

FUMC ESL 2-11-2019 Advanced Lesson

Students: Take turns reading the sentence and explaining to the group the meaning of the underlined idiom. If your sentence has a vocabulary word in italics, explain the meaning of the word and give an example of how it is used.

1. The candidate is in hot water for his *inflammatory* comments on immigration.
2. The situation came to a head when the newspapers printed his remarks.
3. I'm not sure there is a solution to the problem, but we'll put our heads together and see what we come up with.
4. I listened to the lecture on particle physics, but most of it was way over my head.
5. If this project is ever going to get off the ground, we will need more money for research.
6. I think the president wants to put the brakes on the development of more *stealth* aircraft because he's not sure the need is real.
7. I'm beat. Let's call it a day.
8. I have a hunch that we will find the answer we're looking for by going over the latest test results.
9. How is your dad doing? He's not out of the woods yet, but the doctors are *cautiously optimistic* about his recovery.
10. Ken insists on continuing to drive though his license is expired. I feel he is skating on thin ice. If he is caught, he could lose his license permanently.

DISCUSS IN YOUR GROUP:

1-Many companies have a "last hired, first fired" policy. When an economic downturn occurs, they lay off the workers who were most recently hired. This can be problematic for a company, however, as sometimes the last hired might be a truly valuable employee, while those who have been working there longer could be a poor employee that the company would be better off without. If you ran your own company how would you decide who goes and who stays? Have you ever been the victim of a last hired, first fired rule?

2-Talk about a habit that you have. Do you have any bad habits you'd like to be rid of?

3-If someone "takes advantage of you", they use you to benefit themselves. Consider this story.

Gloria had gone out with Ken for several months when she began to wonder if he was taking advantage of her. He only took her out when he was going to a function where he wanted to impress his friends or business associates. Gloria is a beautiful woman and Ken enjoyed the attention he got when she was on his arm. But Gloria noticed that Ken seemed to have no interest in spending time alone with her.

What do you think? Was Gloria being taken advantage of? Have you ever felt someone was taking advantage of you?

4-If you are "taken to the cleaners" you lose a great deal of money through a bad situation. Consider this story.

Bob won several thousand dollars in the lottery. Bob was not very well educated and had never had much money. When an acquaintance offered to help Bob invest his money in the stock market, Bob agreed. He wanted to see his money grow and knew it wouldn't grow much sitting in the bank. Unfortunately, Bob found out a couple of years later that the acquaintance had not invested his money at all, but had used it to buy himself a nice new yacht. Bob lost over half of his winnings before he realized that he had been taken to the cleaners.

Have you heard stories of people being taken to the cleaners?

5-Do you feel that you have good intuition? Do you often have a sense that something will happen before it does? Who is the most intuitive person in your family?

Practice pronouncing words with the V and W sound.

overwhelming	heavyweight	weaver	whatsoever	preview	woven
vowel	woodstove	swerve	wolves	vow	weevil

Overwhelming refers to a large amount. EX: The chairman was elected by an overwhelming majority. It can also refer to a strong emotion. EX: I was overwhelmed by the compliments on my speech. Studying for the TOEFL can be overwhelming for people who don't speak English well.

Whatsoever means "at all". EX: She drinks no alcohol whatsoever. EX: The building was decrepit. There were no working toilets, no working water faucets and no energy whatsoever.

If you swerve, you change course suddenly. EX: The car swerved to avoid the motorcyclist who lay in the street.

A vow is a solemn promise. EX: I vowed never to go on a blind date again. We said our marriage vows then exchanged rings.

A weevil is a small beetle which eats crops and stored food. EX: That cornmeal I just bought is full of weevils.