



Oh! My English

High Intermediate



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Unit I: Festivals



La Tomatina



Andre: If you're looking for adventure on your next trip, why don't you try Valencia, Spain?

Rose: And what kind of adventure is waiting for me there?

Andre: It's called La Tomatina, held on the last Wednesday of August.

Rose: What kind of event is that?

Andre: It's a tomato fight. People are tossing overripe tomatoes at one another.

Rose: That's one hell of an adventure. What are you waiting for? Let's call our travel agency.

Expressions/Vocabulary

That's one hell of an adventure. – That's a very, very great adventure
(“hell” is used as an intensive or to emphasize something)

toss – throw

tomato fight- throwing tomatoes at one another

Why don't you try Spain?

What kind of adventure is waiting for me?

What are you waiting for?

Activity

Facts about tomato:

1. How do you pronounce tomato?
/tuh-MEY-toh/ or /tuh- MAH-toh/?
2. Is tomato a fruit or a vegetable?

Unit I: Festivals



Mardi Gras



Adam: What's that you're watching on YouTube?

Tina: It's a video shot of Mardi Gras in Rio de Janeiro.

Adam: Is it some form of a street dance?

Tina: Kinda. You see people dancing to the beat of the drums.

Adam: And they're wearing costumes too.

Tina: If I were there, I would wear a wonder woman costume.

Adam: You want to participate in this event?

Tina: I wish I were there.

Expressions/vocabulary

I wish I were there – “I wish” is used in imagined situations or something that is impossible. “I hope” is used for something that is possible.

Mardi Gras – celebrated with carnivals, parades of costumed people
It is pronounced /mahr-dee-grah/

costume – clothes worn to make a person look like somebody

If I were there, I would wear a Wonder Woman costume.

Activity

Use the expression in your own sentence, following the pattern, “I wish.....”

Unit I: Festivals



Panagbenga



Margot: Why are your cheeks red?

Donna: I watched Panagbenga in Baguio City.

Margot: That still doesn't explain why you look as if you're blushing.

Donna: People were already on the street before the flower parade started. The spot that we got was directly hit by sunlight. But I had a blast! Each float was amazing.

Margot: What is Panagbenga by the way?

Donna: It's a flower parade done in Baguio, Philippines every February.

Expressions/vocabulary

blush – to become red in the face because of embarrassment

float – vehicle used for display in parades

Panagbenga – flower festival held every February in Baguio city in the Philippines

I had a blast.

The spot that we got was directly hit by sunlight.

Each float was amazing.

Activity

When was the last time you had a blast?

Unit I: Festivals



Lunar New Year



Debbie: I didn't know that you liked mooncake.

Marco: Oh, it was a giveaway from the fish shop. It's Chinese New Year and that is their traditional food.

Debbie: The owner doesn't look Chinese.

Marco: He's not. But he's married to a Chinese and he's been following their traditions since then.

Debbie: I didn't know he was married to a Chinese. I haven't seen his wife.

Marco: I hardly see her but she's nice. She's timid and always keeps to herself.

Expressions/vocabulary

moon cake – Chinese pastry

traditional – relating to the long-established customs or belief of a group of people

give away- to offer something for free

I hardly see her.

She always keeps to herself.

It was a giveaway from the fish shop.

It's Chinese New Year and that is their traditional food.

Activity

Lunar is a word associated with “moon”. The adjectives below are also associated with the moon. Could you complete them? Clue: they both mean “crazy”.

l_n_ti_ lo_n_

Unit II: Culture



Tradition



Mary: Merry Christmas!

Jensen: Merry Christmas!

Mary: Is it chow time yet?

Jensen: We have to wait till 12 midnight.

Mary: I will have hit the sack by then.

Jensen: But we are still going to attend the mass. After that, we can already have our meal and start opening our Christmas presents.

Mary: Oh, give me a break!

Expressions/vocabulary

hit the sack – to go to bed

Give me a break – used when you find something is too much or when you're asking someone to give you a chance.

chow time – time to eat

We have to wait till 12 midnight.

We are still going to attend the mass.

We can open our presents.

Activity

Tell at least one tradition in your country during Chuseok.

Unit II: Culture



Language



Michelle: Are you studying Spanish?

Maya: No, I'm not.

Michelle: How did you know that “cuchillo” means knife and “cuchara” means spoon?

Maya: A lot of Spanish words have made their way to our language. We were colonized by the Spanish for 300 years. We have thousands of Spanish loanwords.

Michelle: That's amazing. Could you make a Spanish sentence?

Maya: Not at all!

Expressions/Vocabulary

loanword – word borrowed from another language
colonized – to be under the control of one's country

A lot of Spanish words have made their way to our language .
A lot of Spanish words have become part of our language.
Not at all.
That's amazing!

Activity

Could you give 5 loanwords that you use in your language?

Unit II: Culture



Norms



Ashley: I invited Jared to eat out.

Kim: You did?

Ashley: Yeah. You seem so surprised.

Kim: It's not common here for women to invite men to dinner.

Ashley: But I don't see anything wrong with it.

Kim: There's nothing wrong. But I don't think he'll take you seriously.

Ashley: So you want me to play hard to get?

Expressions/Vocabulary

Take someone seriously – to regard someone in earnest

Play hard to get – pretending not to like somebody

eat out – to eat in a restaurant.

norm –regarded as normal or typical

It's not common here for women to invite men.

I don't see anything wrong with it.

I don't think he'll take you seriously.

Activity

Use “play hard to get” in your own sentence.

Unit II: Culture



Superstition



Amy: Why does this apartment building skip the 13th floor? Is the landlord superstitious?

Ben: Not really but most of the tenants might be. He's afraid that no one would like to occupy the 13th floor. It could be bad for the business.

Amy: I don't see any logical basis for superstitions. These crazy beliefs are handed down from older generations and we just accept them without questioning their validity.

Ben: There really is no logical basis to that. That's why it's called superstition.

Amy: So what's next? They're going to hang garlic?

Expressions/Vocabulary

handed down – passed something to the younger generation

without questioning their validity – without asking why we believe them

logical basis – reasonable basis

occupy – to live or stay (in a house, room, office, etc)

superstitious – convinced in some false or irrational belief

Is the landlord superstitious These beliefs are handed down to us. I don't see any logical basis for superstitions.

Activity

What are the common superstitions that your people believe in?

Unit III: Technology



Chatting



Kelly: It's going to be really weird and exciting to see him face-to-face.

Liz: How long have you been chatting online?

Kelly: For two years now. I can't believe it's been two years.

Liz: That's a real success story. A lot of cyber relationships end in disaster.

Kelly: It's hard to tell what's going to happen next.

Liz: Yeah. Things like this can be iffy. I hope this one works for you.

Expressions/Vocabulary

It's hard to tell – I'm not sure

cyber relationship – relationship on the internet

end in disaster – not successful

iffy – uncertain

It's going to be really weird and exciting to see him face-to-face.

That's a real success story.

Things like this can be iffy.

It's hard to tell what's going to happen next. I hope this works for you.

Activity

Could you guess these chatting acronyms?

btw

asl

lol

brb

Unit III: Technology



Cell phones



A: You've been using that dinosaur for 5 years.

B: It's still working and I don't see any problems.

A: Why don't you try the latest models of cell phones in the market? Most cell phones nowadays are wi-fi ready. You can surf the net through your mobile phone, listen to music, play games when you're bored. You can take photos and record videos. I can't think of anything that cell phones can't still do.

B: Could you know your BP through your cell phone?

A: Well... no.

Expressions/Vocabulary

dinosaur – anything that is outmoded

wi-fi ready – wirelessly access to internet using your pc or cell phones

I can't think of anything that cell phones can't still do.

Everything can be done nowadays using cell phones.

Most cell phones are wi-fi ready.

It's still working.

Activity

Use "dinosaur" in your own sentence.

Unit III: Technology



Artificial Intelligence



Dennis: Robots are being used on the battlefield. Because of that, the enemies are following.

Bart: A few years from now, wars will be a real Terminator-style.

Dennis: And terrorists might send robot bombers.

Bart: Scary... hey, snap out of it. Why are we talking about these things? You started it.

Dennis: Sorry, just can't get it out of my mind.

Bart: Dude, have you been watching Battlestar Galactica?

Dennis: No, I'm just finishing a report on artificial intelligence.

Expressions/vocabulary

artificial intelligence – the science of making intelligent machines that

Can imitate intelligent human behavior

Snap out of it – move back to one's normal condition

Battlefield – a place of battle

I just can't get it out of my mind. I can't stop thinking of it.

I'm just finishing a report on Artificial Intelligence.

Wars will be a real Terminator-style.

Activity

Give examples of movies that are all about robots.

Unit III: Technology



Genetically modified organisms



TJ: Don't you think these corns in the picture are a little bit bigger than our corns here?

John: They're really bigger. They have been genetically modified.

TJ: I don't see why we have to do that.

John: Well, we have to meet the demands of the consumers. Besides, GMOs have fewer chemical sprays, have more vitamins, are cheaper, have better resistance to pests, and have longer shelf-life.

TJ: For all you know, they could cause a certain disease or virus in the long run.

Expressions/vocabulary

shelf-life – period of time that a product will remain useful

for all you know – to indicate that something is possible but uncertain

in the long run – after a long period of time

I don't see why. I don't understand why.

They have been genetically modified.

We have to meet the demands of the consumers.

They could cause a certain disease in the long run.

Activity

Arrange the words in the sentence.

Activists against environmental are GMO.

Unit IV: Population



Immigration



Anita: My family plans to immigrate to the United States next year.

Trevor: Is this what you want?

Anita: I want to stay here but I want a better future for my children. American education system will give them all the opportunities. In America, they won't have to attend academies after school. They can avoid compulsory military service. And most important of all, they will be better English speakers.

Trevor: Well, after the drawn-out immigration process, I think you deserve this.

Anita: I think this is the best time while they're still in grammar school. Besides, my husband and I will be there to guide them. They'll have the best of both worlds.

Expressions/Vocabulary

immigrate – to move and settle in a new country

compulsory – required, obligatory

drawn-out – long duration

grammar school – elementary school

They'll have the best of both worlds.

My family plans to immigrate to US next year.

You deserve this after the drawn-out immigration process.

Activity

**Tell the difference between
"immigrate" and "emigrate".**

Unit IV: Population



Gender roles

Woman: Why is it that when you say boss and secretary, you always have a preconception that the boss is a man and the secretary is a woman? But that's not the case anymore. More and more women are rising to the top corporate positions.

Man: But then, more and more successful women are having problems with their male partners.

Woman: Enlighten me on that.

Man: You see, our male pride makes it hard for us to accept that our female partners are successful. When women are earning more than we, do you think it's easy for us to take that as gospel truth?

Woman: That's very stereotypical.

Expressions/Vocabulary

gospel truth – an unquestionable truth

stereotypical – conventional or conforming to old beliefs

preconception – an idea or opinion formed in advance

pride – a feeling of satisfaction for oneself

More and more women are rising to the top corporate positions.

More and more women are getting higher positions in companies.

Enlighten me on that. Explain that to me.

That's very stereotypical.

Activity

Do you think men will find these activities acceptable to do? Explain your answers.

gardening

doing the laundry

arranging flowers

Unit IV: Population



Population growth



Debra: I love it during the public holidays. There are fewer people on the street.

Jim: You hate people?

Debra: I didn't say that. It's just that everywhere you go there are long lines and it takes you forever before you get your turn.

Jim: Blame it on the government for not supporting the birth control policies.

Debra: I couldn't agree more.

Jim: But come to think of it, in some countries, they're having negative population growth because of low fertility rates.

Debra: I wish I lived there.

Expressions/Vocabulary

I couldn't agree more – strong way of agreeing

birth control – means of limiting the population growth

low fertility rate – the ratio of babies born to the population of an area

It takes forever to get your turn.

They have negative population growth.

Blame it on the government for not supporting the birth control policy.

Activity

Find the words that can be made from the letters of this word:

POPULATION EXPLOSION

Unit IV: Population



Generation gap



Megan: I want to marry young and have children right away

Philip: Don't you want to have a career first?

Megan: I'm not interested in that. I just want to raise my future children and see that we don't have a big age gap.

Philip: Why do you want that?

Megan: I'm hoping that I can manage to relate with their interests.

Expressions/Vocabulary

age gap – the difference in age between two people

We don't have a big age gap.

Don't you want to have a career first?

Don't you want to focus on your career first?

I'm hoping that I can manage to relate with their interests.

I'm hoping that I can still keep up with their interests.

Activity

Think of the 5 adjectives that describe your parents.

Unit V: Environmental issues



Global warming



Jonas: It's scorching hot! This can't be spring.

Dean: They say it's global warming.

Jonas: What's causing it?

Dean: Some say it's a natural phenomenon. Some say it's caused by human activity.

Jonas: What should we do then?

Dean: Well, we can walk to school every day, join tree planting events or recycle materials.

Expressions/Vocabulary

global warming – increase in the earth's temperature due to greenhouse effect

phenomenon – an unusual occurrence

recycle – to process used or waste materials to be used again

This can't be spring. I can't believe it's spring.

This is so unlikely during spring.

It is caused by human activity.

Activity

Could you tell me the anagram of these sentences? Clue: they're related to the topic.

1. Ball going warm
2. Huge trees offence

Unit V: Population



Air pollution



Don: It seems as if I have no other choice but to grin and bear it. I can't stand the pollution everywhere.

KC: Why don't you move to the countryside?

Don: It's too far from my office.

KC: Why don't you change career and be a farmer instead?

Don: Are you serious?

JC: Of course I am.

Don: I want to move to a place where there is fresher air but I can't leave my job here. I'm caught between a rock and a hard place.

Expression/Vocabulary

grin and bear it – accept and suffer because of something

Are you serious? Do you really mean what you say? Are you joking?

I'm caught between a rock and a hard place.

I'm left with two unpleasant choices.

I can't stand the pollution everywhere.

Activity

Use "grin and bear it" in your own sentence.

Unit V: Environmental issues



Yellow dust



Anna: My eyes are itchy.

Boon: Don't scratch it. I think you're getting conjunctivitis.

Anna: Layman's term, please.

Boon: I mean to say pinkeye.

Anna: How could I get one?

Boon: The yellow dust is raging outside, remember?

Anna: Oh no!

Boon: Come on. I'll bring you to the doctor. Don't worry. I got your back.

Expressions/Vocabulary

raging– it's moving with great intensity

Pinkeye/conjunctivitis – inflammation of the eyes

layman's term – a common term understandable by majority

I got your back.

How could I get one.

The yellow dust is raging outside

Activity

Could you tell which among these are the synonyms of yellow dust?

Asian dust

yellow storm

China dust storms

Unit V: Environmental issues



Endangered species



Shannon: Dad, what is the protest all about?

Dad: They are against deforestation because it threatens some of the endangered species.

Shannon: Like the Tazmanian Tigers?

Dad: No. The Tazmanian tigers are already extinct. But with the endangered species, they can still be saved, though I think the chances are slim.

Shannon: Why do some animals become endangered?

Dad: They lose their home and sometimes, they're over hunted for their fur and meat.

Expressions/Vocabulary

protest – to express disapproval or disagreement to something

deforestation – destruction of forests or cutting down of trees

endangered species – animals that are small in numbers to the point of extinction

extinct – no longer existing

The chances are slim. It's not likely to be successful.

It threatens some of the endangered species.

They are over hunted for their fur and meat.

Activity

Anagrams are words forms by rearranging the same letters. Ex. god => dog

Rearrange these letters to form animal words.

act pea tab bare
loin balms flow tar



Thank You !

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