

## FUMC ESL 1-10-2022 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

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

### **Pronunciation: The SCHWA sound.**

The schwa sound makes the same sound as a short U. We make that sound when we are pausing in our conversation. EX: I uh live close to uh downtown.

Every English vowel can make the schwa sound. Read these examples:

A: ago, soda, balloon

E: effect, open, tiger

I:, denim, family

O: brother, lemon

U: supply, focus

Y: vinyl, syringe, syrup, analysis (in the south, the Y in syrup is pronounced with the schwa.

Other regions pronounce the Y as a short i or short e.)

Note: Say the word "banana". Notice the first A and the last A are pronounced with a schwa sound. But the middle A is pronounced like a short A.

In some contractions, the schwa sound is pronounced at the same time as the N sound. EX: doesn't, isn't, hasn't, wasn't, haven't, didn't, hadn't, shouldn't, wouldn't, couldn't.

The letter combination LE at the end of the word, is usually pronounced with the schwa sound. EX: able, capable, suitable, bottle, responsible, cattle, rifle

The articles **a**, **an**, **the** are all pronounced with a schwa sound. EX: an apple, a dog, the cat

Many unstressed syllables have the schwa vowel sound. For example, we say CON-tent when we are using that word as a noun. EX: I am looking for more content for my website. The O in the stressed syllable has the short o sound. But if we use the word as a verb to mean satisfied, we stress the 2nd syllable con-TENT. The O is unstressed and has the schwa sound. So it sounds like cun-tent. There are many noun-verb combinations where this applies (ADDress/ address, CONflict/CONFLICT) but it is NOT always true.

For example in the word PROGRESS, the O is pronounced as a short O in the noun and a long O in the verb form. PROgress and proGRESS.

Which word in each box does NOT have the schwa sound?

urn - earn - ear	self - serve	hear - heard	self - serve	word - worry - woke
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The word PHOTOGRAPHY has two schwa sounds, the first O and the A. Which vowels in the word WOMAN have the schwa sound? Notice how the pronunciation changes when we make this word plural. WOMAN. AND WOMEN

English has a tendency to delete a syllable that has a schwa vowel. Look at these examples and notice that we don't pronounce the schwa syllable.

caramel, separate (adjective form), different, chocolate, camera

However, sometimes we insert a schwa sound that isn't really there to make the word easier to pronounce. EX: realtor (We insert an UH between real and tor.) athlete (We insert an UH between ath and lete.)

### **Pronounce the word and tell what letter or letters have the schwa sound**

president	about	children	alphabet	telephone	occur
offend	dinosaur	freedom	reason	album	medical
enemy	silent	festival	celebrate	alone	zebra

### **Secret Life of Bees, part 18**

I lay on my cot in the honey house, but it was too hot to sleep. I decided to walk over to the pink house and get a cool drink. When I came into the kitchen, May was sitting on the floor with her legs straight out and a box of graham crackers in her lap. I was getting as nutty as May, walking around in the middle of the night. "I saw a roach," said May reaching into a bag of marshmallows. She pulled one out and pinched off little pieces of it. I opened the refrigerator and stood staring at the contents. I pulled out a bottle of grape juice and was half finished with it before I noticed what May was doing. She had made a little highway of marshmallows and graham crackers that stretched out the door. "The roaches will follow this out the door," said May. "It works every time." I felt a strange, sick feeling inside. A memory. T.Ray saying, "your mother was a lunatic when it came to bugs. She used to make trails of graham cracker crumbs and marshmallows to lure roaches outside." I looked at May. My mother couldn't have learned the roach trick from May, I thought. Could she?

Ever since I'd set foot in the pink house, some part of me had kept believing that my mother had been here. Not believing it so much as daydreaming it. Wanting it to be true. But it seemed so far-fetched. So crazy. I walked over to May. There wasn't a trace of cunning in May. You could depend on her telling the truth without thinking about it. "May, did you ever know a woman named Deborah? Deborah Fontanel? She was a white woman from Virginia," I said.

May didn't pause. She didn't look up. She just said, "Oh yes, Deborah Fontanel. She stayed out there in the honey house. She was the sweetest thing." And there it was. I felt light-headed. May said, "I think I'll take a walk out in the yard." And she left me standing in the kitchen, hot and breathless, the world tilted under me.

In the honey house, I sat on the cot with my knees drawn up, hugging them with my arms. I looked at the floor with brand new eyes. My mother had walked about in this room. A real person. Not somebody I made up but a living, breathing person.

1. What was May doing on the floor?
2. What memory did this trigger for Lily?
3. Lily thinks the idea that her mother might have been in the pink house is "far-fetched". What does "far-fetched" mean? Has someone ever told you a story that was far-fetched?

4. Lily said May had not, "a trace of cunning." A "trace" is a very small amount. Someone with cunning can get their way by lying or tricking others. Was Lily saying May was cunning or was not cunning?
5. Who is Deborah Fontanel?
6. What did May tell Lily about Deborah?
7. How does Lily feel about finding out her mother had stayed in the honey house?

## GRAMMAR:

### CAN and COULD

We can use either **can** or **could** when we ask people to do things (make a request).

EX: Can you wait for me, please?

Could you wait for me please?

Can you do me a favor?

Could you do me a favor?

We also use WILL and WOULD to make a request.

EX: Would you open the door for me, please? Will you do me a favor?

Could you open the door for me, Please? Can you do me a favor?

We use CAN and COULD to offer to do something. EX: Can I get you a cup of coffee? Can I help you?

We use WOULD with "like" to offer. EX: Would you like a cup of coffee? Would you like to have lunch with me?

### Read these conversations:

**Sandy:** My camera battery is dead. Could I borrow your camera?

**Tom:** I will let you borrow my camera if you promise to return it tomorrow.

**Alison:** Can I use your phone. I didn't bring mine with me.

**Bess:** Sure. You can use mine.

**Cal:** I finished my English homework. But I think I made some mistakes. Can you check my homework?

**Ellen:** I'm busy right now. I'll check it later.

**Fay:** Can I help you?

**Hillary:** Yes, I'd like to try on this jacket.

**Fay:** Our dressing rooms are over there.

**Hillary:** Thank you.

### Use can, could, will or would in these requests.

1. You've finished your meal in the restaurant. You want the waiter to bring your bill. You say:
2. You're on a crowded bus. All the seats are taken. An old woman gets on the bus. You want to offer her your seat. You say:
3. Your husband is driving very fast. It is scaring you. You want him to drive slower. You say:

4. You are on a train. The person next to you has finished reading the newspaper. You want to read it. You say:
5. Your neighbor is playing loud music. You are afraid it will wake your children. You want him/her to turn down the music. You say:

We use **would** and **could** in sentences with IF phrases. EX: If I had more time, I **would** read more. If I knew his number, I **would** call him. If it had rained, we **wouldn't** have finished the game. If I had a car, I **could** drive to the supermarket.