

Word of the day: stall

Verb: If a process stalls, or if someone or something stalls it, the process stops but may continue at a later time. *Ex: Delta Airlines managers had a good reason to stall the negotiations.*

Example: _____

Verb: If you stall someone, you deliberately prevent them from doing something until later, for example by talking to them. *Ex: Brian stalled the man until the police arrived.*

Example: _____

Verb: If a vehicle stalls, the engine stops suddenly. *Ex: My engine stalled just as I entered the freeway.*

Example: _____

Noun: A stall is a large table or booth on which you put goods that you want to sell, or information that you want to give people. *Ex: At the market, there are stalls where people sell home grown vegetables.*

Example: _____

Noun: A compartment in a stable where a single animal is confined. *Ex: I keep my horse in a stall in our barn.*

Example: _____

Idioms that mean stall:

beat around the bush: Please stop beating around the bush and answer my question.

drag your feet: If the architect had not dragged his feet, the plans would be ready by now.

slow down: Please slow down the train, there is a car on the tracks.

play for time: I'll play for time while you sneak in and get his key. The lawyers at the trial were playing for time while they looked for a witness.

hold off: I was able to hold off the attackers long enough for Tom to arrive. Tell my secretary to hold off the reporters until I have prepared my statement.

stonewall: He stonewalled until he could think of an answer to the reporter's question.

take your time: Take your time. You don't have to make the decision right now.

waste time: Don't waste my time with busy work.

Discussion Questions:

1. What part of your education has been a waste of time?
2. If you were going to sell something out of a stall at a flea market, what would you sell?
3. Have you ever been to any of the stalls at the farmer's market in downtown Austin? Have you bought anything from a stall?

4. In your country, do you have farmer's markets where people sell the things they grown on their farms?
5. Do you sometimes drag your feet when you have to do a chore you don't like? What are some chores that you might drag your feet before doing?
6. Sometimes my sons drag their feet before they do chores, hoping someone else will do it for them. Have you ever used this tactic?
7. My husband/wife/friend always drags his/her feet when I ask him/her to _____.
8. What are some things you might hold off buying because of your current financial situation?
9. What are some things that can really "slow you down"?
10. Do you take your time over meals, or eat them as fast as you can?
11. What is a job that you must take your time over?
12. Does your spouse take their time about getting ready to go out?

Conversation: At the Flea Market

Ann: Look at all the stalls. There are people selling everything from jewelry to watermelon here.

Jan: Let's hurry.

Ann: Slow down, I want to look at everything here. I don't want to rush.

Jan: I want to visit the stall selling jewelry. My friend bought a watch there that looked really nice.

Ann: I would hold off on buying jewelry here. You might be able to get better quality for the same price at the mall.

Jan: The woman at that stall is selling puppies. Look, aren't they cute.

Ann: I don't want to waste time looking at puppies. My apartment doesn't allow animals.

Jan: Let's go to the vegetable stall. We could buy some fresh veggies and roast them for supper.

Ann: That's a good idea. I like to make a sandwich with roasted vegetables and melted goat cheese on top.

Jan: That sounds delicious. Come on. Don't stall any longer. Let's get those vegetables and go home. I'm hungry.

Questions: Try to answer without looking back at the conversation.

- 1- Which of the girls wants to hurry, and which wants to slow down?
- 2- What is Jan interested in buying?
- 3- What advice does Ann give Jan about buying jewelry?
- 4- Why doesn't Ann want to look at the puppies?
- 5- What two stalls did Jan say she wanted to visit?
- 6- How does Ann eat roasted veggies?
- 7- Was Jan in favor of the idea to buy vegetables?