

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

Confusing Words

1. You **deal** cards, but **deal with** complaints.
2. If you **anger** someone, they are **angry with** you.
3. If you **bore** someone, they think you **are boring**.
4. You can **approve** of something or you can **give your approval**.
5. You can **advise** someone or **give advice**. You cannot **give advise**.
6. If you **accept** something, you receive it. **Except** means excluding. (All of the girls except Mary are wealthy.)
7. You can **breathe** or take a **breath**, but not **take a breathe**. You can **take a breather**. A breather is a short period of rest.
8. **Beside** means next to. (Chad sat beside his dog.) **Besides** means except for. (No one besides Charley is going to the party.)
9. You can **lay** something down. (We will **lay** the keys on the table.) The past tense is **laid**. (We **laid** the keys on the table.) But when you get horizontal, you **lie** down. (**Lie** down and look up at the stars.) Past tense is **lay**. (We **lay** on the grass and looked at the stars.)
10. **Loose** means not tight. **Lose** means not winning.

Read these discussions with a partner. Then switch roles and read them again. Discuss and explain the underlined words and phrases. Then answer the questions.

TAD: A tornado tore through the town yesterday. It was powerful.

SARA: What's the extent of the damage?

TAD: Many houses were destroyed. There were several injuries.

SARA: I think we should have a better tornado warning system.

TAD: I agree with you to some extent. But those warning systems are very expensive. We're a small town. I'm not sure we could afford it?

SARA: The repairs to homes will be very expensive. Some of the homes are damaged to such an extent that they will have to be demolished. I'd rather spend money for a tornado warning system than spend money re-building homes that have been destroyed.

Do you think Sara would agree that an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure?

STU: Mother's failing eyesight is beginning to be a problem. She really shouldn't be driving anymore. I had hoped that the surgery would correct her vision, but the doctor says the

procedure was a failure, probably due to her advanced age. I feel like I've failed her because I promised her she would see better after the surgery. Now I have to face telling her she can't continue to drive. She's going to be very upset about that.

SHANA: I understand. I tried to convince Dad to stop driving after his last heart attack, but my courage failed me and I gave in and agreed that he could keep driving. Dad can be very stubborn at times, but I love him with all his failings.

STU: I know you love your dad. You go over to check on him every week without fail. Any ideas on how to tell Mom she can't drive?

SHANA: You'll just have to explain to your mom that driving is no longer safe for her. Hopefully, she'll understand and agree. Failing that, the only thing left is to take the car keys away.

Do your parents still drive? Have you ever had to tell your parents they were not safe doing some activity? How did they react? Do you worry about your parents declining abilities?

SALLY: My boyfriend, Tim, and I have been going together off and on for six years.

MEG: That's a long time. Do you have any plans to marry?

SALLY: I don't think we will get married. Neither of us wants to have children. We are very committed to each other. We just don't see the point in getting married.

MEG: How do your parents feel about that?

SALLY: They aren't happy about it. They say Tim could leave me any time. They don't feel that I am secure in this relationship.

MEG: Do you think Tim might want to end the relationship some day?

SALLY: No. Tim loves me. He would never do that. I tried to explain that to my parents, but they have old-fashioned values. They think everyone should get married.

MEG: No offense, Sally, but I agree with your parents. If you are planning to spend your life together, you should get married.

What does it mean to have an "off and on relationship" ? If you were Sally's parent, how would you feel about this relationship?

If someone says, "This cake was made the old-fashioned way with lots of elbow grease," what do they mean?

LINDA: Jeremy came home from school today crying his eyes out. Some kids had made fun of him because he stutters. People say, "Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words can never hurt me." But words DO hurt. Poor Jeremy is so sad. It breaks my heart.

JAN: That's very sad. It makes me want to go up to the school and read the riot act to those kids.

LINDA: Believe me, I thought about it. But in the long run, I think that would just make the situation worse.

JAN: What do you intend to do?

LINDA: I'm not sure yet. I might talk to the teacher and ask her to talk to the children about the importance of being kind. But, again, that would probably embarrass Jeremy. I don't know that there is anything we can do. At his old school he had a friend who was very big and strong. He always took up for Jeremy. He wouldn't let any of the kids get away with teasing him.

Do you have any ideas for what Linda could do to help Jeremy? Have you ever experienced kids being mean? How did you handle it?

Discuss:

1. Do you have a lot of friends, or just a few?
2. Do you have any good friends that are the opposite sex?
3. Would you go to a movie alone or do you always go with friends?
4. Do you have any friends that are much older or much younger than you? Is it hard stay friends?
5. Do you have any childhood friends that are still your friends today?
6. What are some ways you can make friends in a foreign country?
7. Has social media made it easier or harder to stay friends?
8. Do you get jealous when you see on social media that your friends are doing something without you? How do you respond to that?