

FUMC ESL 6-18-2012

Read this conversation aloud in your group. Underline words or phrases you don't understand. Teachers: ask for questions after the conversation is read by the students.

Joe: I bought a car this weekend. It was really a good deal. I got the car for \$1,000.

Bill: That is a good deal. Why was the car so cheap? Was it in poor condition?

Joe: It wasn't in great condition. The engine needs some work. There is some damage to the body, it needs a new paint job and new tires. I figure I'll spend another three to four thousand fixing it up.

Bill: That sounds like a candidate for the junk heap. Are you sure you can tackle all of that?

Joe: I plan on doing most of the work myself. My dad will also help. He's a mechanic and kept all of our family cars going all my life. He taught me a lot about cars. The car is structurally OK and the motor will work fine after I replace the oil and tune it up. Most of the problems are cosmetic. After it is all fixed up it will be worth more than twice what it will cost me. I could sell it and make money on the deal.

Bill: That's great. I didn't realize you were such a car expert. Next time I have a problem with my car, I'll call you.

Turn your paper over and tell what happened in this conversation. You don't have to remember every detail, but you should be able to give the gist of the conversation.

Explain the underlined phrases in the paragraph above.

When I was growing up, most boys were taught to work on cars. It was part of father's training of their sons. They took them out to the garage and showed them how to do maintenance on the car. In those days, a man who didn't know how to do basic maintenance on a car was scorned. Today it is different. Most cars are very difficult to work on and require expensive electronic equipment to repair. Also, it is against the law to dump old oil in the trash. It must be taken to a recycling center. So many men do not work on their own cars. They do not even change the oil. And they are not teaching their boys to work on cars.

Did dads teach their boys to work on cars when you were growing up? Do they still?
Is it a bad thing that kids don't know how to work on cars.

Vocabulary Exercise: Condition

*Condition refers to the state it is in. In this case, the car is in poor condition. Is your car in poor condition or good condition? How about your apartment or house?

*Another use of the word "condition" is something which must happen for something else to be possible. *Example: One of the conditions for the prisoner's release was that he leave the country immediately.*

*You can agree to do something "on condition" that something else happens. *Example: He spoke to reporters on condition that they would not identify him in the story.*

*You can refer to certain medical problems as a condition. *Example: He has a heart condition.* You would not say, "He has a leg condition." if he had a broken leg. You could say that someone has a skin condition or a lung condition.

*If someone is conditioned to do something a particular way, they do it as a result of training. *Example: Many boys have been conditioned to believe it is weak to show fear.*

*You can make an agreement that is conditional on something else. *Example: Her approval of my thesis was conditional on my making the changes she asked for.*

Questions:

1. Under what condition would you agree to stay in the U.S. permanently?
2. Sometimes I agree to do something with my spouse under certain conditions. For example, I might agree to go hear some musicians he likes if he will take me to a movie I want to see. Do you ever give your spouse conditions?
3. Were you conditioned to behave in certain ways when you were a child?
4. How does your culture condition you to behave?
5. Under what condition would you move in with your parents?

List some steps you would take before you bought a car:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Discuss:

1. What are some things your dad taught you to do when you were young?
2. Talk about dad's role in raising kids in your country. Are they very involved or not at all?
3. Sunday was Father's Day. Do you have a day especially for father's?
4. What is the most important trait for a father to have?