

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. What do you like most about the place you are living?

Pronunciation: How to pronounce words that should rhyme, but don't.

For example: more, store and shore all rhyme. They all end in "ore" and all sound the same.

But how about: fork, stork, cork and work? They all end in ork, yet one of them doesn't rhyme. Which is it?

Look at these groups of words and decide which ones rhyme.

ONE: lone, zone, phone, done	OTHER: bother, brother, other	ONT: front, font, won't
ORD: word, sword, lord, chord	OZE: doze, froze, booze	OME: home, dome, some, come, chrome
OVE: love, dove, cove, move	OTH: both, moth, broth, tooth	ORY: worry, sorry, ivory, story

NOTE: DOVE as in a bird, rhymes with LOVE. But DOVE as in the past tense of DIVE rhymes with COVE. And MOVE doesn't rhyme with either of them.

Practice Speaking with Present Perfect Verbs.

1. Have you ever shot a gun?
2. Have you ever ridden an animal?
3. Have you ever traveled to a country that was dangerous?
4. What interesting foods have you eaten?
5. What is the longest you have been awake?
6. Have you ever been on TV?
7. Have you ever dialed 911?
8. Have you ever fallen asleep while driving?
9. Have you ever been swimming in the ocean?
10. Have you ever made a fool of yourself while trying to impress someone?

Read and discuss this short story. This is an edited version of an original story by Guy de Maupassant.

The Necklace, Part One

Matilda Loisel was one of those pretty and charming girls born to a family of humble clerks. She had no dowry or way of meeting a wealthy man, so she settled for a minor clerk in the Ministry of Education. She married and settled into a modest home. It was small and careworn, but it was a home. Something not everyone had these days. But Matilda hated it. The dirty walls, the worn-out chairs and the ugly curtains. Other women of her class would have accepted her lot in life and not been bothered by these things, but Matilda was resentful.

1. What is a dowry?
2. What does it mean "to settle" for something or someone?
3. What is meant by a "minor clerk"?
4. What does it mean to "accept your lot in life"?
5. How was Matilda different from other women of her class?

Matilda dressed plainly because she wasn't able to afford anything better. She was a pretty girl. Why hadn't she been born to a wealthy family where she could have dressed in expensive fabrics and worn jewels every day? She dreamed of a better life.

1. What question does Matilda ask herself?

In the evening, she sat down to dinner at a small round table with a worn tablecloth opposite her husband. He lifted the lid off the pot and exclaimed, "Ah, beef stew! What could be better!" But Matilda dreamed of fine dinners on shining silver. She dreamed of fresh trout and wings of quail. She imagined the fine conversation she would be having with her dinner guests.

1. How is her husband's attitude about a bowl of stew different than Matilda's?

Matilda had no fancy dresses, no jewels, nothing. And these were the only things she loved. She wanted so much to charm, to be desired and sought after. She had a rich friend, Madame Forester, who was a former schoolmate at the convent. But Matilda no longer wanted to visit Madame Forester because for whole days afterwards she would weep with sorrow, regret and despair. It was too much to see the lovely dresses and sparkling jewels that Madame Forester wore.

1. Who was Madame Forester?
2. What were the things Matilda loved most?
3. Why did visiting Madame Forester make Matilda weep?

One evening, Matilda's husband came home with an air of triumph, holding a large envelope in his hand.

"Look," he said, "Here's something for you."

Matilda tore open the paper and drew out a card, on which was printed the words: *The Minister of Education requests the pleasure of the company of Monsieur and Madame Loisel on the evening of Monday the 18th of January.*

Instead of being delighted, as her husband had hoped, Matilda threw the invitation on the table resentfully. "What do you want me to do with that?"

"But my dear, I thought you would be pleased. You never go out, and it will be such a lovely occasion. I had an awful time getting the invitation. Everyone wants to go and not many invitations went to clerks. All the important people in the ministry will be there."

1. How did Matilda react to the invitation?
2. How did her husband feel about this reaction?