

Introduce yourself. Tell us something interesting about yourself.

Random Thoughts: I heard someone say, "I should have known better." It made me wonder if my English students know how this phrase is used. Do you? Here is an example.

I should have known better than to leave my umbrella at home.

The phrase "should have known better" is a verb phrase using a modal verb ("should"), an auxiliary verb ("have"), and a past participle ("known"). "Better" functions as an adverb modifying the verb "known".

To show you understand the phrase, "should have known better", use it in a sentence.

Now read the whole paragraph that Chat GPT wrote.

I should have known better than to leave my umbrella at home. The morning had looked clear, but by afternoon the sky turned dark and heavy with rain. As I hurried down the street, drenched and cold, I couldn't help laughing at myself. It wasn't the first time I'd trusted the weather forecast too much—and it probably wouldn't be the last.

Explain each sentence in this paragraph.

NOTE: I couldn't help laughing at myself-- (In the sentence "I couldn't help laughing at myself," the word "laughing" is a gerund. A gerund is a verb form ending in "-ing" that functions as a noun.

Here are some other examples of "I couldn't help". Explain their meaning.

- 1-I couldn't help smiling when I saw the surprise party my friends had planned for me.
- 2-I couldn't help noticing how quiet the room became when he walked in.
- 3-I couldn't help laughing at his jokes even if they were a little off color.
- 4-I couldn't help smiling when she handed my son the puppy.

Now write an example of your own.

Discuss

Do you pay attention to the weather forecast? Do you feel like weather forecasts are dependable?

What does, "I'd trusted the weather forecast **too much**" mean?

Cultural Differences-Read and Discuss

Several students were invited to their professor's home. When they arrived, the professor invited them in. He explained that he was on a long distance phone call and would be with them in about fifteen minutes. He gestured to a long table where many wonderful foods were set out. He said, "Help yourself." The students looked at all the delicious food. They were very hungry. They really wanted to eat the food. The professor had said, "Help yourself." Didn't that mean they could start eating the food? But, maybe that would be rude. Perhaps they should wait until the professor came back into the room before eating.

1-What would you advise the students to do?

2-Cultures are different. Sometimes it is hard to know what to do in every situation. Describe a situation you have been in when you weren't sure about the right thing to do.

3-Tell me one thing that would not be appropriate in your country.

When Anna, an American student, traveled to France for the first time, she was excited but also nervous. On her first day, she met her host family. When they leaned in to kiss her on both cheeks, Anna was surprised and didn't know what to do. She laughed nervously and shook their hands instead. Later, she met a classmate from Japan and tried to shake hands again, but the classmate bowed politely instead. Anna felt embarrassed. She knew her classes would have people from a variety of countries. She didn't know how to greet everyone.

1-How do people greet each other in your country?

2-What would you advise Anna to do when she meets someone new?

3-Is there a particular type of greeting that would not be acceptable in your country?

Examples-kiss, hand shake, nod, hug, bow

When introduced to new people or when standing in conversation with people, Americans require a larger personal space than in other countries. Some European countries and Latin American countries are more comfortable with standing very close and touching during a conversation. If an American feels you are too close or touching too much, they may take a step back. It doesn't mean they don't like you. It's just a matter of what makes people feel comfortable.

1-Have you ever experienced these cultural differences in personal space?