

FUMC ESL 1-16-2020 High Intermediate Lesson

Pronounce the words in the table. Match the words in the table to their meanings below. Then, use one of these words to fill in the blank in the sentences.

off season	offhand	official	pay off	offensive	cut off
caught off guard	off-ramp	offshore	offstage	off the record	put off

1. _____ said or done without thinking, not very important
2. _____ at a distance from the shore
3. _____ insulting and likely to upset people
4. _____ a time when there is less activity and fewer people participating
5. _____ a comment that is not supposed to be made public
6. _____ not on the part of the stage visible from the audience
7. _____ a road used to exit a freeway
8. _____ someone in authority, or something approved by someone in authority
9. _____ disconnect
10. _____ settle your debts
11. _____ something that surprises people because they weren't expecting it
12. _____ postpone

1. The government _____ posted signs prohibiting smoking inside the building.
2. He was mad at the journalist for reporting his comments because he insisted that his comments were _____.
3. His comment that America is only for Americans was very _____ to me.
4. I am hoping to _____ my credit card debt by the end of the year.
5. Much of America's oil supply has been discovered _____ in the Gulf of Mexico.
6. Don't forget to _____ the electricity before you move.
7. She mentioned that she might like to travel to Africa, but I think it was just an _____ remark.
8. The hotel prices at the ski resort were much lower in summer because it's _____.
9. The rainstorm _____ because it was sunny and clear when I went into the theater.
10. When the play was finished, the cast walked _____.
11. After about five miles, take the _____ towards Dallas and look for the hotel.
12. I _____ washing my car because the weather forecast said it would rain today.

Discuss:

1. **Offhand** can also mean something that you do without planning or thinking seriously about it. Read this example conversation.

James: What key do you play the song, "Soul Sista" in?

Kendra: Offhand I really don't remember. I haven't played that in years. I'd have to give it some thought.

Explain Kendra's answer.

2. A **cut off** can also be a date beyond which something can't be done.

Sara: Have you mailed your income tax forms in?

Jan: No, the cut off date is April 15th, so I have plenty of time.

Do you usually wait to the last minute to get things done, or do you like to do them well in advance?

3. **Put off** also has a completely different meaning from postpone. It can also mean "disgust".

Stan: I was really put off by their insistence that we remove our shoes before entering. I'm not used to walking around barefoot.

Pam: It is the custom in their country. I think you should go along with it. Perhaps next time you visit them, you should wear socks or bring slippers so you don't have to go barefoot.

4. Sometimes we switch the order of the words and say **off-putting**. We often use it with the verb "find", as in "find it off-putting"

Kay: I don't like it when Tim tells me all the details of his surgery. I find it off-putting.

Ben: I agree. There are some things people should keep to themselves. What are some things you would prefer people don't tell you about?

Look at these idioms. One uses the word "on". The other uses the word "off". Tell what they mean from the context in the sentence.

Ted is exactly like his father. Ted's father was always the life of the party. He could crack one joke after another. Last night, at the party I discovered Ted is exactly the same. He is a **chip off the old block**.

Are you a chip off the old block? Who in your family are you most like?

Tanya: Len almost got in a fight with Tim yesterday.

Amy: What about?

Tanya: Tim said something about Len's height. Len jumped up and threatened to fight him.

Amy: Oh no. Poor Len. He's not even 5'5" and he has a real **chip on his shoulder** about it. He really gets upset if he feels someone is challenging him. He feels like he has to fight to show he's a real man. It's silly really. Len is very handsome and works out every day, so he has a great body. He shouldn't be so worried about his height.

People can have a chip on their shoulder about lots of things. EX: not having much money, not having an important job, not being attractive, not being thin. Like Len, people can be very sensitive about it. Does anyone you know have a chip on their shoulder?