

Students: Read the definition and example, then talk about the question with your group.

+wrong side of the tracks--*poor part of town EX: Jason has a hard time making friends at the new school because he is from the wrong side of the tracks.*

Is there a “wrong side of the tracks” in your town? Is it north, south, east or west of town? Did you go to school with kids from the wrong side of the tracks? Did other kids make fun of them?

+work wonders--*surprisingly beneficial EX: This brand of aspirin works wonders for headaches.*

Do you have any special cures that “work wonders”? What are some over the counter medicines that are sold in your country that you can’t get here?

+word to the wise--*a good piece of advice EX: Here is a word to the wise. Get to the hospital early because you will have to fill out lots of paperwork.*

What word to the wise could you offer people from your country who are coming to the United States? What word to the wise would you give me if I were coming to your country?

+word for word--*in the exact words EX: I memorized the speech word for word. EX I can’t recall what she said word for word, but I got the gist of her speech.*

+word by word--*one word at a time EX: The lawyer examined the contract word by word. EX: The small child read the story word by word.*

Do you read English word by word or are you able to skim through quickly?

+man of few words--*a man who speaks only when necessary EX: Mr. Minton was a man of few words. But when he talked, everyone listened.*

Do you know anyone like Mr. Minton who is quiet but says important things when he does speak? Does this describe your father?

+at a loss for words--*when you cannot think of anything to say, usually because you are surprised EX: When my son told me he was going to marry a woman ten years older, I was at a loss for words.*

What is something someone told you that made you feel at a loss for words? What could you tell your parents that would make them feel at a loss for words?

+by word of mouth--*information you hear from other people EX: Students know about our classes through word of mouth. Our students tell their friends who tell their friends. That is the way our classes grow.*

Have you ever told anyone about our classes?

+ a man of his word--*is a person who does what he says he will do. EX: John is a man of his word. If he says he will help us tomorrow, then he will.*

Do you know people who say they will do something, but don’t. For example, if you ask them to help you, they don’t show up, or they call to make an excuse for not coming.

+breathe a word--*If a friend says, “Don’t breathe a word of this to anyone”, they mean don’t tell anyone.*

EX: Mary told me she got engaged last night, but asked me not to breathe a word to anyone until she had a chance to tell her parents.

Did your parents know you were going to get engaged before it happened? Here it is often the custom for a man to ask permission of his girlfriend’s father before asking her to marry him. Is that a custom in your country?

+mark my words--*pay attention to what I am saying. EX: Mark my words, this presidential election will be a hard fought battle.*

Use this in a sentence about something in your country.

Gerunds or Infinitives Quiz: Which is the correct sentence.

- 1-Remember _____ your shoes when you visit a Japanese home.
to remove removing
- 2-I have been trying _____ this report all morning.
to finish finishing
- 3-We stopped _____ for that company two years ago.
to work working
- 4-I forgot _____ my toothpaste, so I'll have to buy some.
to pack packing
- 5-We regret _____ you that Flight 2811 to Beijing has been delayed.
to inform informing
- 6-I stopped _____ the phone on my way out of the house this morning.
to answer answering
- 7-I remember _____ you in our London office last year.
to meet meeting
- 8-I forgot _____ these letters.
to post posting
- 9-We managed _____ her by phone a few minutes ago.
to reach reaching
- 10-Remember _____ hotel rooms for our Chinese guests.
to reserve reserving
- 11-We really enjoy _____ to classical music.
to listen listening
- 12-They suggested _____ by train.
to travel traveling
- 13-I pretended _____ asleep.
to be being
- 14-It's no use _____ over spilt milk.
to cry crying
- 15-Austin doesn't allow _____ in restaurants.
to smoke smoking
- 16-I can't bear _____ to operas.
to listen listening
- 17-She warned him not _____ late.
to be being
- 18-She considered _____ to New York.
to move moving
- 19-We stopped _____ the phone after we kept getting crank calls.
to answer answering
- 20-They urged their citizens _____ waste.
to recycle recycling