

Usually we begin the lesson by having each group member talk for a few minutes on a particular topic. But today, we're going to learn some new vocabulary. The words are presented in pairs. After studying and discussing each pair, there is a talking topic. Students should take turns reading and discussing the vocabulary pairs, then talk about the discussion question for that pair.

VOCABULARY--

standpoint-a way of looking at or considering something

From an economic standpoint, the policy is sound.

standoff-a contest in which there is no winner

The two governments are in a standoff over whether troops should stay.

Question--Describe a standoff that has occurred in your country between different political groups, or on different political issues.

outlook-the way a person thinks about things

That book totally changed my outlook about politics

outcast-someone not accepted by other people

She has always been something of an outcast because of her autism.

Question--In your country, who is most likely to be an outcast? (Examples- seniors, people of a particular race or ethnicity, people with mental illness, people with disabilities, people with different sexual persuasions, etc.)

bigwig-powerful or important person

The corporate bigwigs are flying in to testify before Congress.

fat cat- a powerful person

The best seats in the stadium were saved for the fat cats who donated money to the team.

Question--Do you have problems in your country with fat cats who believe they can buy anything?

upbringing-the way a child is raised

He had a privileged upbringing, but was able to identify with people who were born poor.

upstanding- honorable, respectable person

He is an upstanding young man who will be very successful in politics.

Question--How would you describe your upbringing? How has your upbringing effected your life?

hocus pocus- language or activity that is meant to trick or confuse people.

The hocus pocus surrounding his political campaign masked his lack of knowledge about the issues.

hodgepodge- a jumbled mixture

Her apartment is decorated with a hodgepodge of styles. The living room is very traditional, but the art on the wall is ultra contemporary. Somehow it doesn't go together.

Question--Do you think different styles can be mixed successfully either in furniture, art or clothing?

wheeler dealer- a person who makes deals in business or politics in a skillful, but sometimes dishonest way (can also be used as a verb-to wheel and deal)

Bill will probably get the job done quickly because he's something of a wheeler dealer.

spin your wheels -to be in a situation where, despite your efforts, you are not advancing or moving back.

I feel like I am just spinning my wheels in this family owned company because it is impossible to be promoted unless you are a family member.

Question--Have you ever been in a situation where you felt you were just spinning your wheels? What should a person do if they were in the situation of the person in the sample sentence above?

dream team-a group of people who are very proficient and work well together.

My company put a legal dream team together to defend against the lawsuit.

dream ticket - When two politicians who represent different groups of people team together to run for election.

Kennedy and Johnson were a dream ticket when they ran for president and vice-president. Kennedy was a wealthy northeasterner and Johnson was a Texan from a humble background.

Question-- If you were going to put a dream ticket together for an election in your country, which areas are beliefs should be paired up? (For example, in the U.S., it's good to have someone from two different regions of the country or to have a moderate and a liberal/conservative.)

ultimately-in the end

We fought against the rule change, but ultimately the big companies got their way.

untimely-something that happens at an unsuitable time

Her son's untimely death destroyed the woman's life. The man made an untimely remark about the boss just as the boss walked up behind him.

Question-- Ultimately, being successful in my country depends upon _____.

chance meeting-an unknown and unpredictable event (If anything happens without plan it can be described as "by chance")

I had a chance meeting with Brad when we happened to get in the same elevator.

chancy -subject to unpredictable changes

The weather is looking a bit chancy for a beach excursion. It might be better to wait for a sunny day.

Have you ever had a very successful outcome from a chance meeting? Have you ever tried to arrange a "chance meeting", for example, by waiting in your office til you see the boss coming, then stepping out into the hall?

Label these pictures with the words below:

mug	carafe	jug	beaker	bucket	carton	package	pitcher
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