

**Pronunciation: Mark the stressed syllable in these words.**

vocabulary	withhold	wholesome	visibility	wheelbarrow
vindictive	volcano	vibration	whistle	veterinarian

**Which word above:**

1. is an animal doctor
2. means to hold something back
3. means the words you know
4. means a slight shaking movement
5. is a person who wants to get revenge
6. is a small cart with one wheel in front and two in back with long handles for pushing
7. is something that will make you healthy
8. means the distance you can see

A. In the U.S. a certain amount of an employee's salary is **withheld** each month and sent directly to the federal government to pay taxes. Each year, you figure out how much tax you owe and file your taxes. To "file your taxes" means send in a completed tax form and any extra money you still owe the government for your income tax. You must file your taxes by April 15th each year. If more money was withheld than you owe in tax, you will receive a refund from the government.

*Does your country have an income tax? Is a certain amount withheld from your salary to pay taxes? Have you ever gotten an income tax refund?*

B. The visibility at any time depends on the weather. If there is fog, the visibility is poor. You can't see far. If the day is clear, you have good visibility. You can see a long way. If you live in a city with lots of pollution, the visibility will be poor.

*Which cities in your country have the worst air pollution? What is the visibility like in those cities?*

C. Someone who is vindictive seeks revenge. They may do something mean or cruel to hurt you to "get back at" you for something you did to them.

*Has anyone ever been vindictive to you? There is a saying, "revenge is sweet". Do you agree with this saying? The Bible says, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth". Most people don't believe in that philosophy. What does your religion say about revenge?*

**Read the conversations below in pairs. Explain the meaning of the underlined words and expressions.**

Jay: Is this copy machine still out of order?

Bev: Yes, it's been out of commission for over a week.

*Sometimes we speak of people being "out of commission" due to an injury. EX: I won't be racing in the marathon this weekend. I broke my ankle, so I'm out of commission for a while.*

Steve: What's the matter with Karen?

Maggie: I'm not sure. She's been out of sorts all day.

*My neighbor was out of sorts because his car wouldn't start and he had to get someone to take him to work. What things sometimes make you feel "out of sorts"?*

Tammy: John broke up with Jane. Jane is heartbroken.

Stan: Yes, Jane borrowed John's car and wrecked it. John said that was the last straw. Jane had done several stupid things. He feels she is just not very responsible. He doesn't want to continue their relationship.

*What would you do if your girlfriend/boyfriend wrecked your car? Do you think John is justified in his reason to discontinue the relationship?*

Deb: Should we get tickets to the concert next weekend?

John: Let's just play it by ear. I'm not sure I'll be able to get off.

Susan: Jenny can play so many songs on the piano. How does she memorize all that music?

Stan: Jenny plays by ear. She doesn't need music to play a song. If she has heard it, she can play it.

*These are two different meanings for the same expression. Do you play by ear? Do you know someone who has this kind of musical talent?*

Alan: What a racket! You are making enough noise to wake the dead. Please try to be quieter.

Sue: Don't be such a grouch. I'm practicing on my guitar.

Racket has lots of meanings. It can mean a loud noise or something used for hitting a ball, like a tennis racket. It can also mean a dishonest way to earn money. EX: My neighbor supposedly fell on my property, then sued me to get money. My insurance wouldn't pay him because they said he did this all the time. It was a racket. He would pretend to hurt himself then sue for money.

*Do you know about any rackets where people get money illegally?*

Alice: I think you were out of earshot when they were explaining how to make the cookies.

Jan: I heard her explaining the recipe, but I wasn't really paying attention. The instructions went in one ear and out the other.

Alice: I can't wait to try the recipe. Just watching her prepare the dough made my mouth water.

*What makes your mouth water?*

Brittney: Have you started studying for the TOEFL yet?

Laura: That's a sore subject. My mother keeps harping on the need to study every night. She wants me to call Ben and study with him, but I can't get up the nerve to call him. I'll probably just cram for the test the week before.

*Were you the type of person who studied in advance, or did you cram for the test?*