

FUMC ESL 9-25-2023 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. Tell how long you have lived here. (Teachers help them with the correct way to answer this question.)

PRONUNCIATION-----Vowels can have many different sounds, so it is difficult to know how to pronounce them. Today we will study the vowel E.

1-E has several sounds: E like in eat, eagle, Eve, me, knee, bee, evil. We call this the long E sound.

2-OR E as in bed, elk, egg, edge, leg, jet, ever, never, elevator, elephant, education, pen, hen and hello. We call this the short E sound

3-OR E can sound like "uh" as in tiger, father, anger, answer, ballerina and camera. This is the schwa sound, which is the most common vowel sound in English.

4-Many times the E at the end of a word is silent. EX: ride, size, leave, nice, bite, love.

5-E can sound like an ah as in : are, heart.

6-Another confusing pair of words is key and they. Notice the second word sounds more like an A than an E.

Diphthongs: A diphthong is a combination of two vowels that makes one sound.

EA can sound like EE: meat, seat, lead, read, leap, beach, clean, dream, pea

OR can sound like EH as in dead, feather, heaven, meadow, breakfast, bread, deaf

OR like ear, rear, spear, dear, beard

AND sometimes in EA words, the E is silent and the A has a long A sound. EX: break, great, steak

OR a short A sound as in: heart

EI is a diphthong. Listen to the different ways to sound EI: weigh, foreign, feisty, height, leisure, weird, their

IE is a diphthong. Listen to the different sounds IE makes: thief, pie, fierce, review, copier, relief, lie, movie, patient, yield, client, view, nutrients, artificial

Sometimes the pronunciation of a word changes depending on if it is a noun or a verb.

Examples: breath/ breathe present/ present record/ record

Say these sentences. Take a breath. Breathe slowly. I presented her with a present. A rock star records records.

Pronounce these word pairs. Listen for the different pronunciation of the E.

heat - head	dead-deed	sweet-sweat	breath - breathe	tear - tear
queen - clean	break - beak	please - pleasant	leaf - leather	wear - weasel

READ and DISCUSS-----Read these paragraphs and practice these conversations. Tell what the words or phrases in bold text mean. Answer the questions.

1-Matt hates to speak in public, but he **rose to the occasion** and delivered a wonderful **eulogy** for his dad. His dad would have been so proud of Matt. Matt has struggled with a **speech impediment** all his life, but he was able to stand up in front of everyone and talk about his dad. It shows how much Matt loved his dad.

a-What is Matt's problem?

b-Does Matt have a problem speaking?

c-How did Matt rise to the occasion?

d-Have you ever given a eulogy?

e-Talk about a time when you might have been afraid, but **conquered your fears** and rose to the occasion.

2.I realize that you don't like money taken out of your paycheck each month, but the government requires we **withhold** a certain amount for **income taxes**. We also **deduct** \$300 for health insurance. That may seem high, but it's good insurance and is a good **benefit** for you.

a. How does this work in your country? Are taxes automatically deducted from your check?

b. Does a company provide health insurance?

c. Do you think taxes are too high in your country?

d. Some countries with very high taxes provide many benefits, such as free college and child care. Does your country provide free benefits?

e. Would you be willing to pay more taxes to get more benefits?

3. **Carey**: Oh no. This can't be happening!

Sue: What is it?

Carey: We just got an **eviction notice** from our **landlord**. We have thirty days to move out.

Sue: What! Why is your landlord evicting you?

Carey: It's a long story. But basically, our air conditioning stopped working several months ago. The landlord wouldn't fix it. He claimed he couldn't find a repairman. But we think he just didn't want to buy a new air conditioner. So after a couple of months without air conditioning, we stopped paying rent. After all, we rented an air conditioned apartment. And ours no longer was. We thought not paying rent would force the landlord to buy a new air conditioner. But instead,

he's **evicting** us. This whole situation is really **getting me down**.

Sue: Do you think if you called your landlord you could work this out?

Carey: I wouldn't count on it. He's not been **easy to deal with**. He's a **cantankerous** old man. He didn't want to rent to us to start with because we were "foreigners".

Sue: Typically a landlord is required to fix things that are broken. You should call the Austin Tenants Council. They might be able to help you.

Carey: I guess so, but I don't think that will help.

Sue: Just call them. **It won't hurt to try**. But also, you should look on the bright side. You can rent a new apartment that is air conditioned.

- a. What is the problem?
- b. Do you think Carey acted wisely when she stopped paying rent?
- c. How does Carey feel about the situation?
- d. Describe the landlord. Why did the landlord not want to rent to them in the first place?
- e. Have you ever felt **discriminated** against since being in the U.S.?
- f. What is the good thing about being evicted?
- g. Have you ever had **a hard time** with your landlord?

4. **Debi:** Brenda **called in sick** today. She wasn't really sick, but she felt like taking a day off.

Linda: I think that is wrong. What if everyone called in sick every time they felt like having a holiday. No work would ever get done.

Deb: The worst thing is that I have to answer the office phones when Brenda isn't here. It makes it hard for me to get my work done, because the phones ring all the time.

Linda: I think you should report her to the boss.

Deb: I don't want to get Brenda in trouble.

Linda: I think Brenda **deserves** to be **fired**. I would report her if I were you.

- a. Would you report Brenda?
- b. Have you ever had a co-worker who was doing something wrong? Did you report them?
- c. Do you think it is OK to call in sick sometimes, even if you are well?
- d. Can you think of any good solution to this problem?

5. **Amy:** I am returning these shoes because they hurt my feet.

Store Manager: I'm sorry we can't take these back now. They have been **worn** quite a bit. We can only take shoes back that have not been worn.

Amy: Well what am I supposed to do? I can't wear these. They give me **blisters**.

Store Manager: I'm sorry, but you should have decided they hurt your feet before you wore them outside. Look they are quite dirty on the bottom. I can't sell these to anyone else now.

Amy: I didn't know they were going to hurt my feet until I wore them a few days. They didn't hurt at first, but the longer I wore them, the worse they felt.

Store Manager: I'm sorry about that, but our policy states we don't **accept returns** on shoes that have been worn outside.

- a. What is the store's return policy? Do you think this is a reasonable policy?

- b. Who would you side with in this argument?
- c. Have you ever tried to take something back and have the store refuse to give your money back?
- d. Do you know of any stores that have a **liberal return policy**?