

FUMC ESL 11-28-2022 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. How was your Thanksgiving?

Comprehending Written English: Read and discuss the story below.

Problem 1: John and Edna have been married a long time. They love each other and get along well. But sometimes they get **frustrated** with each other. Edna loves to talk and tells great stories. Sometimes she **exaggerates** a little to make the story better. She is the **life of the party** and is always able to make people laugh. John is an engineer. He believes **accuracy** is very important. It **annoys** him when Edna exaggerates. To him, it is important to be accurate and truthful when telling a story. Sometimes he **interrupts** Edna's story to correct her facts. Edna gets very angry when this happens. She feels it ruins her story. She doesn't think it **matters** if every fact is exactly correct. She enjoys entertaining people with her stories and feels it is OK to exaggerate a little.

1. Who do you **sympathize** with the most?
2. What advice would you give this couple for getting along?
3. Have you ever had a similar problem in a relationship?

Problem 2: James and Gloria got married five years ago. James is from the U.S. and Gloria is from Mexico. Gloria was raised in a strict Roman Catholic family. She continues to go to mass and celebrate the rituals and holidays of the church. James, **on the other hand**, was not raised in a religious family. He does not attend church with Gloria. He goes along with the religious holidays, but he doesn't really participate **enthusiastically**. This year, James and Gloria had their first child. Though they are very happy with their new little daughter, it has brought some stress into the marriage. Gloria wants to have little Elena **christened** in the church. She looks forward to taking Elena with her to mass and having her participate in the life of her church. James is opposed to this. He thinks religion is just **superstition** and would prefer their daughter not be a part of any religion.

1. Who do you think is right?
2. What advice would you give to James and Gloria?
3. Does it cause problems to marry someone of different religious beliefs?

Problem 3: Gloria also feels it is important that their daughter learn to speak Spanish. Half of her daughter's relatives speak Spanish and she wants her daughter to be able to understand them when they visit from Mexico. James thinks that English is more important because their daughter will be raised in the U.S.. He does not agree with teaching their small daughter another language. He believes it will confuse her.

1. What advice would you give Gloria and James.
2. Do you think this couple will be able to solve these problems?

Vocabulary:

Beside: Something that is beside something else is at the side of it or next to it. Example: Beside his plate, was a stack of napkins. I moved to sit beside the pretty girl.

If you are “beside yourself” with anger or excitement, you are extremely angry or excited. I was beside myself when Jackie Chan walked into the bar. If something is “beside the point”, it is not relevant to the topic. Example: The fact that your dog hasn’t ever bitten anyone before is beside the point. He bit someone today.

Besides: Besides something means in addition to it. Example: I think she has many good qualities besides being beautiful. Besides can be used to make an additional point. Example: I don’t need any help. Besides, I’m almost finished.

Choose the correct word for each sentence.

1. Are you taking anyone to the theatre *besides/beside* Jan?
2. It’s too late to go out tonight. *Besides/beside*, I have a big test tomorrow that I need to study for.
3. Put the vase down on the table *besides/beside* the books.
4. Jim asked me to go to the basketball game, but I turned him down. I don’t really like basketball. Whether you like basketball or not is *beside/besides* the point. He invited you because he likes you and wants to go on a date with you.
5. *Beside/besides* Jerry, who was at the apartment?
6. Who was that woman sitting *besides/beside* Carolyn?
7. May I sit *beside/besides* you?
8. After he dented my door, I was so *beside/besides* myself I couldn’t talk.
9. Should I hang my coat *beside/besides* yours?
10. Are you doing anything Friday *besides/beside* going to the movie?

Practice Speaking

1. If you could be any age, what age would you pick?
2. At what age is a person "OLD"?
3. What do you fear about aging?
4. Would you like to live to be 100?
5. Would you ever marry someone who was much older or much younger than you?
6. Do you have any friends who are either much older or much younger than you?
7. Do you think old people are discriminated against?
8. Are older people more fearful?
9. How do you feel about parents or grandparents living with you? Is that common in your culture?
10. Do you think Western culture values youth too much?