

FUMC ESL 9–19–2016 Level 3 Lesson

Pronunciation Practice: Practice saying these word pairs. Pay special attention to the ending sounds. Some of these may be hard for native Spanish speakers.

cot cod

caught cod

coat code

luff love (In sailing, if you luff your sails, you let the wind get behind your sail so that it begins to flap.)

job jove (By Jove is an expression of surprise. Jove refers to the planet Jupiter.)

bat bad

port pour

teeth tee

sent send

can't canned

Say these sentences.

1. I can't eat canned food.
2. I sent it before he could send it.
3. Put the ball on the tee.
4. Pour the port for the guests.
5. That bat is bad.
6. By Jove, I got a job.
7. I caught some cod.

Read and Discuss: Underline any words or sentences you don't understand.

The Night I Slept in Central Park

If I asked you to make a list of ten places where you might not feel safe at night, New York might be on your list. If I asked you where, in New York, you might not feel safe at night, Central Park might be a place you'd mention.

So **what on earth** was I doing sleeping on a bench under the trees in Central Park?

Well, it was the night before the New York **Half-Marathon**. I had planned a light supper and **an early night**. I had **set the alarm** for four-thirty and booked a taxi to take me to the start for five-thirty. I ate my light supper, read for a while and went to bed around ten.

That's when the neighborhood went crazy. First there was a fire in an apartment building down the street: fire engines and **sirens**. Then there was a **domestic abuse incident** in the apartment next door: police cars and sirens. After that a street party started outside my bedroom window: music and singing. Then there was a **drunken** fight: ambulances and sirens. I even heard a gunshot.

It was one o'clock in the morning and I was running a half-marathon in six hours. I hadn't slept. I couldn't sleep. The harder I tried, the more difficult it became. I got up. I **wandered** around the apartment. The noise was **deafening**. So I decided to get ready and leave the apartment.

I put on my running gear and left the apartment. I made my way, carefully, between the broken glass and discarded food on the street, to the subway station. I waited half an hour for a train but when it came it was empty and I was soon at 96th Street. Coming up to street level I was

struck by how quiet it was, how calm it was and how warm it was. I had left the apartment with no idea what I was going to do until the start of the race, but now, looking across the road at the Park, it was suddenly obvious.

There was a lovely, long bench under the trees and not far from the road. I sat down for a while, then I lay down. The next thing I remember is my watch alarm ringing at four thirty. It was still dark but I woke feeling relaxed, refreshed and remarkably comfortable. The **dawn chorus** was as deafening as the police sirens had been – but much sweeter.

What on earth..?

An expression of amazed disbelief at someone's stupidity.

half-marathon

a running race of 13.1 miles/21 kilometers

an early night

If you decide to have an early night it means you plan to go to bed early or earlier than usual.

set the alarm

adjust an alarm clock so that it will ring at a particular time

sirens

warning devices, for example on fire engines, ambulances and police cars, which make a loud noise

domestic abuse incident

a (usually violent) fight between a couple (e.g. husband and wife or boyfriend and girlfriend)

drunken

Drunken behavior is clumsy, noisy, foolish and sometimes violent behavior by someone who is drunk.

wandered

walked casually and aimlessly

deafening

so loud as to make you deaf (i.e. damage your ability to hear)

dawn chorus

the singing of birds at dawn

Questions:

1. Tell us about a time you slept outside.
2. Where do you go to find peace and quiet?
3. Is your apartment/house quiet at night?
4. Do you do anything special to make sure you have a quiet, restful night? (wear ear plugs, use a sound machine, turn on the fan, sleep in a very dark room, etc.)
5. Do you enjoy the dawn chorus?
6. Have you ever witnessed domestic abuse?
7. Have you ever run a marathon? or something shorter like a half marathon or 10K?
8. Would you consider sleeping in a park as this person did?