

FUMC ESL 6-16-2022 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

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

READ: The Geeky Kid with the Big Voice

When I was young I got teased by the other kids. I was geeky and shy, and besides I had red hair and big teeth. I wasn't used to hanging out with kids. My dad left when I was two years old. So I spent my days hanging out with my mom or grandparents. Sometimes Mom would even take me to work with her at J.C. Penney. The other women there were all older. They thought I was cute. They'd prop me up and ask me to sing country songs. Singing was something I could do. Mother thought music was important and we sang along with the records at home.

But at school, life was hell. I didn't have any of the "cool" clothes because Mom couldn't afford them. And I was an awful soccer and basketball player. I was always picked last in games. I was the geeky red headed kid with the high voice. But when I started middle school, Mom talked to the choir teacher, Mrs. Norton. Mrs. Norton asked me to join the choir. When I sang for her she said, "You sing in church, don't you?" I said yes. I'd been singing in church for about four years. Mrs. Norton said she could tell because I had a really big voice that could reach all the way to the back row. She told me I had a gift. She said not everyone can sing like you, Clay. God has given you a beautiful voice and you must use it. I joined the choir and started singing at all the school events. The kids were amazed that a little geeky kid like me had such a great voice. Pretty soon, nobody cared about how I looked. I was just the kid that could sing. I am so thankful for Mrs. Norton. She flattered me and encouraged me to sing. Without her pushing me, I might have given up singing. We are still friends today.

This story is by Clay Aiken. He finished second on "American Idol" in 2003 and since then has made several records and appeared in many television shows.

1. Did you have someone who believed in you and encouraged you when you were young?
2. Did you ever feel like the geeky kid?
3. Do you enjoy singing?
4. What is a special talent you have?
5. We call stories like this, "rags to riches" stories. Do you know of anyone who is a "rags to riches" story?
6. There is a saying, "Show me a boy of 7, and I will show you the man." The idea is that whatever a child is like at age 7, he will be like the rest of his life. Do you agree or disagree with this.
7. Was the career you ended up in a surprise to your parents, or could people have predicted your career from looking at you at age 14? For example, Mary was always excellent at math. She always made the highest grade in math class. Today she is a tax accountant. We could have predicted when Mary was 14 that she would have a career in math.

GRAMMAR: THERE AND IT

Every sentence must have a subject. EX: The rain is falling hard now. We had a cold winter last year. Sometimes, if we have no other subject, IT or THERE can be the subject.

There is a meeting tomorrow morning. It was a rainy year.
In these sentences, "there" and "it" are the subject of the sentence.

When do we use THERE?

—to talk about numbers or quantity—There was a lot of rain last night. There were five hundred people in the audience. There are lots of people from China studying in the U.S.

__to say where something is — There is a gas station at the next exit. There are mountain goats living near the top. There is a playground at the school. There is no one at home. There is nothing in the box. There are wolves in Yellowstone. There is a car in front of my house.

When do we use IT?

—for time and dates— It starts at ten. It's almost three o'clock. It's my birthday. It is late. It was earlier today.

—to talk about weather — It's raining. It's a beautiful day.

—to give an opinion —It's a nice color. It's hard to find a job here.

—to give a compliment —It's nice to meet you. It's wonderful to see you again. It's a pleasure to have your son in my class.

—to talk about ourselves or others—Is this yours? It's mine. I fell on my ankle. It's broken. It's my first year of college and I am still living at home.

IT'S can mean IT IS or IT HAS. EX: It's the first time for me to play basketball. It's been fun. It's happened many times before. It's stopped raining.

Note, that ITS (with no apostrophe) is a possessive adjective. EX: The bird built its nest next to the front door. The tiger is in its cage now. IT'S (with an apostrophe) means IT IS.

EX: It's my turn to swing. It's OK with me. It's time to change the air conditioning filter.

Don't get THERE confused with THEIR. We talked about THEIR on Monday. If you are confused about THEY'RE, THEIR and THERE, download Monday's lesson.

Fill in the blank with IT, IT'S, THERE, THERE'S or THERE ARE

There is no written contraction for THERE ARE. In casual speech we blend these two words together, but not in written speech unless you are writing dialogue.

1. _____ a party at Debra's tonight. Do you want to go?
2. _____ half past ten. I think we should go home.
3. _____ some fruit in the refrigerator.
4. Don't forget _____ your mom's birthday today. You should call her.

5. _____ very warm in here. May I open a window?
6. Let's get the meeting started. _____ a lot to talk about.
7. The last time we went to the beach, _____ rained the whole weekend.
8. _____ not easy being a nurse.
9. _____ red wine and white wine opened. Which would you prefer?
10. _____ stupid to drink and drive.
11. _____ no animals in the barn.
12. _____ only one chocolate bar left.
13. _____ will be rain tomorrow according to the weather forecast.
14. _____ lots of mean dogs in the dog park.
15. _____ a long way to New York.
16. _____ cloudy today.
17. _____ a man waiting for you downstairs.
18. _____ gets dark early during the winter.
19. _____ been years since I've seen her.
20. _____ are no high speed trains in this country.
21. _____ a shame that he wasn't able to find a job in Austin.
22. Suddenly, _____ was a knock on the door.
23. _____ must be a reason why she is late for work.
24. _____ might be some money in my piggy bank.
25. _____ way too late to go out now.
26. Be careful. _____ a lot of ice on the road.
27. _____ something wrong with my brakes.
28. _____ was lovely to meet you and your wife.
29. _____ a strange noise coming from our air conditioner.
30. Who's there? _____ just me.
31. Is that a snake in the bushes? No, _____ a lizard
32. _____ a button missing on this shirt.
33. _____ no point in worrying.
34. _____ pointless to worry.
35. Someone is knocking on the door. _____ must be Sally.
36. _____ no secret that she likes you.
37. _____ no chance of getting the car fixed today.
38. _____ used to be a donut shop here, but it went out of business.
39. _____ it is! I've been looking for that for hours.

40. _____ never enough pumpkin pie at Thanksgiving. We always run out.

Using THERE in the negative.

The negative is formed by putting NOT after IS or ARE:

There is not enough milk for both of us. There are not enough apples to make a pie. There are not any trees in this yard.

Negative contractions are: THERE ISN'T or THERE AREN'T

There isn't any reason to stay here. There aren't any apples in the fruit bowl.

Use THERE ISN'T or THERE AREN'T with ANY—to indicate zero quantity.

There isn't any water in the pool

There aren't any students in that classroom.