **cutoff** date. EX: He got a letter warning him that the cutoff date was May 1st if he didn't pay his bill.
4. When you suddenly pull in front of another vehicle, you **cut them off**. EX: That lady in the red car cut me off as I tried to enter the freeway.
5. If you lose a telephone connection, you **get cut off**. EX: I get cut off all the time with this new phone.
6. When you create a barrier between yourself and other people, you **cut yourself off**. EX: After Dan was married, he cut himself off from all of his old friends.
7. If someone wants you to stop doing something, they might say, "**cut it out**". EX: You kids are making too much noise. Cut it out.

8.If you are not performing well in your job, you **aren't cutting it**. Ex: Dan tried to learn computer programming, but he just couldn't cut it.

9.To skip some steps in order to do something faster and cheaper is to **cut corners**. EX: They cut corners when they made these shoes in order to sell them cheaper and it really shows in the quality.

10.A person who clowns and makes jokes is a **cutup**. EX: Chad is a real cutup in class.

11.If you **cut back** on something, you reduce it. EX: We've had to cut back on eating out since Joe lost his job.

12.If you are **on the cutting edge** of a field, you are involved in the newest discoveries. EX: Bill is doing cutting edge work in the field of genetics.

13.When babies **cut their teeth**, the teeth come through the gums.EX: The baby is fussy because he is cutting teeth. This expression can also mean work you do in your first job that teaches you how to perform the job. EX: Jim is a famous chef now, but he cut his teeth cooking hamburgers in a fast food restaurant.

14.If someone **cuts you a check**, they write a check to you. EX: I am getting my deposit back from my apartment manager. He said he would cut me a check tomorrow.

15.If you **cut to the chase**, you get to the most important fact. EX: I like the way Brad doesn't waste our time in meetings. He cuts to the chase.