

4-11-2016 FUMC ESL Level 4 Lesson

**Read the conversations below in pairs. Explain the meaning of the underlined words and expressions.**

Jay: Is this copy machine still out of order?

Bev: Yes, it's been out of commission for over a week.

Steve: What's the matter with Karen?

Maggie: I'm not sure. She's been out of sorts all day.

Tammy: John broke up with Jane. Jane is heartbroken.

Stan: Yes, Jane borrowed John's car and wrecked it. John said that was the last straw. Jane had done several stupid things. He feels she is just not very responsible.

Deb: Should we get tickets to the concert next weekend?

John: Let's just play it by ear. I'm not sure I'll be able to get off.

Susan: Jenny can play so many songs on the piano. How does she memorize all that music?

Stan: Jenny plays by ear. She doesn't need music to play a song. If she has heard it, she can play it.

Alan: What a racket! You are making enough noise to wake the dead. Please try to be quieter.

Sue: Don't be such a grouch. I'm practicing on my guitar.

Alice: Janice was out of earshot when they were explaining how to make the cookies.

Jan: I was in earshot, but wasn't really paying close attention. Her instructions went in one ear and out the other.

Alice: Just watching her prepare the dough made my mouth water.

Sue: I couldn't watch that movie. Seeing that creepy guy sneaking into the girl's apartment made my flesh crawl.

Fran: I will admit I was petrified during the whole movie. I think everyone was scared out of their wits.

Sara: John begged his parents to let him stay out late on prom night, but his plea fell on deaf ears.

Kate: I've heard his parents are unbelievably strict.

Brittney: Have you started studying for the TOEFL yet?

Laura: That's a sore subject. My mother keeps harping on the need to study every night. She wants me to call Ben and study with him, but I can't get up the nerve to call him. I'll probably just cram for the test the week before.

Jessie: Could I have a sip of your drink? My mouth is dry and that lemonade looks so refreshing.

Amelia: It's not all it's cracked up to be. They brag about their lemonade here, and it has a wonderful aroma, but it's awfully sweet. I prefer tart lemonade.

Linda: Leslie's apartment looks so great. I love the way she accented her grey sofa with some lovely colorful fabrics.

Mother: Leslie has always had a good eye for color.

Jay: This baby is the spitting image of his father.

Katie: He's definitely a chip of the old block.

Father: Whose turn is it to say grace?

Robert: Beats me. I don't have a clue.

Fay: After the initial shock of a cancer diagnosis, Sara finally came to grips with it.

James: I hope Sara will be all right. Losing her is more than I could bear.

Mrs. Edwards: I'm really fed up with you, Rob. I've a mind to tell your mother how you behaved when she comes to pick you up.

Rob: Sorry Mrs. Edwards. I'll mind my p's and q's from now on.

Sandra: I get goosebumps when I hear the songs from the war years. They bring back such poignant memories.

Tom: I know what you mean.

Michele: Al can't come with us tonight. He's under the gun to finish his income taxes before the due date.

Terry: April 15th is this week. He's getting down to the wire.

George: There is more to her disappearance than meets the eye. The police suspect foul play.

Jason: Unfortunately, looking for a young woman who has disappeared in Los Angeles is like looking for a needle in a haystack. L.A. is full of young women who have run away from home to become famous.

They all think they can make it in show business.

Tom: When negotiations with management reached an impasse, the union ordered a strike.

Phil: Increasing salaries is always a stumbling block for management. I hope they strike a bargain soon.

### **Discuss in your group:**

1. Which one of your parents do you favor?
2. When you were in school did you study well in advance or cram the days before the test?
3. Were you raised in a religious home? Did you carry on your family's religious traditions in your own family?
4. Talk about something that didn't turn out as well as it was cracked up to be.
5. Do you play a musical instrument or sing? Tell us about it.
6. Which entertainment would you prefer: singing karaoke, acting in a local play, playing a game, working a puzzle.
7. What kinds of movies do you like, horror, mysteries, romances or something else?
8. Do you have a good eye for color? Do your friends ever ask you to help them decorate? Are you interested in decorating your apartment or home?
9. Were you ever interested in becoming an actor or actress? Which actors or actresses do you most admire?
10. Are unions powerful in your country?