

## FUMC ESL 5-26-2022 High Intermediate and Advanced

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

**Dog Talk:** Most Dogs in the U.S. Seem to Have an Easy Life  
Written by Jill Moss

Most dogs in the United States seem to have an easy life. They sleep a lot and get fed often. People take their dogs for a walk two times a day and also let them play outside. Dogs get medical care when they are sick or injured. What a great life! Right? Well, we say people with a similar, carefree existence enjoy a “**dog’s life.**” They have no troubles or responsibilities. They can come and go as they please, sleep all day, and never have to work.

But not everyone has it so easy. In fact, some people say we live in a “**dog-eat-dog world.**” That means many people are competing for the same things, like good jobs. They say that to be successful, a person has to “**work like a dog.**” This means they have to work very, very hard. Such hard work can make people “**dog-tired.**” And, the situation would be even worse if they became “**sick as a dog.**”

Still, people say “**every dog has its day.**” This means that every person enjoys a successful period during his or her life. To be successful, people often have to learn new skills. Yet, some people say that “**you can never teach an old dog new tricks.**” They believe that older people do not like to learn new things and will not change the way they do things.

Some people are compared to dogs in bad ways. People who are unkind or uncaring can be described as “**meaner than a junkyard dog.**” Junkyard dogs live in places where people throw away things they do not want. Mean dogs are often used to guard this property. They bark or attack people who try to enter the property. However, sometimes a person appears to be mean and threatening but is really not so bad. We say “**his bark is worse than his bite.**”

A junkyard is not a fun place for a dog. Many dogs in the United States sleep in safe little houses near their owners’ home. These doghouses provide shelter. Yet they can be cold and lonely in the winter.

Husbands and wives use this “**doghouse**” term when they are angry at each other. For example, a woman might get angry at her husband for coming home late or forgetting their wedding anniversary. She might tell him that he is “**in the doghouse.**” She may not treat him nicely until he apologizes. However, the husband may decide that it is best to leave things alone and not create more problems. He might decide “**to let sleeping dogs lie.**”

Dog expressions also are used to describe the weather. **“The dog days of summer”** are the hottest days of the year. A rainstorm may cool the weather. But we do not want it to rain too hard. We do not want it **“to rain cats and dogs.”**

**Questions:**

1. Do you have a carefree existence?
2. Do you think you have to work like a dog to be successful?
3. Do you know someone whose bark is worse than their bite?
4. What do you plan to do during the dog days of summer?

**Discussion:**

Talk about pets in your country. What animals do people keep as pets.

1. Talk about pets in your country. What animals do people keep as pets?
2. Do you think pets are more pampered in the U.S. than in other countries?
3. What type of animal would make the best pet?
4. Is it OK to spend your money on pets when people in the world are starving?
5. Some people leave lots of money to their pets when they die. What do you think of this.
6. Would you have an unusual pet, like a snake or a tiger?
7. Are you afraid of dogs? Would you visit in the home of someone who had a dog?
8. Are you a “dog person” or a “cat person”?
9. Is it important for children to have pets?
10. Would you give a pet to someone as a gift?
11. Are virtual pet or robotic pets popular in your country?

PRONUNCIATION: OK, I agree. Pronunciation in English is downright weird. Take a look at these odd word pairs that should be pronounced alike based on their spelling, but aren't at all. See how many you can pronounce correctly.

|                        |                  |                     |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| round - wound (injury) | crevice - device | face - preface      | ear - earn       |
| ear - wear - tear      | tear - tear      | seven - even        | monkey - donkey  |
| grasp - wasp           | cork - work      | verdict - indict    | though - through |
| plough - dough         | cough - dough    | enough - plough     | food - good      |
| wallet - chalet        | live - alive     | daughter - laughter | hear - bear      |
| lord - word            | break - bleak    | how - low           | tomb - comb      |
| soul - foul            | load - broad     | bury - fury         | mint - pint      |

Most of the groups on Monday did not do the **dilemmas**. A dilemma is a situation where you have to make a difficult choice.

**Talk about these dilemmas. Tell what you would do. Have you ever been in a situation like this.**

1-My 6 year old daughter has been invited to a classmates house for a play date. She really wants to go. But I know this family has two large dogs. I was bitten by a dog as a child and I am very afraid of dogs. I worry that my daughter will be attacked. I don't know these dogs and don't know if my daughter will be safe around them. I will break her heart if I tell her she can't go. What should I do?

2-I love my next door neighbors. They are nice people. We don't know them that well because they keep to themselves. But they watch our house when we are gone and pick up our newspapers. The problem is that they have just built some shelves in their backyard right next to our fence. The shelves are very poorly made and they stick up about 3 feet over the top of our fence. They look very ugly. We see them every time we go outside. I am angry about the shelves and I don't want to keep looking at them. But I don't want to make my neighbors angry. Should I ask them to move them or just ignore the ugly shelves. What should I do?

3-The neighbor children always come over and play in our yard. We have a big play structure with swings and slides. They enjoy playing on them. Our children are grown now and we don't want to have our yard filled with children. They are noisy. Sometimes they bring snacks over and leave the trash in our yard. We have spoken to their parents and the parents agreed to tell the children they couldn't come over. But the children ignore the parents. They continue to come. What should I do?

4-I have a great boyfriend. We have dated for several months and I like him very much. However, I do not like his parents. They are not at all like my parents. They are very lazy and their house is very messy. His mother doesn't cook. They eat fast food for every meal. The father doesn't mow the yard or take care of the plants. The house looks run down. I don't like going over there. I don't have anything in common with them. When we go over, we just sit on the couch in front of the TV and eat chips. I can't imagine having any kind of relationship with them. I don't know what to do. Should I break up with my boyfriend because of his parents? That seems wrong? Please tell me what I should do.