

## FUMC ESL 5-1-2023 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. Talk about someone you have been thinking about lately.

**Take turns reading the paragraphs in this article. Tell what the paragraph says IN YOUR OWN WORDS. Define the words in bold.**

Many countries require **major** exams at the end of high school. These exams determine whether a person will be able to get into the college of their choice. **Pressure** on students can be **intense**. Some students talk about how nervous and worried they were before and during the exam. One young man said he felt that he did poorly on the exam because he was so nervous he **couldn't think straight**.

*To not be able to think straight means you can't concentrate and focus. Have you ever been so nervous you couldn't think straight?*

Parents often put **tremendous** pressure on their kids to make a high score. One man said he was satisfied with his score but it was several points lower than his older brother's score. His parents were very unhappy that he did not do as well as his brother. It made the boy feel very **depressed** about a score that was actually quite good.

*Did you ever feel like you were competing with your siblings to perform well?*

Another student complained that her parents were **embarrassed** about her scores. She made a **decent** score, but the parents felt pressure from their friends whose kids scored higher. They asked her how they could attend parties now. They said everyone would be talking about their kid's score. They would be too embarrassed to **mention** their daughter's score.

*Do you think parents feel pressure to brag about their children?*

One student said there is too much **emphasis** on these exams. It is also important to be a **well-rounded** person. Students should participate in sports and extra-curricular activities, but they do not have time. They spend hours every day studying for exams and that leaves no time for other pursuits.

*What does being well-rounded mean to you? Do schools in your country emphasize students being well-rounded, or is it just about your test scores?*

Finally, one young woman said that she didn't worry too much about her exams. Her parents told her they were not that important. They **stressed** that you could have a very good life without having very high scores on these exams. As an example, they pointed to a young man who wanted to become a **DJ**. He did not want to attend college. He spent a lot of time learning to be a DJ. He convinced his parents to buy him the equipment he would need. He found work as a DJ and recently was recognized as one of the top DJ's in India. He achieved his dreams without a college degree.

*Do you know anyone who has been successful without scoring high on school exams?*

QUESTIONS:

1. Talk about your experience with exams. Which one of the people mentioned in the article do you identify with the most.
2. Do you agree that parents pressure students too much?
3. Do all societies put too much pressure on young people to succeed, or is it necessary to pressure young people to make them work hard?
4. Do you think Americans put a lot of pressure on their kids to succeed? Americans are falling further and further behind other nations in measures of mathematics and science skills. Is it possible that Americans need to pressure their students more?
5. Is getting a college degree the best way to assure you will earn a lot of money?
6. Just how important are sports and extra-curricular pursuits? How many activities outside of academics did you participate in?

**Grammar Quiz: Parallel Structures**

**When you are using a conjunction to join two things, those two things must be the same part of speech.** EX: The waters were cold and dark. Both cold and dark are adjectives, so that is a correct sentence. But if I said, "The waters were cold and ice," it is incorrect. Cold is an adjective and ice is a noun. I could say, "cold and icy," but not "cold and ice".

**Choose a word to fit the blank that makes the sentence correct.**

- 1-Dan opened the door and \_\_\_\_\_ the room.  
a-enter          b-entering          c-entered
- 2-Jan was driving and \_\_\_\_\_ on her phone at the same time.  
a-talks          b-talking          c-talked
- 3-Mimi learned how to sing and \_\_\_\_\_ at the Academy of Arts.  
a-danced          b-dancing          c-dance
- 4-I have written and \_\_\_\_\_ her, but I have received no response.  
a-call          b-calling          c-called
- 5-Somebody called and \_\_\_\_\_ up.  
a-hung          b-hang          c-hanging
- 6-Don't call and \_\_\_\_\_ up. Leave a message.  
a-hung          b-hang          c-hanging
- 7-Those apples are delicious, but \_\_\_\_\_.  
a-expense          b-expensive
- 8-I admire him for his intelligence and cheerful \_\_\_\_\_.  
a-disposition          b-dispose          disposable

**NOTE:** On number 4, the first verb is present perfect tense and the 2nd verb is just past tense. But this is a correct sentence. When we are listing things, we don't have to repeat the "have" or "has". We can say, "She has written and she has called." OR "She has written and called."

This is also correct. "I have been writing and calling her."

These sentences do not have correct parallel structure. Correct them.

1. She decide to leave her job and traveling the world.
2. He started the engine, releasing the break and checked the mirror.
3. Some people think that being successful is the same thing as to have money.
4. Spain is a place where you can eat good food and soaking up the sun.
5. All plants need good light, a suitable climate and supplying water.
6. Physics explains why water freezes and how the sun produced heat.
7. He is intelligent and honesty.
8. In college we learn to think well and write critical.
9. Working on a group project is challenge and rewarding.
10. The audience rose to their feet and applauding loudly.

#### **Idioms:**

**hold up your end of the bargain:** to do what you agreed to do in the bargain.

EX: Rick, you promised if I paid you in advance, you would start the project right away. I paid you in advance and you still haven't come to the house to start the repairs. You haven't **held up your end of the bargain**.

What was the bargain? How has Rick failed to hold up his end of the bargain?

**it all boils down to this:** this is the most basic thing

EX: I'm sorry that you don't think I held up my end of the bargain, Jack. But there are lots of reasons why I haven't come to your house to start the repairs. I can go into the details if you want, but **it all boils down to this**. The supplies I need to start the work haven't arrived. I ordered them as soon as you paid me, but our supply chain is very slow these days. As soon as the supplies come in, I'll be out to start on the project.

Why has Rick not started on the work?

If you were Jack, would you accept this excuse or would you ask for your money back?