

FUMC ESL 4-13-2015 Advanced Lesson

VOCABULARY:

To “bear” something means either to carry or to support. There are many idioms with “bear”.

If you bear down, you try hard. *I’m going to bear down next semester and make straight A’s.*

If you bear down on something, you press hard on it. *When you sign your name, bear down because you are making 3 copies.*

If you bear off, you turn off. *Bear left when you come to the intersection.*

If you bear with, *you are patient with. Bear with us while we set up the projector.*

There are many expressions with “bear”.

If you bear arms, you possess a weapon. *EX: A citizen of the U.S. may bear arms to protect himself.*
Things that bear fruit give satisfactory results. *EX: Taking the practice exam really bore fruit when I had to take the LSAT.*

If you bear something in mind, you keep it in mind. *EX: Bear in mind that Mother will be coming with us to the theatre.*

If you bear the brunt of something, you endure the worst part of it. *EX: The mayor bore the brunt of the criticism.*

If you grin and bear it, you endure something unpleasant with a smile. *EX: The boys will probably tease you about this outfit. Just grin and bear it.*

TALKING ABOUT WORK—Students take turns reading the paragraph to the group and answering the questions. Then lead a group discussion about the question.

1. What do you do? This is how people ask what your job is. But you don’t answer by saying, I do.....
You usually answer by saying, I am....

What do you do? I’m an engineer. I’m a doctor. I’m a student. I’m a pharmacist.

Sometimes you answer, I work in...

You use this to describe the field of your work. *EX: I work in instructional technology. I work in medical sales. I work in the aerospace industry. I work in construction.*

People might ask, “What do you do for a living.” This means what is your job that you get paid for. You answer the same as you do for “What do you do?”

Tell what you do for a living or what you did for a living before coming here. Practice answering with the “I am...” AND the “I work in...” answers.

2. A “desk job” is a job where you spend most of your time at a desk. Some people prefer a more active job or a job where they work outside. Which type of job would you prefer? Was your most recent job a desk job? Do you ever wish you had chosen a field where you could be away from a desk most of the time?

3. A “sweat shop” is a workplace where the hours are long, the pay is low and the working conditions are bad. *EX: Nike stopped using sweat shops in foreign countries to make their shoes.*

The United States has a minimum wage law that required all workers be paid a minimum salary. To avoid paying these labor costs, many U.S. companies move their manufacturing overseas to countries where they can pay very low wages and are not required to have good working conditions. This allows them to sell their merchandise at a cheaper price. How do you feel about this practice?

4. A dead-end job is one with no possibility of advancement. *EX: I feel like I’m going nowhere. I have a dead-end job sacking groceries at the Walmart. I need to go back to school and finish my education.*

Sometimes a dead-end job is OK if it is temporary. For example, many students have low paying dead-end jobs while they are in school because they need some income. Have you ever had a job that was a dead-end job? Most young workers in the U.S. expect to move up in their company very rapidly. They get easily frustrated if promotions don't come quickly. Is this the expectation in your country? Do you think young people in the U.S. are spoiled for expecting quick advancement?

5. The term "working class" refers to people who do manual labor or work in a trade. These jobs usually don't require a certain amount of education, though most working class people have at least a high school diploma. Usually these workers are paid on an hourly basis. If they work overtime, they get time and a half. Professionals are people who have professions that require more education. They are doctors, teachers, salesmen, ministers, programmers. They are usually salaried workers. They are paid monthly. They are paid a set amount no matter how many hours they work. Another word for this is blue-collar worker. Around 40% of American workers are blue-collar workers. Do you think this is about the same in your country? Many of our grandparents were blue-collar workers, many of them farmers. They prided themselves on sending their sons and daughters to college to become professionals. Is this desire to send your kids to college strong in your country? What jobs did your grandparents have?