

Verb: If a process stalls, or if someone or something stalls it, the process stops but may continue at a later time. *Ex: Delta Airlines managers had a good reason to stall negotiations.*

Verb: If you stall someone, you deliberately prevent him/her from doing something until later, for example, by talking to him. *Ex: Brian stalled the man until the police arrived.*

Verb: If a vehicle stalls, the engine stops suddenly. *Ex: My engine stalled just as I entered the freeway.*

Noun: A stall is a large table or booth on which you put goods that you want to sell, or information that you want to give people. *Ex: At the market, there are stalls where people sell homegrown vegetables.*

Noun: A compartment in a stable where a single animal is confined. *Ex: I keep my horse in a stall in our barn.*

Idioms for stall:

beat around the bush: Please stop beating around the bush and answer my question.

drag your feet: If the architect had not dragged his feet, the plans would be ready by now.

play for time: I'll play for time while you sneak in and get his key. The lawyers at the trial were playing for time while they looked for a witness.

hold off: I was able to hold off the attackers long enough for the police to arrive. Tell my secretary to hold off the reporters until I have prepared my statement.

stonewall: He stonewalled until he could think of an answer to the reporter's question.

take your time: Take your time. You don't have to make the decision right now.

waste time: Don't waste my time with busy work.

Discussion Questions:

1. What part of your education was a waste of time?
2. If you were going to sell something out of a stall at a flea market, what would you sell?
3. Have you been to any of the stalls at the farmer's market in downtown Austin? Have you bought anything from a stall?

4. In your country, do you have farmer's markets where people sell things they grow on their farms?
5. Do you sometimes drag your feet when you have to do a chore you don't like? What are some chores that you might drag your feet before doing?
6. Sometimes my sons drag their feet before they do chores, hoping someone else will do it for them. Have you ever used this tactic?
7. My husband/wife/friend always drags his/her feet when I ask him/her to _____.
8. What are some things you might hold off buying because of your current financial situation?
9. Do you "take your time" over meals or eat them as fast as you can?
10. What is a job that you must "take your time" to do well?
11. In your family, who takes their time when it is time to go somewhere?

Conversation: At the Flea Market

Ann: Look at all the stalls. There are people selling everything from jewelry to watermelon here.

Jan: Let's hurry.

Ann: Slow down, I want to look at everything here. I don't want to rush.

Jan: I want to visit the stall selling jewelry. My friend bought a watch here that looked really nice.

Ann: I would hold off on buying jewelry here. You might be able to get better quality for the same price at the mall.

Jan: The woman at that stall is selling puppies. Look, aren't they cute?

Ann: I don't want to waste time looking at puppies. My apartment doesn't allow animals.

Jan: Let's go to the vegetable stall. We could buy some fresh veggies and roast them for supper.

Ann: That's a good idea. I like to make a sandwich with roasted vegetables and melted goat cheese on top.

Jan: That sounds delicious. Come on. Don't stall any longer. Let's get those vegetables and go home. I'm hungry.

Questions: Try to answer without looking back at the conversation.

1. Which of the girls wants to hurry and which wants to slow down?
2. What is Jan interested in buying?
3. What advice does Ann give Jan about buying jewelry?
4. Why doesn't Ann want to look at puppies?
5. What two stalls did Jan say she wanted to visit?
6. How does Ann eat roasted vegetables?

