

FUMC ESL 2-5-2026

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

NOISES IN THE NIGHT

It was the middle of the night. It had been a busy day and my husband and I had gone to bed early. We were sleeping soundly when we were awakened by a noise. I turned to my husband. "What was that noise," I asked.

My husband said, "I don't know. It was probably nothing."

"Well, to me, it sounded like a door closing. Do you think someone is in the house?"

My husband shrugged. "If you're worried, go down and check on things," said my husband.

I said, "What!" You are the man of the house. It's your job to protect me. You go down and check things out!"

My husband said, "It's quiet now. Maybe it was just our imagination. Let's listen and see if we hear anything else."

For a minute we didn't hear anything. Then we heard a cabinet open. My husband froze. Then he looked at me. "That sounded like someone is in the kitchen," he said. Then we heard water running. Do we have a thirsty burglar in the house? We were scared. We lay very still and listened.

Then we heard footsteps. Someone was walking through the living room. Someone was coming up the stairs. Someone was quietly walking down the hallway. We were terrified. My husband jumped up and quietly closed our bedroom door. But there wasn't a lock on the door. Someone could come right into our bedroom. We looked at each other. At the same minute, we decided to hide under the bed. We lay on the floor under the bed, as quiet as mice. We hoped whoever was in the house wouldn't think to look under the bed.

The footsteps kept coming. They stopped in front of our door. Very slowly and very quietly, our bedroom door opened. We could see a man's feet walk into the room. My husband gripped my hand. We were sure we would be killed. Then a man's voice said, "Mom, Dad, where are you?"

Oh, the relief. It was our son! I stuck my head out from under the bed. "Son, what are you doing here? You scared your dad and I to death. We were sure there was an intruder in the house. You said you were coming home tomorrow, not tonight."

"Yes, I know. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to scare you. I finished my job early this evening and decided I would just go ahead and drive home. Then I could have all day tomorrow to rest and see my friends."

"Why didn't you call us and tell us you would be in tonight," I asked.

He said, "I didn't decide to leave until 10PM. I knew you and dad were probably asleep already and I didn't want to wake you."

It took several minutes before our hearts stopped pounding and we could breathe normally. "Next time," my husband said to my son, "Go ahead and call us even if you worry it will wake us up."

I turned to my husband. "And tomorrow, you buy a lock for our bedroom door!"

Questions:

1. What woke them up?
2. The wife thinks the husband should go down and check out the noise. Do you agree? Is it the husband's job to check out dangerous things?
3. What sounds did they hear?
4. Where did they decide to hide?
5. What did they think was going to happen?
6. Who was the intruder?
7. Why had the son come home early?
8. Why hadn't he called his parents?
9. What did the man tell his son to do next time?
10. What did the wife tell her husband to do tomorrow?
11. Is there any part of this story you didn't understand?
12. What would you do if you heard a noise in your house at night?
13. Where is a safe place to hide in your house?
14. Have you ever had a scary experience in your house at night?

USING BOTH EITHER AND NEITHER

"Both," "either," and "neither" are used to discuss two people or things. Both means A and B. Either means one or the other of two. Neither means not A and not B. "Both" takes a plural verb, while "either" and "neither" generally take a singular verb, particularly when followed by "of".

Both (...and...): Indicates both items are included. Example: Both the red and blue shirts are on sale.

Either (...or...): Indicates a choice between two options. Example: You can have either tea or coffee.

Neither (...nor...): Indicates that none of the options are chosen; it is already negative, so it should not be used with another negative (e.g., Incorrect: Neither can't go).

Write BOTH/ EITHER or NEITHER in the blank.

1. Last year I went to Miami and Seattle. I liked _____ cities very much.
2. There were two pictures on the wall. I didn't like _____ of them.
3. It was a good football game. _____ teams played well.
4. It wasn't a good football game. _____ team played well.
5. Is your friend Canadian or Australian? _____, she's American.
6. We went away for two days, but the weather was bad. It rained _____ days.
7. Do you want to read the American Statesman or the Wall Street Journal. _____ one is fine.
8. I invited Donna and Mike to the party, but _____ of them came.
9. Do you go to class by bus or car? _____, I walk.
10. Which jacket do you prefer, this one or that one? I don't like _____ .
11. Do you work, or are you a student? _____. I work and am a student as well.
12. Paul and I didn't know the time because _____ of us had a watch.
13. Helen has two sisters, but _____ of them is married.
14. I haven't met _____ of Helen's two sisters.