

## FUMC ESL 10-1-2018 Advanced Lesson

These verbs are used to agree with or **permit** something. Read the examples below and discuss.

**acquiesce**-permit something to happen, but often associated with a degree of secrecy or conspiracy  
The Foreign Minister acquiesced in the plan to restrict imports from certain countries.

**assent**-agree to something, often plans, proposals or ideas.  
Against his better judgment, Roosevelt assented to the proposal.

**authorize**-give official permission  
The university has authorized the use of dictionaries during language examinations.

**condone**-approve or allow something which most people consider to be wrong  
I cannot condone marital infidelity under any condition.

**countenance**-consider giving permission (often used in negative contexts)  
The company has made it clear it will not countenance sexual harassment by any of its employees.

**endorse**-give official approval to something  
The president's cabinet endorsed a proposal to put steel tariffs on some nations.

### Idioms:

If you are given **carte blanche** to investigate a problem, you have complete freedom to do whatever you think is necessary. EX: The senators gave the FBI carte blanche to investigate the charges against him.

If you are given the **go-ahead** or the **green light**, you have been given approval. EX: The city council gave the green light to the new water park.

If you are given the **seal of approval**, you have official permission or endorsement. EX: The mayor has given the project his seal of approval so construction will begin immediately.

**Read the conversation twice (Teachers choose different students for the second reading). Then summarize in your own words what the conversation is about. Finally, discuss the meaning of the underlined vocabulary and discuss the question at the end.**

**Avi:** An **18 wheeler** turned over in the middle of an **intersection** at the entrance to campus. He **took out** some of the power lines. The police closed the whole intersection. No one could get in or out of the college until it was all cleared. Many of us missed exams because of it.

**Dana:** Will you get to take a make up?

**Avi:** The head of the math department gave the **go-ahead** for a make up test for those students who missed the test. Our professor was not **in favor of** giving a make up test, but after **pressure from above**, he finally **acquiesced**.

**Dana:** I heard he was angry about having to do it. He said he would never **condone** allowing students a second chance because it was not fair to the students who made the extra effort to arrive on time.

**Avi:** That's a **bogus argument** because the only students who made it to the exam are those who were already on campus when the accident happened. Those of us who don't live on campus couldn't get in. Over half of us missed it.

Question: Have you ever been treated unfairly by a teacher?

**Tom:** My brother says a **well-timed punch** can solve **any number of** problems, but I could never **endorse** violence as a solution. I am **confounded** by the difference in personality of my brother and I. How can anyone think **throwing a punch** is a solution for anything. It is more than likely a way to get yourself arrested.

**James:** In principle, I agree with you. Certainly violence should be the **last resort**. But as a schoolboy, I admit I threw a couple of punches. And it proved quite effective against the school bully. He left me alone after I **smacked** him.

**Tom:** You're lucky the bully didn't beat you up.

**James:** I suppose I am lucky. But most bullies are cowards **at heart**. He ran crying to the teacher.

**Tom:** Did you get in trouble?

**James:** No, I didn't. The kid had a horrible reputation as a bully. The teachers could never catch him at it. He always denied it. The teachers and students were pretty **fed up**. Luckily, she chose to ignore my **transgression**.

**Tom:** But certainly, you wouldn't advise your kids do the same.

**James:** No, I wouldn't. Things are different today. **In my day** we kids took care of our own problems. We wouldn't think of running to our parents to solve a problem we had. Kids that ran to their parents for help were looked on as **tattle tales**. There was nothing worse than being labeled a **tattler**. If you ask me, I think that's a better way to grow up. Kids today are too **soft**. But I've **acceded** to the idea that kids shouldn't go around punching each other. I think your brother might be **yanking your chain**.

**Tom:** What do you mean?

**James:** He may just be saying such things to make you upset. I'm sure he knows how you feel about violence and he enjoys teasing you about it.

Question: What do you think of James? What do you think of Tom? Do you agree Tom's brother is probably yanking his chain? What would you tell your child to do if he was being bullied? Do older people in your country think today's kids are "soft"? Do you think so?

### **Peculiar English Usage**

We often use "and" in place of "to" in after the words *try* or *be sure*. These uses are all informal.  
Try and eat something. You'll feel better if you do  
I'll try and phone you after the play.  
Be sure and ask Uncle Joe about his garden

We also say "wait and see" not "wait to see"  
EX: Wait and see what happens next.

We frequently use "and" after come, go, run, hurry up, stay.  
Come and have a drink with us.  
Stay and have dinner.  
Hurry up and close the door before the flies get in.  
He often comes and spends the evening with us.  
She stayed and played with the children.  
The thought of going and getting him, but decided against it.

In informal English, "and" is sometimes dropped after *go* and *come*.  
Let's go see if Anne's home.  
Go jump in the river.