

FUMC ESL 4-27-2023 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

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

Prepositions With Gerunds: Gerunds are words that end in ing and look like verbs, but aren't acting as verbs in the sentence. Sometimes it can be confusing which preposition to use before a gerund. Put the correct preposition in the blank.

1. I've never been good _____ playing tennis.
2. She complained _____ bullying at school.
3. They are afraid _____ losing the game.
4. Laura dreams _____ living on a small island.
5. I don't agree _____ punishing the children _____ not finishing their meal.
6. What was her reaction _____ hearing the bad news?
7. Patrick is excited _____ climbing the mountain.
8. She is famous _____ singing patriotic songs.
9. There is a small chance _____ catching the virus.
10. There is a choice _____ flying to London or Edinburgh.
11. Edgar is in danger _____ failing the course.
12. I like the idea _____ setting up separate bank accounts.
13. We're interested _____ photographing the scenery.
14. I dried my hair _____ taking a shower.
15. I was able to see over the wall _____ standing on my tiptoes.
16. I am sorry _____ being so late.
17. She is used _____ walking long distances.
18. I am looking forward _____ hearing about your trip.
19. My parents argued _____ spending money.
20. There is no point _____ keeping both cars. We should sell one of them.

Read and discuss these conversations and quotes.

Sara: Jon, you are so successful. You have started your own company and made it tremendously successful in a very short time. What is the key to your success?

Jon: The key is do something that makes you happy. I wanted a job that made the world better, and I feel my company does that. I always felt it was unfair that if you were born in some remote, rural place, your chance of getting a first rate education was nil. Thus, your chance of getting a good job and being able to make a good living was nil. I built a company that connects these small rural schools with first rate universities to provide students in these remote places a chance to learn at an advanced level and take interesting courses taught by leaders in the field. It makes all the difference for these kids. We just had a kid from one of our

target schools get a full scholarship to M.I.T. That would not have happened without my company.

Read this quote: Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.

Explain the quote. What job have you had that made you happy?

Sally: You seem to get along well with your wife's family as well as your own. What is your secret?

Tim: Sally, this is my favorite quote. It explains how I get along so well with our two families. "Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city."

Sally: Are you kidding, Tim? It seems like you are very close to your family.

Tim: I am very close to them. That doesn't mean we see them all the time. None of my family lives closer than a three hour's drive away, so we don't see them more than once a month. We are always thrilled when they visit and after a few days, we are happy to see them go. I don't think we would get along as well if they were around all the time. A little distance is very helpful in relationships.

Explain Tim's secret. What do you think of his reply?

Bill: Jan, you are a senior vice president at a very successful start up. Yet, you haven't reached 30 yet. How did you accomplish that?

Jan: Bill, I have a favorite quote: "When one door closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us." I had several sales jobs after I graduated from school, but I was never very successful in any of them. Finally, my boss called me in to tell me he was firing me. He said, "Face it, Jan. You are a horrible salesperson. But you have so many other skills. You are a great organizer and a wonderful people person. You also have a good grasp of business finance. I think you will be very successful in some job, just not in sales."

Bill: Boy, I would be really depressed if my boss called me in and fired me.

Jan: Firing me was the best thing my boss could have done. I faced the fact that I wasn't ever going to succeed in sales. I started interviewing for management jobs. I had to start pretty low, but I worked my way up the chain of command pretty quickly. My old boss was right. I do understand business finance and I was able to make some changes in the way my company operates that made them much more efficient and profitable. As word got out, other company presidents started recruiting me to help streamline their business.

Explain how Jan's getting fired, opened another door for her.

Have you ever had a similar experience with opportunities coming along only after another opportunity had failed?

Idioms:

absent: If you are not there, you are **absent**. An **absence** is the period you weren't there. EX: During her husband's **absence**, she learned to sew. Because of the student's frequent **absences**, he failed the course. An **absentee landlord** is a landlord who does not live on or near the premises (building he rents). If you are **absent-minded**, you are forgetful. In the military, if you are **absent without leave**, you are AWOL. That is a severe offense.

There is an old saying, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." Do you agree or do you think people forget about you when you're gone.

weigh and weight: Last week we talked about "**weighing your words**." Let's look at some other "weigh" idioms. If something "**weighs on your mind**", you are thinking about it seriously for a long time. Do you have any problems that are weighing on your mind right now? Sometimes your problems, "**weigh you down**." That is they worry you so much you get sad or depressed. If you have money troubles, they can weigh you down. If you solve your problems, you **get a weight off your mind**. If someone's opinion "**doesn't carry much weight**," it isn't considered important. If you aren't doing everything you can to be helpful, you aren't "**pulling your own weight**." If you gain weight, we say, "**I'm putting on weight**." And if you lift heavy metal **weights**, you get stronger and maybe "**lose some weight**."

walk: If you are "**walking on air**" you are very happy. Kids are walking on air on the last day of school. If you are "**walking on eggshells**", you are being very careful and cautious about what you say and do. For example, if your boss has a quick temper, you might walk on eggshells around him. You would be very careful not to make him mad. If you "**walk out**" on someone, you abandon them. Sometimes men walk out on their wives, leaving them to raise the children alone. If someone, "**walks all over you**," they treat you poorly. They are disrespectful and mean to you.