

FUMC ESL 8-20-2020 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. What is the last thing you broke?

Vocabulary: These are common words that you will know the meaning of. But they can be used in all sorts of ways. Read the sentences. Explain the meaning of the sentence. Talk about how the vocabulary words are used differently from one sentence to another.

Break

- A. **Dawn broke** and the leaves turned golden.
- B. He's amazing. He climbed to the top and never **broke a sweat**.
- C. She **broke into a smile** when she saw Tim get off the plane.
- D. We **broke camp** about ten and headed down the mountain.
- E. He was really handsome and I liked him until I heard him speak and it **broke the spell**.
- F. I was writing a long letter to my mother when the baby cried and **broke my concentration**.

Have you ever really liked someone at first until something they said or did broke the spell?

Are you usually up when dawn breaks?

What breaks your concentration?

Notice

- A. Have you **noticed** how much grandmother's hands tremble these days?
- B. They put a **notice** in the window saying that masks were required.
- C. You must give the owner at least one month's **notice** before moving out.
- D. Critics are really **taking notice** of that new dancer.
- E. I **handed in my notice** to my employer yesterday. I will start looking for a new job tomorrow.
- F. It will be hard to find someone to take your place **on such short notice**.
- G. Restaurants will be closed **until further notice**.
- H. I **can't help but notice** that you're wearing a beautiful diamond bracelet.
- I. The president's proposal made Congress **sit up and take notice**.
- J. I'm **putting you on notice**, either get your homework done or face the consequences.
- K. There has been **noticeable improvement** in his behavior since we stopped feeding him sugar.

When is the last time you were asked to do something on short notice?

Have you noticed your parents aging lately?

Have you ever noticed that a certain diet changed the way you feel?

Rather

- A. We usually travel by train **rather** than plane.
- B. Why don't you ask him? I'd **rather not**.

- C. Lucy, **or rather** Ellen, asked me to take her to the dance.
- D. The price for that car is **rather steep**, don't you think?
- E. I'd like to get this finished **sooner rather than later**.
- F. **Rather** than go out now while it's pouring rain, why don't we wait a few minutes to see if it stops.
- G. She works every weekend. **Rather her than me**.

Do you put things off rather than doing them when first assigned?

What kind of food would you rather eat, food from your country or American food?

Read these conversations and discuss.

Dan: That was quite an interesting film, don't you think?

Sheila: Interesting? That's one word for it.

Dan: Oh, you didn't like it?

Sheila: Let's just say I wouldn't pay a nickel to see it again.

Dan: Oh come on. It wasn't that bad. I thought the story line was a bit weak, but the acting was top notch.

Sheila: Face it. There was no story line. It was the most disjointed and pointless piece of work I've ever seen. I must have looked at my watch thirty times. And the ending was ridiculous. It really left a bad taste in my mouth. The whole movie seemed to imply that women were helpless without men.

Dan: I see. You didn't like it because the women in the movie turned to the men for help. You know some women do want men's help.

Sheila: You should stop talking now if you want to ever take me out again. Let's go in here and have a drink. And don't you dare try to order for me. I'm perfectly capable of ordering my own drink.

Dan: I'm sorry I offended you by having good manners. My mother taught me to open doors for women, help them with their coats, and speak to the waiter or waitress at a restaurant.

Sheila: You are not a cave man, Dan. Times have changed. I find those habits demeaning. I think I've made myself clear on that issue before.

Explain what happened.

Talk about Sheila and Dan's relationship. What can you tell about their personalities?

Is Dan being sarcastic when he says, "I'm sorry I offended you by having good manners."

Do you think Dan and Sheila have a future together?

Who do you have the most sympathy for?

Bella: Dawn breaks and the leaves turn golden. What a beautiful morning. I could be getting so much writing done, but I have to listen to that bothersome dog barking.

Jane: It seems that dog's barking is bothering you.

Bella: I'm trying to write my paper, but the barking breaks my concentration. Earlier, it startled me so that I dropped my coffee and broke the cup. It was one of grandmothers. It really broke my heart to see it in pieces.

Jane: Should I go over and talk to your neighbor? I'll tell him to keep his dog inside so you can work.

Bella: No, don't bother. I can handle it. I just dread having to talk to him. He's so ill-mannered and he is always coming over here to borrow sugar or salt or something. That wouldn't be so bad, but he never bothers to knock. He just walks right in.

Jane: That's incredibly rude. You must tell him to stop that. Or lock your doors.

Bella: During the summer, I like to keep the doors open. The screen door is closed, of course. But he just shouts that he is coming in and opens it right up.

Jane: Maybe you should take a break. You've been working so hard.

Bella: That's a good idea. I'll fix some tea. Did you hear Ed and Linda broke up? Poor Linda, her voice broke with emotion when she told me.

Jane: Oh no. I knew they were having trouble, but I thought they were working things out.

Bella: Apparently Ed told Linda he thought a clean break was best. They shouldn't drag this out.

Jane: That's too bad. Ed is very attractive and will find another woman easily. But Linda is so shy, it won't be easy for her to break with the past and move on.

Bella: I used to think Ed was quite a catch, but once I heard him talking about politics, it broke the spell.

Jane: I don't agree with his politics, but he has been very successful.

Bella: He's gotten a lot of lucky breaks. His uncle is in charge of building the new convention center and he's gotten Ed involved with the project. They're breaking ground on it next month.

Jane: I wish there was something we could say to comfort Linda. She's so sweet. She doesn't have a mean bone in her body.

Bella: Let's call her and ask her to come over. She might want a shoulder to cry on.

1. What is bothering Bella?
2. Why did the broken cup break her heart?
3. Why does Bella dread talking to her neighbor?
4. Who broke up?
5. Who wanted a clean break?
6. Do the women think Linda will find it easy to start a new life without Ed?
7. What does Bella think of Ed?
8. Why has Ed been so successful?
9. Do you think it was mean of Ed to ask Linda for a clean break?
10. What will Jane and Bella do to comfort Linda?
11. What bothers you the most?
12. Which family member bothered you the most when you were young?
13. What is one thing you can easily handle on your own?

Carey: Oh no. This can't be happening!

Sue: What is it?

Carey: We just got an eviction notice from our landlord. We have thirty days to move out.

Sue: What! Why is your landlord evicting you?

Carey: It's a long story. But basically, our air conditioning stopped working several months ago. The landlord wouldn't fix it. He claimed he couldn't find a repairman. But we think he just didn't want to spring for a new air conditioner. So after a couple of months without air conditioning, we stopped paying rent. After all, we rented an air conditioned apartment. And ours no longer was. We thought not paying rent would force the landlord to buy a new air conditioner. But instead, he's evicting us. This whole situation is really getting me down.

Sue: Do you think if you called your landlord you could work this out?

Carey: I wouldn't hold my breath. He's not been easy to deal with. He's a cantankerous old man. He didn't want to rent to us to start with because we were "foreigners".

Sue: Typically a landlord is required to fix things that are broken. You should call the Austin Tenants Council. They might be able to help you.

Carey: I'm afraid to call them. I think they might tell me we don't have a leg to stand on. We should have kept paying our rent.

Sue: Not necessarily. Call and talk to them. But also, you should look on the bright side. You can rent a new apartment that is air conditioned.

1. What is the problem?
2. Do you think Carey acted wisely when she stopped paying rent?
3. How does Carey feel about the situation?
4. Describe the landlord. Why did the landlord not want to rent to them in the first place?
5. Have you ever felt discriminated against since being in the U.S.?
6. What is the good thing about being evicted?
7. Have you ever had a hard time with your landlord?