

WARM UP:

Choose someone in the room you don't know well. Talk to them for three or four minutes and try to discover 3 things you have in common. (Teachers: explain "have in common")

Students, take turns explaining the meaning of these sentences. Pay special attention to the underlined words. Then lead a discussion to answer the questions. Make sure everyone is participating in the discussion. A good way to get others involved is to say, "How about you, _____? How do you feel about this?"

1. Jed is involved with an organization helping to feed homeless people living on the street.

Are you involved with any charitable organizations? Have you been in the past? What charitable cause would you like to be involved with?

2. I struggle with how much to tell my mother about her condition. The doctor says it is terminal, but I don't want Mother to give up. It is important that she keep fighting.

What would you do in this situation? Is it important to be truthful with our ailing family members or should we protect them from a situation that is hopeless?

3. My wife had it out with her boss today. He had been flirting with her and making suggestive comments. She told him in no uncertain terms that she had had enough and he must behave more appropriately.

In this situation, should she have reported his behavior to someone else? Was she right to confront her boss? What would you do?

4. We were drifting along with the current having a really nice time. Then we hit the rapids and the pace accelerated. After that, it was a wild ride for the next five miles. What an exhilarating experience!

Describe the most exhilarating experience you have had.

5. My wife and I parted company with the Browns after their rude behavior at the party. We decided it would be best to sever relations. We didn't have that much in common with them anyway.

Do you and your husband have many couple friends? How do you meet people in Austin?

6. Are you in agreement with the terms of the contract? If so, you need to get it notarized.

Have you had to sign any contracts since arriving in the U.S.? Talk about that experience. Do you know how and where to get something notarized?

7. Their lifestyle changed completely with the birth of their first child.

Do you think children usually result in a major lifestyle change? Is it for the better or worse?

8. The new instructor is on par with my previous professor who had won many awards for teaching.

Sub par means not measuring up to the expected level. Discuss on par and sub par.

9. My sister reacted with glee when she found she had won several hundred dollars in the lottery. Her husband reacted with consternation because he knew his wife would spend the money and he would be left to pay the taxes.

Describe a time when you reacted with glee or consternation.

10. Is your salary at your new job comparable with that of your old job?

This could be a really rude question, depending upon who you were asking. Who would you feel comfortable asking about money? Do you and your spouse talk about money openly? How about you and your parents?

List: (Teachers: make sure all students participate.)

1-things you can do with your eyes closed-

2-things you can come down with-

3-things you would like to get through with-

4-things you don't like, but have to live with-

5-someone you would like to make an appointment with-

6-one thing you will never put up with-

7-examples of things you do with a heavy heart-

Present Tense or Present Continuous: Choose the correct answer.

1. I bought this new dress today. How (is it looking/does it look)?

2. The garden (measures/ is measuring) 12 ft. by 20 ft.

3. I (doubt/am doubting) whether I'll ever have a chance to go to Italy.

4. Thanks for your message. I (apologize/ am apologizing) for not getting back to you sooner.

5. I bought this dress for Ann today, but it (doesn't fit/ is not fitting) her, so I'll take it back.

6. I (admit/ am admitting) I didn't believe you at first.

7. I (don't suggest/ am not suggesting) that I wouldn't like to eat at your house, just that I don't have time today.

8. I (I promise/ I'm promising) to find time to show you around the city.

9. She (believes/ is believing) me now.

10. This bread (consists/is consisting) of flour, water, and yeast.

11. I (doubt/ am doubting) that Robert is the man for the job.

12. They (own/ are owning) many houses in the central area of the city.

Hint: Never use believe, consist, doubt or own in the present continuous tense.