

FUMC ESL 9-14-2017 HIGH INTERMEDIATE LESSON

Monday we talked about small talk. Here are some more conversations to practice.

AT THE BUS STOP

Stranger: Wow, what a great day. Not a cloud in the sky. I love this time of year.

You: Yes, it's really lovely. Not too hot.

Stranger: We are supposed to get a cold front next week. Hope it doesn't freeze.

You: Oh, I didn't know that. Does it get very cold here in November?

Stranger: Not usually. But with a norther we can get pretty cold temperatures at night. It's possible it could freeze.

You: I've never heard of a norther. Is there a souther as well?

Stranger: Ha, ha. No. A norther is a storm that moves in from up north. It usually brings lots of wind and cold temperatures. Sometimes a little rain, as well. Most of the year the wind blows from the south, but we don't call it a souther. I'm not sure why.

You: Here comes my bus. Are you getting on this one?

Stranger: No. I'm waiting for the express bus to downtown. Nice talking to you. Have a good day.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

You are walking your dog. A neighbor is standing out in his front yard. As you walk by, he waves.

Neighbor: Hey, how are you?

You: Great, thanks. And you?

Neighbor: Fine, thanks. Hey, don't you live in the white house down the block?

You: Yes, we just moved in last week.

Neighbor: That was the Smith's house. We were good friends of theirs.

You: We met the Smiths at closing. They seemed like nice people.

Neighbor: They were great. We will really miss them. They moved to London for a new job. Our kids were best friends with their kids.

You: I'm sorry you lost such good friends. That's hard.

Neighbor: Hey, do you have kids?

You: Yes, I have a girl 10 and a boy 6.

Neighbor: That's perfect. I have girls that same age. Maybe they will be in the same class at school. Why don't you bring your kids over tomorrow. They can all play in our backyard. We have a pool.

You: Sure that sounds good. I'll need to check with my wife to see if that's ok.

Discuss what to do in these situations:

1-Your child comes home and says his good friend at school has invited him to his house after school tomorrow. Your child is very excited and really wants to go. But you are a bit concerned as you know nothing about the family he will visit. Do they have a mean dog? Do they allow guns in the home? Do they live in a safe neighborhood? Do they have a pool? Is there a mean uncle who lives with them? How do you handle this situation?

2-You have just moved in and the next door neighbor invites your family for dinner. But you have dietary restrictions. You are Muslim and don't eat pork. Your wife is a vegetarian and eats no meat and your

daughter is allergic to nuts. Do you accept the invitation but tell them about your dietary restrictions? Or do you decline the invitation? How do you handle this situation?

3-You are invited to a cocktail party with people from your office. You feel like you should go because it is a good way to network with people at work. But your husband had an alcoholic father and is strongly opposed to drinking. He especially feels uncomfortable when people are getting drunk around him. Do you go, but leave early? Do you decline? Do you leave your husband at home and go alone?

4-You are a man. Some of the guys at work are going for a drink after work. They ask you to come. You hate to accept without first checking with your wife. You're not sure your wife will approve of you going drinking while she is rushing home to pick up the kids and get dinner on the table. But you don't want to appear unfriendly or even worse, unmanly. After all, a man should be able to go get a drink without first checking with his wife shouldn't he? You know that's what the other guys will be thinking. What should you do?