

FUMC ESL 2-13-2023 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live. Tomorrow, February 14th is Valentine's Day. Tell something you like about a loved one.

Valentine's Day occurs every February 14 across the United States and in other places around the world. Cards, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and where did these traditions come from?

The Catholic church recognized 3 different Saint Valentines. There are myths about them and their deeds. The common thread is that they were really nice guys, but not really celebrated much. Many think St. Valentine's day began when the Catholic church wanted to get rid of a pagan festival that occurred on February 14th. The Roman Britons celebrated Lupercalia, which was a kind of fertility festival. Pagan priests would gently slap women with strips of goat hide. The women wanted to be touched by the hides because this enhanced their fertility.

The Catholic church hated these non-Christian celebrations, so the pope, in the late 5th century, declared Lupercalia illegal and instead announced that February 14th was St. Valentine's Day. We don't know how it was celebrated in early days. But in 1375, English poet Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a poem which referred to Saint Valentine's day as a romantic holiday when everyone should choose a mate.

By the middle of the 18th century, it was common for friends and lovers to send Valentine's cards expressing their love. Sometimes they also gave small presents. Today we usually send Valentine's cards to the people we love. My husband will probably give me a card and take me to dinner or buy me some flowers.

Do you celebrate Valentine's Day? How is it celebrated in your country? Is your partner romantic? (A romantic person says or does things to let you know they love you.)

Practice Speaking

1-Tell about the love of your life. How did you meet? What did you do on dates? When did you know you were in love?

2-If your loved one promised a trip for the two of you to the place of your choice for Valentine's Day, where would you go?

3-It is hard to lose your partner to death after decades together. Some people in the seventies and eighties marry again. Would you be upset if one of your parents died and the other married again?

4-Years ago, my mother told me, "Never tell a man you love him before he tells you that." Times have changed I think. Do you think it's OK to a woman to admit her love before the man?

5-What is a blind date? Have you ever been on a blind date? Would you ever go on one?

6-Do you think married couples should share all their money?

7-Is love necessary to have a good marriage?

8-Would you ever look for a mate on the internet?

9-What are the dating customs in your country?

10-Would your parents think it is OK if you decided to remain single?

11-Did you live with your parents after you were married? Would you ever consider living doing that?

12-What age is too young to date?

13-Do you think international marriages work? Would your parents approve of an international marriage?

14-Would you consider marrying someone of a different religion? How would your parents feel about that? Would that be OK for your children?

15-What are some sayings about love in your country?

16-Which of these Valentine gifts would you prefer: candy, red roses, pink teddy bear, your sweetheart preparing a special meal, jewelry, money

Love and Marriage Idioms:

- fall in love and love is blind: We talk about "falling in love." When you fall in love, you sometimes ignore bad things about your sweetheart. This is where the saying, "Love is blind," comes from. Everyone else sees your lover's faults, but you don't because you love them so much.
- puppy love: My son had his first girlfriend when he was nine years old. My husband and I called it "puppy love". That is an idiom used to refer to youth that fall in love at a very young age. It means the love is not serious because they are too young to know about true love. We expect children to "outgrow" these relationships. Did you have a boyfriend or girlfriend when you were very young?
- lovebirds: We talk about couples who are clearly in love and want to be with each other all the time as "lovebirds".
- tie the knot: To get married.
- lovey-dovey: A couple who is very affectionate with each other, even in public. How much affection would you show in public? For example, would you hold hands, would you kiss, would you walk along with your arms around each other? Do you think Americans are too affectionate in public? When I was in college in the sixties, our housemother warned us about PDA. That stands for Public Display of Affection and it was against the rules. You weren't supposed to kiss in public. My dorm had bushes around the front, so when our boyfriends brought us home from a date, we would hide behind the bushes when we kissed so the housemother couldn't catch us in PDA.

- a match made in Heaven: A relationship that everyone is sure will last forever.
- a crush: If you really like someone, you might have a "crush" on them. It doesn't necessarily mean they like you. You can even have a crush on people you don't know. For example, when I was young, I had a crush on a TV character. He was the hero of a western called, "The Rifleman". I thought he was handsome and brave and wanted to have a boyfriend just like him. At the Houston rodeo, he was the guest star. He rode his horse around the ring. All the young girls stood around the ring holding their hands out hoping "The Rifleman" would touch their hands. I was a lucky. The Rifleman touched my hand. My friend told me I should never wash that hand. Did you ever have a crush on someone famous?