

Pronunciation:

Teachers, say one of the words in each pair. Have the students circle which word they heard.

stroke	smoke
spoil	soil
mess	mass
late	let
fresh	fetch
revive	arrive
fourteen	forty
said	sad
look	luck

1. Which word means "to ruin"?
2. Which word means "to go and get something"?
3. Which word means to have new life?
4. Which word means to make something dirty?
5. Which word means a large amount of something?
6. Which of the words is the result of burning something?
7. Which word is the opposite of early?
8. Which word is the opposite of happy?
9. Which word is a synonym for allow?
10. Which word is the past tense of say?

Vocabulary:

1. Oh, shoot. I put too much sugar in the pudding. Now it's *spoiled*. I've *ruined* my husband's favorite recipe. That will really *upset* him and it will *mess up* the beautiful birthday surprise I had planned.

spoil, *ruin* and *mess up* all have a similar meaning. *Spoil* can also mean to ruin a child with excess indulgence. In other words, to give in to their every wish. When someone says, "that child is spoiled", they mean the child is undisciplined.

- a) Were you spoiled as a child?
- b) Do you spoil your children?
- c) Do you indulge your children with things that you didn't have as a child?
- d) Are there more spoiled children now than there used to be?
- e) Do some cultures spoil their children more than other cultures?

2. refresh, freshen up, revive, re-invigorate, stimulate, perk up,

Wendy: I'm tired. I feel like a nap.

Jill: *Perk up*, the day isn't over yet. We have lots of sights to see before nightfall.

Wendy: I'll feel better after I *freshen up* and have a snack.

Jill: A brisk walk might *re-invigorate* you.

Wendy: Don't worry. I'll *revive* when the sun goes down. I'm a night owl.

- a) What do you do to stimulate yourself when you are tired, but have to stay up?
- b) Are you a night owl?

3. A brisk walk is a quick and energetic one. A stroll is an easy, slow walk. If the weather is brisk, it is cold and refreshing.

- a) Do you enjoy a brisk winter's day?
- b) Do you prefer to stroll or walk briskly?

4. *Stroke* is a word with many definitions. You can *stroke* a cat. If you have a *stroke*, a blood vessel in your brain breaks. Painters make *strokes* with a brush. There are several different swimming *strokes*, such as freestyle, back stroke, etc.. In golf, you count your *strokes* (times you hit the ball) to figure your score. *Strokes* of a clock are the sounds that tell the hour. You must go to bed at the *stroke* of midnight. A *stroke* of luck is sudden good luck.

Choose one of the definitions and use *stroke* in a sentence. _____

Prepositions:

ahead of means:

- in front of: My friends were all ahead of me in line. They got into the concert, but I didn't.
- before: You are in a hurry; please go ahead of me.
- more advanced than: The class got ahead of him when he missed due to illness.

1. If you **get ahead**, you succeed. *She has struggled to get ahead at the bank because her boss always promotes the men first.*
2. If you **go ahead**, you begin. *Go ahead and get in line while I go buy the tickets.*
3. If you are **ahead of the game**, you are in a good position to compete. *That company stays ahead of the game by keeping their overhead low.*
4. If you are **ahead of the curve**, you are in front of most people in some way. *My company stays ahead of the curve by investing in the latest technology.* You can also be **behind the curve**. That means you are falling behind others. *If you don't get a college degree you will always be behind the curve in your career.*

- a) What do you do to stay ahead of the curve in your profession?
- b) How important are advanced degrees in staying ahead of the curve?
- c) In your country, what must you have to get ahead?
- d) Have you ever run your own business? Is this something you would like to do in the future? What kind of business would it be?
- e) Is it easy to start your own business in your country?