

FUMC ESL 7-23-2012 ADVANCED LESSON

Read these short paragraphs, then turn the paper over and tell what it meant. Discuss the vocabulary you don't know.

Attending Colombia helped me shake off any notions that I was a brilliant journalist. I've learned what my limitations are. Every time I listen to one of my classmates read their particularly inspiring piece, I feel like curling up into a little ball. I spent a lot of that first year weeping.

Between hanging out with sketchy sources in dark streets, getting caught in the middle of a knife fight at an area high school and filming sea gulls on the slippery rocks at Coney Island, my first year as a reporter was a year of living dangerously.

Write a few sentences that would precede the given sentence. The first one is done for you.

1. I do not like technology. I don't use a cell phone or computer. I write letters by hand. I make all my calls from my home phone. I refuse to carry around a phone.

You are living in the past.

2. _____
_____.

This place is not livable.

3. _____
_____.

He likes living dangerously.

4. _____
_____.

I have been living out of a suitcase the last few weeks.

5. _____
_____.

The police issued an alert.

6. _____
_____.

What a downpour!

7. _____
_____.

You can see I have had my ups and downs.

8. _____
_____.

I am dead tired.

9. _____
_____.

We are dying to meet her.

10. _____
_____.

We are dead broke.

11. _____
_____.

I am dying to her.

12. _____
_____.

She comes from a broken home.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you come from a broken home? Do you think living with divorced parents effects children in a negative way? Should it be harder for couples to divorce? Is being divorced a social stigma in your country?

Comment on this quote: "In every marriage more than a week old, there are grounds for divorce. The trick is to find and continue to find grounds for marriage."

2. Does being raised in a poor home make it more difficult for children to succeed in life? Some people say the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Do you believe that is true? Does poverty cause crime? In your country, is there financial support available for single mothers?

3. Do you enjoy living dangerously? What is the most dangerous occupation? What are some dangerous things in your countries that you would warn tourists about? What is the most dangerous situation you have been in?

Idioms:

If I told you that you were **skating on thin ice**, what would you do?

Can you list the **danger signs** of a heart attack?

If you are walking alone in a bad neighborhood and feel you are **in danger**, what do you do to get **out of danger**?

living hand to mouth living large live by their wits lives in fear lives for the moment

1. Ted won the lottery. Now he has a big, new mansion. He drives a Mercedes and has a yacht at the marina. He is really _____.

2. After both my parents lost their jobs, our family was _____.

3. Jill _____ that she will lose her job. She has several kids and a big mortgage. She owes money on her car and she still hasn't paid back her college loans.

4. John never plans for the future. He spends what he makes on travel and adventures. He figures he will worry about settling down when he is older. He _____.

5. A lot of these very poor kids are thrown out on the streets because their parents can't support them. They have to _____.