

## FUMC ESL 1-7-2013 Advanced Lesson

### Build Your Vocabulary:

1. If you **lag** behind, you are behind others. *Quit **lagging** behind, Elmo. Keep up with the rest of us. Jeff always lagged behind when we were touring a museum.* If you **straggle**, you walk slowly.

Someone who is always **straggling** might be a **slowpoke**. *The soldiers all straggled back to camp after the battle.*

2. Lag and straggle are verbs. You can change them to nouns. If you are a person who habitually lags behind, you are a **laggard**. If you straggle, you are a **straggler**.

3. If you don't **keep up**, you **fall behind**. *We were walking through the woods when John fell behind.*

4. If you **loiter**, you stand around for no purpose. *The policeman looked suspiciously at the teenagers **loitering** around the back door.* You may see a sign that says, "no loitering". Why would someone put a sign like that in their shop?

5. You know what a rocket launch is. Try to figure out what "launch" means in these sentences.

6. The man **launched** himself through the window and rescued the child from the burning building. The union **launched** a campaign to raise the minimum wage.

### Working With Prepositions

A. The preposition "at" is frequently used to indicate a **reaction**. EX: *We were shocked at the condition of the school after the hurricane passed through. Maria was astonished at Ed's anger about her decision. The parents were amazed at the children's art work. We guessed at the answer. The citizens rebelled at losing their freedoms.*

B. At can also indicate a **degree of skill**. EX: *Margo is good at tennis, but not good at golf.*

### **C. Fill in the blanks of these sentences. Read your sentences to the group.**

1. I am good at \_\_\_\_\_, but not good at \_\_\_\_\_.

2. When I arrived in the US, I was amazed at \_\_\_\_\_.

3. As a kid, I was astonished at how difficult it was to \_\_\_\_\_.

4. I am thrilled at finding \_\_\_\_\_.

5. I am trembling in fear at the thought of \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: If you tremble with fear, you are so scared you are shaking.

D. If you are **an old hand at** something, you have much experience and practice in that field. EX: *If anyone can get George elected, Bill Smith can. He is an old hand at campaigning.*

Finish this sentence. *I am an old hand at \_\_\_\_\_.*

### **E. Read the sentences below, then write another sentence that uses the phrase in bold letters in a similar way. Read your examples to the group.**

1. In my supermarket, apples sell **at \$2.00 a pound**. \_\_\_\_\_

2. **At \$4.00 per pound**, beef is just too expensive to buy. \_\_\_\_\_

3. I wish we could buy bananas **at that price**. \_\_\_\_\_

4. **At that price**, we could only afford to buy 2. \_\_\_\_\_

5. You shouldn't try to run **at your age**. \_\_\_\_\_

6. **At your age**, you should be resting. \_\_\_\_\_

7. We can't see well **at this distance**. \_\_\_\_\_

8. You shouldn't drive **at that speed** on this narrow road. \_\_\_\_\_

9. This line is very slow. **At this rate**, we'll be in line for hours. \_\_\_\_\_

10. **At least** she comes to work on time every day. \_\_\_\_\_

11. We will be there by noon **at the earliest**. \_\_\_\_\_

12. We will leave by sunset **at the latest**. \_\_\_\_\_

13. I am **at a disadvantage** here because I don't speak the language well.

14. I was **at his mercy** because I couldn't understand the language.

*Note: When you are at someone's mercy, you are under their power.*

15. **At the most**, the appointment will take one hour. \_\_\_\_\_

**F. Go around the group giving a quick answer to these "naming questions". Don't use an answer that is the same as someone else.**

**Name something that:**

a) (a food item) is too expensive to buy

b) takes over an hour to do

c) brings you great joy

d) you would wear with a suit

e) you have to carry

f) you can buy at a hardware store

g) is cheaper here than at home

h) you can jump over

i) would never ask someone

j) you value highly

k) you have been upset about

l) you do at work

m) you do at school

n) children do

o) is every parent's duty

p) a rude behavior