

FUMC ESL 9-30-2021 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now.

Pronunciation Quiz: Tell which of the word pairs rhyme (sound the same except for the beginning letter). Ask the teacher if you don't know the meaning of the word or how to use it.

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|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| meat - great | great - threat | meat - suite | great - straight | threat - debt |
| both - broth | here - there | air - there | dear - bear | bare - bear |
| fear - pear | dose - rose | rose - lose | goose - choose | do - go |

Read these conversations and talk about what personality or character traits, these people have.

Jo: My decision to stay in this job **boils down** to one thing...money!

Lisa: You shouldn't stay in a job you hate just because you want to make a lot of money.

Jo: **It's not a matter of** getting rich. I have a large family to support. My father died when I was twelve and I still have to help support my mom and four younger brothers. Two of my brothers are in college. So you can see, I need money.

Lisa: It doesn't seem fair that you have to work so hard to support your family. You are young. You're just 23. You should be enjoying yourself. You should be traveling and seeing the world.

Jo: It isn't fair, but it's the way things are.

Lisa: I would be **tempted** to run away and let the family take care of itself.

Jo: Sometimes I am tempted, but I have a responsibility to take care of my family. When my dad died, I promised I would take care of them.

Questions:

1. When you say something "boils down to" something, you are saying that it is the basic cause of a more complicated situation or problem. For example you might say, "All of Andrew's problems boil down to his drug usage." Make a sentence with "boils down to".
2. What does "tempted" mean? What is Jo sometimes tempted to do?
3. What does Lisa think Jo should be doing?
4. Does Jo seem like a responsible person. Do you think he would ever abandon his family?

Bill: I **came down with** the flu last week.

Annette: Did you have to stay home from work?

Bill: I would have liked to stay home, but there was too much to do. I couldn't afford to miss work. So I just **stuck it out**.

Annette: I bet your co-workers weren't happy that you were at work with the flu.

Bill: I can't worry about my co-workers. I had a lot of work that had to be done.

Annette: I hope none of your co-workers come down with the flu this week. They might be very angry with you.

Bill: That's not my problem. My job is to get the work out.

Questions:

1. Describe Bill's attitude toward his co-workers.

2. What does Bill mean when he says he “stuck it out”.
3. Describe a time when you “stuck it out” even though you wanted to quit.
4. Do you think Bill was right or wrong to continue working with the flu? What would you have done in the same situation?

Ben: I didn't **get around to** doing my taxes this year until April 14th, one day before they were due.

Sal: That was **cutting it close**. Did you get them mailed on time?

Ben: I did, but I stayed up all night. I felt awful at work the next day.

Sal: Why did you wait so late?

Ben: **Paying taxes is a pain** and I **dread** doing it. I **put it off** to the last minute every year. It's becoming a bad habit. I guess I'm just a little lazy.

Sal: It sounds like you just hate **parting with your hard earned money**.

Ben: I guess that could be true. It is really hard to write that check and send it off to **Uncle Sam**.

Questions:

1. What are the things you never get around to doing?
2. What do you think “cutting it close” means in this conversation?
3. When Ben says, “Paying taxes is a pain” what does he mean.
4. Name something you dread.
5. Who is Uncle Sam?
6. Do you have a nickname for your government?
7. Are taxes too high or just about right in your country?
8. What kind of taxes are there in your country? sales tax, income tax, luxury tax, real estate tax, school tax?

We have been talking about good and bad personality traits. Read about Rosa Parks and talk about her personality.

Who was Rosa Parks?

Rosa Parks was a modest person who made a tremendous impact on American society. She lived in Montgomery, Alabama. In December of 1955, Rosa Parks got on a bus to go home from her housecleaning job. She was tired from a long day of work.

Montgomery's segregation laws were complex: blacks were required to pay their fare to the driver, then get off and re-board through the back door. Sometimes the bus would drive off before the paid-up customers made it to the back entrance. If the white section was full and another white customer entered, blacks were required to give up their seats and move farther to the back; a black person was not even allowed to sit across the aisle from whites. These humiliations were compounded by the fact that two-thirds of the bus riders in Montgomery were black.

On this evening, Rosa was asked to give up her seat to a 40 year old white man. She refused. Others had refused before her, and been jailed and fined. But this time, the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), decided to file a lawsuit to change the laws. Martin Luther King helped organize a black boycott of the Montgomery buses and a year later the Supreme Court ruled in favor of

Rosa Parks and forced the Montgomery bus system to integrate. Rosa's actions sparked the Civil Rights Movement, and brought MLK, Jr. national attention.

It is the modesty of Rosa Parks' example that sustains us. It is no less than the belief in the power of the individual, that cornerstone of the American Dream, that she inspires, along with the hope that all of us — even the least of us — could be that brave, that serenely human, when crunch time comes.

Questions:

1. What was Rosa's job?
2. How did Rosa get home from her job?
3. In 1955, America was still a very segregated society. The races kept apart. Black women worked in white households, but no white woman worked in Black households. If you were Black, you couldn't use a "white" restroom or drink out of a "white" water fountain. Your kids couldn't play in the playground where white kids played or a pool where white people swam. This is called segregation. What were Blacks required to do when they wanted to ride the bus?
4. What did the drivers sometimes do after people had paid the fare?
5. What did Rosa refuse to do?
6. If you boycott a business, you refuse to shop there or give them your business. Black people stopped riding the bus. Bus companies began to lose money.
7. Each of us has to decide if we can be as brave as Rosa Parks. Do you think you could do something like Rosa Parks did?