

**Discuss these questions in your group. Ask everyone's opinion. Check your dictionaries. Then read the answers at the bottom of the lesson.**

1. Are a jail, a prison and a penitentiary the same thing?
2. What is a stool pigeon? Does a stool pigeon "rat out" people?
3. Is an area code the same as a zip code?
4. What is a boondoggle?
5. Is a catty person catty-cornered?
6. What do you do when you have a conniption?
7. Should you be worried if someone told you there were critters in your yard last night?
8. If someone had there druthers, what would they have?
9. If you are asked to pony up, would you get on your horse?
10. Is a schmuck someone who looks like a duck?

***What are they saying? Read the conversations with a partner and explain what the underlined phrases mean. Then tell what the conversation is about.***

Joe: Hold up, I want to get my wallet

Steve: Step on it, we're already late.

Joe: Should we give Liz a call to tell her we're coming.

Steve: Yeah, she'll be glad to get out. She's been holed up with her books all weekend.

Joe: I was up into the wee hours of the morning myself.

Steve: Did your roommate complain about you burning the midnight oil?

Joe: No, he's a night owl. He never hits the sack before 2 or 3 AM.

Steve: So do you think you'll ace the test?

Joe: I'll give it a shot, but Dr. Hardy's tests are usually killers. I'm a fish out of water in that class anyway.

Steve: Oh, you're in over your head?

Joe: Something like that. Everyone else is really smart. I'm a bit behind. It bugs me that I can't do any better in that class.

Jane: Why can't I go instead of her. She doesn't know beans about the Big Apple like I do. I should be the one to go.

Janet: That's just sour grapes. You've been to New York many times. Let Alice have a chance.

Jane: Aw, I always play second fiddle to Alice. She gets to do everything. She's the apple of everyone's eye.

Janet: You'd better quit complaining. If Mother finds out you are throwing a fit, she'll ground you. Then you'll really be in a pickle because next weekend is prom. You'd better chill out.

**Circle the word you hear. Teachers: mark your own sheet so you remember which word you read.**

|          |            |
|----------|------------|
| beauty   | bootie     |
| snooty   | fruity     |
| cutie    | snooty     |
| duty     | bootie     |
| off duty | heavy duty |
| cutie    | Trudy      |
| beauty   | duty       |
| Woody    | Trudy      |
| Trudy    | truly      |

### **Answer Quickly**

Name someone you think is a beauty.

Name a duty you have to your parents. Name a duty you have to your friends.

List another baby clothing item besides booties.  
Name a household duty.  
Name something that is heavy duty.  
Name something you like to do when you are off duty.

### **Discuss**

What's the difference between someone who is beautiful and someone who is cute?  
Someone might say, "That truck is a beauty." or "That woman is a real beauty". Does it make sense that both a truck and a woman can be beautiful? Please explain.  
How important is it to be beautiful or handsome? Are brains more important than beauty?

Answers:

1. A jail is where a person goes when he is arrested. It is a temporary place to stay until his case works through the justice system. A person who receives a sentence of less than a year may stay in jail and not be sent to prison.

Convicted felons go to a prison, penitentiary or correctional facility. They are all the same thing. People sometimes say, "Ralph was sent to the pen." That is a shortened form of penitentiary.

2. A stool pigeon is a criminal who gives the police information about another criminal. Yes, he tells on people or "rats" on them.

3. An area code is the first three digits of your phone number. Your zip code is what goes after the state when you address an envelope.

4. A boondoggle is an expensive and wasteful project usually paid for with taxpayer money.

5. If something is catty-corner, it sits on a diagonal from something else. Our educational building is catty-corner from our church parking lot. A catty person is mean spirited and spiteful. The two words are not similar.

6. A conniption is a hysterical fit of hysterical excitement. My grandmother used to say, "Calm down, don't have a conniption." She might say this if she had just told me we were going to Disney World and I was very excited, jumping up and down and screaming with joy.

7. A critter is an animal. It could be a dog or cat or a wild animal. Would that worry you?

8. Druthers means your preferred choice. You might use it like this: "If I had my druthers, I'd go to a movie tonight, but if you want to stay home, I will."

9. Pony up means to pay your share. If you are all kicking in money towards buying a gift for someone in the office, you have to pony up (give the amount of money you owe towards the gift).

10. A schmuck is an obnoxious person.