

ESL Lesson: Heads Up!

Students talk for a few minutes on one of these topics then lead a discussion in your group.

- 1-Do you like to attack problems head on or use a more round about way of dealing with it?
- 2-What gives you a headache? Do you get headaches often? What do you do about a headache?
- 3-Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like you were in over your head? Tell what happened.
- 4-Can you stand on your head? Could you as a child? Do you have good balance? Do you enjoy gymnastics?

You know a **head** is that thing that sits on your shoulders. But did you know that a **head** can be a position? Ex: Go to the head of the line if you already have a ticket. The **head** can also mean the top position. Ex: Jim is the head of Motorola's eastern division. The heads of government from many European countries will meet with our president. The word **head** can also refer to the cost per person. Ex: The caterer charges \$10 per head for a barbeque dinner.

Match these "head" words with their correct definition, then write a sentence using each word.

Headquarters	1. Pain in your head
Headlight	2. Title of a newspaper article
headline	3. Large bright light at the front of your car
Head-on	4. The lead teacher of a school
heady	5. Face to face, or front end to front end
headway	6. Make progress towards something
headache	7. An atmosphere that strongly affects you
headmaster	8. Main offices of an organization

Read these sentences and try to figure out the meaning of these "head idioms".

1. She got it into her head that Barry insulted her, and now you can't change her mind.
2. Winning that sales contract really went to Steve's head.
3. She survived the tornado because she was able to keep her head and move to shelter quickly.
4. If Bill insists on going to his ex-girlfriends wedding, he is heading for trouble.
5. Flip the coin and see if it's heads or tails.
6. She waved goodbye as she headed for the door.
7. The doctors worked to head off the flu epidemic.
8. Jane agreed to head up the fund-raising committee.
9. When the principal hears about the food fight, heads will roll!
10. Heads up, the ball is coming!
11. John has a head start on us because he already speaks English.

Read and discuss:

When we were single, my girlfriends and I tried all the usual ways to meet men. We hung out in lawyer's bars and coffee shops near the hospital, hoping to meet a single professional man.

Night after night we struck out, wasting money and energy. One evening, the bartender gave me some good dating advice. He said, "If you want to meet guys, get a dog and a Frisbee and go to the park." His point was that somewhere there was a guy looking for me just as hard as I was looking for him.

1. Do you think it's a good idea to go to bars and coffee shops hoping to meet men? Explain.
2. Do you think hanging out in a park with your dog is a good way to meet men?
3. What advice would you give someone who was trying to meet someone to date?
4. How did you meet your spouse?
5. Have you ever introduced friends that you were hoping would begin dating?
6. Do you approve of matchmaking?