

FUMC ESL 10-16-2023 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

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

Feel like learning English is just impossible? You are not alone. Read and discuss this poem.

WHY ENGLISH IS HARD TO LEARN

We'll begin with **box**; the plural is **boxes**, But the plural of **ox** is **oxen**, not **oxes**.

One fowl is a **goose**, and two are called **geese**, Yet the plural of **moose** is never called **meese**.

You may find a lone **mouse** or a house full of **mice**;

But the plural of house is **houses**, not **hice**.

The plural of **man** is always **men**, But the plural of **pan** is never **pen**.

If I speak of a **foot**, and you show me two **feet**, And I give you a **book**, would a pair be a **beek**?

If one is a **tooth** and a whole set are **teeth**, Why shouldn't two **booths** be called **beeth**?

If the singular's **this** and the plural is **these**, Should the plural of **kiss** ever be **keese**?

We speak of a **brother** and also of **brethren**, But though we say **mother**, we never say **methren**.

Then the masculine pronouns are **he, his, and him**;

But imagine the feminine...**she, shis, and shim!**

Pronunciation of the U vowel:

U has two main sounds. The short sound is UH like cub, cut, shut, and the long sound is "YOU" as in cute, duty, jury, huge

Many words end in USE and are always pronounced with the long sound. The last E is silent.

Say: use, fuse, confuse, refuse, excuse, accuse, amuse. In all of these words, the S sounds like Z.

In the word, "abuse", the S sounds like a Z if it is used as a **verb**, and an S if it is a **noun**. Say these two sentences.

1-He **abused** his wife for years. (Z sound)

2-He was finally arrested for the **abuse**. (S sound)

Many U words end in UE which has the same sound as EW. Say these words:

argue, value, rescue, barbecue, continue, few, view, review, interview, nephew

Some U words have the ooh sound instead of the "you" sound. Ex: rule, flute, tune, prune, nude, rude, include, truce, reduce, produce, salute, pollute, blue, true, avenue, Tuesday, glue, tuna, tutor, tulip, student, ruby, brutal, ruin, routine, rumor.

Practice these sentences.

Lew spilled glue on his new blue suit.

Ruth is rude when she's in a bad mood.

Use bamboo shoots in the soup.

When U is combined with O as in "out" and "about", it has many different sounds. It can sound like OW! Say: aloud, round, ouch, amount, proud, mouse, flour, house.

Or, the OU can sound like an O. Say: dough, mould, court, four, though, boulder, shoulder, resource.

Or, the OU can sound like UH. Say: southern, country, courage, enormous, ambitious, dangerous, cousin.

Or, the OU can sound like OOOH. Say: group, soup, tourist

Or, the OU can sound like AHH. Say: cough, trough, thought

Circle the word in each row that has the same sound as the first word in bold text.

out	fabulous	fountain	routine
ambitious	tourist	ridiculous	poultry
courtesy	count	mouth	courage
soul	shoulder	soup	hour
tough	around	enough	proud

Ask the teacher if you don't know the meaning of a word in the pronunciation section.

OXYMORONS: a phrase with contradictory terms. For example, pretty is a positive adjective, ugly is a negative adjective, but when used together, pretty ugly has a different meaning.

Oxymorons can be hard for non-native English speakers to understand. Read the examples of oxymorons below. Tell how the words are opposites and what they mean when used together.

1. He was **clearly confused** about what he should do to avoid getting Covid.
2. The trip was **pretty awful**. The person next to me on the plane coughed and sneezed through the whole flight.
3. I know it seems tough to forbid Tim from living with us when he is using drugs, but sometimes you have to **be cruel to be kind**.

4. There was a **deafening silence** when the ballerina fell. The audience feared she would never dance again.
5. I ordered the **jumbo shrimp**.
6. There was a **small crowd** at the protest march.
7. The crowds at the restaurant are **growing smaller**.
8. Parting is such a **sweet sorrow**.
9. The cards were in **random order** when I received them.
10. Graduation was **bittersweet**. I was happy that I finally graduated, but I knew I would miss seeing all my friends I had grown up with.
11. This president is a liar. That's **old news**.
12. Our company is really busy now, and I shouldn't take any time off, but this will be a **working vacation**.
13. My husband and I love **being alone together**.
14. The beginning pilot had a **crash landing**.
15. His comedy routine was **seriously funny**.

Discuss:

- 1-Is living in a foreign country an adventure? In what ways?
- 2-What was a childhood adventure you remember?
- 3-What is the most difficult part of learning to drive?
- 4-Are you afraid to drive at night?
- 5-Have you been on any road trips while living in the U.S.? Where did you go? Would you like to do another road trip?
- 6-In your country, do most drivers follow the rules of the road?