

## FUMC ESL 7-16-2020 High Intermediate and Advanced Online Lesson

**Subject Verb Agreement** is usually easy. If you have a singular subject you use "is", or for a plural subject, you use "are." EX: There is a fly in this room. There are flies in this room.

--But it becomes confusing when we use non-count nouns that end in S. EX: NEWS is a non-count noun. News is always singular. The news is really good. No news is good news.

--Another tricky noun is CUSTOMS. There are two meanings for this word. Customs is the agency in a country that inspects goods coming into the country. It always takes a singular verb. EX: Customs **is** so intimidating.

The second meaning for CUSTOMS is a tradition or common practice in a culture. EX: The customs in Japan **are** much different than the customs in the United States.

--School subjects (English, chemistry) are non-count nouns. You use a singular verb with them. That's easy if the subject doesn't end in S. EX: Chemistry is really hard for me. But it gets confusing when we have subjects that end in S like physics and mathematics. We see the S and want to use a plural verb, but that is wrong. EX: Physics is (not are) a difficult subject.

### Choose the right verb (is or are).

1. There \_\_\_ over 600,000 kinds of insects in the world.
2. There \_\_\_ only one answer to this problem.
3. This \_\_\_ a bad time to plan a party.
4. These \_\_\_ dangerous times.
5. What percentage of the earth's surface \_\_\_ covered with water?
6. A number of students \_\_\_ absent today.
7. A lot of clothing in those stores \_\_\_ on sale.
8. A lot of students in college \_\_\_ international students.
9. Some of the fruit in this bowl \_\_\_ rotten.
10. A lot of my friends \_\_\_ taking a gap year.
11. The news \_\_\_ always interesting.
12. The United States \_\_\_ a big country.
13. The colors of the rainbow \_\_\_ beautiful.
14. Where \_\_\_ the pieces of this puzzle?
15. Mathematics \_\_\_ the only course offered.
16. Diabetes \_\_\_ a terrible disease.
17. Eight hours \_\_\_ enough sleep for most adults.
18. Four quarts of oil \_\_\_ required for the outboard motor.
19. The police \_\_\_ on the way.
20. Cattle \_\_\_ grazing in that field.
21. The elderly \_\_\_ in need of help during the pandemic.
22. The young \_\_\_ more resilient.
23. \_\_\_ there any mistakes in my letter?
24. This soup \_\_\_ too salty.
25. These bananas \_\_\_ rotten.

26. We could walk home. \_\_\_ it far?
27. It \_\_\_ difficult to get up so early.
28. Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ to blame for the riot.
29. No one \_\_\_ talking to the police.
30. The remainder of the students \_\_\_\_\_ taking the test on Tuesday.

## **A Mystery, Part 2**

**Read each paragraph and explain in your own words what is happening. Tell the meaning of the underlined words or phrases.**

I spent the afternoon leaning against the mast, with my hands handcuffed behind me. It was uncomfortable and hot, but it was better than the dark. My guards grilled some fish that evening and stuck a couple of bites of it in my mouth, so at least I didn't starve. They drank heavily all afternoon and fell into a drunken stupor just after sunset.

I had been working all day on those handcuffs. They had un-cuffed me once to let me relieve myself overboard. When they put them back on, they left them a little looser than before. My hands were sweaty and slippery. Working carefully while they were drinking and eating, I was able to slide my hands partially out. I sat and bided my time, hoping for a chance to escape.

My opportunity came a few hours later. The snores from the men told me they were in a deep sleep. I slipped my hands out of the cuffs and stole to the front of the boat. There, I let myself quietly down into the water. I hung by the anchor chain waiting to see if I woke them. Assured that all was quiet, I swam toward shore.

The swim exhausted me as I hadn't had much food or water in over a day. But the exhilaration from knowing I had escaped, gave me renewed stamina. I stumbled into the woods, having no idea which direction I should go. All I could think is that I needed to get as far away from that boat as possible.

After a few hours fighting my way through dense undergrowth, I realized it was getting light. I hadn't made much progress, so I looked for a place I would be safely out of sight. I found a small cave. It wasn't deep, but if I stood back in the shadows, I wouldn't be seen.

Sure enough, at dawn, I heard shouting, then the sound of an outboard motor. I crept forward where I could see the boat. The two guys were motoring toward shore in a dinghy. I laid low and listened as the boat moved slowly along the shoreline. After an hour, they returned to the big boat and made a phone call. I was too far away to hear the conversation, but whoever they were talking to must have told them to call off the search, because the next sound I heard was the diesel engine on the sailboat roar to life. I peeped out of my hiding place and was rewarded with the sight of the sailboat motoring away.

I had escaped. I was free. But I had no idea where I was and the forest surrounding me was too thick to see through. How in the world was I to find my way back to civilization?

**Discussion:**

--What would you have done, if you were the man in this story? Would you have tried to escape?

--Do you think it was smart for him to head into the woods even though he doesn't know where he is?

--Have you ever been lost in the woods?

**Idioms:**

Lose and Loose are two different words. Lose has an S pronounced like Z. Loose has an S pronounced like S. Practice pronouncing them. If you lose something, you no longer have it. Read these example sentences and explain them. Some use a different tense.

**Lose:**

1. Michelle lost her job.
2. He lost everything in the war.
3. The Dodgers lost to the Red Sox by a score of 6-3.
4. The accident victim had lost a lot of blood.
5. I yelled so loudly that I lost my voice.
6. The kids are losing interest in the game.
7. My aunt lost her husband last year. He lost his balance and fell.
8. My aunt lost no time in finding a new husband.
9. What are you talking about? You've lost me.
10. I might as well apply for the top job. I've nothing to lose.
11. She's lived so long in the U.S., she's lost touch with her Chinese culture.
12. I really lost it when I went to pick up my son and they told me he had gotten on the bus.
13. We can't lose sight of our goals.
14. Don't lose heart. Everything will work out.
15. Get lost! Go on! Get out of here!
16. Trying to interest my boys in ballet is a lost cause.
17. I'd be lost without your help.
18. Check in the lost and found for your missing jacket.

**Loose:**

1. The buttons on this shirt are loose.
2. My husband prefers loose fitting clothing.
3. Two of the prisoners broke loose and ran for the fence.
4. The prisoners are on the loose.
5. I have to tie up a few loose ends, then I will be finished.
6. Don't tell Sheila your secrets. She's a loose cannon.

7. She's a loose woman. I don't want you dating her. (This is an old use of the term, and out of fashion. You might hear your grandmother saying something like this.)
8. Shay loosened up after a couple glasses of wine.
9. Loosen up your muscles before you begin exercising.