

## FUMC ESL 1-31-2022 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. Name something in your house or apartment you have had repaired or would like to have repaired.

**These are conversations between a homeowner and a repair person. Read and answer the questions.**

**Homeowner:** Can you help me? My kitchen sink is **clogged**. It won't **drain**.

**Plumber:** It looks like it's your **garbage disposal** that is the problem. It is clogged with food. Did you run the garbage disposal with a lot of food in the sink?

**Homeowner:** Yes, I **peeled** carrots and potatoes and put the **peels** in the sink. Then I turned on the garbage disposal and ran the water on high. It **stopped up**.

**Plumber:** I can fix it. But you shouldn't put a lot of food through the garbage disposal at one time. Just push small amounts down, wait and let them go through, then push a little more through. You do need to run water while your disposal is running, but a small amount is fine. I wouldn't turn the water on **full force**.

### Question:

1. What was the problem the homeowner had?
2. What did the homeowner do wrong?
3. What advice did the plumber give the homeowner?
4. How often do you use your garbage disposal?
5. Have you ever had your garbage disposal get clogged? What did you do?



*Note: This tool is called a plumber's friend or a plumber's helper. It is used to clear clogs. It can be used when your sink is clogged or when your toilet is clogged. Every hardware store has them.*

**Homeowner:** While you're here, can you look at my toilet in the bathroom.

**Plumber:** What's the problem with your toilet?

**Homeowner:** After I flush it, the toilet **keeps running**. I have to **jiggle** the handle to make it stop.

**Plumber:** You probably just need a new toilet kit. You can get one at Home Depot or Lowe's. It will be much cheaper for you to **install** it than to pay me to do it.

**Homeowner:** I don't know how to install a new toilet kit. Can't I just pay you to do it?

**Plumber:** I can't do it today. I have another **call** to go to after this. My manager only allowed enough time for me to fix your kitchen sink. And I don't carry toilet kits with me. If you want me to install a new toilet kit, I'll have to come back. You can buy a new kit and have it here for me, or I can bring one with me.

**Homeowner:** OK. Please come back soon to fix it.

**Plumber:** I have to **warn you**. My company has a **minimum service charge** of \$60. It probably won't take but five minutes to install that toilet kit, but you'll have to pay the minimum service charge anyway. You should **think twice** before having me install it. The toilet kits are easy to install and they come with directions.

**Question:**

1. Do you prefer to do simple home repairs yourself?
2. What is a minimum service charge?
3. What do you think the homeowner should do?
4. What does the plumber mean when he says "think twice"?

**Homeowner:** I have one more question. In the morning, my wife and I and both my kids take showers before work and school. We always **run out of hot water**. The last person to shower has only cold water. Why is that?

**Plumber:** You probably have a small hot water heater. When all four of you shower, it uses all the water in the tank. It takes a while for the water in the tank to **heat up** again. I suggest some of you shower at night and some in the morning. Then everyone can have hot water.

**Homeowner:** Maybe I should buy a bigger hot water heater. Would that help?

**Plumber:** I'm not sure a bigger hot water heater will fit in your house. There isn't much room in the closet where your hot water heater is. You could try a **tankless hot water heater**. They are quite small. And they're very efficient. You won't be paying to heat water in your hot water heater when you aren't using it. They are quite expensive, but you will be saving in energy costs **over the long term**.

**Questions:**

1. What suggestion does the plumber have about showering?
2. Why did the plumber think the homeowner should not buy a bigger water heater?
3. What did the plumber suggest the homeowner buy?
4. Is this a problem you have at your house or apartment?
5. What kind of water heater do you have?
6. What does "over the long term" mean?

**Pronunciation: Rules for pronouncing long O**

1-Words that have an O, and end in silent E usually have the long O sound. EX: bone, home, rope, pole, hope, cone, stove, broke, nose. Exception - gone, done, love, lose, move, prove

2-When a word ends in O, it is usually long. EX: hero, taco, banjo, hippo, buffalo, jumbo, stereo, radio, tomato, pimento, cargo, tornado, tobacco

3-If a word starts with O, it could have the long or short sound. EX: long O sound ----open, over, obey, ocean, old, omit, oath, only. Or it could have the short O sound----off, object, obsolete, office, operate, opposite

4-When a word has the OA combination, it is pronounced with long O. EX: oat, oak, boat, goal, load, board, loaf, coal, soap, float, coach, coast.

5- Words with the combination OE, usually make the long O sound as in toe, doe, hoe, Joe.

6- Words with OW can be pronounced with two different sounds.

First: cow, power, frown, coward, gown, owl, shower.

Second: row, show, low, mower, arrow, snow, know, pillow, flow, bowl

7-If you have two O's together, it could have several different pronunciations, but **seldom** a long O sound. However, there are a few exceptions: cooperative, coordinated, zoology, floor. In cooperative, coordinated and zoology, the first O is long and the second O is short.

8-OU is another vowel combination that **seldom** has the long O sound. Ex: The words, mouth, sound, house, south have the same vowel sound as cow, But there are a few words where OU sounds like a long O. EX: dough, shoulder, soul, though, although.

Another strange thing is the word "route". People pronounce this word differently. Some people pronounce route like out. Others pronounce route like root. Ask your teacher which way they pronounce this word. And note, if we are talking about that piece of computer hardware that is used to connect to the internet it is a router (rhymes with out) , not a rooter.

9-Sometimes it's just too confusing to figure out. For example, coma is pronounced with long O, but comma is pronounced with short O. Also confusing, the word bow, sow and row can be pronounced either with a long or short sound and they have different meanings. For example, you tie a bow on a package, but you bow when you stand in front of the queen. You row your boat, but have a row (fight). A sow is a female pig, but when you plant seeds, you sow. Though and thought are spelled almost the same, but are pronounced very differently.

*Quiz: Pronounce these word pairs*

low - allow	dough - rough	boulder - bolder	soul - south	low - allow	stow - so
borrow - flower	toe - to	for - fore	though - thought	own - brown	cowtown - lowdown

*Note: If you give someone the lowdown, you give them the true facts about something. Someone might say, "What's the lowdown on this issue?" They are asking for information. There is an implication that it is little known information. That is, information others might not be aware of.*

**Quiz----Using THE: Put "the" in the blank or leave it blank.**

1. Do you live near \_\_\_\_\_ airport?
2. I watch \_\_\_\_\_ TV a lot.
3. Paul is learning to play \_\_\_\_\_ guitar.
4. Write your name at \_\_\_\_\_ top of the page.
5. My brother is in \_\_\_\_\_ army.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ name of the street is Lavaca.
7. Can you tell me \_\_\_\_\_ time?
8. My office is on \_\_\_\_\_ first floor.
9. We live in \_\_\_\_\_ capital of our state.
10. We had \_\_\_\_\_ dinner at home last night.
11. I woke up in \_\_\_\_\_ middle of the night.
12. Ed and I live on \_\_\_\_\_ same street.

13. The toy is at \_\_\_\_\_ bottom of the swimming pool.
14. What are you doing \_\_\_\_\_ next weekend?
15. What is \_\_\_\_\_ best restaurant in town?
16. Did you take a vacation \_\_\_\_\_ last summer?
17. I'm not working \_\_\_\_\_ next week.
18. I found \_\_\_\_\_ information on \_\_\_\_\_ internet.
19. Are these two books \_\_\_\_\_ same?
20. Who's watching \_\_\_\_\_ kids?

**Discuss:**

1. *Would you prefer to renovate an old house or buy a new house?*
2. *Do you prefer to paint your walls or wallpaper them?*
3. *Would you be comfortable laying tile, painting walls or replacing light fixtures?*
4. *Do most people you know pay someone to clean their house?*
5. *Do you do your own gardening?*
6. *When you buy new appliances for your home, do you buy a warranty to cover repairs? Why or why not?*