

Warm-up: Each student takes a turn reading a joke and explaining why it's funny.

1. What's a waste of energy? Telling a hair-raising story to a bald man.
2. What did the bra say to the hat? You go on ahead. I'll give these two a lift.
3. Can I tell you a secret about butter? You'd better not. I might spread it.
4. What did the mayonnaise say to the refrigerator? Close the door, please. I'm dressing.
5. What's out of bounds? An exhausted kangaroo
6. What's round and dangerous? A vicious circle
7. How do you count a herd of cattle? With a cowculator.
8. Why do cows have bells? Because their horns don't work.
9. Why was the crab sent to prison? Because he kept pinching things.
10. Why did the cyclops stop teaching? Because he only had one pupil.

Today we will work on some sayings and expressions. Read these conversations and discuss the meaning of the underlined phrases. Teachers, extend the discussion by asking students to use the underlined phrases in a sentence of their own.

A: You can sue the U.S. government, but you have to go through the proper channels. You must first file a written claim for damages. Following the submission of the claim, six months must pass before a lawsuit can be filed.

B: That sounds like more trouble than it's worth.

A: I'm very angry at my neighbor. He cut limbs off a tree that is on my property. I am going to sue him.

B: Wait a minute. First things first. Have you talked to your neighbor about the tree?

A: I haven't talked to him. I guess I'm putting the cart before the horse.

B: I think you're making a mountain out of a mole hill. A few missing limbs are probably not worth a fight with your neighbor.

A: I'm sorry those kids got kicked out of the summer camp.

B: I'm not sorry. They got what was coming to them. They tormented all the younger kids until they were in tears.

A: I have a new boss who insists on doing everything by the book. My old boss wasn't that concerned with the rules. She was more concerned with keeping things working efficiently.

B: I know you're frustrated with the new system. But I think you'll find your new boss is a good manager, even though she does like to follow the rules.

A: I suppose you're right. I am just old and set in my ways. I'll get used to the changes.

B: Yes, old habits die hard.

A: I don't know what I'll do when Sara gets old enough to start school. I think the schools near our house are not very good.

B: You can cross that bridge when you come to it. Sara is just two years old. You have several years to think about it before you have to make a decision whether to move or send her to private school.

A: I am going to give that judge a piece of my mind.

B: Why don't you wait and talk to him privately. Berating the judge in front of all the attorneys is not a good idea. There is a time and place for everything.

A: My gut tells me it's a good time to buy more stocks.

B: I have a hunch you're right. I think we're in for some good times ahead. You can trust my financial advice. I have a sixth sense about these things.

C: I'm not sure the two of you are guessing right. I think a storm is brewing on the horizon with the large debt our government is carrying. My women's intuition is telling me to be cautious. We're not out of the woods yet. I think the financial troubles in Europe are an omen for us. Hard times are coming again. I feel it in my bones.

A: I bought this purse at a discount store. I only paid seven dollars for it. Should I get one for Ellen?

B: I don't think Ellen would like it. She only wears brand name purses. She is too pretentious to wear a purse without a big name brand on it. You and I are more down to earth. We don't put on airs.

These sentences have one word that is used incorrectly. Find the word and correct it. Teachers discuss the difference in meaning of these words.

11. My professor advised me to take some English classes.

12. I got really good advise from Rod.

13. Which course would you advice me to take?

14. The house feels alone now that the children have left for school.

15. Now is a good time to come because the kids are in school and I'm all lonely in the house.

16. It's so alone here with my husband away.

17. My house is besides the market.

18. No one beside Ben knows where I live.

19. Put the book besides the paper.

20. I can borrow you some money if you need it.

21. Can you borrow me a quarter for the parking meter?

22. I had to lend money from my parents to pay my rent.

23. The downside of this desk is filled with old gum.

24. The underside of living in a big city is that it is hard to park your car.

25. I have been living here since two years.

26. She has been gone since nine months.

27. I have taken English classes for I was in elementary school.

28. The train won't arrive since two more hours.

29. Mother will never except that I don't want to get married.

30. Everyone accept Jack is ready to go.

31. Smoking is not aloud in this building.

32. In Morocco we went to a bizarre where they sold sheep's heads.

33. The most bazaar thing happened to me last night.

34. The berth of my child was a wonderful event.

35. We got a birth on the ship so we would be comfortable overnight.