

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. Does time drag for you, or does it fly by?

**Choose the correct homonym** (sounds alike, but not spelled alike, and different meaning).

1. Jerry read (threw, through) the newspaper.
2. Was that a (foul, fowl) ball?
3. Those people (new, knew) my parents.
4. (Our, Hour) family is taking a trip.
5. We stopped when he (blue, blew) the whistle.
6. Can you hear the baby (bawl, ball)?
7. I can (do, due) the work in one hour.
8. The students walked down the (hall, haul).
9. The (knight, night) looked dashing in his armor.
10. I don't have even one (scent, cent) in my pocket.
11. Where did the dog (berry, bury) the bone?
12. You should add more (flower, flour) to the cake mix.
13. He makes a lot of noise when he (chews, choose).
14. My father was the (air, heir) to a large fortune.
15. A (loan, lone) pine tree stood in the yard after the tornado passed.
16. If you quote from another author, it's important to (cite, sight) the information.
17. The buildings were so damaged, we had to (raise, raze) them to the ground.
18. Tightrope walking is an amazing (feet, feat).
19. Tightrope walking requires tough (feet, feat).
20. Things are not always as they (seam, seem).

**Improving Vocabulary with Conversations: Read and discuss the meaning of the bold words.**

**Stella:** Mike could be very successful if he had more **perseverance**.

**Tara:** I agree. Mike **throws in the towel** when the project gets difficult.

**Stella:** I thought about telling him he needs to **stick with it** and not give up so easily, but Mike is very **thin-skinned**. He is very sensitive to criticism.

**Tara:** I'm afraid a **critique** of his tendency to quit might just **discourage** him rather than **motivate** him.

Are you thin-skinned or thick-skinned?

**Sandra:** I had to **swallow my pride** and admit to my husband that he was right. We argued yesterday about which coffee maker to buy. I **insisted** on getting the cheapest one. He argued that the more expensive one would be more **reliable** and had more **features**. I won the argument, but we used the one I picked this morning and it was terrible. It's made of **flimsy** plastic and the handle **pulled loose** when I took it out of the box.

**Patty:** Don't you just hate it when that happens. It's so **humiliating** to discover that you are **dead wrong**.

When was the last time you were dead wrong and had to admit it?

**Jay:** Everyone is here but Charlie. He should be here in the next few minutes. He's always about 15 minutes late to everything he does. It's a **standing joke** in the family. If we want him to be here by 9, we tell him to come by 8:45.

**Joan:** It could be worse. My brother is sometimes as much as an hour late. It's so frustrating. I'm **at my wit's end**. Though I frequently **nag** him about it, I can't **convince** him to be on time.

Do members of your family have different ideas about being on time?

### **ARTHUR TRULUV: Part 12-The Last**

December 26th, Maddy had a baby girl. Maddy's dad came to the hospital and left a gift for her. When she opened it later, it was a leather photo album, cracked with age, filled with images of her mother she had never seen before. There were images of her mother and father when they were dating, and at their wedding. There were pictures of her mother pregnant with Maddy. There were a few of Maddy as a child. Maddy felt, for the first time, an aching sense of compassion for her father. But also a rush of excitement for what might now finally develop between them.

1. Why was her father's gift so meaningful to Maddy?
2. Explain why Maddy feels, "an aching sense of compassion," for her father.
3. Why does Maddy feel, "a rush of excitement?"

Arthur was too weak to go to the hospital, but a couple of days later, Maddy brought the baby home and put her in Arthur's arms. "This is Truluv," she tells the baby. Arthur looks at the baby. A tear runs down his cheek. "I've really had everything, haven't I? I've really had just about everything you could ask for in this life."

Explain why Arthur says, "I've had just about everything you could ask for in this life."

**Eighteen months later:** It's a beautiful June day. Birds twitter in the branches. Maddy is at the cemetery. She's brought roses from Arthur's rose garden. She lays a creamy white rose at the first headstone. It says: "Arthur Moses, Born April 3, 1931. Died December 29th, 2016." The coral colored rose, she lays on Nola's headstone. Maddy stands and looks down at the headstones. Her eyes fill.

There is a thumping sound and Maddy looks over. "Did you fall down?" The toddler nods. "Come here darling," Maddy says, and gives her a hug. She takes out her camera and snaps a few shots of the child in front of the headstones. There's a photo exhibition at school called "Old and Young". She'll show several of her photos in it. Her teacher has great hopes for Maddy. She submitted several of Maddy's photos to a magazine and they were published. Maddy picks up the little girl. "Come on, little Nola. It's time you and Mommy get home. Grandma Lucille will have our dinner ready. And she's making a special dessert for us. We don't want to make her wait."

1. What is Maddy's situation 18 months after Arthur's death?
2. Who did Maddy name her child for?
3. Do you feel like Maddy is happy now?

4. Do you think Maddy has probably reconciled with her father?

**Correct the mistakes in these sentences.**

1. A laser cane, which the blind find useful, sends out beams that detecting obstacles.
2. In 1918, Charles Strite inventing the timer that turns off the toaster when the bread is toasted.
3. A vending machine is a kind of machine that automatically gives off candy or other items when money is inserted.
4. Apprentices sometimes fear they must not be able to master the intricacies of their chosen craft.
5. Arched roofs were built for a first time 2,500 years ago.
6. The Royal Mounted Police or "Mounties" now enforcing all federal laws throughout Canada.
7. They're diverse duties also include participating in peacekeeping efforts.
8. About 1000 Mounties assigned exclusively to controlling the spread of illegal drugs.
9. As long ago as the thirteenth century, Roger Bacon, a Franciscan friar, postulated that the humankind could fly.
10. In another study, an experimenter claimed to represent a local utility company interviewed homeowners.