

Pronunciation: Practice pronouncing these word pairs

she's - cheese
yacht - jot
boat - bought
fur - her
cheap - jeep
ship - sheep
chip - cheap
thing - bathe
thing - thin
ring - rim
fifths - fist
feel - fell - fill - fall
sheet - seat
peach - beach

Practical English Usage

1. In English, punctuation is very important and can completely change the meaning of a sentence. Punctuate this sentence: A woman without her man is nothing.

A professor gave this sentence to his students to punctuate. The males in the classroom wrote, "A woman, without her man, is nothing." The women in the class wrote, "A woman: without her, man is nothing." With just a simple change in punctuation, the entire meaning of the sentence was changed in an instant.

This was a sub-heading on a magazine: "Rachel Ray finds inspiration in cooking her family and her dog." We are sure that Rachel Ray didn't cook her family or her dog. Put the commas in to make this sentence make more sense.

2. If we are sitting at a table looking at a person on the opposite side, we don't say, "The person in front of me", we say, "The person opposite me, or facing me, across from me".

EX: The woman sitting across from me talked all the time. The man opposite me was very handsome. We sat facing each other.

3. We also use facing when we are talking about direction. EX: He stood, facing the sun.

Face can also mean to confront or deal with something. EX: I can't face another day without coffee.

Talk about something you can't face.

Idioms with FACE

1-If you talk to someone face to face, you talk to them in person. Not on the phone, not by email, but looking into their face. EX: I don't like talking about our problems on the phone. Let's sit down and talk face to face.

Do you prefer talking face to face or on the phone?

2-If you face the music, you accept the unpleasant results of your actions. EX: After doing poorly in his classes, Tom had to go home and face the music. He knew his father was going to be really mad at him.

Have you ever had to face the music for something bad you did?

3-If you talk until you are blue in the face, you talk for a really long time trying to convince someone. EX: I have tried talking to Eddie about his smoking. I've talked til I'm blue in the face. But he doesn't listen. He knows it's bad for his health, but he won't change.

When I was growing up, my mother talked until she was blue in the face about the importance of being modest around boys. She didn't want me to wear skirts that were too short, or to flirt with and tease the boys. What did your parents talk until they were blue in the face about?

4-If you face facts, you accept the truth. EX: You have to face the facts, Ken. No one wants to hire someone sixty years old. The good jobs are going to younger people.

We all have to face facts sometime, even when we don't want to. What fact have you had to face lately?

5-Someone with a poker face is good at concealing their thoughts and feelings. EX: What did Dad think about my new boyfriend? I don't know. He had a poker face, so I couldn't figure out whether he was happy or sad.

Do you have a poker face?

6-To save face means to avoid embarrassment. EX: To save face, she pretended she had not heard the insult.

Have you ever done something to save face?

Practice Speaking: Speak for 2 minutes on one of these topics, then lead a discussion about the topic.

1. How do movies or television influence people's behavior? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.
2. Should governments spend more money on improving roads and highways, or should governments spend more money on improving public transportation (buses, trains, subways)? Why? Use specific reasons and details to develop your idea.
3. In some countries, teenagers have jobs while they are still students. Do you think this is a good idea? Support your opinion by using specific reasons and details.
4. If you are attending college in the United States, is it better to have an American roommate or a roommate from your home country?
5. Many cities rely on toll roads to help pay for highway construction. Do you think this is a good plan? Are there lots of toll roads in your country? Do you object to paying tolls to drive on a road?