

30 Topical Dialogues Included

Talk, Talk, Talk 2

**Speaking-Practice Textbook for
Intermediate & Advanced Students**

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& Duane Vorhees

796 Questions &

A Variety of Resources

Ready for English-Speaking Practice

어 리 말

영어교육 분야에서 Topic-Discussion Textbook Series 를 출간하면서

많은 독자들로부터 사랑을 받은 리스 코리아가

이번에 독특한 감각과 새로운 포맷을 가진 교재 Talk Talk Talk (1) / (2)를 내놓게 되었습니다.

그 동안의 리스 코리아 교재들이 주로 중·고급 학습자들을 위한 것이었다면

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Talk Talk Talk 교재의 특징은 다음과 같습니다.

1. 각권 각 30과로 구성 되었으며 각 Lesson 은 각기 다른 포맷으로 구성되어 있습니다.
2. 각 Lesson 첫 부분에 Example 과 Answer 를 제시하여 학습자들이 각 Lesson 의 목적을 잘 이해하게끔 배려하였습니다.
3. 특히 Book (1) 의 Part (3) "Let's Practice Making Questions" 는 새롭게 시도되는 포맷으로서 영어 학습자들의 부족한 부분을 다시 한번 훈련하도록 특별히 제시된 부분 입니다. 그 동안에 많은 학습자들이 선생님들의 질문에만 대답하는 훈련을 해왔습니다. 따라서 실제상황에서 질문을 할 경우에는 많은 어려움을 느껴왔습니다. 따라서 영어 학습자들에게는 좋은 훈련재료가 될것입니다.
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5. 각 Lesson 에서 중요한 내용을 가지고 Dialogue 를 만들어 Part (6) 를 구성하여 학습자들의 실제 영어회화훈련에 도움이 되도록 했습니다.
6. 또한 어려운 구문이나 단어에 대해서는 각주에서 영어로된 상세한 설명을 곁들여 도움이 되도록 했습니다.

이제 저희 리스 코리아 편집진의 노력의 산물인

Talk Talk Talk (1) / (2)와 함께 독자여러분의 영어학습에 새로운 발전을 기대합니다.

이책이 나오기까지 집필에 애써주신 리스 코리아 편집진들,

그리고 집필과 책임감수까지 해주신 Duane Vorhees 씨에게 많은 감사를 드립니다.

또 좋은 삽화를 그려주신 박희정씨, 그리고 완벽한 교정을 위해 애써주신 이영학씨에게도 감사를 드립니다.

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Let's Warm Up with Some Riddles!

1. What kind of room has no windows or doors?
2. They are dark, and always on the run. Without the sun, would be none.
3. What has hands but is not flesh, bone or blood?
4. I have holes on the top and bottom. I have holes on my left and on my right. And I have holes in the middle. Yet I still hold water. What am I?
5. I look at you, you look at me. I raise my right, you raise your left. What am I?
6. What goes around the world and stays in a corner?
7. The man who invented it, doesn't want it. The man who bought it, doesn't need it. The man who needs it, doesn't know it.
8. Light as a feather, there is nothing in it; the strongest man can't hold it for much more than a minute.
9. What eats rocks, levels mountains, rusts metal, pushes the clouds across the sky, and makes a young man old?
10. Yellow and white Hard outside Stolen from life. What am I?
11. What can fill a room but takes up no space?
12. If you throw it off the highest building it will not break. If you place it in the ocean it will. What is it?
13. No sooner spoken than broken. What is it?
14. The rich men want it, the wise men know it, the poor all need it, and the kind men show it.
15. You use a knife to slice my head, and weep beside me when I am dead.



Lesson 31

What Do You Want to Say?

Example

Many people think technology brings about happiness and that time-saving machines give us extra time. How would you tell them that modern technologies and “conveniences”⁺ are really a main source of stress?

Answer

Every time I lose something on the computer after working on it for hours, I regret that I didn't just write it or type it on paper, because then I would have something concrete⁺ to show for all my effort. Whenever I eat ramyun because it is fast and cheap to fix,⁺ I get hungry for the real food that my mom used to make with such tender, loving care. And I have a watch that can tell me what time it is any place in the world, and it's guaranteed to keep time accurately to within a few microseconds a year, and will work even under 30 meters of water. But it cost me almost half a week's salary to get it; I didn't pay for it all at once, of course, I charged⁺ it; but I'm still paying for it, and the high interest is really mounting up.⁺ And what's worse, I can't really go on vacation in some foreign country or even go diving someplace, since I don't have the money or the time.



-convenience : (sth) that provides comfort or saves effort, such as a device or service

-concrete : existing in reality as (sth) that can be seen or touched

-fix : make (sth) ready; prepare

-charge : buy (sth) on credit

-mount up : gradually increase in size or amount

► What do you want to say?

1. Apologize to your boss for being late to work due to⁺ a traffic jam.⁺
2. Tell your boss you want the day off because you have a bad cold.
3. Tell a friend why he should save money for a rainy day.⁺
4. Cheer up⁺ your friend who failed the college exam and advise her to try another school.
5. Counsel your friend to stop smoking.
6. Advise your parent to exercise more.
7. Tell your boyfriend (or girlfriend) to be sure to carry a good sunscreen⁺ on his or her summer vacation.
8. Tell your classmates not to give up on English.
9. Advise your brother not to choose a job based on salary alone.
10. Tell your friend to get a medical checkup⁺ every year.
11. Explain to your children why it is important to study hard.
12. Inform⁺ your employees that it is necessary to cut their pay and to lay some of them off.⁺
13. Let your best friend know that you won't be able to pay back his loan⁺ on time.
14. Tell your parents that you are in love and want to get married.
15. Tell your girl or boy friend that you have a new lover.

- due to : because of; owing to

- traffic jam : traffic that moves very slowly or not at all

- rainy day : a time of projected need, esp. for money

- sunscreen : a cream used to protect the skin from the sun

- checkup : a thorough health examination

- lay off : dismiss or suspend (sb) from a job

- cheer up : make happier or more cheerful

- inform : give information to (sb); tell; notify

- loan : a sum of money lent at interest

What Should He Do?

▶ Example

He is very forgetful.

▶ Answer

If he forgets appointments, he needs to get in the habit of writing them down and checking his calendar⁺ regularly. If he forgets names, he should try to create a memory link between a person's appearance or position and the name—the more absurd⁺ or

exotic,⁺ the easier it is to remember. If he forgets information on tests, he should stop trying to memorize everything and try to understand basic processes and relationships. We can all remember between 3 and 8 things at once, so we need to learn how to organize bigger and bigger thoughts into a small number of categories; remembering becomes very easy then. It's just a matter of training, not intelligence.



- **calendar** : a list of dates, as of events or things to be done, arranged in order

- **absurd** : clearly not true or sensible; ridiculous

- **exotic** : strikingly unfamiliar or unusual

What should he do?

1. He found out his young son has started smoking.
2. He has had his pocket picked⁺ on the bus.
3. He has a flat tire⁺ on the expressway.
4. He sees someone drowning.⁺
5. He sees someone trying to commit suicide.⁺
6. His friend is about to drive home drunk.
7. His friend asks him to lend him some money.
8. His wife is spending too much with the credit card.
9. His son says he isn't interested in getting a college education.
10. His wife wants a fur⁺ coat for her birthday.
11. His boss wants to date his sister, but she doesn't like him.
12. He has a chance for a big promotion, but if he accepts he will have to move to another country for a long time, without his family.
13. His wife wants to get a divorce.
14. His daughter wants to move in with her boyfriend.
15. He needs a new car and a new apartment, but he can't afford⁺ both.
16. He has no money but has to feed his child.
17. His brother has committed a serious crime and needs an alibi.⁺
18. His father threatens to cut off⁺ his inheritance⁺ if he marries the only woman he has ever loved.
19. He wants to eat another helping⁺ of his favorite food on his birthday, but his doctor has warned him he must lose some more weight.
20. He can either avoid an argument with his mother-in-law, or he can tell her why her advice to his wife is wrong.

- **pick** : steal the contents of (sth)
 - **flat tire** : tire with no air
 - **drown** : die from being unable to breathe in water
 - **suicide** : the act of intentionally killing oneself
 - **fur** : the thick soft hair covering the body of a mammal, such as a rabbit, cat, or fox
 - **afford** : have enough time or money for (sth)

- **alibi** : a claim made by an accused person of being somewhere else when a misdeed was committed
 - **cut off** : block (sb) from inheriting one's money after one dies
 - **inheritance** : something that is inherited or is to be inherited at a person's death
 - **helping** : a portion of food for one person

Agree or Disagree?

▶ Example

Men are selfish by nature.

▶ Answer

“Men,” of course, is synonymous⁺ with “Mankind.” So, by nature, men (and women) are selfish and generous, self-centered and altruistic,⁺ all at once.⁺ But, in terms of⁺ gender, men are also selfish. They want to be like the lion, who lolls⁺ about all day in the hot sun waiting for his mate to catch the food and bring it to him. The lioness also takes care of the cubs⁺ and makes herself available sexually to “the king of the beasts” at any time. Unfortunately, human females are less willing to put up with⁺ this behavior from their husbands, so men are not nearly as selfish as they would like to be.



- synonymous : having the same or a similar meaning
- altruistic : concern for the welfare of others
- all at once : all together; at the same time
- in terms of : with regard to; concerning
- loll : move, stand, sit, or rest in a lazy way
- cub : the young of certain animals, such as the bear, wolf, or lion
- put up with : endure (sth) or (sb) without complaint

 Do you agree or disagree?

1. Women are ready to do anything to look more beautiful.
2. He says life is worth living for 100 years or longer.
3. Marriage is the best part of a human being's life.
4. The more children you have, the happier you are.
5. A maxim⁺ says the worst wife is better than a dutiful child.
6. Money makes you happy.
7. Dying is better than living with disgrace.
8. Animals and plants can think and feel like us.
9. There is no such place as heaven or hell.
10. Love and marriage are not the same—and should not be treated alike.
11. Good looks do not go with good brains.
12. The end justifies the means.
13. If we have the courage of our convictions, anything we do is objectively⁺ all right.
14. The meek⁺ shall inherit the earth.
15. Honesty is always the best policy.
16. All politicians are crooks.⁺
17. You have to be crazy to be a great artist.
18. Women are the weaker sex.
19. After 40, it's all downhill.
20. Boy babies are better than girl babies.

Do You Believe?

▶ Example

Do you believe in love at first sight?

▶ Answer

Absolutely not. If you think you are in love but you don't know the object⁴ of your affection very well, it's not really love. It's just infatuation⁴ or lust.⁴ Love must grow with time and understanding. It requires patience and responsibility. Infatuation is a desire for an immediate relationship (usually sexual intercourse) with little or no thought about what the other person is really like.



Answer these questions:

1. Do you believe that English ability can help you get through this ever-challenging world? How?
2. Do you believe what palm readers⁺ say?
3. Do you believe what the newspapers say?
4. Do you believe what your parents say?
5. Do you believe what politicians say?
6. Do you believe that spanking⁺ schoolboys has a good educational purpose?
7. Do you believe in God?
8. Do you believe in UFOs?⁺
9. Do you believe what ads say?
10. Do you believe in any superstition?⁺
11. Do you believe in ghosts?
12. Do you believe that your destiny⁺ is predetermined?
13. Do you believe that money can buy anything?
14. Do you believe that your love toward your sweetheart won't fade away⁺ as years go by?
15. Do you believe it if your spouse says that he or she will not marry again after you die?
16. Do you believe in life after death?
17. Do you believe that a white lie⁺ is necessary in some cases?
18. Do you believe the beautiful die young?
19. Do you believe what salespeople say?
20. Do you believe what religious leaders say?

- **palm reader** : a person who tells fortunes and interprets character from the lines and configurations of the palm of a person's hand
- **spank** : slap (sb) or (sth) on the buttocks with a flat object or the open hand
- **UFO** : an unidentified flying object
- **superstition** : an action or a practice that is based on faith in magic or chance
- **destiny** : the fortune or fate of a person or thing, considered inevitable or necessary
- **fade away** : disappear slowly
- **white lie** : a small lie about a small matter, often told to keep a person's feelings from being hurt

Priorities

▶ Example

Buying a car

▶ Answer

Of course, the first priority is price. I'd like to buy a cheap model with cash, so I wouldn't have to borrow any money, if possible. I'm willing to buy an old car to get the best bargain. Design and make⁺ are also important factors⁺ to me. And you know gas is getting expensive these days, so everybody is concerned about mileage.⁺ I like compact⁺ cars because they are economical in terms of⁺ taxes, gas, insurance, etc. Another advantage is that thieves are NEVER interested in small cars.



-make : brand

-factor : an element or ingredient

-mileage : the distance a motor vehicle can travel on a given amount of fuel

-compact : an automobile that is smaller than a standard model

-in terms of : concerning; about

 Talk about your priorities:

1. when you choose the place to go for your honeymoon.
2. when you look for a girlfriend or boyfriend.
3. when you choose a place to live.
4. when you decide your major in college.
5. when you choose a restaurant for lunch.

6. when you look for a job.
7. when you choose where to spend your vacation.
8. when you choose a school for your children.
9. when you pick your church.
10. when you subscribe⁺ to a newspaper.

11. when you go shopping for clothes.
12. when you go drinking with your friends.
13. when you want a doctor.
14. when you change your current job.
15. when you are going to fly somewhere.

16. when you have two important events to attend at the same time.
17. when you choose a hobby.
18. when you are shopping for a pet.
19. when you want to get someone a gift.
20. when you emigrate.

What Are Their Excuses?

Read Me!

We hear a lot of excuses in the course of our personal and social lives. Let's talk about the kinds of rationalizations⁴ people often make. What are their most common excuses?

Example

Drivers who speed

Answer

"I was in a hurry."
 "I didn't really
 notice how fast I was going."

"I was late."

"I was just keeping up with the flow of traffic."

"I was in complete control of my car, and it is always well-maintained. There was no danger at all."

"I didn't think there would be a policeman there."

"People who drive too slow are more dangerous than those who go too fast."



► **What are their excuses?**

1. Tax evaders
2. Drunken drivers
3. Divorcing couples
4. Parents who spank their children
5. Those who fail to quit smoking

6. Those who are unable to quit drinking
7. Students who do poorly in school
8. Politicians who don't keep their promises
9. Men or women who have love affairs*
10. An ex-convict* who commits another crime

11. Hubbies who forget their wedding anniversary
12. Employees who are late for work
13. Employers who just cut their company's wages
14. Students who gave up trying to learn English
15. Singles who do not want to marry

16. Girls who smoke
17. Kids who want to stay out very late at night
18. Spouse (or child) abusers
19. Police who kill a suspected* criminal
20. Doctors who do not tell their patients the truth.

- **love affair** : a romantic and/or sexual relationship between two people who are in love and not married to each other

- **ex-convict** : (sb) who was formerly imprisoned for a crime

- **suspect** : consider (sb) guilty without proof

Pros & Cons

Example

You are elected president.

Answer



Why would any honest man want to be president? No president is able to live his own life anymore. He is always being targeted by his political rivals. And he must always decide important matters correctly while, at the same time, maintaining high moral standards. In short, his life has to be unexciting and beyond reproach⁺ if he is going to continue to hold public esteem.⁺ But sometimes he must also make deals⁺ with friends and foes⁺ alike in order to accomplish anything.

But if a man has some intellectual ability and wants to serve his country, he should try to improve society if he can. Such an action deserves the respect of his fellows. And such a person could use the power of the presidency⁺ to make things better for everyone. This person would be far better than just a power-hungry politician who cares more about the benefits of office than the national welfare.

-beyond reproach : impossible to criticize; perfect

-esteem : favorable regard; respect

-make a deal : reach an agreement through compromise

-foe : an enemy, opponent, or adversary

-presidency : the job of president

Talk about the advantages and disadvantages of the following:

1. Being a woman
2. Being a man
3. Watching TV
4. Having a college degree
5. Remaining single

6. Living with your parents after you get married
7. Living with your parents-in-law
8. Being a full-time housewife
9. Your wife having a job outside the home
10. Winning the lottery

11. Being the oldest son
12. Having daughters only
13. Being hen-pecked
14. Being a billionaire
15. Having no children

16. Owning a car
17. Your daughter in high-school having a boyfriend
18. College students having part-time jobs
19. Being a nun
20. Living in the big city

What Would You Do?

► Example

What would you do if your wife refused to live with your parents?

► Answer

First I would give her many reasons why living together makes sense.⁴ For example, I would tell her they are getting older and weaker, and more lonely. We also have a moral responsibility to support them. But if she still didn't accept my reasons, I would let her live with our children and I would live with my parents by myself. I can't let my parents live alone, because they need someone to take care of them. They sacrificed everything to bring me up, and now it's my turn⁴ to support them.



 Answer these questions:

1. What would you do if your husband came home drunk every night?
2. What would you do if your children were behind in their schoolwork?
3. What would you do if your teenager started smoking and drinking?
4. What would you do if you saw someone with a flat tire on the road?
5. What would you do if you heard someone shout, "Stop, thief"?
6. What would you do if you saw money fall from someone's bag?
7. What would you do if your child got a black eye⁺ from a classmate?
8. What would you do if you got too much change back at a store?
9. What would you do if a vending machine didn't return your money?
10. What would you do if you failed to get promoted—twice?
11. What would you do if your sweetheart wanted to break up⁺ with you?
12. What would you do if you were in line and an old woman cut in?⁺
13. What would you do if you saw a naked person at the beach?
14. What would you do if you won the lottery?
15. What would you do if you and your best friend both loved the same person?
16. What would you do if you were in a foreign country with no money?
17. What would you do if you saw a UFO?
18. What would you do if you had to choose between your job and your marriage?
19. What would you do if the doctor told you had an incurable disease?
20. What would you do if you were the last person in the world?

Making Choices

► Example

Suppose your child were spanked in school. Would you protest to the school authorities⁺ or pretend nothing happened?

► Answer

Spanking is an act of violence regardless of⁺ who does it. Teachers should no longer be allowed to engage in such behavior. We all know violence has no educational value. Violence just begets⁺ more violence.



Make a choice and tell why:

1. Will you get married or remain single?
2. If you were stopped for a traffic violation, would you accept the ticket⁺ or try to make excuses?⁺
3. Your hubby⁺ is unable to support your family. Will you get a job yourself or simply seek a divorce?
4. Will you take your next vacation by the sea or in the mountains?
5. You are going to make a trip to Busan. Will you take the express bus, the train, or a plane? Or will you drive?
6. Would you give your seat to a young child standing on the bus or keep it yourself?
7. Would you rather live in an apartment or a house?
8. Do you use the escalator or the elevator if you have a choice?
9. Which do you like better, a dog or a cat?
10. Who is more important, your parent or your spouse?
11. Which do you like better, pop songs or classical music?
12. Which do you like better, an analog watch or a digital one? A battery-operated one or one you must wind yourself?
13. Which foreign language do you want to study after you master English?
14. Do you prefer going to the movie theater or watching movies on TV?
15. Do you like black coffee or coffee with milk and/or sugar?

-ticket : a notice given to a driver for a traffic violation, usually involving a fine

-excuse : an explanation that is given to justify or obtain forgiveness

-hubby : husband

16. Will you try to quit smoking or continue?
17. Do you want a son or a daughter as your first child?
18. Would you remarry or remain single if your spouse died?
19. What do you like to drive more, a compact car or a luxury model?
20. Which do you prefer, an imported car or one made in Korea?
21. Do you like to read magazines, or newspapers?
22. Where do you usually meet your friends? A coffee shop, a bookstore, a fast-food restaurant, a park? Why?
23. Do you smoke domestic cigarettes or foreign ones? Why?
24. Do you like beef or pork better?
25. Which do you like better — makkoli, soju, beer, or whiskey?
26. What would you like for breakfast — cereal with milk or a traditional Korean dish?
27. Would you rather subscribe to a morning newspaper or an evening paper? An economics paper or a sports paper?
28. Are you going to buy a desktop computer or a notebook?
29. Do you want your baby to be breast-fed⁴ or bottle-fed⁴?
30. Which do you like better—baseball or football? Amateur or pro sports?

-breast-feed : feed a baby with milk from the breast

-bottle-feed : feed a baby with artificial milk from a bottle

What Are the Reasons?

▶ Example

We study history in school. Why?

▶ Answer

The most popular reason is that we can learn from our past mistakes. But any serious study of history shows that we don't learn much—we keep doing the same dumb⁺ things time and time again. The real reasons we take⁺ history is to gain a deeper understanding of human activity at large,⁺ and to give ourselves some sort of national identity.⁺



- **dumb** : unintelligent; stupid
- **take** : apply oneself to the study of (a subject)
- **at large** : in general
- **identity** : who or what a person or thing is

What are the reasons?

1. People are getting fatter. Why?
2. People are saving more. Why?
3. People are getting married younger. Why?
4. We require good morals from our leaders. Why?
5. Every country has laws. Why?
6. We study philosophy. Why?
7. We exercise. Why?
8. We need recreation. Why?
9. We try to find extraterrestrials.⁺ Why?
10. Many people have a religion. Why?
11. One man: one woman. Why?
12. People want to travel. Why?
13. People want to watch the same movies other people are watching. Why?
14. Some people just want to be seen on television or have their names in the papers. Why?
15. The older people are, the more reluctant to divulge⁺ their true age. Why?
16. College degrees have lost some of their appeal. Why?
17. They say stress can be the means for accomplishing something. Why?
18. Variety is the spice⁺ of life, according to some. Why?
19. Democracy is the best form of government devised by mankind. Why?
20. Love usually fades away⁺ as time goes by. Why?

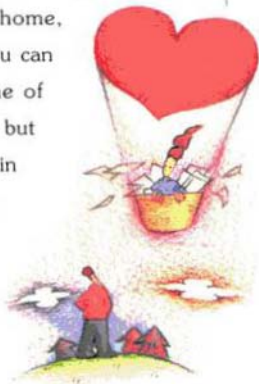
Right or Wrong?

▶ Example

Money makes people happy.

▶ Answer

I could never understand what people have against money.* “Money can’t buy you love,” for example. Of course it can’t! But it allows you to get an education that lets you get a good job, so you can afford to take a desirable woman on an interesting date. It lets you buy good clothes and a nice car and home, which will help impress her. And you can give her expensive presents. None of these activities constitute* “love,” but they all represent* important steps in the process. It’s better to have money in order to win the heart of the one you love than to lose your true love for lack of ready* cash.



► **Is it right or wrong? (If so, why? If not, why not?)**

1. Justice always triumphs.
2. The more we know about the world, the more we have to suffer from stress.
3. Platonic friendship is possible between men and women.
4. Children should be free from homework.
5. Parents love us "unconditionally."
6. Men with a religion are happier than men without one.
7. A college diploma helps a man get a job.
8. Environmental problems can be solved by technology.
9. Harsher punishments discourage crimes.
10. A love match guarantees happiness better than an arranged marriage.
11. We get what we deserve.
12. It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.
13. All men are created equal.
14. Divorce is better than unhappiness.
15. A friend in need is a friend indeed.
16. Love is all you need.
17. The squeaky* wheel gets all the grease.*
18. A fool and his money are soon parted.
19. Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel.*
20. The first casualty* of war is truth.

- **squeaky** : making a squeaking sound

- **grease** : a thick sticky oil

- **scoundrel** : a wicked or dishonorable person; a villain

- **casualty** : any person or thing harmed or destroyed as a result of some act or event

What Would Happen?

▶ Example

Many people are calling for the abolition⁺ of the death penalty. They say capital punishment⁺ isn't helping bring down⁺ crime rates. What would happen if their demand were accepted?

▶ Answer

In fact, many countries have done away with⁺ capital punishment. The odd⁺ thing is that it does not seem to make any difference at all. The various kinds of crimes committed in any given society remain fairly⁺ constant.⁺ If murders were common before the death penalty was removed, they continue to occur at a similar rate. If kidnappings⁺ hardly ever happened, they don't suddenly increase just because of the removal of the alleged⁺ deterrence⁺ that the death penalty represents. Laws need to be fairly and effectively enforced⁺ to avert⁺ rising crime rates, but the actual nature of the punishment doesn't seem to make much difference.

- **abolition** : the act or state of ending or stopping (sth)
- **capital punishment** : the death penalty for certain crimes, such as murder
- **bring down** : cause (sb) or (sth) to fall or lose power
- **do away with** : get rid of
- **odd** : unusual; peculiar; strange
- **fairly** : to some extent but not very
- **constant** : not changing; remaining the same
- **kidnap** : take (sb) away illegally, usually by force, in order to get money for returning him or her
- **allege** : claim that (sth) is true, usually without offering proof
- **deterrence** : the act or a means of prevention
- **enforce** : make people obey a rule or law
- **avert** : keep (sth) from happening; prevent

What would happen?

(1)

Tobacco and alcohol problems are to blame^a for many diseases and crimes. Their bad effects are sometimes even compared with drug^a problems. So what do you think about doubling the price of liquor^a and cigarettes? What would happen if the government suddenly did so?

(2)

Many people still like to have a baby boy for their first child. What would happen if this trend went unabated^a?

(3)

If people, especially the young, continue to enjoy junk food^a (or instant food), what will happen?

(4)

Many people don't like politicians, most of whom are men. What do you think about electing a female president? Would it lead to higher trust for government officials?



^ato blame : responsible for something bad

^adrug : an illegal substance that some people smoke, inject, etc. to give them pleasant or excited feelings

^aliquor : an alcoholic beverage, such as whiskey or gin, made by distillation

^aunabated : without becoming any less strong

^ajunk food : food that is high in calories but low in nutritional value

(5)

If there were no mandatory* retirement age in the workplace, what would happen? Who would benefit and who lose?

(6)

What would happen if the global computer system broke down,* including the internet?

(7)

What would happen if English became an official language in this country? Would it cause an improvement in most people's English ability?

(8)

All workers seem tired and under heavy stress these days. What do you think about giving them more leisure time? What would happen if they worked only four days a week? Do you think it would help improve productivity?

(9)

Current laws are said to be much too permissive.* What do you think about making them stricter? For instance, what about sending drunk drivers to jail for long periods of time? Would there be any bad side effects?*

(10)

What would happen if adulterers* did not have to worry about going to prison?

- **mandatory** : required; obligatory

- **break down** : fail to function

- **permissive** : allowing freedom; lenient

- **side effect** : an unexpected result of a situation or course of action in addition to the intended result

- **adultery** : voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and another person other than the husband or wife

Lesson 43

Quizzes

Read Me!

Answer the following questions and supply additional commentary.⁴

Example

What is the distance between Seoul and Busan?

Answer

It is more than 400 km and it takes about 5 hours by car. If you take a train, you could get there in 4 hours. But flying takes less than an hour.



 Answer these questions:

1. Where is the Statue of Liberty?
2. What is the highest mountain in the world? Where is it?
3. What three things is Paris famous for?
4. What is the biggest lake in the world? Where is it?
5. Name the countries that are known to have made atomic bombs.

6. What is the historical impact of Apollo 11?
7. Who are the top 5 automakers in the world?
8. Which countries have the strongest population control policies?
9. Name 10 countries that produce petroleum.
10. What are the three events that comprise⁴ a triathlon?

11. What was the largest empire in history?
12. Who is the world's richest person?
13. What 3 countries have the largest populations?
14. What are the 5 largest cities in the world, by population?
15. What is the world's tallest building?

Who's Who?

▶ Example

Martin Luther King, Jr.

▶ Answer

13 King was an African-American minister who led the civil rights movement in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s. He used the tactics of nonviolent civil disobedience (or, deliberately⁺ and publicly, but peacefully, disobeying unjust, immoral laws) to achieve his goals. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, he was assassinated⁺ in 1968. He is the only American whose birthday is a national holiday.



-deliberately : on purpose; intentionally

-assassinate : murder (a public figure) by surprise attack, usually for political reasons

► **What did they accomplish?**

1. Albert Einstein
2. Helen Keller
3. King Sejong
4. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
5. Abraham Lincoln

6. Neil Armstrong
7. Alfred Nobel
8. Charles Darwin
9. Thomas Alva Edison
10. Sigmund Freud

What Sub-Categories Are There?

► Example

Q1) What kinds of crimes are there?

Q2) What do you think is the most heinous⁺ crime?

► Answer

A1) There are many. For example, mugging,⁺ fraud,⁺ vandalism⁺ and murder.

A2) The worst crime is torture,⁺ I think. It destroys victims' minds as well as their bodies. It makes people confess to things they are innocent of and forces them to abandon⁺ their most deeply cherished principles. Even if people survive torture, its effects stay with them their entire lives. Rape⁺ is another heinous crime we often overlook.⁺ It demolishes⁺ a woman's (and sometimes, also, a man's) self-respect. But society often blames the victims of rape, rather than the rapists themselves.

- **heinous** : very wicked or evil; horrible

- **mug** : attack (sb) with the intent of robbing

- **fraud** : dishonest practice to make unfair or unlawful gains

- **vandalism** : intentional damage to or destruction of public or private property

- **torture** : the act of causing great pain, as punishment or revenge, for getting a confession or information, or for cruelty's sake

- **abandon** : give (sth) up completely

- **rape** : the crime of forcing another person to submit to sexual acts

- **overlook** : fail to notice or consider

- **demolish** : tear (sth) down completely; destroy (sth) completely

Answer these questions:

1.

Q1) What kinds of movies are there?

Q2) Which do you like the most?

2.

Q1) What kinds of fruits are there?

Q2) Which do you like best?

3.

Q1) What kinds of music are there?

Q2) Which do you enjoy the most?

4.

Q1) List the kinds of weather.

Q2) What kinds of weather do you like the most?

5.

Q1) How can we classify personality?

Q2) Define your own personality type.



6.

Q1) What kinds of professional sports are played throughout the world?

Q2) What's the difference between amateur and professional sport?

7.

Q1) List the traffic rules drivers break most often.

Q2) Which of these are the most dangerous to break?

8.

Q1) What kinds of careers are there?

Q2) What is the world's best profession?

9.

Q1) What kinds of cars are there?

Q2) What kind of car do you want? Why?

10.

Q1) List a few common diseases.

Q2) What disease are you most afraid of?

11.

Q1) What kinds of books are there?

Q2) Which kind of book do you prefer to read?

12.

Q1) How many colors are there?

Q2) Which color is your favorite? Why?

13.

Q1) Name several designer brands.

Q2) What is most important in choosing a brand name—cost, quality, or fame?

14.

Q1) List 10 countries you would like to visit.

Q2) Which one would you like to spend the longest time in?

15.

Q1) What are several popular TV shows?

Q2) Which night has the best television shows? What are they?

16.

Q1) There are many kinds of newspaper articles. Name as many as you can.

Q2) What is the most enjoyable part of the newspaper?

17.

Q1) Make a list of composers or songwriters.

Q2) Which one is your favorite?

18.

Q1) Who are the world's greatest singers?

Q2) Which one do you spend the most time listening to?

What Is It?



► Example

The gradual increase in the warmth of the air around the earth because the heat can't leave the atmosphere.⁴ This can already be seen in the extreme⁴ temperatures of recent years. Even areas with moderate climates report much hotter summers and colder winters.

► Questions

1. What is it?
2. What are the causes of this phenomenon?

► Answer

1. Greenhouse Effect.
2. Almost certainly, the major reason is the increased amount of carbon being burned by factories and automobiles. As it accumulates⁴ in the atmosphere, it traps⁴ more sunlight.

 Answer these questions:**1.**

Someone who is responsible for protecting one or more specific persons against possible attack.

Q1) Who is this person?

Q2) Who employs this person?

2.

A contest in which tickets are sold. The winning ticket or number is picked randomly.*

Q1) What is it?

Q2) What is the main purpose of this activity?

3.

Inability to sleep

Q1) What is this disease called?

Q2) Who usually suffers from it?

4.

A piece of equipment worn around the upper body to keep a person afloat* in the water.

Q1) What is it?

Q2) Who needs it?

5.

A sudden violent movement of the earth's surface, caused by volcanic action or by the release of built-up⁴ stress along geologic⁴ faults.⁴

Q1) What is it?

Q2) What happens when it occurs?

6.

An imaginary machine in which people can travel backwards or forwards in time.

Q1) What is it?

Q2) Do you think we can change the past or future?

7.

A cream or lotion used to protect the skin from the sun.

Q1) What is it?

Q2) Who needs it?

8.

A container that is filled with objects typical⁴ of a particular time and place.

Q1) What is it?

Q2) Why would people bury one of these?

9.

The right to remain in another country if you cannot live safely in your own because of the political situation there.

Q1) What is it?

Q2) Who seeks it?

10.

A branch of computer science that explores and develops the ability of computers to imitate human reasoning.⁴

Q1) What is it?

Q2) Would you welcome human-like robots?

11.

Permission to travel in or conduct certain kinds of activities in a foreign country.

Q1) What is it?

Q2) Should countries restrict the activities of foreigners?

12.

A document certifying that one has completed the number and kinds of courses required for graduation.

Q1) What is it?

Q2) What is its usefulness?

13.

A place where books, periodicals,⁺ films and other types of information media are stored.

Q1) What is it?

Q2) Why is it necessary?

14.

A source of government revenues⁺ levied⁺ upon a person's income, purchases, or possessions.

Q1) What is it?

Q2) Is it fair, proper, or necessary?

15.

A method of choosing government leaders by means of popular consent.⁺

Q1) What is it?

Q2) What is its biggest fault as a way of providing good government?

16.

Private donations of money or services to "the needy."

Q1) What is it?

Q2) Would government programs be more effective in dealing with the problems?

17.

A means of providing for the nation's defense by requiring military service from certain people.

Q1) What is it?

Q2) Is it fair, proper, or necessary?

18.

The notion that everyone within a given society should have exactly the same opportunities and responsibilities regardless of gender,⁺ religion, status, etc.

Q1) What is it?

Q2) Should there be exceptions?

19.

One means of persuading people to buy certain products or services, especially via⁺ the media.

Q1) What is it?

Q2) How do we know if its claims are true?

20.

Agreement between nations regulating their relations toward each other.

Q1) What is it?

Q2) Why is this necessary?

What's the Difference?

▶ *Read Me!*

Students are sometimes confused by similar words. Let's talk about how their real meanings differ.

▶ *Example*

Public Relations (PR) and advertising

▶ *Answer*

PR is often called "spin." It is an attempt to promote a good public image for a person or company. Ads are, quite simply, designed to sell goods or services, rather than create an image.



► **What's the difference?**

1. Pollution and contamination
2. Commercials and ads
3. Fiction and nonfiction
4. Weather and climate
5. Biography and autobiography
6. Sports and exercise
7. Translation and interpretation
8. Hospital and clinic
9. Fired and laid off
10. Doctors and physicians
11. Learn and memorize
12. Aptitude and ability
13. Quality and quantity
14. Espionage⁺ and intelligence
15. Infer and imply
16. College and university
17. Custom and habit
18. Reporter and journalist
19. Statesman and politician
20. Thrifty and stingy

Different Personalities

► Read Me!

People have different personalities, and hence different attitudes toward the same thing. Talk about these differences in the following cases.

► Example

Those who live in the city and those who live in the country

► Answer

Many people live in the city because they have to, for school or employment. But some would rather live in a rural¹ area. City life is hectic,² impersonal,³ noisy, and expensive. Country life is more relaxed, and people know each other better. But there is not as much to do there.



How do they differ?

1. Buyers and non-buyers of lottery tickets
2. Those who drive safely and those who drive recklessly
3. Those who make money in the stock market and those who lose
4. Those who are successful in their job and those who are not
5. Those who lead a happy life and those who do not
6. Rich people and poor
7. Optimists and pessimists
8. Leaders and followers
9. Those who quit smoking and those who cannot
10. Criminals and law-abiding people
11. Liars and honest folks
12. Playboys (and "butterflies"⁴) and the monogamous⁴
13. Hard workers and goldbrickers⁴
14. Good students and poor students
15. The physically active and the couch potatoes⁴
16. Tourists and stay-at-homes
17. Readers and television watchers
18. Lovers of fast food and lovers of gourmet⁴ restaurants
19. Fans of pop music and of classical music
20. Writers and readers
21. Cat-lovers and dog-lovers
22. Basketball fans and wrestling fans
23. Those who watch soap operas and those who just watch the news
24. Concert goers and those who only listen to CDs
25. Skiers and scuba divers

- **butterfly** : a woman with many, indiscriminate, love affairs

- **monogamy** : the having of only one spouse at a time

- **goldbricker** : a person who loafs on the job or avoids work

- **couch potato** : someone who spends a lot of time sitting and doing things that do not use much mental or physical energy, such as watching television

- **gourmet** : a person who enjoys and is knowledgeable about fine food and drink

Lesson 49

What Does This Mean? (1)

▶ **Example**

Backseat driver

▶ **Answer**

A passenger who constantly gives the driver unwanted advice, warnings, and criticism. Backseat drivers often make the driver irritated⁺ and nervous, making it more likely that he will get into a traffic accident. So, when you are riding in a car with someone else, you're better off⁺ remaining silent and letting him do the actual driving, even if you think he isn't doing a very good job.



► Explain what these words mean:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Defensive driver | 21. Dutch treat |
| 2. Sunday driver | 22. Big Brother |
| 3. Peer pressure | 23. Artificial intelligence |
| 4. Cheapskate | 24. Culture shock |
| 5. Big mouth | 25. Henpecked husband |
| 6. Clock watcher | 26. Yes-man |
| 7. Junk food | 27. Black sheep |
| 8. Skirt chaser | 28. Social drinker |
| 9. Nine-to-five job | 29. Know-it-all |
| 10. Brainwashing | 30. Junk mail |
| 11. Brainstorming | 31. Back stabber |
| 12. Prenuptial agreement | 32. Back slapper |
| 13. Vending machine | 33. Gold digger |
| 14. Mama's boy | 34. Gold bricker |
| 15. One-night-stand | 35. Golden years |
| 16. Euthanasia | 36. Mr. (or Ms.) Right |
| 17. White lie | 37. Crying wolf |
| 18. Shoplifter | 38. Wolf in sheep's clothing |
| 19. Unanimous decision | 39. Yuppie |
| 20. Life expectancy | 40. Spin doctor |

What Does This Mean? (2)

► Example

The bottom line is that I am paid to win games, not to promote good will.

► Answer

The “bottom line” is the sum of a column of figures, such as an accountant might make. So it is the final, most important, result.



E xplain what the underlined words mean:

1. My wife and I are retired and living on a fixed income.
2. They have two children and are fairly well-off.
3. Tell him, in no uncertain terms, that he must get a job.
4. My wife and I have a typical marriage, with the usual ups and downs.
5. Jane accepted her divorce matter-of-factly.
6. My personal recipe* for success is: do what you love and don't look at the clock.
7. It is certainly a strong argument against euthanizing pets until all possible alternatives have been explored.
8. Never engage in a shouting match with your daughter. If she screams, bite your tongue, lower your voice and say anything you feel compelled to say in a voice only slightly above a whisper. If you can't manage that, tell her quietly that you will discuss the subject with her when you are calmer. Then do it.
9. Mom has made it plain that under no circumstances will she ever live in a retirement home.
10. Jimmy is too selfish. He has no notion of give-and-take with other children.

What Does This Mean? (3)

▶ Example

It's a kind of spiritual snobbery⁺ that makes people think they can be happy without money.

▶ Answer

This means that some people are proud to claim they don't need money to be happy. But they are not really happy, they are only trying to pretend that they are. Actually, they have no ability to make money themselves and are too poor to recognize how money helps make people happy.



⁺ **snobbery** : the attitudes and behavior of people who are snobs

^{*} **snob** : one who overly admires people in the higher social classes and has no respect for those in the lower ones; one who has the attitude of being superior to others due to intelligence or refined taste

Explain what these sentences mean:

1. Nobody can give you wiser advice than yourself.
2. Give, and you may keep your friend even if you lose your money; lend, and the chances^{*} are that you will lose your friend even if you get your money back.
3. Blessed^{*} is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed.
4. Never trust the advice of a man in difficulty.
5. A lean^{*} compromise is better than a fat lawsuit.^{*}
6. We ask advice, but we mean approbation.^{*}
7. Your standing in the community is established by what people say behind your back.
8. The borrower is servant to the lender.
9. A woman's beauty is not a gift to man—only a bribe.
10. It takes a loose rein^{*} to keep a marriage tight.
11. Some people seldom repeat gossip^{*}—the way they heard it.
12. A marriage without conflict is almost as inconceivable^{*} as a nation without crisis.
13. You can make more friends in a month by being interested in them than in ten years by trying to get them interested in you.
14. Children have more need of models than of critics.
15. It is an error to suppose that courage means bravery in everything.

-chances : probability

-lean : not productive or satisfying

-approbation : approval; praise

-gossip : trivial talk, often involving rumors of people and their personal affairs

-inconceivable : hard or impossible to understand or imagine

-blessed : a person who enjoys happiness

-lawsuit : a case brought to a court of law for settlement

-rein : a means of restraint or guidance

16. Some people are always grumbling⁺ because roses have thorns. I am thankful that thorns have roses.
17. Adolescence⁺ is like a house on moving day—a temporary mess.
18. Much of good manners consists in knowing when to pretend that what is happening isn't.
19. The opposite of love is not hate, it's apathy.⁺
20. When a man says money can do anything, that settles⁺ it; he doesn't have any.
21. Love is the whole history of a woman's life, but just an episode in a man's.
22. I find television very educational. Every time some-body turns on the set I go into another room and read a book.
23. The first half of our life is ruined by our parents, the second half by our children.
24. How little we would enjoy life if we never flattered⁺ ourselves.
25. We must be greater than God, for we have to undo⁺ His injustice.
26. There are two kinds of failures: those who thought and never did, and those who did and never thought.
27. There is no failure except in no longer trying.
28. Some people merely ask "why?" and others demand to know why not.

29. A sure route to humiliation is to admit that you paid what the car dealer was asking.
30. The time to stop talking is when the other person nods affirmatively⁺ but says nothing.

Proverbs

Example

Beauty is only skin-deep.

Answer

Something that is skin deep is shallow^{*} and superficial.^{*} It doesn't extend very far. To say "Beauty is only skin-deep" implies that something has a pretty exterior,^{*} but that's about all. What you don't see is hidden under the skin and it may be more important than physical beauty.



- **shallow** : lacking depth or seriousness

- **superficial** : concerned with or understanding only what is on the surface or what is obvious

- **exterior** : outer; external; an outer appearance

E *explain what these sayings mean:*

1. Easy come, easy go.
2. Don't get mad, get even.
3. Man does not live by bread alone.
4. Money talks.
5. Actions speak louder than words.
6. A man is known by the company he keeps.
7. Money begets money.
8. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
9. A rolling stone gathers no moss.
10. The shoemaker's kids always go barefoot.*
11. That's life.
12. Time will tell.
13. You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
14. You can't please everybody.
15. One man's trash is another man's treasure.
16. It is better to die on your feet than live on your knees.
17. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.
18. It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.
19. Everybody's business is nobody's business.
20. If you don't make mistakes you don't make anything.
21. Guns don't kill people. People do.
22. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.
23. Money doesn't grow on trees.
24. Love is blind.
25. Do as I say, not as I do.
26. There is no such thing as a free ride.
27. A penny saved is a penny earned.
28. Business before pleasure.
29. Behind every successful man there is a woman who doesn't have a thing to wear.
30. Every man is his own worst enemy.

Idioms

▶ **Example**

The company has been in the red for eight years.

▶ **Answer**

This means the company has been in debt or losing money for a long time. A profitable concern^{*} is "in the black." The colors refer to^{*} the ink accountants use to make the situation obvious.



► **Explain what these idiomatic expressions mean:**

1. It serves you right.
2. Walk a mile in my shoes/Put yourself in my place.
3. I don't buy that explanation.
4. Every man has his price.
5. You're the boss.

6. Let's make up.
7. I mean it.
8. I quit smoking cold turkey.
9. Two of the five candidates* who had thrown their hats in the ring have now thrown in the towel.
10. Two major credit card firms have gone belly up.

11. All the candidates look to have a strong position, but Jane has the inside track because she's single.
12. We will take a chance on the weather and have the party outdoors.
13. People fighting for their freedom often do not draw the line at murder.
14. He thought the soup too hot and made a scene about it.
15. Don't do it! You are playing with fire.

16. When he saw the size of the bill, he hit the ceiling.
17. After years of financial struggle, the company now sees light at the end of the tunnel.
18. It may take two to tango, but I still think it was more her fault.
19. It's a deal.
20. The book made a big splash a couple of years ago.

Acronyms

► Example

AI

Q1) What does it mean?

Q2) What benefits may this technology bring about?

► Answer

A1) Artificial Intelligence

A2) If machines can learn to think, they can make accurate, objective⁺ decisions almost immediately. People take longer and are prone⁺ to both error and bias.⁺ So, AI could take much of the guesswork⁺ out of ordinary life.



- **objective** : not influenced by emotion or personal feelings
- **prone** : tending; inclined
- **bias** : a prejudice
- **guesswork** : an estimate or a judgment made by guessing

► **Answer these questions:**

1. UNICEF
Q1) What does it mean?
Q2) What does it do?
2. IMF
Q1) What does it mean?
Q2) What does it do?
3. CEO
Q1) What does it mean?
Q2) Name 3 famous CEOs.
4. GMFs (genetically modified foods)
Q1) What does it mean?
Q2) Are they safe? Why do people worry about them?
5. UFOs
Q1) What does it mean?
Q2) Why are we excited about them?
6. HDTV
Q1) What does it mean?
Q2) What makes us excited about it?
7. AIDS
Q1) What does it mean?
Q2) Why is it one of the most fearful diseases?
8. FDA
Q1) What does it mean?
Q2) How does this institute affect other countries' industries?
9. CCTV
Q1) What does it mean?
Q2) Where are they used?
10. CPU
Q1) What does it mean?
Q2) What kind of machine needs a CPU to operate?

Lifestyle Quips

► **Example**

Even water tastes bad when taken on doctor's orders.

► **Answer**

This means that being forced to do something takes the pleasure away from that activity.



► **Explain what these quips mean:**

1. A mistake is proof that someone was at least trying to accomplish something.
2. Having money and friends is easy. Having friends and no money is an accomplishment.
3. Ability will enable a man to get to the top, but it takes character to keep him there.
4. Man blames most accidents on fate—but feels a more personal responsibility when he makes a hole-in-one.
5. Every accomplishment, great or small, starts with the right decision, "I'll try."
6. Advice is never appreciated.⁴ If it leads to a good result, the recipient thinks it was his own idea; and if it turns out badly, he eternally⁴ blames the giver.
7. Ambition without determination has no destination.⁴
8. A wealthy bachelor⁴ is someone who saved money to get married, and then changed his mind.
9. The least experienced fisherman always catches the biggest fish.
10. Whenever your team trades away⁴ a useless no-name, he immediately rises to stardom.⁴
11. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.
12. Knowing when to hold or to fold—it's the same in cards as in love.
13. You should make hay while the sun shines.
14. Maybe money can't buy love, but it can rent it.
15. Wisdom means knowing the difference between determination to transform those conditions which can be changed, and acceptance of those which cannot.
16. It's never too late to put your past behind you.
17. She was a woman with a past—but that didn't stop her from looking for a man with a future!

- **appreciate** : recognize the worth, quality, or importance of (sb) or (sth); value highly

- **eternal** : endless

- **destination** : the place to which (sb) or (sth) is going or is sent

- **bachelor** : a man who has not married

- **trade away** : foolish exchange or barter

- **stardom** : the state of being famous as an actor, a singer, etc.

Laughter Is the Best Medicine!

Read Me!

Laugh your way to better health! A lot of medical research indicates that laughter produces significant changes in immune system⁺ functionality, beginning on the cellular level. We have long been aware that negative factors, such as depression⁺ and stress, can compromise⁺ the immune system. But now scientists have clear evidence that laughter can improve it. And the best part about this discovery is that you don't have to wait until you're ill to experience the medical benefits of laughter. Even if you don't laugh much now, you can begin to practice right away.

Example

They've been married five years and she still hasn't told him how much money he's earning.

- **immune system** : the biological system that produces substances to fight against infection and disease
- **depression** : the condition of feeling sad and sorrowful
- **compromise** : expose to danger; jeopardize

Answer

This means his wife regards her husband as a money-making machine, and he seems to accept his destiny⁺ as a henpecked hubby⁺, giving her all the money he makes without question or complaint. It's a tragedy that most husbands hand over⁺ all the money they make to their wives and then have to beg for⁺ an allowance.⁺ Do you think this is a good idea? Or do you think husbands should handle all financial matters themselves?



→ **destiny** : the fortune or fate of a person or thing

→ **henpecked hubby** : a husband who has a wife who is always telling him what to do, and is too weak to disagree with her

→ **hand over** : give

→ **beg for** : plead, ask for

→ **allowance** : an amount of money etc, given at regular intervals or for a specific purpose

► **E**xplain what these gags mean and comment about them:

1. He doesn't carry life insurance, only fire insurance—he knows where he's going.
2. My mother-in-law was kidnapped last week. The kidnapper said if we didn't send \$25,000 quick, we would have to take her back.
3. He married his secretary, thinking he'd continue to dictate⁺ to her.
4. He's marrying at 70 and still looking for a home near a school.
5. When he buys anything, he sees only the initial payment.
6. They took the "for better or worse"⁺ vow, but they didn't say "for how long."
7. The only time he opens his mouth is to ask her for the apron and the vacuum cleaner.
8. She threatened to divorce him once, and he couldn't help shedding⁺ a few cheers.
9. He never knew what happiness was until he married her—then it was too late.
10. Judge to defendant:⁺ "I note that in addition to stealing cash, you took watches, rings and pearls." "Yes, your honor," replied the man in the dock.⁺ "I was taught that money alone doesn't bring happiness."
11. "Joe is the man for me," said a starry-eyed⁺ young woman to her mother. "He's nice. He's handsome. He's smart. He's hard-working. He's funny. He's strong. He's kind."

-dictate to (sb) : tell (sb) what to do

-for better or worse : part of a traditional wedding vow promising to stay joined in matrimony under all circumstances

-shed : send (sth) forth; give off

-defendant : a person who is accused of doing (sth) illegal and is taken to court

-dock : court area containing the accused

-starry-eyed : full of hope and confidence

"He's married," interrupted her mother.

"So? Nobody's perfect!"

12. He told his children Santa Claus is too old to get around any more.

13. "Father, I want to get married."

"No, my son, you're not wise enough."

"When will I be wise enough?"

"When you rid^a yourself of the idea that you want to be married."

14. When he's in, she's out. When she's in, he's out. They can't find each other to discuss a divorce.

15. He could convince his wife that she looks fat in a fur coat.

16. She swore she wouldn't talk to him for a month and he's unhappy about it—the month is almost over.

17. He's very sympathetic. He can't bear seeing an old lady standing up in the subway, so he always buries his head in a newspaper.

18. As soon as she starts giving her side^a of the argument, he shuts off^a his hearing aid.

19. "I've had bad luck with both my wives."

"How come?"

"The first ran off with another man."

"And the second?"

"Didn't."

20. "My uncle had an automobile accident, but the doctor told him he would have him walking in a month."

"And did he?"

"Yes. When the doctor sent his bill, my uncle had to sell his car to pay it."

-rid : free (sb) or (sth) of something unwanted

-side : the position, ideas, or point of view of one person or group opposing another

-shut off : cut off

Lesson 57

Make Your Point (1)

Read Me!

Based on the given outline, give us your opinion in detail.

Example

- * Health is the most important thing in life.
- * Once it is lost you can't get it back completely.
- * Be sure to eat well, sleep enough and avoid stress if possible.
- * Exercise also helps you remain fit*.
- * Regular checkups* are indispensable* too.



 Answer

People can recoup⁺ their losses on the stock market, regain a lover's affections (or find a new lover), or reform their character, but they may not ever be able to recover their lost health. However, taking care of ourselves is actually easier than we may think. If we have an adequate, balanced diet, if we get enough rest, and if we pace ourselves and keep everything in proper perspective⁺ to minimize stress, most of us can maintain our physical activity over a long period (a lifetime!) comfortably and enjoyably. The other really important aspect of staying healthy involves regular exercise. But you don't have to work out⁺ in an expensive gym for many hours a week. A brisk⁺ walk for 30 minutes a day is all most people need, though they may want to supplement⁺ this with a few minutes of stretching. Last, but not least, get a thorough medical examination every year. Within days, you will either know that you must take some necessary steps to keep from getting sick, or you will have complete peace of mind knowing that nothing is wrong with you!

- **recoup** : get back what one has lost or spent; regain or recover
- **keep (sth) in perspective** : think about problems and decisions in a reasonable way without exaggerating their importance
- **work out** : train the body by physical exercise
- **brisk** : quick and active
- **supplement** : add (sth) to (sth) in order to improve it or make it more complete

► **Make your point (you may also disagree):**

(1)

- * Gas prices are skyrocketing.*
- * You want to get rid of your car soon.
- * Too many cars are on the road.
- * The subway takes you anywhere in the city on time.

(2)

- * You want to start taking a lunch box to work.
- * You're sick of eating out.
- * Restaurants are too expensive.
- * Too many people fill the restaurant, making it noisy and uncomfortable.

(3)

- * You think TV can never be educational.
- * It rots a child's brain.
- * Commercials encourage overspending.
- * Children are getting fat from watching TV.

(4)

- * It's amazing how few people seem to be really worried about AIDS.

- * AIDS kills you, and it's spreading fast.
- * You can get it from engaging in unsafe sex or even getting a blood transfusion.*
- * Most importantly, one must get adequate information about the disease before it is too late.
- * By taking preventive* measures, anyone can be safe.

(5)

- * People are prejudiced against fat people.
- * Obesity* is a disease.
- * Fat people do not just eat whatever they please.
- * They have difficulty burning up* calories in their everyday activity.
- * Even exercise doesn't help some fat people.

(6)

- * We should make tobacco illegal.
- * It is fatal to smokers and nonsmokers alike and poses great risks to people's health.
- * It is among the most addictive* of all substances.
- * Second-hand smoke can ruin the health even of innocent non-smokers.

(7)

- * It is true that politicians disgust⁺ us with their low moral standards.
- * People are becoming indifferent to politics.
- * They often neglect to vote.
- * The easiest way for evil to triumph is for the good to sit back and do nothing.
- * We can only stop the vicious circle⁺ of corrupt⁺ politics by voting intelligently.

(8)

- * Stress is unavoidable in modern society.
- * We must learn how to cope with⁺ it. If not, we will all be destroyed by it.
- * But we can also make it our life's locomotive.⁺
- * If well managed, it stimulates our creative power and leads us to better lives.

(9)

- * Crime rates are on the rise.
- * Laws are too permissive.
- * Strict punishment is said to discourage criminal acts.
- * Singapore is the outstanding⁺ example of this theory.
- * But the death penalty should be the exception, not the rule.⁺

- * Capital punishment is too extreme, given the uncertainties of the law and police practices.
- * No one should be allowed to take a human life—not even a judge.

(10)

- * Some people say life is predetermined before our birth.
- * Destiny cannot be changed.
- * But we shouldn't be discouraged. There is something even stronger than fate.
- * Good habits and bad habits are our "real destiny."
- * If you choose good habits, your life is full of light, but bad ones lead you to darkness.

Make Your Point (2)

Example

Why is a college education important?

Answer

A college education expands our knowledge of the world, it deepens our interests, it widens our abilities, it makes us more broadminded⁺ and less ignorant⁺, it provides us with useful human contacts, it forces us to work hard to achieve something worthwhile, and, perhaps most importantly, it gives us a certificate (called a diploma⁺) for success.



- **broadminded** : willing to listen to other people's opinions and accept behavior that is different from one's own
- **ignorant** : lacking education or knowledge
- **diploma** : a paper or certificate given by a school showing that a person has earned a degree or completed a course of study

► **Make your point on the following issues:**

1. Why are friends important to us?
2. Why do we have to be on time for appointments?
3. Why is it most difficult to keep our promises to ourselves?
4. Why is it dangerous to drive drunk?
5. What does having a job mean for you?
6. What is the importance of family?
7. Why is law necessary?
8. Why are morals necessary?
9. Are you afraid of dying? Why or why not?
10. Tell us why we should learn English.
11. What benefits⁺ does money provide?
12. How does money spoil us?
13. Argue that men are more intelligent than women (or vice versa).⁺
14. Refute⁺ the argument just made.
15. Why do many people get married?
16. Explain why being single is better than having a spouse.
17. Illustrate⁺ why studying is important.
18. Prove that studying isn't everything in life.
19. Think of all the reasons why people can't quit drinking and smoking.
20. Convince us that all the reasons given in 19 are just lame⁺ excuses.
21. Capitalism⁺ is better than socialism⁺—or is it?
22. "I would rather be loved than be rich."
23. Despite its inefficiency, democracy is the best form of government.
24. Such is the way of the world: the big fish always feed upon⁺ the small fish.
25. Why is learning English a "necessary evil"?

-benefit : an advantage

-vice versa : the same but in the opposite order

-refute : prove (sth) to be false or wrong

-illustrate : make (sth) clear or explain

-lame : weak; unsatisfactory

-capitalism : an economic system in which the means of production and distribution are privately owned by individuals or groups and competition for business establishes the price of goods and services

-socialism : a social system in which the government or the whole community owns the means of production, such as land and factories, and controls the distribution of goods and services

-feed upon : live by eating (sth)

Social Phenomena

▶ Example

Juvenile crimes are becoming more prevalent.*

▶ Answer

Just a glance at any population* chart will show that wherever there are a lot of young men (between their early teens and late 20s), crime rates will go up. These are a very active force in society, they have lots of energy and probably too much free time, but they also lack maturity. So, unless they have jobs, they are usually on the prowl* for something exciting to do, especially something that may make them some money. But they don't usually understand the consequences* of their actions, they are focused only on short-term thrills* or needs.



- **prevalent** : widely existing or commonly occurring
- **population** : all of the people that live in a specified area
- **on the prowl** : hunting for an animal or person to attack
- **consequence** : something that follows from an action or a condition; an effect; a result
- **thrill** : a source of cause of excitement or emotion

Make your point on the following social phenomena:

1. People are getting more impatient.
2. Divorce rates are going up.
3. The gap between rich and poor is widening.
4. The number of women who smoke is increasing.
5. The number of childless couples is on the rise.*
6. Many young people are choosing to remain single longer or not getting married at all.
7. A two-income family is becoming the norm.*
8. People are almost always busy.
9. Almost everybody invests in stock.
10. Among young people, physical fitness* is getting worse.
11. Life-expectancy* is expanding.
12. More people are driving than ever before.
13. As women become more like men, men are getting more feminized.*
14. Children show less respect to their elders than they used to.
15. Many emigrants are returning home.
16. No one reads as much as his grandparents did.
17. Dishonest, unscrupulous people are more likely to succeed than the morally upright.
18. The old ways are disappearing.
19. More alcohol is being consumed than at any other time in history.
20. Family size is much smaller than even 40 years ago.

- **on the rise** : increasing

- **norm** : a standard or pattern that is considered to be typical of a group

- **fitness** : the state or condition of being physically fit, especially as the result of exercise and proper nutrition

- **life-expectancy** : the number of years that a person is likely to live

- **feminine** : having qualities traditionally attributed to a woman

Read the passage and Answer the Questions

1

A tobacco-company executive⁴ traveled the country looking for long-time smokers in good health. He found one man who admitted⁴ to smoking for 70 years.

"If you do a commercial⁴ for us," the executive explained, "we'll pay you \$10,000."

"It's a deal," said the smoker. "When do I start?"

"How about 10 a.m. tomorrow?"

"Can't do it then, son—I never quit coughing till noon!"



Questions

- (1) Why did the executive travel so far?
- (2) What did he offer to do for the smoker?
- (3) What do you think the commercial would be about?
- (4) Would the commercial be successful?
- (5) Sum up the story in your own words.

- **executive** : a person or group that manages an organization, especially a corporation or government division

- **admit** : acknowledge; confess

- **commercial** : an advertisement on radio or television

2



Diane Robb, a 37-year-old copywriter⁺ and mother of two, compares her life to "riding a wave: jumping on your surfboard⁺ at six in the morning, and washing up⁺ on the beach at ten that night." She doesn't know how she'd cope⁺ without a microwave oven and takeout food.⁺ Yet her mother—

a schoolteacher who owned far fewer conveniences—always seemed to have free time. "She even had time to hang clothes on the line and bake pies," says Robb. What's going on? Isn't modern technology supposed to provide less work and more leisure? Just the opposite may be true. One technological innovation after another has met our demand for a faster tempo, then speeded it up some more. Labor-saving devices eased the drudgery⁺ of our lives but added to the expense. So we have become two-paycheck⁺ families, but still have to work overtime and even then must moonlight⁺ in order to keep up.

Questions

- (1) What does Diane think about her life?
- (2) What does she think about microwave ovens?
- (3) What does "takeout food" mean?
- (4) Did her mother lead a busy life, too?
- (5) Why doesn't the new technology bring us more leisure time?
- (6) Sum up the story in your own words.

- **copy writer** : a person whose job is to write the words for advertising material
- **surfboard** : a long narrow board used for standing and riding on large waves
- **wash up** : be carried onto shore
- **cope** : face difficulty and function, especially successfully
- **takeout food** : prepared food that is not eaten where it was made but taken elsewhere for consumption, such as home or at work
- **drudgery** : hard, boring work
- **two-paycheck** : two-income
- **moonlight** : work at a second job, often at night, in addition to one's regular job

Recently I was invited to lecture on anxiety⁺ to several hundred mental-health professionals. My talk was scheduled to follow those of a number of prominent⁺ psychiatrists.⁺ When my turn came, I was especially nervous, because the speaker before me had been particularly impressive and charming. As I approached the podium,⁺ my heart pounded⁺ and my mouth went completely dry. "What am I doing here?" I asked myself. Making matters worse, my presentation⁺ dealt partly with the fear of public speaking. To calm myself, I tried an unconventional⁺ tactic.⁺ I asked the audience, "How many of you feel nervous when you give a speech?" Nearly every hand went up. "Well, that's exactly how I feel right now!" The audience responded with laughter. I relaxed and was able to move easily into my presentation.



Questions

- (1) Where was the writer invited?
- (2) Why was he nervous before he gave his lecture?
- (3) What was his lecture about?
- (4) How did he relax himself?
- (5) Sum up the story in your own words.

- **anxiety** : distress or uneasiness caused by fear of danger or misfortune
- **prominent** : well-known
- **psychiatry** : the branch of medicine that deals with the study and treatment of mental illness
- **podium** : an elevated platform for an orchestra conductor or a lecturer
- **pound** : beat heavily or quickly, as the heart
- **presentation** : the act of showing (sth) or of giving (sth) to (sb)
- **unconventional** : not bound by what is considered proper or normal
- **tactic** : a plan or measure for achieving a goal; a maneuver



A teen-ager was lounging⁴ on the floor watching TV when the phone rang.

"Hello, son," said the voice. "Where is your mother?"

"She's out working in the garden."

"What?" barked⁴ the father. "Your mother isn't as young and strong as she used to be. Why aren't you helping her?"

"I can't," was the reply. "Grandma's using the other hoe."⁴



Questions

- (1) What was the teen-ager doing?
- (2) Who called him?
- (3) What was his mom doing?
- (4) What was his grandma doing?
- (5) Why couldn't he help his mom?
- (6) Sum up the story in your own words.

-lounges : act in a lazy or relaxed way

-bark : speak sharply or harshly

-hoe : a tool with a flat blade on a long handle, used to loosen the soil and weed around plants

Men are fatter than women.
And despite our fondness
for needling* wives and
girlfriends about being
lousy* drivers, we're
much more reckless
when we get behind
the wheel* — more

likely to drive drunk and less
likely to strap* on a seat belt. We are also much more
competitive than women socially. We try to trump* one
another with status, in the form of a more prestigious job
or higher salary. Often, however, getting that promotion
or bonus involves working longer hours, which means
coping with unhealthy levels of stress, eating junk food
and missing sleep. Success can also require taking risks.
So, as part of this "macho"* lifestyle, we are more likely
to ignore the dangers of smoking and drinking. Men
probably don't ponder* effects as thoroughly as women,
who tend to think more about consequences than
processes.



Questions

- (1) Who smoke and drink more, men or women?
- (2) Who drive more carelessly?
- (3) What do prestigious jobs and higher salaries mean to men?
- (4) Is success easy for men to achieve? Why or why not?
- (5) Why do men drive so fast and ignore the dangers of smoking and drinking?
- (6) Sum up the story in your own words.

→ **needle** : provoke or tease → **lousy** : of low quality; very bad

→ **behind the wheel** : steering a vehicle; driving

→ **strap** : fasten or secure (sth) with a leather or plastic restraining device

→ **trump** : outdo; surpass; excel → **macho** : showing machismo

***machismo** : behavior or an attitude that stresses male strength, courage, and aggressiveness

→ **ponder** : think or consider carefully and thoroughly

6

I grew up in a small town where the primary school was a ten-minute walk from my house and in an age, not so long ago, when children could go home for lunch and find their mothers waiting there for them. At the time, I did not consider this a luxury, although today it certainly would be. I took it for granted⁺ that mothers were the sandwich-makers, the finger-painting appreciators⁺ and the homework monitors. I only knew that when the noon bell rang, I would race breathlessly home. My mother would be standing at the top of the stairs, smiling down at me with a look that suggested I was the only important thing she had on her mind. For this, I am forever grateful.



Questions

- (1) Where did the writer grow up?
- (2) What seemed to be mothers' chief roles when the writer was young?
- (3) What did the mom do when the writer rushed home for lunch?
- (4) What is the writer grateful for?
- (5) Sum up the story in your own words.



Gray hair doesn't mean fuzzy⁺ thinking. Sigmund Freud published his first great work at 44, and continued to develop his theories of psychoanalysis⁺ over the next

four decades. Environmentalist author Rachel Carson completed her classic⁺ attack on pollution at 55. "If you continue reading, thinking, and creating all your life, the knowledge you gain improves your intelligence," says the author of a book on women aging. "The speed of reasoning and remembering may decrease, but the quality does not, so, given enough time, you'll score better and better on intelligence tests⁺ as you age." We do lose some brain cells with age. But neuroscientists⁺ now know we grow more connecting branches between brain cells—increasing our depth of knowledge—through our 70s, if we live a mentally stimulating life.

Questions

- (1) Does thinking blur⁺ as we get older?
- (2) How can we become more intelligent in spite of old age?
- (3) How can we deepen our knowledge even though we lose brain cells?
- (4) Sum up the story in your own words.

-fuzzy : not clear; blurred

-psychoanalysis : a method for studying the hidden or unconscious processes of the mind as a way of treating mental illness

-classic : considered an outstanding example of its kind

-intelligence test : a test to measure how well a person is able to understand and think in a logical way about things

-neuro- : having to do with the nerves

-blur : dull or weaken



It is difficult to imagine the sea ever running out of⁺ fish. It is so vast, so deep, so mysterious. Unfortunately, it is not bottomless. Overfishing, coupled with⁺ destructive fishing practices, is destroying the fish and their environment. As a result, governments have had to close down some areas of ocean to commercial fishing. Big, high-tech fleets ensure that everything in their path is literally Hoovered up.⁺ Anything too small, or the wrong thing, is thrown back, either dead or dying. That's an average of more than 20 million metric tons of needlessly killed marine⁺ life every year. Admittedly,⁺ some countries are beginning to address⁺ this problem, but anyone can see it is vital we find more sustainable⁺ methods of fishing before every ocean becomes a Dead Sea. It would make sense, one could argue, to declare a moratorium⁺ on fishing in order to give the fish enough time to recover, grow to full size, and reproduce, and then catch them in a way that doesn't waste other sea life resources.



Questions

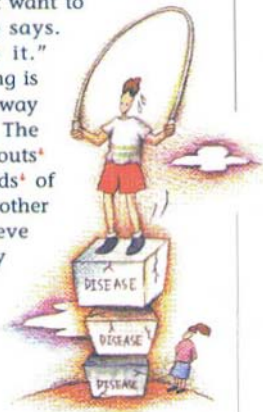
- (1) What is destroying the fish and their environment?
- (2) So what have governments done?
- (3) What is the problem with high-tech fishing methods?
- (4) What is one sustainable way of fishing?
- (5) Sum up the story in your own words.

At 35, Stephen was a heavy smoker and 100 pounds overweight. His health was so poor that even climbing stairs was an ordeal.⁴ Then he had a heart attack.⁴

"At first, I walked because I didn't want to have another heart attack," he says.

"Now I walk because I enjoy it."

Stephen has discovered that walking is not only good for his health, but a way to relax and to socialize as well. The good news is that moderate workouts⁴ can substantially⁴ reduce the odds⁴ of dying of heart disease, cancer, and other causes. In fact, researchers believe that half the decline generally associated with aging is due to inactivity. By moderately exercising, a person between 30 and 70 may retain as much as 80 percent of his physical ability.



Questions

- (1) What was Stephen's health like before?
- (2) Why did he start walking?
- (3) What benefits does walking bring about?
- (4) What is largely responsible for our physical decline?
- (5) How can we maintain most of our physical abilities into old age?
- (6) Sum up the story in your own words.

→ **ordeal** : a difficult or painful experience, especially one that severely tests a person's character or endurance

→ **heart attack** : a sudden disruption of regular heart function because of an insufficient supply of oxygen to the heart muscle

→ **workout** : a period of exercise, as to improve physical condition; any strenuous work or activity

→ **substantial** : considerable in importance, value, degree, amount, or extent

→ **odds** : the likelihood or probability that (sth) will happen

10

Every so often, adults suffer anxiety attacks⁺ and children are needlessly frightened out of their wits⁺ by some weird⁺ prediction that on a certain day the world will come to an end. People have actually quit their jobs, given away their houses and belongings, and waited for the earth to swallow them up. When it doesn't happen, you hear the same excuse: God changed his mind. But even the Bible says no one knows what day or hour the world will end. The thing everyone seems to forget is that every minute of every hour of every day, "the world comes to an end" for somebody. We are all going to die, sooner or later. It could be today in a car accident or a fall down the stairs. Heart attacks strike suddenly. Diseases claim⁺ millions. There are fires, floods and tornados⁺—more than enough tragedy to go around. And in the end, of course, for those who "escape," there is death from old age. No matter how healthy we are, eventually, our parts wear out.⁺ So, what's the big deal?⁺ The message is, live every day as if it were your last. Don't put off the pleasures and joys for "another time." It's always later than you think.

Questions



- (1) How does Doomsday⁺ news affect many adults and children?
- (2) What is the common excuse when the apocalyptic⁺ prediction doesn't come true?
- (3) What does the Bible say about the last day of the world?
- (4) Why does the writer think that talking about Doomsday means nothing?
- (5) So, how should we live our lives?
- (6) Sum up the story in your own words.

-anxiety attack : an onslaught of worry or concern

-weird : strange; suggesting the supernatural

-tornado : a violent windstorm in the form of a column of air

-wear out : become thin or no longer able to be used

-what's the big deal? : an expression of amazement that (sb) finds (sth) to be so important

-doomsday : the last day of the world

-apocalyptic : connected with the final destruction and end of the world

-frightened out of their wits : very frightened

-claim : cause (sb)'s death

Lesson 31

Dialogue

M: I'm not a kid any more, I need to start deciding what I'm going to do with the rest of my life.

F: Well, it's never too early to start. What would you like to do?

M: Dad's friend said he could get me a job in his office.

F: Doing what?

M: Sales. He said that the job is hard until you get experience—a lot of hours every week—but that the pay would be real good.

F: I don't know. Sales? That doesn't strike⁴ me as being something you'd enjoy or even be very good at.

M: Why not?

F: Well, two reasons, I suppose. The first one is that you're not really much of a "people person."⁴

M: You mean you don't think I'm friendly?

F: No, you're very friendly—but only with people who know you well. You're more the introverted⁴ type, kind of shy at first. Salesmen are usually more gregarious⁴ and outgoing.⁴

M: OK. What's the second reason?

F: I think you're too honest. You'd probably try to talk your clients into⁴ buying somebody else's products if you thought they could get a better deal.

M: I'm not that dumb!⁴



-strike : impress (sb) strongly

-people person : (sb) with strong social skills; (sb) who is able to deal effectively with people

-introverted : very shy; withdrawn

-gregarious : looking for and enjoying the company of others; sociable; talkative

-outgoing : friendly; sociable -talk (sb) into : persuade (sb) to do (sth) -dumb : unintelligent; stupid

F : Oh, yes you are! But I wouldn't call it being too stupid, I'd call it having too much integrity.*

M : But real good salesmen can make lots of money!

F : Yes, they can. Especially if they work on a commission.* But they have to be really good at it! For most people, it's a feast-or-famine situation.

M : What does that mean?

F : It means you either make a lot of money or hardly anything at all. Why don't you try something that you'd be more comfortable with?

M : Like what?

F : Well, you like music a lot, and I think you play a pretty mean* saxophone. Why don't you try to get work as a musician?

M : Talk about "feast or famine"! That's one of the hardest fields to break into* that there is.

F : True. But money isn't everything. Just remember, you might be doing this for the rest of your life. Wouldn't you rather do something you'd enjoy than something you'd hate?

M : Not if it meant starving to death!

F : No, of course not. But you'll never know if you don't try. Why don't you give it your best shot?* And if you can't make it,* at least you won't have to go through* life regretting that you didn't take the chance.*

► Questions

1. *Why do you do the job you do now? (or, Why did you choose your future career?)*
2. *What is your dream occupation? If it were possible for you to do anything in the world, what would it be?*

Dialogue

F : Look at this!

M : Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm. What is it?

F : It's a catalog of all the new fur coat styles.

M : Mmmm. Very interesting. The models are all very attractive.

F : Which one do you like?

M : Which model?

F : No! Which coat?

M : Oh, I don't know. They all look about the same to me.

F : Well, I can't quite make up my mind^a either. It's one of these three, though, don't you think?

M : Sure, those are all very nice.

F : Don't you think I'd look good in one of them?

M : I think you look good in anything!

F : Why, thank you. But what about one of these? Do you think I'd look good in it?



M : Yes, yes, yes. Of course. What are you getting at?⁴

F : You know my birthday is coming up.

M : Certainly. You don't think I'd forget that! It's in about two weeks, right?

F : Twelve days.

M : Sure, I knew that. I just didn't know what today was.

F : Wouldn't you like to show your wife off⁴ in one of these? Don't you think you'd be the envy of all your friends?

M : I already am, because I've got the most beautiful wife in the world. Even without an expensive coat—you don't need to gild the lily,⁴ you know.

F : But I want to! I think these are just gorgeous!⁴

M : But what about the moral issue?

F : What moral issue?

M : You know, killing all those poor defenseless animals—in the most brutal⁴ ways imaginable—just to skin⁴ their furs off. I shudder⁴ just to think about it.

F : You don't do much shuddering when you order a steak to eat!

M : But this is different. The steers⁴ were born with just one purpose in life—to be butchered⁴ to feed people. But these animals are free, wild things, which are caught in a painful trap⁴ for days and then clubbed⁴ to death!

- **What are you getting at?** : What point are you trying to make?

- **show off** : display or behave in a proud or showy manner

- **gild the lily** : add unnecessary ornamental details to (sth) already of great beauty

- **gorgeous** : splendid in appearance; beautiful

- **brutal** : cruel; ruthless

- **skin** : the tissue that forms the outer covering of the body of a person or an animal; remove the skin from (sth)

- **shudder** : tremble with a sudden movement, as from horror

- **steer** : a young male of domestic cattle that is castrated and raised for beef

- **butcher** : slaughter (animals) and prepare the meat for consumption

- **trap** : a device for catching and holding animals

- **club** : strike or beat (sb) or (sth) with a club

F : You didn't think much about those poor wild fish you caught last weekend. They were caught with your painful hook in their mouths, and then you scaled⁺ them without mercy!⁺

M : I don't know what to say....

F : Why don't you just admit you don't want to spend that much money on my birthday? Or, better yet, why don't you just decide which one you like the best and order it for me right now so it gets here on time?

M : But I wanted to surprise you!

F : So, surprise me! Don't tell me which of these three you're getting!

Questions

1. *What do you think about the animal-rights activists' tactics,⁺ such as spray painting the furs people are wearing?*
2. *Is there a moral difference between hunting, fishing, or trapping?*

► Dialogue

M: I don't understand how we keep electing such obviously dishonest people to public office!

F: Why? What happened this time?

M: That guy I voted for! Despite his promises to reduce taxes, he just voted to raise them.

F: Well, you know, circumstances change sometimes. Maybe, as a responsible public official, he had no choice. These are bad economic times, you know.

M: Then he should have told us that, under certain circumstances, he would consider a new tax. He should have been more careful to tell us what those circumstances would be. But he should not have given us a blanket statement⁺ that he would not ever raise taxes. That was an outright⁺ lie!

F: Well, maybe he didn't think it through⁺ completely. But if he had told you he might have to raise taxes, would you have voted for him?

M: Maybe.



F : Really? Are you sure?

M : At least he would be an honest man. Sometimes honest people may disagree. But at least he would deserve⁴ our respect, whether he got our vote or not.

F : But if he didn't get your vote, he wouldn't be in office.

M : But he shouldn't have lied so blatantly.⁵

F : Would it be okay if he only lied a little bit?

M : No. He has a duty to tell us the truth.

F : Just like advertisers? If they told us about the worst aspects of their products, nobody would buy them.

M : Maybe we shouldn't expect complete honesty, in that case. But not telling us everything is not the same as giving us false information.

F : Do you always tell everyone the truth?

M : Usually.

F : Even if it will cause a friend unnecessary grief? Even if it will hurt the feelings of someone you care about?

M : I wouldn't go out of my way to hurt them, but I wouldn't tell them something that was untrue.

F : What about when you didn't want to go out with your buddies last week. You told them you had an important appointment, but really you just wanted to go home. Wasn't that a lie?

Questions

1. Is a "white lie"⁶ ever permissible? Under what circumstances?
2. Would you vote for politicians who told you uncomfortable truths, or those who offer you unrealistic hopes for the future?

- **deserve** : be worthy of (sth)

- **blatant** : very obvious and noticeable in a bad way

- **white lie** : a small lie about a small matter, often told to keep a person's feeling from being hurt

Dialogue

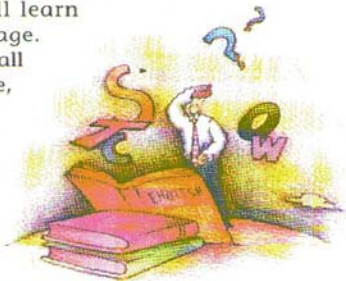
F : Why do I have to study English, anyway? Why don't the other people just learn my language for a change?*

M : Well, it's just the unfortunate way history has developed. For 400 years, the English were conquering much of the world. "The sun never sets on the British Empire," remember that saying? And then they were eclipsed* by another English-speaking people. The Americans are not only the strongest nation in history, but they also pioneered* most of the modern media—like movies and radio and records. And the Brits developed TV!

F : I didn't ask for a history lesson! I asked you why I have to study English!

M : Because no one else is going to learn your language—nobody else wants to or has to! But since English is a global language, it's much easier for people of different languages—let's say Korean and Hindi, or German and Swahili—to all communicate in English. Nobody can learn all of the languages there are, but we can all learn one foreign language. It's just easier if we all learn the same one, that's all.

F : You still aren't addressing* my question!



M : You're learning English because the government and your school told you to!

F : At last! But why did they make such a silly rule?

M : If we want to export our products, or buy foreign goods that we don't make ourselves—if you want to go into business—it's just to our advantage to use English. It's all about economic survival.

F : But I don't want to go into business. I just want to enjoy life—and that doesn't include studying English! It's too hard and too confusing!

M : I agree that it's not a very *sensible*⁴ language—too many inconsistencies and exceptions to rules. But there are reasons to study it that will help us enjoy ourselves.

F : Such as?

M : Such as seeing really good movies and TV shows, and listening to good music, and even reading good books. In the modern world, many of these very enjoyable activities are *enhanced*⁴ by understanding English.

F : OK, I see your point. Why don't we go see a movie?

M : Don't you have to study?

F : Well, how about going to see a new American film? According to⁴ you, that's studying, right?

Questions

1. *Why are you studying English? What is your purpose?*
2. *Other than your own language or English, what other language would you prefer to use, if any? Why?*

Dialogue

M: I need some advice.

F: That's what I'm good at—telling you what to do!

M: I don't know what to major⁺ in.

F: You're pretty good at writing, aren't you? Why don't you take Literature classes, or maybe Journalism?⁺

M: If I take Lit., the only kind of job I could get would be teaching. And if Journalism, reporting. Those are both poorly paid professions, don't you think?

F: Money isn't everything, you know. You should do something that gives you pleasure.

M: Making money gives me pleasure. Maybe I should go into medicine.

F: But you aren't very strong in math.

M: No, but I got solid A's in Biology.

F: That's right, but you also have to take a lot of Math classes. Why don't you limit your choices to something more possible? A lot of good students are turned away⁺ from Med. School.

M: What about Business?

F: Why not? But it has a lot of math too, right? Like Statistics and Accounting?

M: Maybe I should just choose some major that isn't very popular, to improve my odds⁺ for getting into a good school. I can always think about what I want to do later, after I graduate, while I'm in college.

F : But it's hard to change your major midway through. Isn't it better to pick something you're good at, and will probably do well in, and that you will enjoy doing for the rest of your life? If you're already good at it, it should also be easy for you to get accepted in that field of study.

M : That makes sense.* But if I knew what I wanted to do, I wouldn't have asked you.



Questions

1. How many career choices have you made in your life? What were they, and did they work out* for you?
2. Who are you most likely to turn to* for advice?

Dialogue

F : Sometimes I just don't know what to do.

M : Oh?

F : Yes. Should I tell a desperately⁴ sick patient he's probably going to die? Should I lie, and tell him that there's hope? Should I let the family know but tell them not to let him know?

M : What's wrong with telling the truth?

F : No one can ever be absolutely sure. I've seen people recover who had absolutely no chance, and I've seen others die who had a pretty good shot⁴ at survival.

M : So?

F : Attitude seems to have a lot to do with⁴ recovery. People who know they're going to die just give up—and if that happens, they always die.

M : But maybe they would have died anyhow, how can you be sure? I know that if I were going to pass on,⁴ I'd want to know in advance. That way I could try to leave no stone unturned.⁴ I could make sure that my family was taken care of financially, I could try to prepare them psychologically for my demise,⁴ and we could settle any unresolved problems. Then at least I could die in peace.

F : You should do those things while you're still healthy. When you're dying, you're too sick, in body and soul, to do anything. But if you have hope, you may have some strength to do these things, "just in case."⁴

-desperate : leaving little or no hope; very serious or dangerous

-shot : a chance

-have to do with (sb) or (sth) : connected with (sb) or (sth)

-pass on : pass away; die

-leave no stone unturned : do everything that one can to find something or solve a problem

-demise : death

-just in case : as a contingency

M : Well, you're the doctor. But you said you don't always know what to do.

F : I'm a doctor, I'm not God. My job is to try to cure people, if I can. But I can't see the future. If I tell them they have one month to live and they recover, many resent it. And you might not believe this, but their families resent it too—they've already come to grips with⁺ their grief and so they have trouble readjusting to the fact that their husband or father—whoever—isn't going to die after all. But hope binds them together better than despair.⁺



Questions

1. Would you want a doctor or a fortune teller to let you know when you were going to die?
2. Would you prefer a short, happy life or a long, bitter one?

Dialogue

M: I won the lottery! I won the lottery! This is terrible!

F: What are you raving about?*

M: I just found out that I'm a rich man, all of a sudden.

F: What's so terrible about that?

M: Now I won't know who my real friends are—I can't be certain if people like me or my money.

F: But you can afford to be generous to your old friends—you can all do things together that you've only dreamed of. Your old friends knew you when you were poor.

M: But money changes people. They look at you differently, and their attitude toward you isn't the same any more. They become jealous* of your success, while you learn to distrust their motives.

F: But just think what you can do with all your wealth. Travel. Live in a big house, anywhere you want to. Indulge* yourself. You can afford to take good care of yourself, get plastic surgery,* make sure you're always as healthy as possible. Isn't that wonderful?

M: Before I had all this



→ **rave about**: talk in a very excited (or crazy) way about something

→ **jealous**: envious

→ **indulge**: give in to or satisfy (a desire)

→ **plastic surgery**: surgery to repair, restore, or remodel body tissue or parts

money, I didn't have to worry about anything. Things just took care of themselves.* But now I have to make sure that I don't lose it all by spending it foolishly. I don't want to give it all to the airlines and hotels, realtors* and doctors. There are a lot of unscrupulous* people out there who will do anything to get my money.

F : Then why don't you just give it to a charity? Maybe you'll feel better.

M : And everybody will laugh at me. "You fool!" they'll say, "You just gave all your money away. What good did it do you?"

F : Why did you enter the lottery, anyway?

M : I didn't. A friend bought me the ticket as a favor.*

F : He must be pretty upset now, cursing* himself for not keeping it.

M : I wish he had!

Questions

1. What would you do if you won a large lottery?
2. What is the most likely way for you to have a lot of money?

- Things just took care of themselves : affairs were not deliberately attended to

- realtor : a person who sells real estate

- unscrupulous : not honorable

- favor : a small gift

- curse : a word or group of words expressing great anger; wish evil or harm on (sb) with a curse

► *Dialogue*

F : Are you worried about your kids picking up bad habits?

M : Of course. Doesn't every parent have that concern?

F : What do you do about preventing it?

M : To some extent, I'm resigned.⁴ I have real good communication with my children, I hope, and I think they would talk to me about things like that.

F : And if you told them not to smoke, or not to drink, or not to have sex, would they listen to you?

M : I'm sure that they would listen. But I'm not sure they would necessarily obey.⁴ Kids are a lot like their parents were when they were the same age. Peer pressure⁴ and wanting to be "adults" are very powerful influences on teenagers.

F : What do you think about setting a good example? Are kids more likely, do you think, to pick up these habits if they know their parents do them?

M : Anything can have an influence. But every person is different.

F : What do you mean?

M : Some kids will justify smoking because their parents do it. And if Mom and Dad tell them that smoking is a terrible habit, they'll just say: "Practice what you preach!"

F : Then maybe I should make my husband stop smoking!

M : His not smoking might be a good idea, as far as his own

-resigned : being willing to calmly accept (sth) unpleasant or difficult that you can't change

-obey : comply with (a request, an order, or a law)

-peer pressure : the strong feeling that one must do the same things as other people of the same age or status to be accepted by them

health is concerned, but it might not have the effect on your kids that you want.

F : But you said....

M : I said everyone's different. Other kids will refuse to smoke or drink just because they see their parents do it and they see all the problems it causes. So a parent might be a good negative role model,* also.

F : Then what can I do?

M : Just try to be honest with your children. Don't preach* at them, but try to be good role models (as far as possible — none of us are perfect, you know). If they make some wrong choices along the way, we should expect this. Just remember, we went through the same process when we were growing up, and we didn't always do it right either.

F : But I just can't help worrying about it.

M : Me, too. But in the long run* we have to assume* that basically they'll be fine.



Questions

1. Describe a case in which you acted against your parents' advice.
2. How does someone resist peer pressure without becoming a social outcast?*

► Dialogue

M: Do you like to drive?

F: Well, I have to drive. Every day.

M: I don't mean driving to work or to go shopping. I mean driving just for the fun of it.

F: No, mostly it's a chore⁺ rather than a fun thing to do. Too much heavy traffic, too hard to find a place to park.

M: Then get out of the city. Take the expressway if you're interested in a feeling of speed and power, but I prefer driving out in the countryside. It's very relaxing to be in the fresh air and the sunshine, smelling the woods and crops.

F: I've driven on the highway, too, but I never got that sense of power and speed you were talking about.

M: That's because you drive a compact! You need to get a big car if you really want to enjoy driving!

F: I thought about getting a luxury model, but since I need a car for its utility⁺ value only, I rejected the idea. Gas and taxes are too high, and traffic and parking would be even bigger problems for me if I had a big car.

M: Okay. But you don't know what you're missing.⁺

F: Why don't you take me out on a drive sometime? Then I could get the pleasure too—even more, since I wouldn't have to drive!

Questions

1. What is the main purpose for driving?
2. Why do people drive, even though it is inconvenient and costly, when they could take a bus or subway?



► Dialogue

M: I'm glad I didn't go to college!

F: How can you say that? An education is the most important thing in the world!

M: I agree. But I didn't say I wasn't educated. I said I'm glad I never went to college.

F: But why?

M: Because the really important things I know I couldn't have learned at a university.

F: Such as?

M: Take my job skills, for instance. The only way to learn how to do what I do is by doing it. You can't pick it up from some book.

F: But you don't go to school only to find a job later. You go to broaden* your knowledge about the world.

M: But you don't learn how to live—only life teaches you how to do that. You have to be out in the world on your own. Mistakes are inevitable* but necessary—and no degree* can let you avoid them.

F: But if you broaden your perspective,*



→ **broaden** : make or become wide or wider

→ **inevitable** : impossible to avoid or prevent; certain to happen

→ **degree** : an academic title awarded by a college or university for completing a required course of study

→ **perspective** : outlook (mental or visual)

you'll make fewer of them—and you'll be expecting them, so you can be more philosophical about your goof-ups.⁴ And you'll make valuable contacts⁴ for later on.

M: Anyone on the ball⁴ makes contacts anyway, but the ones I make are in the context of demonstrating that I know how to get things done, not just play social games.

F: You know people with college degrees have higher status⁴ than those who don't.

M: So? For most people it's a fake⁴ status. They don't really learn much at school, they just put in their time and spend their money. They're smarter when they graduate because they're older and more mature—but if they were really living, with a job and family and responsibilities, they'd be even more mature.

► Questions

1. *Is having a college degree all that it is supposed to be, or not?*
2. *Which is better, abstract⁴ knowledge or experience?*

-goof-ups : silly mistakes

-contacts : important people one knows, who can help one with business or other matters

-on the ball : be aware of and understand what is happening and able to react quickly

-status : social, legal or professional position relative to that of others; rank or standing

-fake : false; counterfeit

-abstract : difficult to understand

► Dialogue

F : Did you ever have any women friends?

M : You mean girl friends?

F : No. I mean women who were your friends but with whom you had no romantic attachments.¹

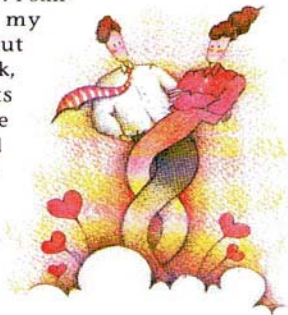
M : Of course I have. Some of my best friends have been women.

F : How is that possible? As soon as you start getting intimate² with each other, one of you—or both of you!—start to get sexually attracted, don't you?

M : Sometimes. That has also happened, where friendship has blossomed into³ love. That's how I got to know my wife, in fact. We were friends long before we were lovers.

F : That's my point, exactly!

M : But it isn't always that way. I still often do things with my women friends. We go out and have a meal or a drink, we go to art exhibits together, we stay in close touch. But my wife would kill me if she thought we were anything more than friends!



F : You mean you are never tempted?⁴

M : I'm no saint.⁴ Sometimes I've been tempted, sure. But not with all of my women friends. And even with the few I have been tempted by, it's never developed into anything since I fell in love with my wife. To give in⁴ to my temptation would destroy my marriage relationship and also my friendship, so I would lose everything.

F : I still find it hard to believe. Certainly, in my experience, I've never gotten close to any man who didn't soon try to take advantage of⁴ me. I think it's just not possible, biologically speaking, to be in constant contact with each other without losing control. It's just instinctual behavior, we can't help it.

M : Maybe you've just never been with the right men. But I assure you, most of them are just people who enjoy the company of good friends whether they are men or women.

Questions

1. *Among your closest friends, are any of them of the opposite sex?*
2. *Is instinct or self-control the most important factor in our dealings with others?*

Dialogue

M: Here's an interesting notion.

F: What is it?

M: It says here that in some cases people who have shorter workweeks may actually produce more than those with longer ones.

F: Does it say in which cases that's true?

M: Sure. It's full of case studies, with a lot of charts and statistics. It's mostly economic mumbo-jumbo.* But it's a fascinating idea, nonetheless.†

F: I can understand how it could be true, though. A worker puts in the same number of hours every day, no matter what he has to do. So if the workload is light, he takes a long time to complete the task, and if it's heavy he has to work harder to keep up.

M: Also, for extremely repetitive‡ tasks like working on an assembly line, the whole job is rather mindless and tiring. Doing it for a short time and taking a lot of breaks is probably the most efficient way of proceeding.

F: If what you're saying is true, why don't we just work less and less so we could spend more time on our hobbies and with our families?

M: Probably Management is still rather old-fashioned. They think the employees should be on the job all day long or they shouldn't be paid.

F: That's probably partly true. But they're all supposed to be looking for a competitive edge.§ If they could be shown that they would get more done this way, they should welcome the chance.



• **mumbo-jumbo** : talk or writing on a technical subject that is difficult to understand and seems to make no sense

• **nonetheless** : nevertheless

• **edge** : an advantage

• **repetitive** : done many times in the same way

M: And you'd think that unions⁺ too would push harder to have more time off. It's a win-win situation⁺ for Labor and Capital both, I should think.

F: Ah, but maybe there's the rub.⁺ If I were a worker who put in 8 hours a day 5 days a week and got paid \$10.00 an hour, I'd make \$400 a week. If you were my boss, you'd jump at⁺ the opportunity to let me work 4 days a week, because then you'd only have to pay me \$320! And, according to this article, I'd be even more productive than I am now, so you'd get more work done and spend less money for it. You'd get rich much faster.

M: But you, the worker, would fall even further behind, because you wouldn't make as much money.

F: The solution, of course, would be to raise my hourly wage to \$12.00 an hour, or a little more, so I'd still have the same pay check as before.

M: But the psychological effects would still wear off.⁺ On light days you would still stretch the time to fit the job, and on heavy days you'd have to struggle to finish on time. After a while, according to this theory, you would soon revert⁺ to your old level of efficiency, only then the company would be paying you a lot more.

F: Maybe the solution would be to vary the work schedule. Some weeks I'd work 5 days a week, but make less per hour, and other weeks I'd only do 4 days but at a higher wage. Maybe the variety would keep me off-balance just enough that I'd stay near my competitive peak.

M: Or maybe you'd resent working an extra day and not making any more money.

Questions

1. What kinds of jobs require the longest hours with the least pay?
2. What kinds of jobs are the cushiest⁺ (the ones that have the most financial rewards for the least effort expended)?

-union : labor union

-win-win situation : a relationship in which everyone involved gains something

-rub : problem or difficulty

-wear off : be slowly reduced in effect

-cushy : very easy

-jump at : eagerly accept the chance to do (sth)

-revert : go back to a former condition



Dialogue

M: I wish they'd stop spending all that money on space exploration.⁺ They could use that cash to relieve⁺ some of the problems we have here on Earth—poverty, overpopulation, the destruction of the ecosystem,⁺ alcoholism—the list is endless.

F: Don't you get excited every time they send a new probe⁺ to some other planet?

M: Not particularly. Maybe it's important to find out more about the universe we live in, but we have more pressing⁺ concerns right here, right now.

F: But don't you realize that almost all of the miniaturization⁺ and the advances in computers have been made possible because of the space program?

M: I didn't say I was entirely opposed. But I think our priorities are a bit skewed.⁺

F: Actually, most of the money has gone into aspects of the space program that have helped us cope with⁺ some of the same problems you mentioned.

M: What do you mean?

F: Well, things like weather satellites. This helps us prepare for imminent⁺ emergencies,⁺ so we're safer. And with all the additional knowledge about weather patterns, farmers can plan better what kind of crops to plant, and when to plant them. So there's more food available.⁺

-explore : travel in or search (an area) for the purpose of discovery

-relieve : lessen or reduce (pain or anxiety, for example); ease

-ecosystem : an ecological community, including plants, animals, and microorganisms, considered together with their environment

-probe : an exploratory penetration

-pressing : needing to be discussed or dealt with very soon; urgent

-miniaturize : make (sth) very small

-skew : distort (sth) in meaning or effect

-cope with : deal well with (sb) or (sth)

-imminent : about to happen

-emergency : a serious situation that happens suddenly and calls for immediate action

-available : capable of being obtained

Communications satellites open up the world to instantaneous⁺ news and information, including cell phones.

M: Okay. I'm also ready to concede⁺ other useful areas—like military defense and espionage.⁺

F: Oh, dear. I wish you hadn't brought that up. Far too much has been spent on war. If the military would keep their hands off⁺ the space program, we could get more useful programs off the ground⁺—and we'd have more money for the problems you're interested in!

M: But strong defense is necessary. It preserves our independence and keeps us out of war.

F: But it's like any other arms race—everybody is trying to devise new defenses against new aggressive technologies, while also developing new technologies to overcome those defenses! It's a self-perpetuating⁺ cycle of destructiveness.

M: It's been going on ever since the first men invented the spear to overcome the longer knife someone had made, and then someone invented a shield, and eventually came bows and arrows and guns. Progress never ends.

F: But we should be spending space money on solving our problems, not creating new ones. And on exploration — eventually,⁺ we're going to have to be able to expand onto the moon and other planets, after we've outgrown⁺ this one.⁺

Questions

1. What has space exploration done to improve your life, if you think it has?
2. Should the UN take control of the space program, on behalf of all mankind rather than the benefit of a few rich nations?

- **instantaneous** : happening without delay; immediate

- **concede** : acknowledge as true, just, or proper; admit

- **espionage** : the act of spying; use of spies

- **keep one's hand off** : do not interfere

- **get off the ground** : start

- **perpetuate** : make (sth) continue to exist for a long time

- **eventually** : after a long time; ultimately

- **outgrown** : past its usefulness

- **this one** : the earth

Dialogue

F: I don't understand these books that rank the greatest people in history.

M: Are you reading one now?

F: Yes. I think the lists are interesting, and I always learn a lot. But I just don't understand how one can compare the very different achievements of great men—and great women, too, of course.

M: Well, let's see. Napoleon was certainly one of the greatest generals in history—

F: Yes.

M: —But he was defeated at Waterloo by Wellington. So, is Wellington the greater general?

F: Even before Waterloo, Wellington had defeated Napoleon's armies in Spain. But Napoleon is always rated much higher on the scale⁺ of greatness.

M: It's probably because Napoleon was not only a general. He was a self-made man who seized⁺ power in France, introduced many new laws, and changed the political situation in Europe forever. Even though he eventually lost on the battlefield, his accomplishments were permanent.⁺

F: But Wellington also became the British prime minister.

M: That's true—but he was a much better general than he was a statesman. So, in the totality⁺ of their impact,⁺



Napoleon was more important than Wellington.

F: Yes, I have no problem with that analysis.* And I think reasonable judgments can be formed about the relative importance of other political and military figures*—even if an absolute consensus* is not possible.

M: So, what's your problem?

F: How can you compare the relative merits of great people in other fields?

M: What do you mean?

F: I mean we can look at Genghis Khan and Napoleon and Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar, for instance, and see that they all did similar things. And we can form a judgment about which one had the greatest impact. But how can we compare their achievements with dissimilar* careers? How can we say that Napoleon was greater than Goethe—who never led an army or governed a country, but is considered one of the greatest geniuses* in history?

M: Hmmmm. That's a good point. I'll have to think about that.

F: A scientist like Einstein. A composer like Bach. A poet like Shakespeare. A philosopher like Plato. A religious leader like Muhammed. All of these people achieved great things, and they still affect our lives. But how can we decide which one is "better" than another? They're all so different.

M: It's like comparing apples and oranges.

F: Or more like comparing apples with Apple computers or Apple Records.

Questions

1. Who are the 10 most important people in history?
2. Who are the most important people in the world today?

F : Yeah?

M : Yeah. And one of his most powerful poems was something like—I don't know it exactly—but something like, "If we have to die, it shouldn't be like wild pigs, surrounded by dogs. We should die like men, pressed against the wall, fighting against the vicious⁺ pack."⁺ The poem is better, of course. It's called "If We Must Die," or something like that.

F : I'd like to read it sometime. It sounds like a pretty good poem.

M : It is. But the irony of it all was that Churchill was trying to get more help from the US to resist the Germans. So he used a poem written against American racism to make his point, without knowing it, by a man who himself had fled from British rule.

F : Wow. He could easily have offended the Americans, and the US could have completely cut off any more aid.

M : That's right. But fortunately Franklin Roosevelt, the American president, didn't know anything about McKay either, so no harm was done.⁺

F: Me, too. How do you stand⁺ the eager anticipation of the Olympics every four years? As they get closer and closer, I can hardly take⁺ it.

M: I used to be that way. But the commercial⁺ and nationalistic aspects have taken away a lot of the fun for me. It used to be that Olympic athletes were strictly amateur, that they dedicated themselves to physical perfection out of the sheer⁺ love of the sport. But now we get to "enjoy" big-name tennis and basketball stars, who make millions of dollars every year, show off⁺ their superior skills.

F: In some ways, maybe this does take away from the ones who don't get paid, who struggle and struggle just for the ideal of physical perfection. On the other hand, it's a thrill to watch the ones perform who have mastered their craft⁺ so thoroughly.⁺

M: Too many of them are more worried about their paycheck than they are about their athleticism.⁺ They act like spoiled kids, not like dedicated adults.

Questions

1. Is it better to play a sport badly or to watch great players perform?
2. Would you encourage your children to become professional athletes, even at the cost of sacrificing their education?

Dialogue

F : I'm shopping for a new computer. Want to tag along?⁺

M : Okay. What's wrong with your old one?

F : Nothing. It's just old, that's all.

M : How old is it?

F : I guess about 2 years.

M : That's not very old. Does it work?

F : It works fine. But it's slow. I want to get a system with more speed and memory.

M : Why?

F : I plan on integrating⁺ all of my home entertainment functions—stereo, TV, games, DVD, and so on—into one system, plus my phone and microwave oven and other electronics, so I can easily manage it all. Even if I'm not at home, I can control the temperature, fix a hot meal. It will make everything more convenient.

M : Why don't you just get a robot that will do all of your work for you? Cook, clean, pay your bills, take care of your kids?

F : I'd love to! But I don't think we've come that



far yet, have we?

M: Aren't you afraid of losing your humanity⁺ by depending too much on machines? Isn't it work that defines us as human beings?

F: Partly. But we can all work more efficiently with mechanical or electronic help. And we don't have to do the stupid, repetitive acts all the time. They can be taken care of quite nicely, and flawlessly,⁺ by machines.

M: But they're all part of the process. It's like using a spell checker with a word processor. The programs can't tell if we want the word "bad" or "bed", as long as it's spelled correctly.

F: But it will still catch a lot of other silly errors that we would overlook,⁺ because we're already conditioned to see what we think we wrote. Like "thier" for instance.

M: The more high-tech society becomes, the more people are trying to go back to the basics,⁺ to make things by hand, to do all the hard work that has been made unnecessary.

F: And that's good, if it gives them personal satisfaction. But the rest of us are freed up to do other things in life every day. We have more time to exercise, or contemplate,⁺ or create, or meditate....⁺

M: Or just vegetate,⁺ in most cases. Watch more TV, eat more

fast food. Some day, humans will become obsolete⁴ because machines can do everything better. And then the machines will take over,⁴ and mankind will either become extinct⁴ or pointless.⁴

F : You exaggerate.⁴

M : People are already slaves to their mobile phones or computers or automobiles. Soon we'll all be slaves⁴ to the robot society.

F : Don't be silly.⁴ Robots will never need slaves, because they can do all the work better than we can. They wouldn't need us for anything.

M : Exactly!

► Questions

1. *Is it possible to become too dependent upon machines? How?*
2. *If robots and computers actually did everything for us, what would we do?*

- **obsolete** : no longer in use or in fashion
- **take over** : accept or claim the control or management of (sth)
- **extinct** : no longer existing or living
- **pointless** : with no purpose or meaning
- **exaggerate** : speak or write about (sth) as if greater or more important than is really the case
- **slave** : a person completely controlled by a specified person or influence
- **Don't be silly** : Don't be foolish

► Dialogue

M: I'm in the neighborhood.⁴ How about meeting me for a beer and some talk?

F: I can't right now. My favorite show is on!

M: No problem. Just tape⁴ it and watch it later.

F: That's a good idea. I never thought of that.

M: Not only does that let you watch TV at your own convenience,⁴ but it also lets you fast-forward through the commercials.⁴

F: You don't like commercials? Sometimes they're the best part of the show.

M: Not after you've seen them a dozen times already. But, usually, they're pretty bad anyway.

F: Don't you realize how skillful their makers are? They have to establish a character and a situation—and sell you a product, too!—in less than a minute. Makers of movies and television shows now apply the same cinematic techniques that the commercials pioneered.⁴ That's why modern films seem to be much faster-paced than the ones of even 20 years ago.

M: But I don't like the mind games⁴ that they play. A simple advertisement basically just gives me the facts and tells me to buy a product, but commercials want to take away my self-will.⁴



- **in the neighborhood** : in the area near a particular place
- **tape** : record (sounds or pictures) on magnetic tape
- **at one's convenience** : at a time or place which is suitable for (sb)
- **commercial** : an advertisement on radio or television
- **pioneer** : be involved in the early development of (sth)
- **mind games** : using trickery or subtlety to distract, confuse, or influence
- **self-will** : determination to do what (sb) wants without hindrance

F: So do print ads. Most of the techniques of modern advertising were developed in the 1920s, long before TV. The only difference is that we call print advertisements "ads" and TV advertisements "commercials." But they have the same purpose and use the same psychology. The commercials just have the added benefits of sound and movement, that's all. And they reach a larger audience, so they cost more.

M: I don't know. The ads seem pretty straightforward⁴ to me, not so manipulative.⁴

F: You've just been brainwashed.⁴ Just look closely at the language that is used and the image that is conveyed. Sometimes they even have hidden "subliminal"⁴ messages embedded.⁴

M: Really?

F: Sure. A real famous example was an American whiskey ad that had naked women in the ice cubes. They weren't obvious, but if you looked really closely you could see them.

M: I'm amazed!

F: Meanwhile, I'm missing my favorite show, commercials and all. Get off⁴ the phone, and I'll put in a blank tape and meet you on the corner in 5 minutes.

M: Okay.

Questions

1. Who pays for "free" television? Why?
2. Do you buy things because you see them advertised on TV or in print, or because they have been recommended to you by people you know?

- straightforward : honest, frank

- manipulate : influence or manage (sb) or (sth) in a clever or dishonest way

- brainwash : persuade (sb) by intense means, such as repeated suggestion, to adopt a belief or behave in a certain way

- subliminal : affecting the mind without being made aware of the cause

- embed : contain or implant as an essential part

- get off : stop using

► Dialogue

M: You know the expression "too many chiefs and not enough Indians"?

F: Sure. It means that there are too many so-called leaders, but there aren't enough other people around for them to lead. Everybody wants to be in charge, but nobody wants to follow orders.

M: What's wrong with that? We're all supposed to be leaders, aren't we?

F: You can't be a leader unless others follow you. Everybody can't be the leader all the time.

M: Then how do we tell¹ if someone is basically a leader or a follower?

F: I don't know. I suppose that the ones who have independent judgment are least likely to be followers. However, they are not necessarily leaders, because they may just do things on their own.

M: What do you mean?

F: Well, people who just blindly obey² the law, no matter what. They are usually conformists,³ and they are most likely to be mere followers.

M: You mean criminals are leaders?

F: Usually not, because they don't want anyone else to know that they are law-breakers. Then they might go to jail or face heavy fines. So they might not be leaders, since they don't have anyone to follow them, but they certainly aren't followers themselves. They don't pay any attention to the rules that society forces the others to obey.

¹-tell : be able to see clearly; distinguish; know

²-obey : comply with (a request, an order, or a law)

³-conformist : a person who abides by current customs, rules, or styles

M: Well then, in everyday life, then, how can we tell the difference between leaders and followers? How does one become one rather than the other?

F: It's hard to generalize.* But I think that people who spend a lot of time watching television may learn a lot, but they tend to be very passive. They don't challenge anything they see or hear, they just absorb* everything like a sponge. But people who read serious* books are probably more independent-minded. They take time to weigh* the arguments and make a critical* judgment on their own.

M: OK. Thanks a lot. I'll see you later.

F: What's the sudden hurry?

M: Well, if you think a leader needs to be a deep reader, maybe I better go out and buy some philosophy books.

F: But if you were a real leader, you wouldn't just do something because I told you.



Questions

1. Why are we willing to follow anyone else?
2. Give some examples of leaders today whom you admire.

► Dialogue

F: The American court system is undemocratic!

M: Why do you think so? People are tried⁺ by a "jury⁺" of their peers,"⁺ unless they choose to have only a judge decide.

F: That part is good, but it's still undemocratic.

M: How so?

F: Well, in a democracy decisions are made by voting—the majority wins. But a jury has to reach a unanimous⁺ decision. Everybody has to agree on guilt or innocence, or they have to have a new trial.

M: Not everything is decided by a simple majority.⁺ For example, some very serious kinds of business, such as ratifying⁺ a treaty, need a 2/3 majority. Does that make it undemocratic?

F: I think so. To me, a democracy means majority rule—even if it's only a majority of one person.

M: That might work okay for most things. After all, tomorrow someone may change his mind and the majority might vote the other way. This could be a very chaotic⁺ situation, and it would sure make it hard to make any plans. But maybe



- try (sb) : examine evidence in a court of law and decide whether (sb) is innocent or guilty
- jury : a group of persons sworn to decide a case or give a verdict by examining the evidence in a court
- peer : a person who has equal standing with others, as in rank, class, or age
- unanimous : showing complete agreement
- simple majority : any number over 50%
- ratify : formally approve an agreement, treaty, law, etc.
- chaos : great disorder or confusion

this instability would be a small price to pay for constant citizen involvement.

F : That's the way I look at it.

M : But it works because the vote may not be permanent and can be changed relatively easily, as the situation changes or as we know more about it. But sometimes we need to have more stability than that. We need to be pretty sure that we're making the right choice, because changing it might be very hard. A treaty, for instance—this needs the agreement of at least two countries, and should be considered a relatively permanent condition. Otherwise, there could never be any trust between nations.

F : But sometimes treaties need to be changed.

M : Sure. And then they are renegotiated. But it's all a very long, deliberate⁴ process in which both parties try to get the best deal.⁴ But neither side wants the other one to keep changing its mind every day!

F : Besides, you changed the subject. I was talking about a jury!

M : But the principle is the same. If we're going to punish someone severely⁴—maybe take his life⁴—we should be as careful as we can. If we change our mind tomorrow, we can't bring a dead man back to life and say "Oops, I'm sorry. We thought it over and decided you're innocent after all." But if, after seeing the evidence, all of us think you're guilty, we probably won't change our mind later on.

Questions

1. Should ordinary citizens make legal decisions, or should the matter be left to the experts such as lawyers and judges?
2. In ancient times, the Greeks had a lottery before each battle to decide who their general would be that day. What do you think about that procedure?

Dialogue

F : You look tired today.

M : A hard day at the office.

F : Why don't you slow down⁺ some?⁺ You only live once.

M : I can't. I have too many responsibilities. I'm up to my neck in debt,⁺ and if I don't bust my butt⁺ right now I won't get a promotion I've been waiting for.

F : But if you get promoted, won't you have to work even harder?

M : I suppose so. But I'll make more money and my family will be better off.⁺

F : That's very noble⁺ of you. But you have a right to enjoy the fruits of your labor too.

M : Last year we went to Europe for vacation.

F : I know, you told me. As I recall, even in Paris you had to do business on the phone and prepare some kind of financial analysis so it would be ready when you got back to work. It doesn't sound like much of a vacation!

M : When I took the job I knew what the requirements were. I have no one to blame but myself.

F : Why didn't you get a different job?

M : It was available



-slow down : go at a slower speed; be less active

-some : somewhat

-up to one's neck in debt : owe a lot of money

-bust one's butt : work or perform to one's utmost

-better off : have more money -noble : excellent and admirable

and I needed to make a lot of money. But I'm pretty tired of it. Every day, it's the same old thing.

F : Why don't you quit and do something you like?

M : I have too much time and effort invested, I'm too old and tired to start over,^{*} and I can't afford to change. How do you get through the week looking so happy all the time?

F : Just lucky, I guess. I've never been particularly crazy^{*} about money, so I looked around until I found something I'd enjoy. I don't get to take vacations in France, and I don't have a lot of material possessions, but I'm not often bored with my job. In fact, sometimes I don't even want to leave and go home until I'm finished.

M : That sounds terrific. I wish I still had that attitude.

F : On the other hand, I'm getting older too. I don't have much saved up or invested. I'm enjoying life now, but what about later on? And, meanwhile, I regret not being able to do things like spending time in Florence. I would really love to see those museums and churches! But I'll probably never have the chance.

M : There must be some sort of compromise.^{*} Why should we have to choose between love and money?

F : Life just isn't fair, is it?

Questions

1. *Are you interested in seeing the churches and museums in Florence? What would you rather do, if you had the chance?*
2. *Which is better, a demanding job that you have to sacrifice yourself to in exchange for great financial reward, or one that is easy and allows you a lot of free time even though you do not have much money?*

-start over : begin again

-crazy : full of enthusiasm or excitement

-compromise : the settlement of differences in which all sides give up something

Dialogue

F : I've got to rush. My son will be home from school any minute.

M : You shouldn't run your life according to his schedule. Take some time for yourself.

F : That sounds very nice, but it's not easy to do. My kids need me, and I don't want to let them down.⁺

M : You should find a middle way, so you can take care of your children and take care of yourself, too.

F : But that's not easy to do.

M : When I was a kid, I was always frustrated⁺ when my parents wouldn't let me do whatever I wanted. I didn't feel that they had the right to run⁺ my life.

F : I felt that way as well. I could hardly wait to leave home and be on my own.



M: And now look at yourself. You still don't do things because you want to do them, you do things because you think your children need you to do them.

F: Ironical,* isn't it? I thought the first half of my life was being ruined by my parents, but now the second half is being ruined by my kids.

M: Do something about it.

F: What?

M: Give your kids more opportunity to make decisions on their own. Let them be more responsible for living their own lives, without your involvement or intervention.* That way they won't feel the same way you did when you were growing up, and you'll have more time for yourself. It's a win-win* situation.

F: I wish it were as easy as you make it sound.

M: It is! Just give it a try, you'll see.

Questions

1. How much choice should children have in deciding what to do with their lives (playing a musical instrument, where to go to school, what to study, who to marry and when)?
2. If children fail in life, is it their fault or their parents'?

- irony : a conflict between what might be expected and what really happens

- intervene : come between people, groups, etc. who are disagreeing, in order to help make an agreement possible

- win-win : providing an advantage to both sides, as in a negotiation

Dialogue

M: "It is better to die on your feet than live on your knees."

F: What? Were you speaking to me?

M: Oh, I was just repeating a phrase I heard last night. "It is better to die on your feet than live on your knees."

F: Cool.* Who said that?

M: Probably lots of people. Whenever someone is protesting against gross* unfairness.

F: It sounds like something Winston Churchill might have said.

M: He might have. Indeed, I know he said something similar in a speech at the beginning of World War II.

F: Really? You mean Churchill really did say that?



M: I don't remember if that's what he said. Exactly, or not. I'd have to look it up.⁺ But it was something like that. He was quoting a sonnet.⁺

F: Poetry? Churchill?

M: Sure. He did it quite often. He was a great orator⁺ himself, but he also used a lot of other people's words when he was trying to build England's confidence against Hitler's invasion.

F: I didn't know that. That's very interesting.

M: In fact, it's even more interesting than that.

F: In what way?

M: He probably wasn't aware of the identity of the author, he just liked the stirring⁺ sentiment.

F: So?

M: Well, the poet was a Jamaican named Claude McKay.

F: So?

M: Jamaica was still a British colony. McKay had fled British oppression and ended up in New York, in Harlem.

F: OK. So?

M: In America, he just found more bigotry⁺ and racism. He got more and more bitter, and more and more radical⁺ in his political orientation.⁺

- **look up** : search for and find (sth), as in a reference book

- **sonnet** : a 14-line poem with one of several usual rhyme schemes

- **orator** : a person noted for giving public speeches

- **stirring** : causing strong feelings

- **bigotry** : extreme unwillingness to accept the possibility that an idea differing from one's own may be correct

- **radical** : advocating extreme or revolutionary changes, as in politics or government

- **orientation** : a person's choices in religion, politics, or sexuality

F : Yeah?

M : Yeah. And one of his most powerful poems was something like—I don't know it exactly—but something like, "If we have to die, it shouldn't be like wild pigs, surrounded by dogs. We should die like men, pressed against the wall, fighting against the vicious⁺ pack."⁺ The poem is better, of course. It's called "If We Must Die," or something like that.

F : I'd like to read it sometime. It sounds like a pretty good poem.

M : It is. But the irony of it all was that Churchill was trying to get more help from the US to resist the Germans. So he used a poem written against American racism to make his point, without knowing it, by a man who himself had fled from British rule.

F : Wow. He could easily have offended the Americans, and the US could have completely cut off any more aid.

M : That's right. But fortunately Franklin Roosevelt, the American president, didn't know anything about McKay either, so no harm was done.⁺

► Questions

1. What does "irony" mean? In what way was the Churchill speech ironic?
2. Which is REALLY better, do you think: "dying on your feet" or "living on your knees"? Why?

► Dialogue

M : That's it! That's my last cigarette!

F : No it isn't. You still have most of a pack in your pocket.

M : I know that. But I mean that I've smoked my last cigarette. I promised myself this morning that I'd have one more today, after lunch, and then I wouldn't ever smoke another one.

F : Do you think you can quit just like that, cold turkey?⁺

M : Sure. Why not? It just takes a little will power, that's all.

F : But what you need is "won't" power. Have you ever tried to stop before?

M : Well, yes. But I didn't really mean it then.⁺

F : Why are you so sure you're serious⁺ now?

M : Yesterday my doctor told me I'd better quit. He was worried about cancer. We did some tests, and I'm all right, but I was very concerned for a while.

F : That's how both of my parents quit smoking. They were in the hospital, and the doctor said don't smoke anymore, and they didn't. My father said it was easy, he didn't even think about it even though he'd smoked for 20 or 30 years, but my mother said she missed tobacco a lot and really had to struggle against temptation.⁺

M : So it can be done!

F : Sure. But it's hard. Most people only last for a few days, and then they start right in again.

M : Do you have any other ideas?

-cold turkey : sudden and complete withdrawal from the use of an addictive substance

-I didn't really mean it then : My intentions were not yet serious

-serious : earnest; sincere

-tempt : attract (sb) to do (sth), esp. something unwise, wrong, or immoral

F : Well, if this doesn't work, why don't you set up a schedule of reduced intake? How many cigarettes do you smoke each day?

M : I don't know. Maybe 20.

F : Okay, start rationing⁺ your daily supply. Tomorrow, count out 19. When you smoke the last one, that's it for the day! No excuses. Then, the next day, just allow yourself 18. And so on. That way you can wean⁺ yourself away from your nicotine dependency gradually.

M : That sounds like a good idea. Anything else?

F : Keep your hands and mouth busy. Have some gum or candy to chew on when you want to smoke.

M : So far, this sounds pretty easy. Anything else?

F : Keep away from situations in which you usually smoke. Don't go to bars or nightclubs, or restaurants where people smoke.

M : Oh. Maybe this won't be so easy after all. I look forward to hanging out⁺ with the boys every night. Maybe I'd better think about this.



Questions

1. Do you smoke? Have you ever tried to quit? Share your experiences.
2. What is the hardest habit you've ever tried to break? Were you successful? How did you do it?

-ration : limit the use of (sth)

-wean : stop (sb) from doing (sth) that has become a habit

-hang out : go often to or spend time at a certain place; spend time in a casual way, usually as part of a crowd of intimates

Dialogue



M: Don't eat that tomato!

F: What? Why not?

M: Can't you read the label? That's been genetically modified.⁺

F: Um. So?

M: Don't you know what that means?

F: It means that biologists have changed the genetics of this tomato to make it grow bigger or juicier or tastier. So it's a better tomato than a natural one.

M: You still don't get it,⁺ do you? Nobody knows the long-term bad effects of fooling around⁺ with the genes. Many experts are convinced that everything in nature has a purpose, and so removing or changing even one gene may have unforeseen⁺ and horrendous⁺ effects.

F: You mean like the appendix?⁺ Probably one time, tens of thousands of years ago, it served a real purpose in our bodies. But now it's a big health risk, and doctors routinely remove it if they are performing other surgery. And we don't even notice that it's gone!

M: Yeah, I've heard that argument before. You could say the same thing about the remnant⁺ of the tail that our ancestors once had, or maybe even male nipples. They don't have any function, they are just useless appendages.⁺

F: That's right.

M: But they're just superstructure, like the rest of the body. Even important things like arms and legs can be

compensated⁴ for if they are damaged. But the genetic structure is much different. It's the basis for the entire human structure. And once altered, it can't be changed back to the way it was again. The "new humanity" starts to reproduce,⁴ and within a single generation there's an entirely new species.

F : But we're not talking about human genetic engineering.⁴ We're talking about growing better food. A tomato is a pretty simple organism, not a super-complicated design like a person.

M : But we'd better not be messing with⁴ things we don't understand. The consequences could be dire⁴ indeed.

F : You sound like a Luddite,⁴ opposed to any and every technological advance just because you don't understand it fully yourself.

Questions

1. *Cloning is the making of an exact duplicate⁴ of some organism, though not in an adult form. Should human beings be cloned? Why?*
2. *Are there any forms of scientific research that should not be pursued, under any circumstance? (for instance, new, even more destructive weapons; human genetic manipulation; psychological conditioning?)*



Dialogue

F : Do you remember my friend Pam?

M : Who could forget Pam! I've never known anyone who was as much trouble as Pam! But I didn't think she was your "friend."

F : Of course she was. Basically, she was a good person. People just misunderstood her, that's all.

M : Misunderstood! That's an understatement* if ever there was one. I thought she would do anything for money.

F : Not anything. She was certainly ambitious, but she wasn't a thief or a prostitute.*

M : Ambitious? She was unscrupulous!* She might not have been a street girl,* but she didn't mind using her body to get what she wanted.

F : You're being too hard* on her.

M : I don't think so. How many times did she get engaged, only to break it off for a hefty* settlement? How many times did she get divorced? Each time, she came out of her "big romance" considerably* richer than before.

F : You just don't understand Pam. She always meant well, but she always fell in love too easily and never realized it until it was too late.

M : Too late for him, maybe—but she seems to have done all right for herself.

F : A girl has to look after herself. The men she got involved with were just horrid* human beings!

M : And well-heeled,* coincidentally.*

→ **understatement** : a statement that makes (sth) seem less important, impressive, serious, etc. than it really is

→ **prostitute** : a person who performs sexual acts with others for pay

→ **unscrupulous** : without moral principles; not honest or fair

→ **street girl** : prostitute → **hard** : harsh; rough; cruel

→ **hefty** : large in size or amount → **considerable** : a lot of; much

→ **horrid** : causing horror; horrible; extremely disagreeable; offensive

→ **well-heeled** : having a lot of money

→ **coincidental** : happening by chance; not planned

F : You're too cynical¹ for your own good.

M : Maybe that's how I managed to keep out of Pam's clutches.²

F : She was certainly better off without you, that's for sure. But I think she's finally found someone suitable.

M : Oh? So you heard from her?

F : Yes. I got a nice letter yesterday. She enclosed some snapshots³ of her new beau.⁴

M : I should have guessed! Another rich one, I bet!

F : Just goes to show how wrong you are. He's as poor as a church mouse!⁵ But he's sweet and hard-working, and he thinks the world of⁶ Pat. That's what she says, anyway.

M : Well, I must admit I'm surprised. Maybe she has a heart⁷ in her chest after all, not just a safe deposit box. What else does she say?

F : She's helping him get through school, and he's set to graduate this spring. And he has great prospects⁸—he's already getting major job offers!

M : In what field?

F : He's planning on being a big corporate lawyer.

M : Now, this sounds like the Pam I know! It's the same old story. The names have been changed, but the plot⁹ remains the same.

Questions

1. Do you know anyone who uses his or her own charm exclusively¹ for self-advantage?
2. Why are successful men willing to pay large sums of money to pretty women?

1-cynical : refusing to believe in goodness or honesty in people's actions

2-clutches : grasp; power or control

3-snapshot : an informal photograph taken with a small hand-held camera

4-beau : boyfriend

5-think the world of : place in the highest esteem; admire; be fond of

6-heart : the capacity to feel sympathy, kindness, or concern

7-prospects : chances for success or recovery

8-exclusive : not shared with others

9-as poor as a church mouse : very poor

10-plot : a secret plan to accomplish an often illegal purpose

Dialogue

M: Ah! I remember when I was young. I had lots of friends I could pal around with,⁺ and we were always having fun together.

F: That's nice.

M: We were always doing something exciting—going swimming or playing football. Later on, it was going out on the town after work. We'd hit⁺ five or six clubs a night before going home.

F: Sounds like a good time.

M: It was, indeed. And on weekends, I always had a date. A new girlfriend every month or so. Always beautiful, always well-groomed⁺. Talk about good times!

F: Yes. I imagine so. What happened?

M: Well, eventually I found the woman of my life! It was love at first sight, let me tell you. From the moment I saw her, I knew I wanted to spend the rest of my life with her.

F: Did she feel the same way?

M: No, she was pretty aloof⁺ at first. But I persisted. And finally she started going out with me. I stopped hanging around⁺ with my buddies and, of course, I stopped dating other women. Six months later we got married.

F: How romantic.

M: Yes. And then she got pregnant. I was working two jobs every day, just to make ends meet.⁺ I was a maniac⁺ for money!



-pal around with (sb) : do things with (sb) as a friend

-well-groomed : looking clean, neat and carefully dressed

-hang around : spend time in a certain place; linger about

-make ends meet : earn just enough money to be able to buy the things you need

-maniac : a person who has an extremely strong desire or enthusiasm for (sth) to an extent that other people think is not normal

-hit : go to

-aloof : reserved; not showing interest

And it all went for her and the child.

F : I'm glad things worked out for you.

M : Who says they worked out? While I was out working, she was sitting around home getting older and fatter. When I'd come home, either she wouldn't get off the phone to talk to me, or she'd bring up anything just to pick⁺ a fight.

F : How terrible.

M : I put up with⁺ it as long as I could. But eventually I just couldn't stand it anymore. We finally broke up.⁺ She got the house and custody⁺ of the child, and I still have to send her money every month.

F : Well, at least you're free now.

M : That's right, I'm free: I'm not worth anything. My old friends have all moved on to other things, they don't have time for me any more. And I'm not the young stud⁺ I used to be. The gorgeous women are no longer interested in me, and I don't have enough spare money to take any of the other ones out. I'm lonely and depressed, and I don't see any prospects for improvement.

F : Why are you telling me all of this?

M : I was hoping to ask you out on a date. I thought maybe you could turn my life around.⁺

F : I'm sorry. I already have a boyfriend.

Questions

1. In your opinion, does the woman really have a boyfriend? Why do you think that way?
2. How can anyone find the balance between working hard to maintain a family's needs, and taking time off from work to spend more time with the family?

-pick : provoke

-break up : come to an end

-stud : a sexually attractive or sexually active man

-turn around : change position or direction

-put up with : endure (sb) or (sth) without complaint

-custody : the legal right or duty to take care of or keep (sb) or (sth)

Dialogue



M : Somebody should do something about AIDS.

F : It's one of the most-studied diseases in the world, but so far nobody is close to discovering a cure. So what can we do?

M : There are drugs available that slow down the progress of the disease. But they're enormously expensive. We need to get them to the people who need them the most, usually the poorest on earth.

F : How? By forcing the pharmaceuticals⁺ to cut their margins?⁺ The drug companies spend a lot of money on research, and by the time all their tests and approvals are completed, their patents⁺ are ready to expire.⁺ So they only have a short window of opportunity⁺ to make a profit.

-the pharmaceuticals : pharmaceutical companies

-margin : the difference between what a business pays for something and what they sell it for

-patent : the right granted to an inventor to be the only manufacturer or seller of an invention for a specified number of years

-expire : come to an end; terminate

-short window of opportunity : brief period of time available to accomplish (sth)

M: But in this case they should be forced to minimize their costs to the patients, given the seriousness of the disease and the threat that it poses to us all.

F: If they couldn't make any money from their research, they wouldn't perform any. And we'd all be denied⁴ new medicines in the future.

M: I still think their profits are exorbitant.⁴ They should be regulated⁴ in the public interest.⁴ But, meanwhile, someone should start raising money to buy the drugs at the best bulk⁴ rates they can get for charitable distribution.

F: I agree with you about that. Unfortunately, most of the victims these days live in countries where corrupt⁴ officials pocket⁴ most of the money. Even worldwide charities, even UN groups, have difficulties making sure the supplies are properly handed out.⁴

M: And educational programs! In a few instances, people used to get AIDS from blood transfusions, but most hospitals and blood banks have changed the rules, so that is not very common any more. Almost all AIDS cases these days have two causes: using infected needles to shoot drugs, and unprotected sex.

F: Though the program is still very controversial,⁴ some cities and countries give drug addicts clean needles. But that seems to me like encouraging bad behavior. We should be making it harder for druggies⁴ to get a fix,⁴ not easier!

- **deny** : refuse to grant or allow (sth)
- **exorbitant** : going beyond normal limits; too much
- **regulate** : control or direct (sth) according to a rule or law
- **interest** : benefit; advantage
- **bulk** : great size, mass, or volume
- **corrupt** : willing to take money in exchange for special treatment
- **pocket** : take possession of (sth) dishonestly
- **hand out** : distribute or give out
- **controversial** : causing argument or debate
- **druggie** : a habitual user of illegal drugs
- **fix** : an amount of (sth), especially a narcotic drug

- M:** Don't be so moralistic. Having a drug problem is bad enough, but why make it worse for the users than it already is? An overdose⁺ may well kill them, but that's better than the slow, lingering⁺ death from AIDS. Besides, they have lovers who they can pass the disease to.
- F:** Not if they practice safe sex. There's only a very tiny⁺ chance of getting AIDS if you use a condom every time you make love.⁺
- M:** That's where education comes in. No matter how much it costs, we have to get people to change their habits.
- F:** You forget that a lot of the unprotected sex is practiced by people who are not fully rational. Often they have been drinking heavily or under the influence of drug, and their judgment is impaired.⁺ That's the same reason it's hard to get drunk drivers off the road.
- M:** It can be done, but nobody said it would be easy. And there's one other thing that can be done, as well.
- F:** What's that?

M: Start showing some real human sympathy for the victims,⁺ instead of treating them like they got what's coming to them for their "immoral" behavior. Whatever they did, however they came down with⁺ the disease, whether they were thoughtless one time or whether they have a thoroughly reckless lifestyle, or if they were just innocent victims of circumstance—they are really just poor, suffering human beings who are going to die a very miserable death very soon. They should be treated like any other sick people, that's all.

Questions

1. What are the easiest ways to avoid getting AIDS?
2. Should we morally condemn⁺ people who become sick due to their own foolish behavior? What about obese⁺ people? What about people who drink or smoke?



Dialogue

M: For some 300 years, capitalism has really developed. It has changed the world. More people live longer and enjoy more happiness than ever before in history.

F: But it's not because of the capitalists! If they had their way, workers would just be another cost factor to be exploited.* Pay them as little as possible, work them as hard as possible, and then when they're worn out from labor, junk* them and replace them with newer, stronger ones.

M: Yes, I agree that early capitalists thought that way. And some still would if they were allowed to. But having affluent* customers of your goods is even more valuable than having cheap labor.

F: So, things got better because of the capitalists' enlightened* self-interest, is that what you're trying to tell me?

M: In part. But, also, capitalist society also led to democratic government. And workers who vote are able to look after themselves pretty well. The workplace is safer, jobs are more secure, and programs are created to look after people who can't work.

F: But the capitalists resist every effort to make other people's lives better. They don't want to sacrifice even a little bit of their own fabulous* wealth to make the world a better place to live. But they sure do have enough to buy the politicians they want!

M: Left to his own devices,* the typical capitalist would be pretty selfish, I agree. But, usually, he's not left to his own devices.

- **exploit** : make use of (sb) or (sth) selfishly or unethically
- **junk** : throw away (sth) as worn-out or useless
- **affluent** : wealthy
- **enlighten** : attain spiritual or intellectual understanding
- **fabulous** : almost impossible to believe; incredible; astonishing
- **leave to (one's) own devices** : allow (sb) to do as he or she pleases

F : Then why don't we just finish the job and create a socialist society? Its entire purpose is to make people equal economically. If the wealth were more evenly* distributed, a few people wouldn't hoard* far more money than they need at the expense of* the many who don't have enough to live.

M : The problem is, if people cannot benefit from their own hard work and foresight,* they don't bother to work hard and look ahead. That's why most of the Communist societies collapsed.* Nobody was allowed to pursue his own benefit, and then there wasn't enough benefit to go around. Society as a whole, and the people in it, became economically equal, all right—they all became poorer and poorer.

F : That's only an extreme example. Lots of noncommunist socialist governments have done very well for their citizens. Health care is provided for them, they live in decent homes and go to good schools. The worst poverty is eliminated* from their midst.* What's wrong with that?

M : Nothing. But that's because capitalists are still allowed to make money and bring out new, improved goods and services. You must realize, though, that everyone pays really high taxes, and the government services that are provided are usually third- or fourth-rate. They're better than nothing, but not top-notch.*

Questions

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of capitalism?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of socialism?

- **evenly** : equally

- **at the expense of** : causing pain or financial loss to (sb)

- **foresight** : care or provision for the future

- **collapse** : fall down

- **from their midst** : among them

- **hoard** : gather up and store a supply

- **eliminate** : get rid of; remove

- **top-notch** : first-rate; excellent

► Dialogue

M: I work hard. So does my wife. But we don't seem to be getting anywhere. Life is just as hard as it was when we were starting out. And yet, the very rich are getting even richer.

F: No, it's not fair, is it?

M: No. But I wish we could do something about it.

F: That's just the way it is, I guess, and always has been.

M: But why?

F: If you spend all day working, you don't have the time or energy to look out for easier ways to make money. You have a job to do, you can't spend your whole day wheeling and dealing.⁺

M: And you don't have enough money for your own needs, well enough give it to other people in the form of bribes.⁺

F: That's right.

M: I've got two kids in college, and a big wedding to pay for in the fall. I don't know how I'm going to manage.

F: I know what you're talking about. I'm still paying for that Las Vegas vacation we took last month. I don't see how we can afford to go somewhere like that next year and still get a new car. Keeping up with the bills⁺ is driving us nuts!⁺

M: I know. The mortgage,⁺ insurance,⁺ car payments. And

- **wheel and deal** : make money or use influence, sometimes dishonestly
- **bribe** : something such as money, property, or position, given to (sb) in order to influence that person
- **bill** : a statement of charges for goods supplied or work performed
- **drive (sb) nuts** : annoy (sb) very much
- **mortgage** : a legal promise to give property to a creditor if payment is not made on a loan or debt
- **insurance** : the business of guaranteeing to pay for specified losses in the future, as for accident, illness, theft, or death, in return for payment

now my youngest daughter wants to get a nose job.⁴ She says that she's too self-conscious about her looks, and if she's going to find a suitable husband, she has to compete against all those other girls who have had cosmetic surgery.⁴ What's next?

F : If only we were rich, none of this would matter. We could afford it all.

M : I know. It's so unfair.

Questions

1. What do these two have to complain about? Are they poor?
2. How much money is "enough"?



► Dialogue

F : What are you doing?

M : Looking at my old high school yearbook.

F : Can I see?

M : Of course.

F : Is there a picture of you? Oh! You look funny.

M : It's the hairstyle, I think. But the kids now look pretty funny too, don't you think?

F : Not if you like orange.

M : Things were great then. Not a care⁺ in the world. The only thing I had to do was concentrate on my school work.

F : I remember putting in a lot of time at school, but most of it was socializing⁺ with my friends.

M : Nobody can study all the time. We all have to have some time to relax and learn to be ourselves.

F : But it seems to me that all young folks do today is play.

M : They don't seem serious about anything, except looking good and having a good time.

F : My family never had enough money for me to act like that.

M : Mine either. But that didn't mean I couldn't have fun doing the simple things. Just talking to my friends, taking a walk, going on a picnic on weekends.

F : I didn't have a car until I was middle-aged.

M : I did, but only after I got married. But I wasn't able to visit a foreign country until I was middle-aged.

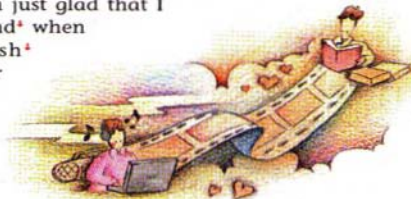
F : And we certainly didn't have computers and video games. We had TV, but it was only on a few hours a day.

M : And going to the movies was an event⁺ to look forward to! Even so, I don't recall being bored. I could find a great deal of happiness just reading a book.

F : That's the way I remember it, too. What's going to happen to these kids today? They seem like they're in such a hurry to go nowhere, and they want to do and have everything now. What are they going to do for the 50—or 70!—years they have ahead?

M : Yes, sometimes I feel sorry for them.

F : But mostly, I'm just glad that I won't be around⁺ when the big crash⁺ comes to their life.



Questions

1. Do these people think that "the good old days" were better than today?
2. What would you say to counter⁺ their belief?