

## FUMC ESL 1-29-2024 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

**Announcement:** I'm sorry to tell you that this coming Wednesday, January 31st will be the last Wednesday discussion class for a few months. My mother has taken a turn for the worse and I will have to spend more time caring for her over the next few months. I must give up the Wednesday class for now so that I have time to assist in her care. We hope to re-start the discussion class sometime in the future. We have really enjoyed this discussion class and will miss talking with you.

Catherine

**Note:** A **guilty pleasure** is something you really enjoy, but you feel guilty about it because it's not good for you. For example, eating desserts might be a guilty pleasure. You feel guilty when you eat a lot of sweet desserts, but it's a pleasure because it tastes so good.

**Introduce yourself and tell where you are from and where you live now.**

What is your guilty pleasure? Please don't use the example given in the introduction.

**Confusing Vocabulary:** English has many words that are very similar, but can be used to mean very different things. Read and discuss these examples.

### **SHADE AND SHADOW:**

Shade and shadow are very similar. EX: *We sat in the shade of the tree.* This is a positive thing. On a hot day, we try to sit in the shade to keep the sun off our backs. Shadow can have a positive or negative meaning. POSITIVE-EX: *The children's shadows made them look taller.* OR: NEGATIVE -Ex: *They live in the shadow of a petrochemical plant.* Living in the shadow of a factory or plant probably means the air is polluted and the view is ugly. There are lots of negative uses for shadow. EX: *The younger son was always **in the shadow** of his older brother.* No one noticed the successes of the younger son.

1-Did you grow up in the shadow of an older sibling? In some families, girls grow up in the shadow of the boys. The boys are considered more important than the girls. Does this happen often in your country?

2-You might be **overshadowed** by someone at work. Perhaps your co-worker is very funny and personable, and you are very shy. The funny and personable worker may get more attention than the very shy employee. Have you ever been overshadowed at school or work?

3-We use the expression **not a shadow of a doubt** to say there is no doubt at all. EX: There is not a shadow of a doubt that the president will raise taxes. Use **shadow of a doubt** in a sentence.

4-We can use **cast a shadow** to talk about the mood of people. EX: Her mother's sudden ill health cast a shadow over the wedding celebration. In other words, it made the wedding celebration less happy because her mother was ill. Talk about a time when a negative event cast a shadow over people's mood.

### **MODEST AND BASHFUL:**

If someone is bashful, they are very shy and afraid to speak. If someone is modest, they aren't shy, but they just don't like to brag about themselves. EX: Reba thought the new boy at school was very handsome. She wanted to meet him, but she was too **bashful** to say, "hello". EX: Letty is an amazing musician who plays first chair for the orchestra's violin section. But you would never know about this because Letty is too **modest** to brag about her talent.

**Modest** can also mean to dress and behave in a conservative way. EX: Mary is too modest to wear a bikini. When she goes to the pool, she wears a one piece swimsuit that doesn't show off her body.

**Modest** can also mean a small amount. EX: James only drinks a modest amount of alcohol. He might have one glass of wine with dinner, but no more than that. EX: The Smiths live in a modest home, even though they are very wealthy. What kind of house would you describe as a modest house?

**Modesty** is a cultural concept. If someone isn't modest, they are **immodest**. EX: Lucy came to school today in a top that showed all of her stomach and an extremely short pair of shorts. The principal sent her home and warned her not to dress immodestly again. Give an example of something that would be immodest in your culture. Do schools have dress codes to encourage the

students to dress modestly? Do you think people in your country dress and behave more modestly than in the U.S.? If I visited your country, what should I never wear because it is considered immodest (i.e. sleeveless blouses, slacks, short dresses)?

People's ideas of modesty are frequently tied to age. For example, when I went to school, the girls had to wear dresses that were close to the knee. We were not allowed to wear shorts because that was considered immodest. But girls now are allowed to wear short shorts to school. It seems immodest to me, but young people think it is fine. Give some examples from your country.

### **LASTING or LONG-LASTING AND DURABLE**

Durable refers to how well built or how strong the material is. Long-lasting refers to how long the product will last, not necessarily how durable it is. For example, my cell phone is long-lasting. I have had it for five years and it still works fine. But the glass on the screen is not very durable. If I dropped my cell phone, the glass would break.

EX: This machine is **built to last**. All the parts are metal, not plastic. Plastic parts don't **last** because they break easily. Plastic is not durable. Metal parts are more durable and long lasting.

1-Do you think most consumer goods are less durable than in the past. Can you give an example?

2-If Susan buys clothes, she wants them to be durable. Her clothes have to be long lasting because she wears them for years. But Susan's friend doesn't care if her clothes are durable, because she doesn't expect to wear them for years. She likes to wear the latest fashions, so she buys new clothes frequently. As soon as a piece of clothing is not the latest fashion, she gives it away and buys new.

Are you like Susan or like Susan's friend. Talk about something you own that is very durable and long-lasting.

3-When you buy something, which is more important, affordability or durability? Explain why.