

## FUMC ESL 3-10-2016 Level 4 Lesson

### Choose the right idiom:

1-He didn't want to think about getting a perfect score before his next exam because he was afraid he would ..... himself.

- (a) karma
- (b) trip
- (c) jinx
- (d) bad

2-Everyone was waiting for Grandpa Joe to kick the ..... He had cancer for many years and the doctor said that he only had a year to live. (This is an extremely informal expression and should not be used in a polite setting.)

- (a) mule
- (b) bucket
- (c) farm
- (d) cat

3-He thought he would get the promotion on Monday. "Knock on ....., " he said to himself.

- (a) doors
- (b) head
- (c) down
- (d) wood

4-Everyone agreed that Jim was too arrogant, and they wanted to knock him down a .....

- (a) well
- (b) peg
- (c) hill
- (d) head

5-"Once you know the ..... better, we will give you more responsibility," the boss said to the new trainee.

- (a) lines
- (b) slips
- (c) straps
- (d) ropes

6-"Last but not ....., Rebecca!" the emcee said as he introduced the final contestant of the evening.

- (a) least
- (b) forgotten
- (c) worst
- (d) eliminated

7-He apologized for losing his temper after his wife told him that she had spent a lot of money. It was just a knee-jerk ..... He hadn't planned it and he now regretted it.

- (a) movement
- (b) motion
- (c) reaction
- (d) meditation

8-Did Jimmy win the singing contest? Oh yes, everyone voted for him. He won .....

- (a) hand over hand
- (b) hands down
- (c) hand me down
- (d) out of his hands

### Discuss:

1-Karma is the feeling you get from a person, place or action. EX: This house has bad karma. Have you ever felt a place had bad karma or good karma? If you found a house to buy that had everything you wanted except you felt it had bad karma, what would you do?

2-There are many good luck expressions in English. For example, when an actor prepares to go on stage, we might say, "break a leg". If you cross your fingers, it means you hope something happens. If you tell someone, "smooth sailing", you are telling them you hope everything goes well. What good luck expressions do you have in your country? Explain how you use them.

3-If you have a reaction to a drug or something you have eaten, it makes you sick. For example, some people have allergic reactions to peanuts or seafood. Do you have any food allergies? Are there any foods that you avoid eating for other reasons?

4-If something is "out of your hands", it means you don't have control over it. EX: I asked my boss for a raise, but he said it was out of his hands. All raises are given on a seniority basis. I haven't worked there long enough to qualify for a raise.

Give an example of something that is out of your hands.

5-A hand me down is something others have used before you. Frequently this term refers to used clothing. Did you ever wear hand me downs when you were a child? How did you feel about that. Do you hand down clothes from older children to younger ones?

6-If you are asked to "hand over the reins", it means give up leadership or control. EX: When Ted retired he handed over the reins to his son, Ernie.

Has anyone ever handed over the reins to you?

7-If you "bite the hand that feeds you" you criticize or betray someone that you depend on for your income. Talk about an example of this. Would you be fired in your country if you openly criticized your employer? Should you be fired?

8-To "force someone's hand" is to cause them to act or speak before they really want to. This saying probably comes from poker, where a hand is the cards you are dealt. You don't want to show your hand to the other players. But we use this expression in many other ways. EX: The president didn't want to announce the talks with the Taliban, but the leak to the English newspaper forced his hand. EX: The police did not have all the evidence they wanted to arrest the suspect, but when it appeared he was boarding a plane for Mexico, it forced their hand and they arrested him with the hope of finding the additional evidence they needed.

Can you think of an example when someone's hand has been forced?