

FUMCESL 9-9-2010 High Intermediate Lesson ABOUT

Pronouncing OU

There are 4 ways to pronounce OU in words.

1- like the OW in COW. EX: about, mouse, count, loud, sound

2- like long O as in SO. EX: pour, four, course, court, gourd

3- like OO as in LOOT. EX: you, tour, crouton, group

4-like UH as in DUH. EX: cousin, double, country

The letter S can have two sounds. It can sound like S or Z. Which of the words below end with a Z sound?

bruise	mouse	cruise	shoes	movies	slice	noise
homes	keys	cats	said	bus	its	is

SAY:

The three ship's sheep were shipped to Shanghai.

The loud thunder rumbled and roared.

Three silly zebras sat in this seat.

Lemon jello is yellow.

It's wet in the west.

Put the hot hat in the hut.

There's a buzz in that box.

The boys zip their jackets.

Conversation: Talk in your groups.

1. Public school started recently. Do you have any children in school? What grade are they in?
2. Are you attending school right now? Where do you attend? What are you studying?
3. Would you like to be going to school right now? What would you study?
4. Did you enjoy school when you were a child? Did you enjoy college?
5. Do you have any questions about your children's school?
6. Do you understand the attendance policy? Most schools require a parent to call the school when their child is sick. Is that the rule at your children's school?

ABOUT:

About is a preposition. It can be used many ways.

1-You can use it before nouns:

This book is about weather. The argument was about politics. The movie was about the war. The program is about religion. Her speech was about the economy.

2-You can use it after nouns: There was a complaint about the room temperature. She had a question about her apartment. The truth about politics is that no candidate is perfect.

3-You can use it after verbs.

She complained about the food. They bragged about their child. We dreamed about Disneyland. She sang about love. We wondered about her absence.

4-You can use it after object pronouns (me, you, him, her, it, us, them):

They asked me about my trip. She questioned him about his job prospects. We reminded them about the weather forecast. She told us about her presentation.

5-You can use it after adjectives.

The teacher was nice about our late arrival. The man was rude about our heavy suitcase. The woman was understanding about our poor pronunciation.

6. About can also be used as an adverb to mean approximately. EX: it was about 10 o'clock when the phone rang. You will have to pay about ten dollars to get your parking ticket stamped.

7. About can mean in all parts of. EX: Papers were scattered about the room. When the ship hit the iceberg, all our belongings were thrown about the boat.

8. About can mean almost. EX: Are you about ready? We are about finished cleaning the house. That amount looks about right. I have about ten dollars in my wallet.

9. About can mean ready to. In this case it is usually used with an infinitive (to + verb) EX: The play is about to begin. We are about to go out.

10. To express annoyance with someone who is late, we say, "It's about time you arrived."

11. "Not about to" is used to mean not willing to. EX: I'm not about to sign over my paycheck to him.

12. If you do an "about face", you think or do the opposite. EX: I did an about face on the subject of immigration when I learned the facts.

Discuss in your group:

1. Tell about a time when you did an about face. (Hint- you changed your mind about something, or did something you said you wouldn't ever do.) Explain why you did an about face.

2. What is something your parents feel like it is about time for you to do? For example, "It's about time you got married." Or "It's about time you started a family." Or "It's about time you found a job."

3. What is something you would like to find out about? (learn something you didn't know)

4. What is something you often complain about? something you dream about? something you think about? something you'd like to forget about? something you are excited about?

5. What do you and your best friend talk about?

6. When you are going out, do you get ready before your spouse?

7. What scares you about the future?

8. Do you know much about your neighbors?

9. How much did you know about Austin before you came here?

10. Does talking about your problems make you feel better about them?