

## FUMC ESL 2-16-2016 Advanced Lesson

### SPEAKING PRACTICE

Choose one of these topics and speak for a few minutes about it.

--Something I am apprehensive about is...

--Do you like your name? If you could pick a new one what would it be? Why did your parents choose that name for you?

--If you invited me to dinner, what would you serve?

### READING FOR UNDERSTANDING:

Choose parts and read the conversation below. Someone other than the readers should paraphrase the conversation. In other words, briefly tell what happened. Ask about any vocabulary or idioms you don't know. Then answer the questions at the bottom.

**Mr. Barnes:** I am starting to question your loyalty to the company, James. Your manager tells me you've interviewed for another job.

**James:** Mr. Barnes, I am very loyal to this company. However, management told us last month that our staff would be reduced by 20% before the end of the year. Since I'm the youngest employee and the newest hire, I figured I would be one of the first to be let go. So, I decided to be proactive and look for another opportunity.

**Mr. Barnes:** I see. Well I hope I can allay your fears a bit. We do intend to reduce staff this year. In today's competitive market, we cannot afford to carry the expenses of a large staff. It's time for us to streamline. However, it won't be based solely on seniority. We feel our young workers understand the technology of today's marketplace well and are vital to the success of the company. We intend to offer a very generous early retirement package to some of our older workers. I suspect many of them will take it. We also have some mid level managers who are no longer pulling their own weight. Some of them will be asked to take a demotion and pay cut. I expect many of them will decide to move on.

**James:** I'm very glad you explained that to me, Mr. Barnes. I hope I haven't alienated management by seeking employment elsewhere. I do like working here and would like to continue. The only reason I started interviewing elsewhere is that I can't afford to be laid off. I have a wife and two small children. I'm the only source of income for my family.

- 1.What does Mr. Barnes mean by "allay your fears"? How did Mr. Barnes allay James' fears?
- 2.What does Mr. Barnes mean by a "generous early retirement package"? What do you think this package might include? Is it common in your country to be offered this type of deal to retire early?
- 3.What did Mr. Barnes mean by "question your loyalty"? Do you think it was disloyal of James to interview for a job with another company? In his position, would you have done the same, or would you have handled the situation differently? Explain what you would have done.
- 4.What does Mr. Barnes mean when he says it's time to streamline?
- 5.Should James be flattered or worried that Mr. Barnes came and talked to him?
- 6.Do you think it is Mr. Barnes intent to lay James off?
- 7.What does Mr. Barnes mean when he says some managers "aren't pulling their own weight"?
- 8.How is Mr. Barnes going to get the mid level managers to quit?
- 9.If you were offered a demotion and a pay cut, would you quit?
- 10.Who is "vital" to the company? What does "vital" mean in this context?
11. What should James do if the company he interviewed with offered him a job. Since Mr. Barnes seemed to indicate his job was safe, should he decline the new job or take it? Let's assume that both jobs are at the same level and same salary.

### GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Some verbs are nearly always followed by a preposition. EX: That car belongs to Muriel. You almost always use "to" after belong. You can say "belongs with". EX: That sock belongs with the one in my

drawer. But most often, we'd use "matches" rather than "belongs with". EX: That sock matches the one in my drawer. You might say, "I belong with Mike." The meaning here is that he is the perfect match for you.

Here are some other examples: *adhere to, aspire to, culminate in, detract from, differentiate between, specialize in.*

**Choose the correct verb and preposition pair to fit in these blanks. Some will be used more than once.**

1. Years of research \_\_\_\_\_ the discovery of penicillin.
2. Her strange hairdo really \_\_\_\_\_ her looks.
3. Which of these verbs and prepositions would you put in each blank.
4. Sara \_\_\_\_\_ be a Hollywood actress.
5. The plastic wrap will \_\_\_\_\_ the side of the bowl, sealing in the flavors.
6. The economic chaos in post World War I Germany \_\_\_\_\_ the rise of Adolph Hitler and the beginning of World War II.
7. It's difficult to \_\_\_\_\_ the two red sports cars.
8. They \_\_\_\_\_ making products for the computer industry.
9. If he \_\_\_\_\_ a high political office, he must moderate his views.

Now it's your turn to use them in a sentence. Write a sentence with each of the verbs above. Use this space to write the sentence. Then read them to the group. (Teachers: correct when necessary.)