

FUMC ESL 5-6-2024 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

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

Students, read these conversations and explain in your own words what they say. Tell what the phrases in bold text mean. Then answer the questions.

Alan: Could I get a copy of **the results** from my blood test?

Nurse: Leave a **self-addressed envelope** with the **receptionist**. We will mail you the results of the tests when they are in.

1. What does Alan want to get?
2. How can he get them?
3. When will they be mailed to him?

Bob: Has the mail come yet?

Beth: Yes. I just went to the mailbox. We got three bills, lots of advertisements and you got a letter from your sister.

Bob: Look at all this **junk mail**! The mailbox is full of mail that I throw right in the trash. What a waste of paper!

1. How does Bob feel about junk mail?
2. Do you get a lot of junk mail?
3. Do you have a hard time telling if a piece of mail is junk mail or is important mail that you need to act on?

Olivia: This envelope is **over-sized**. Will I need extra **postage**?

Connie: I don't know. The postal worker will weigh it and tell you. I know it will take more than one stamp.

Olivia: I don't have a lot of stamps. I hope it doesn't take too many.

Connie: The postman will weigh it and stamp it for you. So you won't need any stamps.

1. In the last line, Connie says the postman will stamp it for you. And you won't need any stamps. Explain the difference in meaning of stamp.
2. Why does Olivia think she might need extra postage on the envelope.

John: The postman delivered the mail this morning.

Jessica: Did I get the package I am expecting from Amazon?

John: No, it didn't arrive. When were you supposed to receive it?

Jessica: They said it would be delivered in three to five days.

John: When did you order it?

Jessica: I ordered it on Friday.

John: No mail is delivered on Sunday. You will probably get it tomorrow or Thursday **at the latest**.

1. Who is expecting a package?
2. When does John think the package will arrive.

Do you order a lot of things online?

Jan: Grandfather wrote me a **sweet note**. I will write him back tomorrow.

Kelly: It is good he can still write. My grandfather is too old. His hands shake too much. He cannot write letters. I tried to teach him to use email, but he said he is too old for computers.

Jan: My grandfather is **old school**. He doesn't use email or texts. He writes long letters telling me about the family and things that are happening at home. I love reading them. Plus I can save them and read them again later. My husband even reads my grandfather's letters because they are so full of news.

1. What did Jan's grandfather do?
2. Why can't Kelly's grandfather write?
3. Why does Jan enjoy her grandfather's letters?
4. Do you write or receive letters from anyone?
5. How do you keep in touch with older members of your family who aren't comfortable using a computer or cell phone?

Discussion:

1. Should people write thank you notes when they receive a gift? Are written thank you notes common in your country?
2. Do you know anyone who still writes letters? What is the disadvantage to sending email instead of letters?
3. Do you go to the post office often? For what reason?
4. Do you send packages home much? What kinds of things do you send? Do you receive packages from your country?

Match these idioms with their meaning. Then make a sentence with the idiom. Call on another student to make a sentence with the same idiom. Teachers help them correct if they use it wrong.

piece of cake	a really big problem that everyone is ignoring
Let the cat out of the bag.	very rarely
shrinking violet	blaming the wrong person
the elephant in the room	a brief summary

forty winks	tell a secret
in a nutshell	to reconcile
a dime a dozen	someone who is very shy
barking up the wrong tree	very common and easy to find
bury the hatchett	a brief nap
once in a blue moon	something very easy to do

Practice Speaking

1. Are you an influencer? What do you think of social media influencers? Do you follow any influencers? Would you ever buy something because a social media influencer promoted it?
2. Is it common for unmarried couples to live together in your country? What do you think about this?
3. Can you sympathize with young people who decide they don't want to have kids? What impact does this decision have on the extended family?
4. Describe your favorite item in clothing in your closet right now.
5. Name something you are afraid of. What do you do to conquer your fears?
6. Talk about a frightening experience you have had.