

FUMC ESL 6-11-2020 High Intermediate/ Advanced Online Lesson Confusing Words:

1--All or Whole: We use these determiners before nouns to determine how many

Brenda: All of the employees at our office got sick.

Stella: Wow, I can't believe the whole office got sick.

Brenda: Yes, they all got it.

Stacy: Sue complains all the time.

Linda: You're right. We went to lunch together and she complained the whole time. The restaurant was too cold. The waiter was too slow. The food was too salty.

2--All or Every: determiners-all refers to the complete group and every refers to each member of the group (You can use "all" without a noun, but you cannot use "every" without a noun following it. You can't say "Every finished it." You have to say "Every **student** finished it."

Tammy: The insurance forms were sent to all the employees.

Jess: Did every employee sign up for insurance?

Tammy: Yes, they all signed up.

Stewardess: All passengers must turn off their cell phones.

June: What did the stewardess say?

Stan: She said every passenger must turn off their cell phone.

Notice ALL requires you use a plural noun. All passengers and all phones.

EVERY requires a singular noun. Every passenger and every phone.

3--Already , Yet, or Still: ALREADY refers to something that happened before. It often indicates surprise. EX: Is it already eight o'clock. I can't believe it's that late. Where is Audrey? Audrey already left.

We frequently use YET in **questions** and **negatives**. Is it eight o'clock yet? I need to leave at eight. It hasn't rained yet. John hasn't called yet.

Still refers to something that is continuing. Are you still dating Sara? The store is still open.

Jan: Have you already booked a hotel room?

Karen: No, I haven't decided where I will stay yet.

Kris: Is your sister going to college yet?

Judy: No, she is still in high school.

Kris: Oh, I thought she had already graduated.

4--Among or Between

We use BETWEEN to talk about two things that are clearly separated. EX: Our house is between the library and the bank. We use AMONG to talk about things that are NOT clearly separated because they are a part of a group. EX: The small hut is hidden among the trees.

Between is often used as a preposition: EX; There is no difference between the fake bags and the real ones. They lived in New York between 1998 and 2000.

Taylor: Why didn't Sara go to the dance last night?

Lisa: Her best friends from Houston were visiting. She wanted to spend the evening among friends.

We use "among others" to mean "as well as." EX: I packed some soap and shampoo, among other things.

5--Can or Could: CAN is used when you talk about a known fact or a strong possibility. EX: It can be dangerous to cycle in the city at night. (This is presented as fact.) COULD is used when the possibility is weaker. EX: It could be dangerous to cycle in the city at night. (possible but not sure)

Len: Sara talks all the time. She can be annoying.

Brit: I agree. Do you think it would help if I told her she talks too much.

Len: It could help if she doesn't realize how much she talks. But it also could make her mad.

6--Content or Contents: Content is a non-count noun. It has no plural form. EX: This film has adult content. It is not suitable for children. Your essay has a nice style, but I don't think the content is appropriate for a school paper. This hamburger has a high fat content.

Contents is a plural countable noun. EX: The police examined the contents of her suitcase. I always read the table of contents before I buy boxed food. The contents of her shopping bag proved she had been stealing merchandise.

Content can also be an adjective meaning very satisfied. EX: Our cat is content to lie on the couch and sleep all day.

Content can also be a verb meaning satisfied. EX: Jon is driving us to Houston, so I'll content myself by looking out the window. They don't serve alcoholic drinks here, so you'll have to content yourself with a soda.

Jac: I have to go to a meeting. I'll be gone for several hours. There are several new books on the shelf. Can you content yourself with reading until I get home?

Terri: Of course. I'll read to my heart's content.

VOCABULARY AND IDIOMS:

Read the conversation and answer the questions. Discuss the meaning of the underlined vocabulary and idioms.

Kelly: There is a contentious argument going on upstairs.

Sharon: I hear it. What's the argument about?

Kelly: Dell contends that everyone is going to catch the virus eventually, so we might as well go ahead and expose ourselves to it. He thinks we should get it over with. Then businesses can re-open and we can all return to our normal life.

Sharon: That seems to be a dangerous contention.

Kelly: That's what Tina is saying. She thinks that's a ridiculous position to take. After all, some people die from the virus. She pointed out that Dell lives with his grandmother who is quite old. If she gets the virus, she may pass away.

Sharon: It's getting quite loud up there. Do you think we should intervene? I don't want them to come to blows.

Questions:

1. What is going on upstairs?
2. What's the argument about?
3. Who are the two people arguing?
4. What is Dell's contention?
5. Who does Dell live with?
6. What does Tina think might happen to Dell's grandmother?
7. Sharon asks Kelly if they should intervene. What does she mean by that?
8. What would you do if your good friends got in a serious argument? Would you try to stop it or ignore it?

Sharon: Tina, Dell, we can hear you arguing downstairs. You must stop this before someone gets mad.

Tina: It's too late for that. I'm already mad. Dell is being ridiculous. He wants to expose himself to the virus. He forgets or doesn't care about his grandmother. She might not survive it if she gets the virus!

Dell: Tina, you are being dramatic. Not many people die from the virus. And my grandmother is tough as nails. She will probably outlive me!

Tina: Not if you intentionally make her sick!

Dell: Calm down. You're overreacting. It was just an idea. I don't really intend to go out and expose myself to the virus.

Tina: Oh Dell, you can be so difficult. You say these ridiculous things. You act like you really mean them. Then when I try to tell you how crazy your idea is, you tell me you didn't really mean it. I am so frustrated with you.

Sharon: Let's all go downstairs and enjoy some of that cake Dell's grandmother baked for us. I wouldn't want her to think we didn't appreciate her baking.

Dell: That's the best idea I've heard all day.

Tina: I'm too upset to eat. But I will open that bottle of wine Dell brought. I could use some alcohol right now.

Question:

1. Who is the peacemaker in the group?
2. Who is mad?
3. Does Dell think his grandmother will die from the virus?
4. Why is Tina frustrated with Dell?
5. What does Sharon suggest they do?
6. What does Dell think of Sharon's idea?
7. Why does Tina not feel like eating?
8. What did Dell bring?
9. What does Tina need right now?
10. Do you like to argue?

11. When you are really upset, do you eat more or eat less?

Kelly: This cake is incredible. Please tell your grandmother how much we like it. I'm sure she went to a lot of trouble.

Dell: My grandmother is a fabulous baker. She thinks baking is fun, not trouble. She's happy to have someone besides me to bake for. I have probably gained ten pounds since I moved in with her. Every day when I come home from work she has some new treat ready for me to taste.

Sharon: I wish I could bake like that. I tried to make a cake for Tina's birthday and it was a failure. Remember, Tina, the middle of the cake was raw. The outsides cooked fine, but the middle was still raw dough. It was so embarrassing.

Tina: As I remember, it tasted good. At least the outside pieces tasted good.

Sharon: I had to throw away half of the cake. I will never try that again. Next time, I'll stop at the bakery and buy a cake.

Kelly: You should just ask Dell's grandmother to bake a cake for you. You could pay her for it.

Dell: That's a great idea. She would love to do that. And I'm sure she wouldn't charge you anything. She loves nothing better than to have people enjoy her baked goods.

Questions

1. What does Kelly think of the cake?
2. Why has Dell gained ten pounds since moving in with his grandmother?
3. Is Sharon a good baker?
4. What was wrong with Tina's birthday cake?
5. What did Sharon do with half of the cake?
6. What will Sharon do next time she needs a cake?
7. What does Kelly suggest?
8. What does Dell think of that idea?
9. Who is the best cook in your family?
10. Who taught you to cook?
11. What's your favorite dish to make for others?
12. How do people in your country celebrate birthdays?