

FUMC ESL 10-9-2025 High Intermediate Lesson

Introduce yourself. Tell us something you are interested in (other than learning English).

1-Jan **fell for** Eric when they first met. But as she got to know him better, she realized that she had **fallen for** his smooth talking and flattery. He wasn't really a very nice guy.

Explain the situation. Tell how the phrases in bold are different. What is smooth talking?

2-I am trying to convince my wife to sell our house and **trade up** to a better one. She is against it, but I think she will eventually **come around**. It's too good an idea. We can make several thousand dollars if we sell now. We can apply that money to the purchase price of a bigger, nicer home.

Explain the situation. What does trade up mean? Do you think the husband's idea to trade up will work? Will they be able to buy a bigger house?

3-Jen and Sally went shopping together. Jen found a dress she liked. She tried the dress on. Then she asked Sally how the dress looked on her. Sally didn't know what to say. If she were honest, she would have to say, "The dress is too tight on you, Jen. You should buy a bigger size or a different style that makes you look thinner." But Sally was afraid of hurting Jen's feelings, so she lied and told Jen the dress looked good on her.

Did Sally do the right thing? What's more important, being honest or being kind? Is it OK to lie to spare someone's feelings? Give an example of when it is OK to lie to someone?

4-Paula's parents worked hard when they got to this country. They were finally able to open a restaurant. Because of their hard work, the restaurant was very successful. But now her parents are getting old and want her to take over running the restaurant. Paula is not interested in the restaurant business. She wants to finish her nursing degree and work in a hospital. But she feels guilty **turning her back on** her parents.

What should Paula do? Have you ever faced this problem. What does the idiom, "turn your back on" mean? Have you ever "turned your back on" someone?

5-Mary always set high expectations for herself. She wanted to be at the top of her class. She worked very hard to make good grades. But she didn't always make the highest grade. There were other students who sometimes did better. When someone else made a higher grade, Mary was very **hard on herself**. She punished herself by not going out or doing anything fun. She just studied until she made the highest grade.

Was Mary doing the right thing? Should she have punished herself? Do you set high expectations for yourself? Is always striving to be the very best in class a good thing or a bad thing?

Pronunciation Practice

A good way to work on pronunciation is by shadowing a native speaker. Listen to the teacher say the sentence. Then you say the sentence. The teacher will repeat the sentence 3 times. You repeat it after her each time. Ask the teacher if you don't understand the meaning of the sentence. Try reading these in pairs. One student reads the first line and the next student reads the second.

Did you think of thanking Theo?
Yes I thought of thanking Theo, and I thanked Theo.

This morning there is a flood warning.
Morning warnings are unusual.

What sort of sports do you like?
I like all sorts of sports.

They raised the price of rice.
Think twice before buying high priced rice.

Scented shampoo is taboo in Peru.
My tried and true shampoo won't do in Peru.

Brett met a brunette on a jet.
Jeanette, the brunette on the jet, drove a bright red Corvette.

Trevor: I'll lunch with you whenever, wherever.
Taylor: You're clever, Trevor. However, I never ever eat lunch.

I'm apologetic about being diabetic.
She's diabetic and I'm sympathetic. It's probably genetic.