

## FUMC ESL 9-29-2016 LEVEL 4 LESSON

### Pronunciation

When people talk fast, they link words together. This can make them hard to understand. When we link two consonant sounds that are the same, the consonant is pronounced once not twice. This can make the second sound seem to be missing. EX: When we say, What's the weather report. It sounds like weather eport.

Listen to the teacher pronounce these linked words, then you pronounce them.

black coffee    one night    gas station    Rachel's son    gym mats    take care    some might

The exception to this rule is with the **stop consonants**. Stop consonants are consonants that are pronounced by stopping the airflow with the tongue or lips, then releasing it. The tongue is the stop for T and D. Practice saying these two consonants. Pay attention to where your tongue goes. The lips are the stop for P and B. Practice saying these sounds. And our throat is the stop for the hard G and K. Practice saying these sounds.

We don't **run together final consonants when they are stop consonants**. We actually stop the sound and pronounce the beginning consonant of the second word. Notice the way we pronounce these two word combinations. We stop the sound at the end of the first word

flip phone    bad dog    good dog    hot today    peanut butter    hot sauce

Some students have problems with the **F sound to W sound transition**. Practice saying the F sound moving into the W sound. We just **round the lips**. The tongue doesn't move.

Practice these combinations

tough one    The thief would know.    Surf with us.    Off with his head!    Jeff will.

**Idioms: Students read the paragraphs aloud to the group and explain the underlined idioms. Then ask the question to several of your fellow students.**

1. We're getting nowhere fast on this investigation. I've followed many leads, but they all came to nothing. I even went back and tried to interview some of the original witnesses, but that didn't work out either. When I told the captain we weren't making any progress, he bit my head off. He said failure is not an option on this case. I can't stand it when we hit a dead end in an investigation.

Question: Talk about something in your life that is going nowhere fast or at a dead end.

2. There is a saying, "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today." I'm afraid I'm guilty of that. I'm a horrible procrastinator. My boss gave me a project to work on, but I've been dragging my feet. My co-worker said, "You're taking your own sweet time with that." I admit it's true. But sometimes I just need extra time to think about things. People might think I'm just wasting time when I sit staring off into space. Someone once said, "What are you doing in there, contemplating your naval?" They just don't understand. I can't always think straight when I first face a problem. Contemplation helps me.

Question: Are you the kind of person that likes to study a problem a long time, or do you usually see a solution very quickly?

3. I want to go back to school, but I've put that on the back burner for now. For one thing, I'll have to cough up several hundred dollars just to register. For another thing, I'm kind of on the fence about what I should study. Should I go toward a master's degree in nursing, or should I go into another field altogether, like teaching. And it remains to be seen if I can even get in the school I'm interested in. I've half a mind to forget about school and just concentrate on improving my English.

Question: Do you ever think about going back to school? What would you study? What is stopping you?

4. I played golf for the first time last weekend. I did really well. I think it was beginner's luck. I hit some great shots. As luck would have it, one of the guys I played with was a golf pro. He was head and shoulders above the rest of us players. He gave me lots of tips. One of the fellows in our group was down on his luck. He hit into every single water hazard. We told him, "Better luck next time." He said he'd been having a streak of bad luck. In the last hole, he hit 4 over par. I told him, "tough luck". He was really down in the dumps by the end of the day. Everyone has bad days. You can't stop believing in yourself.

Question: Describe a day when you were down on your luck. OR Describe a really lucky day.

5. Taking English when I was in high school really gave me a head start when I moved to the U.S. I was head and shoulders above the other foreign students in my university classes. In fact, some of them were really in over their heads. The chemistry class was very advanced, and these students didn't understand English well enough to follow the professor's lecture. And all the assignments to complete can really make your head spin. The professor was scratching his head trying to figure out how to teach these students that didn't understand English. Honestly, some of these students were real knuckleheads. They should have known not to take advanced chemistry if you don't speak English. I made one of the best grades in the class. I have to be careful not to let it go to my head.

Question: Do you think this student is arrogant or just proud of his/her accomplishments? Defend your answer. How helpful were your English classes in your own country? Were you able to understand English and make yourself understood when you arrived?

6. Carol and Tim are such an attractive couple. They turn heads wherever they go. I saw them recently at a friend's wedding. Tim is such a dashing figure in his military uniform. And, of course, Carol was dressed to the nines. Every man in the room was green with envy when Tim walked in with Carol on his arm. And they appear to be head over heels in love with each other. They were the center of attention at the reception. I felt sorry for the bride, as Carol put her to shame. Carol didn't mean to outdo the bride. She can't help it that she's gorgeous.

Question: How are American weddings different from weddings in your country?