

Read the stories. Ask questions about things you don't understand. Put the lesson down and tell, in your own words, what happened. Discuss the questions at the end of the article.

Story 1: The city made lots of money from taxes. Some money went to pay bills for city services like fire and police protection. But other city money was invested for the future. The city planned to build some new schools and buy more parkland. The city needed someone to manage their money. They hired Derick Frances. They felt he would invest their money so that it would grow.

Unfortunately, the city did not know that Derick Frances had been in prison for embezzling from his employer twenty years before. Embezzling means stealing money that belongs to your employer. A journalist discovered that Derick Frances was an embezzler. The journalist wrote an article for the paper. The headline said, "City Hires Fox to Guard the Henhouse."

This headline is an old saying. Foxes loves to be in henhouses because they love to eat chickens. So putting a fox in the henhouse is inviting him to eat all the chickens.

- 1. What does it mean to "make money grow"?**
- 2. Do you think the journalist used a good headline? Who was the fox?**
- 3. Should Derick have been fired? Do you think Derick should have been given a second chance since his earlier crime was 20 years ago?**
- 4. Has something like this ever happened in your country?**

Story 2: Jack **squirmed** in his seat. He was taking an exam with hundreds of students. The students were seated at long tables. There were many chairs at the tables. Jack felt like he had no **elbow room**. Jack was left handed and his arm kept bumping into the person next to him. He could not erase his math mistakes without shaking the whole table. Jack was so uncomfortable that he couldn't focus on the exam. He made a poor score.

Jack complained to the person giving the exam. He said it wasn't fair to give a test in such crowded conditions. The test manager told Jack to stop **whining**. He said all the students had the same conditions and many of them made high scores.

- 1. Is Jack a whiner or does he have a legitimate gripe? Something that is legitimate is legal or just. A gripe is a complaint. A whiner is a complainer.**
- 2. Do you think Jack should have been given a chance to take the test again?**
- 3. Have you taken exams with hundreds of people? Was the situation like this one? Do you do well on large exams?**

Ellie arrived at her new college dorm room. She was surprised to find that her roommate had moved the small single bed out of the room and installed a double bed on her side of the room. This meant that Ellie had very little room for her belongings. Ellie's single bed was pushed up against the wall and she had only a small space to walk beside the bed. She couldn't make room for a bedside table with a lamp. This made Ellie angry because she loved to read and study in bed. If she didn't have a lamp, she couldn't read or study in bed at night. Ellie didn't think it was fair for her roommate to take up all the room with a double bed. She decided to tell the dorm manager and insist on a new room.

- 1. Was Ellie right to be upset?**
- 2. Should she have talked to her roommate before going to the dorm manager? What would you have done in her situation?**
- 3. Did you have any bad roommates in school?**

Grammar Tip:

When you use conjunction(AND, BUT, OR) to connect two things in a sentence, the part of speech must stay the same. If that part of speech is a verb, it must have the same verb tense. For example: We played and danced until midnight. Played and danced are both past tense verbs. You DON'T say, We played and were dancing until midnight.

Look at this example. The city felt cold and dark when we came out of the club. You don't say, The city felt cold and darkness when we came out of the club. Cold is an adjective and darkness is a noun.

Wrong: We love shrimp but not to eat lobster.

Right: We love shrimp, but not lobster.

Wrong: We could wake early, or sleeping late.

Right: We could wake early, or sleep late.

Wrong: I like ice cream or making cookies.

Right: I like ice cream or cookies.

Read the sentences. Decide if they are correct. If they are not correct, change the wrong word.

1. Sam opened the door and entering the room.
2. The children splashed and play in the water.
3. This dish is made of meat, potatoes and salty.
4. Stan was driving and talking on the phone at the same time.
5. Mimi loved to sing and dancing.
6. They were red, ripe and apples.
7. We were washing and dried the apples.
8. I love going to the park and feeding the ducks.
9. We should call the kids and ask if they want to join us.
10. Mother cleared the table, brewed the coffee and washing the dishes.
11. The students should take harder courses and studying more for exams.
12. Many students are failing and take easier courses.
13. I hope to visit Scotland and walking a lot.
14. We were alone and frightening.
15. She likes to talk, but not listening.
16. Sara enjoys hiking, swimming and bicycles.
17. The coach told them to try weight lifting or run.
18. He spoke loudly and rude.