

FUMC ESL 6-2-2016 Level 4 Lesson

Read and discuss the paragraph below written by another ESL student.

How to Annoy Your Teacher by Wahid Sali from Pakistan

Annoying your teacher is easy if you follow these simple directions. First, go to class late every day. When you are in class, don't pay attention to what the teacher is saying. Instead, look out the window at some beautiful girls, or talk to your friends loudly. Leave class at least twice to smoke a cigarette in the hall. Ask to go to the restroom often. When the teacher is writing on the board, make funny noises, or throw paper. Chew gum in class and stick it on your chair when you leave. If you follow these directions carefully you'll most likely be thrown out of class.

Write a "how to" paragraph on one of the following topics.

- get fat
- lose your boyfriend/girlfriend
- embarrass your husband/wife
- lose a job

Read your paragraph to the class. Teachers help the students make corrections where needed.

Is it Burn Up or Burn Down?

We say we burned up all the wood in the fireplace. We wouldn't say we burned down all the wood. On the other hand, our houses burn down, not up.

Burn up comes from the idea that the thing is used up. Fuel is used and is used up. Burn down usually means something has burned down to the ground. All structure and support is gone.

One might say that "all my stuff was burned up in the fire when my house burned down." You'd be less likely to hear "my house burned up," but it is not totally unheard of usage.

There's also a common third option—"burn through"—which evokes the idea of a wave of fire moving across or through something. "I burned through all my money at that casino in about two hours."

Fill in the blanks with either "burn up" or "burn down".

The satellite will _____ as it enters the earth's atmosphere. It is so hot in here. I'm _____.

The old building _____ during the electrical storm. Jet engines _____ all their fuel quickly.

When you are very angry about something, you are burned up not burned down. EX: It just burns me up that Kyle gets to go first every time. It burns me up when others take credit for my design.

Idioms: (Students take turn reading the paragraph about the idiom then ask a fellow student to answer the question. Then that student will read about the next idiom. And so on.

1. If you leave something in the oven too long, it will be “burnt to a crisp”. Crisp is something crunchy. For example, if you open a new package of crackers, they will be crisp. But if you leave them sitting out on the counter, they will get soggy. The British use “crisps” for what Americans call “chips”.

Are you a person who frequently burns things to a crisp? If you burn something, do you still eat it, or throw it out?

2. If you “burn your candle at both ends” you exhaust yourself by leading a hectic life. Many people today try to do too many things at the same time. For example, they drive their cars while conducting business on the phone or computer. This leads to a stressful life.

Do you sometimes feel you are burning your candle at both ends? Do you often feel exhausted at the end of the day? Do you find it hard to disconnect from your phone? Do you feel uncomfortable being out of touch with everyone?

3. When someone “burns their bridges” they behave in such a way that it is impossible to go back. Read this example of someone burning their bridges. “Tim decided to quit his job. He had never liked sales and he felt it was time to try something else. When he told his boss he was quitting, he told him he hated the company and his job and he didn’t think his supervisor was very smart. He said that he would never work for a company like this one again. A couple of years later, Tim decided that his old job wasn’t so bad. It wasn’t perfect, but he made a very good salary. All of the jobs he had had since quitting were very poorly paid. Tim decided to contact his old boss and see if his company had any openings. But Tim found that he had burned his bridges with that company. His boss remembered all the bad things Tim had said about the company and refused to offer Tim a job.”

Have you ever burned your bridges with someone or some company and later regretted it? Give an example of how you could quit a job WITHOUT burning your bridges.