

Students, read the paragraph aloud, then lead a group discussion of the questions. Teachers, be available to answer questions or help them understand difficult vocabulary words, but let the students take the lead.

1. Sally spoke to the surgeon after her mother's surgery. The surgeon said that her mother, "will probably pull through, but is not out of the woods yet". What did the surgeon mean? The doctor encouraged Sally to have a physical, because her mother's heart condition, "runs in families". Should Sally be alarmed? What are some examples of illness that run in families? Are you aware of any illness that runs in your family?

2. Jeff had an affair with his secretary a few years ago. Recently, his wife, Jill started an affair with an old friend from high school. Jill thinks, "What's good for the goose is good for the gander." What does Jill mean? Do you agree with Jill? Is it ever acceptable for married partners to have an affair?

3. Bev has two small children. She is worried that the kids won't be able to get into a good college. Her mother tells her: "Don't worry about that now. You can cross that bridge when you come to it." What does Bev's mother mean? Do you think Bev is right to worry about this when the children are young? Do you think parent's worry too much about their children being successful?

4. James and Jackie have been married for a year now. Before they were married, James played poker with his buddies once a week. James loves poker and enjoys the time spent with the guys. But Jackie feels like now that they are married, James should give up his poker nights. Jackie's mother says: "Old habits die hard." What does she mean? Do you agree with Jackie that James should give up his old habits? Have you ever faced a problem like this?

5. Pat and Kate live in a high crime neighborhood. When they first moved in, they were diligent about locking their doors and windows before they left the house. They always left outside lights on at night. And they set their security alarm. But after a few years with no problems, they got a little lackadaisical. They stopped leaving on lights and didn't always check to see that the doors and windows were locked. One night their house was broken into. The robbers took their TV, computers and lots of other valuables. Pat and Kate are sad that they "let their guard down". What does this mean? Have you ever let your guard down, then regretted it.

6. Lee was asked to his boss' home for dinner. The other employees were excited to hear about it the next day. They had heard that the boss had a very expensive and beautiful home. They wanted to hear all about it from Lee. Lee's comment was: "Well, it was nice and obviously expensive, but it wasn't to my taste." What did Lee mean by this comment? What is your taste? Do you like modern or traditional design? Do you prefer bright colors or black and white design? Is your parent's home decorated to your taste? Are the American homes you have visited decorated to your taste?

7. Jane's son has an immune system disorder. He is susceptible to illness. At Thanksgiving the family was gathered for dinner. Jane discovered that her sister's daughter had a cold. The child was coughing and had a runny nose. She even had a slight fever. Jane was mad that her sister had brought a sick child to the family gathering. She asked her sister to take her daughter home. Her sister said, "Not on your life. I've been looking forward to this for weeks." Who is right in this situation? What would you have done if you were Jane? Have you ever faced a similar situation? Do mothers often bring sick children to daycare or school?

Preposition: UNDER

Read the question. Explain the underlined expression. Answer the question and ask your fellow students the questions.

1. Do you usually drive under the speed limit or over? Which practice annoys you most in other drivers?
2. Do you have any children under the age of ten?
3. Have you ever worked under a boss who encouraged you to think for yourself?
4. Have you been under the care of a doctor since you have been in the US?
5. Under what circumstances would you agree to live permanently in the US?
6. Is under-aged drinking a problem in your country? Did you drink alcohol before the legal age? Did your parents ever serve you alcohol before you were of a legal age? Is it OK for parents to allow their teenagers to drink alcohol at home even though they aren't of legal age?
7. Do you know anyone who has been arrested for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol? What do you think is an appropriate punishment for such a person...should they lose their license, be placed in jail, be fined?
8. We all smile when we see friends. But sometimes we are hiding heartache underneath our smile. Talk about a time when you hid your heartache underneath a smile.