

## FUMC ESL 3-4-2021 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

**Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. What would you do for a friend who lost a family member?**

**Pronunciation:** The letter U has many sounds in English. Most of the time, you can't look at an English word and know how it is pronounced. This is especially true of U. Give these words a try.

cut	buff	publish	rugby	put	push
cushion	fuse	tube	dude	fur	blur
occur	busy	business	bury	menu	cure

When the U is combined with other letters, things are even worse. Try these:

dough	your	court	shoulder	bought	cough
young	enough	country	could would	about	cloud
house	mouth	enormous	nervous	famous	route

### See if you can read this!

I take it you already know  
of **tough** and **bough** and **cough** and **dough**.

Others may stumble, but not you  
on **hiccough**, **thorough**, and **through**.

Beware of **heard**, a dreadful word  
that looks like **beard** but sounds like bird.

And **dead**: it's said like bed, not **bead**,  
For goodness sake don't call it deed!

Watch out for **meat** and **great** and **threat**  
(They rhyme with **suite** and **straight** and **debt**).

A **moth** is different than moth in **mother**,  
nor **both** as in **bother**, not **broth** as in **brother**.

And **here** is not a match for **there**,

nor **dear** and **fear** for **bear** and **pear**.

And then there's **dose** and **rose** and **lose**--

Oh dear, I'm getting so confused.

There's **goose** and **choose**, and **cork** and **work** and **word** and **sword** and **do** and **go**.

How will I learn to say these words? For goodness sakes, I do not know!

### **Part 10: Arthur and Lucille**

That night, after he eats his dinner, Arthur puts some leftovers on a plate and covers it with foil. Wieners and beans and cornbread. Not great, but something. He hasn't seen much of Lucille. Well, truth be told, he hasn't seen her at all since their "picnic" on her driveway. Arthur changes his shirt and combs his hair, inspects his teeth.

1. What do you think Arthur is about to do?
2. Arthur thinks wieners, beans and cornbread are not great, but something. What does that mean?
3. When was the last time Arthur saw Lucille?

Arthur walks over to Lucille's and rings the bell. She comes to the door in a housecoat and slippers. Her hair is dirty, plastered to her head. Her glasses are crooked on her face. She's lost a lot of weight.

"Good evening, Lucille. Have you had dinner?"

"I don't remember."

"Well, I've brought you some."

She stares at the plate he's holding and he knows she's about to say, "No thanks." So he does a dishonest thing and says, "Hurry up and take this plate. It's burning my hand!"

Describe Lucille's appearance. Do you think Arthur is surprised by her appearance?

What dishonest thing does Arthur do? Why does he do this?

Alarmed, she steps aside and he carries the dish into the kitchen. He tries not to look at the mess he passes on the way. He's never known Lucille to be messy. But holy mackerel! There are dishes on the living room floor. Wadded-up Kleenex everywhere. Clothes tossed in the corner. The curtains are pulled shut sloppily and a lamp shade is askew. And what is that terrible odor?

Lucille takes the foil off the plate. "Oh, hot dogs and beans. I've never been fond of hot dogs, even when I was little. But I do appreciate it, Arthur. And it smells good. I guess I am hungrier than I thought." Lucille starts on the dinner. She looks at Arthur. "I'm sorry I have nothing for you, Arthur."

"Oh, for Pete's sake," says Arthur. "After all the things you've baked and given me."

1. Describe Lucille's house. Do you think this is normal for Lucille?
2. What is wrong with the lampshade?
3. What is an odor?
4. Does Lucille like hot dogs and beans?
5. Does she eat the meal Arthur has brought?

Arthur sees Lucille is perking up a little. She's getting a little bossy. Arthur had a friend in AA who told him they taught the members never to get too tired, too sad, or too hungry. Bad things could happen. Arthur watches Lucille eat, his heart aching. It's something to feed someone who is so in need of eating. It's something to feed somebody period.

"Would you like something to drink?" Arthur asks. I've got a couple of nice, cold beers in the refrigerator at home.

"That would be nice. I like a beer every now and then."

1. What does "perking up" mean?
2. How does Arthur know Lucille is feeling better?
3. What is AA? What did his friend tell him?
4. What does Arthur mean when he says "Bad things could happen."
5. Does Arthur think Lucille is an alcoholic?
6. What does Arthur offer her to drink?
7. Is Lucille a regular drinker?

The two of them sit with their beers. Arthur puts his hand on Lucille's. "Lucille, I could come over tomorrow and help you clean up the house."

"Arthur, I just don't have the energy."

"Wait a minute," Arthur says. I hired a housekeeper today! She's coming tomorrow. A nice girl, just graduated high school and she's on her way to art school. She's going to live with me and be my housekeeper until she starts college next January. You could hire her, too!"

Lucille looks around her house. "Oh, alright. Maybe I do need help. Maybe I will hire her."

1. What does Arthur volunteer to help Lucille do?
  2. How does Lucille decline Arthur's offer?
- Who is the housekeeper Arthur is talking about?

The smell of Lucille's house is starting to get to Arthur. He suggests they go out on the porch to finish their beers. Lucille tells Arthur to go on out. She'll come in a minute. When she finally comes out, she's got on a nice dress and lipstick and she's combed her hair.

"Arthur, the day after Frank died, I baked a cake. I put all the pills in the medicine cabinet into that cake. I ate it real fast, hoping it would kill me. But I threw it all up."

Arthur looks at Lucille sorrowfully. "I wish you'd called me, Lucille."

"For what? So you could watch me make a fool of myself?"

"No. So I could ask you to take a walk to look at all the flowers instead of trying to kill yourself."

"She nods, then rocks slowly back and forth. "It's so embarrassing to be useless," says Lucille.

"I do nothing. I had been feeling useless ever since I retired. But then Frank came back into my life and it was like plugging in the Christmas tree! All the lights were on. And then, Frank died.

All the lights are off now. I don't want to live anymore, Arthur. What is left for me now? I am useless and so are you! All you do is go and visit your wife at the graveyard every day."  
"Well," said Arthur. "First of all, I don't think it's useless to visit Nola. It is my great pleasure and honor to go to the resting place of the finest woman I ever knew and think about the boundless glory of my life with her. Now here I am in the rocking chair talking to you, Lucille. And I don't feel a bit useless. I feel lucky."

1. Why does Arthur go out on the porch?
2. What does Lucille do before she comes out?
3. How did Lucille try to kill herself?
4. What would Arthur have done if he had known Lucille was wanting to kill herself?
5. Who feels more useless, Arthur or Lucille?
6. Lucille and Arthur don't feel the same about life. Contrast Lucille's feelings on life with Arthur's.
7. Why do you think Arthur feels lucky?