

FUMC ESL 3–9–2023 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. Talk about something you have created. Show it to us if you can.

Confusing Words: When I asked the class what was the most confusing thing about the English language, one of the students said, "There are so many words that look the same, but have totally different meanings. So today, we are going to look at some examples of confusing words.

1. You **deal** cards, but **deal with** complaints.

EX: Hurry up! **Deal** the cards. Let's play.

EX: My work is very stressful. There are so many complaints I have to **deal with** every day.

If something is a **big deal**, it's very important. If it's a **good deal**, it's a bargain.

EX: My sister is getting married this weekend. It's a **big deal**. My parents have hired a caterer and decorated the church with flowers. Everyone will be wearing evening dresses or tuxedos.

EX: We'd like you to come to the wedding, but if you can't it's **no big deal**. I know you haven't felt well lately.

EX: We got our new car for a great price because the dealer had too many cars. He wanted to get rid of some of them, so he offered us a **good deal**.

2. If you **anger** someone, they are **angry** with you.

EX: Ted really **angered** me today. He said I did not have enough experience to apply for a manager's job. It makes me **angry** when he says things like that.

3. If you **bore** someone, they think you are **boring**. If you are boring, you are a **bore**. If someone **bores** you, you are **bored**.

EX: I am **bored** by my economics class. My professor is very **boring**. I almost fall asleep in that class. My professor is a **bore**.

Explain the difference in meaning in these two statements:

a-I'm so bored.

b-I'm so boring.

4. You can **bother** someone, meaning annoy them. EX: My little brother **bothers** me. He always comes in my room and messes with my stuff.

Bother can also mean to make an effort to do something. We frequently use this in a negative sense. EX: My brother **didn't bother** to tell me he would be late, so I stood outside waiting for him in the rain. If he had **bothered** to call me, I could have waited inside.

5. You can **advise** someone or **give advice**. You cannot give advise.

EX: I asked my dad for **advice** on investing. He has made a lot of money by investing in companies. He **advises** me on lots of financial matters.

6. If you **accept** something, you receive it. **Except** means excluding. EX: All of the girls **except** Mary are wealthy. All the houses have big yards **except** this one.

Please **accept** this gift. He **accepted** the tech company's job offer.

Accept can also mean to believe something is true. We usually say this about things that are not good news. EX: You have to **accept** that you will never be rich. I have **come to accept** that my children will never live in the same town as me.

What have you come to accept?

If you **accept responsibility** for something you have done, you take the blame if something bad happened. EX: My dad said I had to **accept responsibility** for breaking the window because I was the one who hit the ball.

7. You can **breathe** or **take a breath**, but not take a breathe. EX: The doctor said, "Take a **deep breath** and hold it." He listened to me **breathe** with his stethoscope.

Idioms with Breath---Our dog has **bad breath**. We give him breath mints. How long can you **hold your breath** under water? The boy muttered, "This is a dumb class," **under his breath**. Dad won't change his mind about you dating, so don't **waste your breath**. I am **short of breath** when I walk uphill. I have to stop and **catch my breath**.

8. **Beside** means next to. EX: Jan sat **beside** Cory. **Besides** means except for. EX: No one **besides** Charley is going to the party.

9. You can **lay** something down. EX: Please lay the keys on the table.)The past tense is **laid**. EX: We laid the keys on the table.

But when you get horizontal, you **lie** down. EX; Lie down and look up at the stars.

Past tense is **lay**. EX: We **lay** on the grass and looked at the stars.

If you tell a story that is not true, you **lie**. Past tense is **lied**. EX: Don't tell a **lie**! My son **lied** to his teacher.

A **little white lie** is something you say about an unimportant matter when you want to avoid hurting someone's feelings. EX: My wife asked me if she looked fat in the new dress. I thought she did look fat in the dress, but I told a **little white lie**. I told her she looked great in the dress.

10. **Loose** means not tight. **Lose** means not winning. Notice the S in LOOSE sounds like an S, but the S in LOSE sounds like a Z.

Lose can be a **euphemism** for dying. EX: I **lost** my mother to cancer.

NOTE: A euphemism is a mild word that we use to avoid saying a more blunt word. We say we lost someone, instead of she died. It is more gentle. We say, "my late father" instead of saying my dead father. We say, "I'm between jobs," instead of saying we are unemployed. We are "aging" not getting old. Salesmen try to sell you "pre-owned" cars not a used car.

If you, "**loosen up**," you relax and act comfortable. EX: Sara was very tense when we first met, but as we got to know her, she **loosened** up.

If you have "**nothing to lose**" your situation can't get any worse, so you may as well take the risk. EX: You might as well apply for a managerial job. You have nothing to lose. All they can do is turn you down.

DISCUSS:

1—I loved my grandparents. My grandmother had lots of funny words and sayings that you don't hear nowadays. For example, she said, "Are you daft?" Daft had the same meaning as a little bit crazy. When I would tell her a crazy idea, she would say, "Don't be daft." You don't hear that word used much today. Did your grandparents have any words or sayings that are not used any more?

2—I sometimes call my grandchildren, "peanut". Did your grandparents call you special names?

3—Do you think a grandparents love is different than a parents? How?

4—My grandfather was full of fun and loved to make jokes. My brother and I loved playing with him. He carved little toys out of wood. He made my brother a little airplane out of a tin can. He taught us how to use a slingshot to scare away stray dogs that scared us. He made us a swing that hung from a tall tree and would go really high. Tell us something about your favorite grandparent.

5—Are you closer to your siblings or your friends?

6—Do you think having siblings is better than being an only child? What are the advantages and disadvantages to each?

7—Are there things you would share only with a sibling that you would never talk about with a friend?

I have a brother. We are friends and I love him, but he is not my best friend. I think it is harder for a sister and brother to be close than two sisters or two brothers. What do you think?

8—Do you have a large extended family (uncles, aunts, cousins)? Do you get together with your extended family often? What occasions do you celebrate with your extended family? Who is the head of your extended family?