

My English Images

Pictures worth a thousand words

Intermediate Topics

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Thank you

for picking up this book and welcoming my images, and stories into your class. I hope, over time, we'll grow together as educators and learners alike.

Mike



About the book

Think of it as a number of lessons collected together in one place. It's not meant to be a series and doesn't contain a fixed flow from start to end. Each lesson worksheet serves an individual class. Use them in whatever order you choose or as the topics fit the needs of your students.

Typically, one conversation is enough for a single forty-five minute to hour-long class.

The topics are purposefully mundane because the majority of our conversations are too. These topics were chosen for their frequency not for any larger world view or cultural exchange. Many of the texts I've read and used try to spice up lessons by talking about wild situations, exotic locations, extreme sports etc. As a result they often come across as forced and unnatural and rarely relate to the students' experience or interests.

Who is it for?

These lessons can be used or adapted for low intermediate to upper elementary students. I've used them with junior and senior high school students as well as adults. Some phrases or patterns might be tough for students at the lower end of the spectrum so reword, adapt, and cut the longer conversations short.

What's the goal of the book?

To illustrate speaking techniques or topics people often discuss and help speakers navigate those topics smoothly.

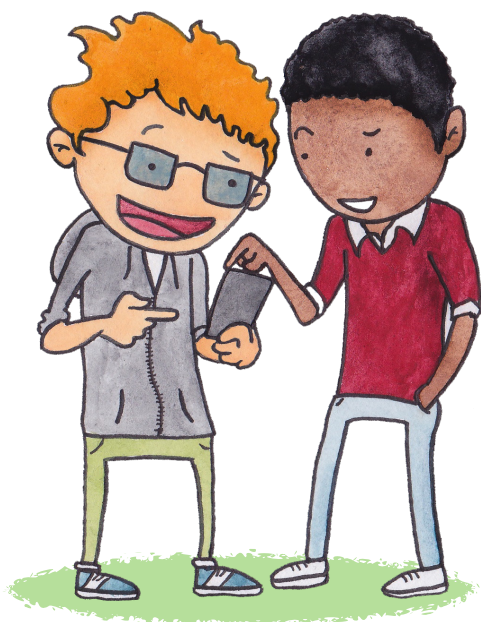
Topics	Language points	Common Challenges
movies / books	It's about a ____ who/that ____.	describing the story
music	It sounds _____. It sounds like _____.	describing the sound
food	That's not <i>real</i> ____ food.	describing tastes
dentists	I had to get a <i>cavity</i> filled.	vocabulary
doctors	sickness & injury terms	vocabulary
holidays	That's when we _____.	cultural relationships
birthdays	Can I ask <i>how old you are?</i>	age - polite questions
names	What did you say your name was?	remembering - confirming
family	Are you <i>Canadian</i> ?	backgrounds
children	whether or not to	tough choices
travel	That must have been fun.	speculating - wishes
clothes	I'm more of an A than a B person.	expressing style
cars	It looked like a cross between A & B.	talking about cars
going out	I'd be nervous doing that.	would - wouldn't
internet	I heard a report / story etc.	recounting a story from memory
tech	If I were in your position,...	rapidly changing
art	Maybe it's just me, but ...	stating preferences
generations	I remember people saying ...	generation gap
work	We generally cater to <i>young people</i> .	describing your job
the news	Worrying about it won't help.	hard staying well informed
hometowns	I'm originally from ...	explaining origins
guys and gals	It's not that ____, it's just that ____.	sensitive topic
shopping	I got this on sale.	shopping phrases
sports	There was a lot of hustle happening.	making an argument for your team
pastimes	What do you do in your free time?	playing it cool - staying humble
dreams / goals	I want to _____ by the time I'm thirty.	talking about goals
stories	This one time ...	relating events

On the Internet

- A:** Did you hear about that thing they found in the lake?
B: What are you talking about?
A: There was this story in the news about a building someone found in a lake.
B: Was that in today's news?
A: No, I don't think it was recent. Actually, I think I heard about it on a podcast.
B: So, what did they find?
A: It was like an old, old city but it was underwater.
B: Ok. I think you might be talking about an Egyptian city they found in the sea a few years ago.
A: Yeah. That's it. I remember the images were surprising.



Did you	hear the report	about that	thing	they found?
	see the story		guy	they caught?
	read the post		woman	they arrested?
	watch the video		place	they opened?



- A:** I saw an interesting thing in my newsfeed this afternoon.
B: What was it?
A: Well, some students found a way to clean up all the plastic in the ocean by the end of the year.
B: What? By the end of the year? That seems a little fast. Where did you hear this?
A: It was on the news.
B: Can you send me the link?
A: Let me check. Yeah, here it is. Ok, I see. So it's one student and he can clean up the oceans in ten years.
B: Ok. Yeah that seems more doable. So, basically this floating collector he designed can collect plastic.
A: Yeah. It's a great invention.

Home Towns

A: Where did you say you were from?

B: I'm originally from a small town in Florida.

A: Nice. Why did you leave?

B: Oh, I don't really like my hometown. I got sick of it.

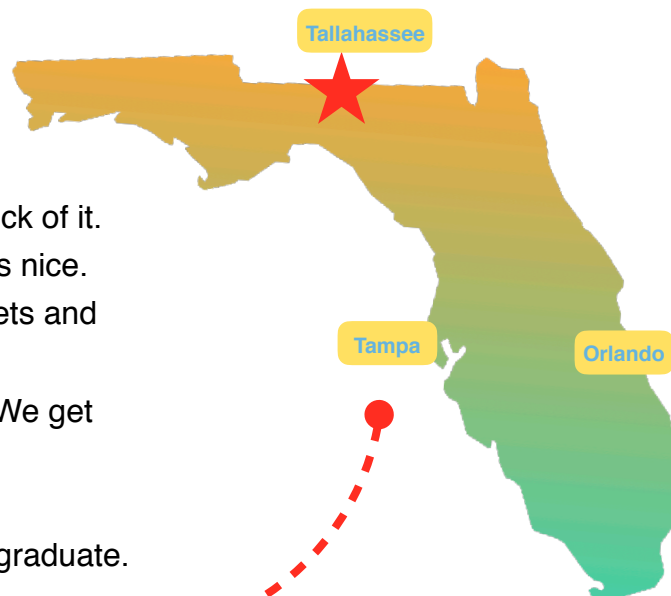
A: Really? I've been to Florida. I thought it was nice.

B: Yeah, it can be. For me it's just pretty sunsets and strip malls. Oh, and a lot of tourists.

A: I understand. I grew up near Los Angeles. We get a lot of tourists there too.

B: Did you like living there?

A: Yeah. I loved it. I plan to move back after I graduate.



A: You're from London, right?

B: That's right. I was born and raised there.

A: I visited London a few years ago. I just loved it. Why did you leave?

B: Honestly, I got a bit bored with it.

A: What? I thought it was so exciting!

B: Yeah, it can be. I mean, it's different visiting a place and growing up there.

A: I see. So you just got tired of it.

B: Yeah, and honestly, I was tired of living in the city. I wanted a change. That's why I moved out here.

I was born in	in	London.
I grew up		New York.
I was born and raised		the country.

I'm originally	from	England.
My family is		Poland.
My dad comes		Equador.

Sports

- A:** Did you see the game last night?
B: Yeah. There was a lot of effort happening on the field and my team made a lot of good plays.
A: Why do you think they lost?
B: Mostly because of the refs. There were a few bad calls during the first half and they changed the outcome.
A: Really? I thought the other team just played better.
B: They played alright. But my team definitely had better hustle and strategy.
A: Do you think the refs were that wrong?
B: Of course. I swear, I could ref better than those guys.



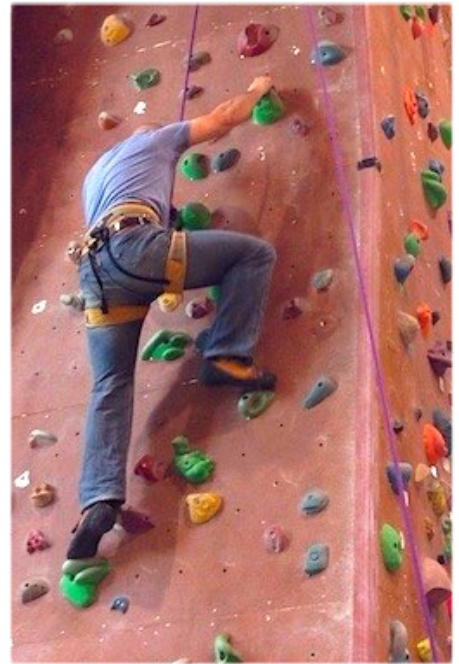
There was	a lot of	effort on the field.
I saw	some	great plays.
The refs made	a few	bad calls.
My team played	a couple of	good innings.
That player took	a	foul shot.



- A:** How was your weekend?
B: It was awesome. I had some friends over for the game and we just had a blast.
A: That sounds great. I guess you had a lot of food?
B: Oh yeah. We had tons of buffalo wings and drinks and it was great. You should have been there.
A: Thanks. How was the game?
B: The other team never had a chance. Our team's coaches have more experience and the players are ten times better than anyone else.
A: They are pretty good. But can they keep it up next season? Isn't your head coach retiring?
B: I'm not worried. These guys are so good. They have the next season locked down!

Pastimes

- A:** What do you do in your free time?
- B:** Nothing special. You know, a little running, bouldering, and climbing, things like that.
- A:** Whoah, bouldering? That's really cool.
- B:** Yeah, you know, I've been doing it for while now. So I'm alright. It's not as hard as it looks.
- A:** Really? You must be really strong.
- B:** Yeah, I'm ok I guess. What about you? Do you do anything fun in your free time?
- A:** I usually just go out with my friends after work and on weekends.



playing it cool	playing it down	staying humble
Nothing special ...	just some yoga.	I'm alright.
You know ...	a little cycling.	I'm ok I guess.
The usual ...	go to a couple of clubs.	It's not so hard.
Well ...	I play in a small band.	Anyone can do it.



- A:** What do you usually get up to on weekends?
- B:** Oh, the usual, I hang out in the city and go dancing at a couple of clubs.
- A:** Wow, that sounds fun. I'm such a bad dancer.
- B:** It's not so hard. Just have fun. Anyone can do it.
- A:** Yeah, I love music but I'm pretty shy when it comes to dancing. I don't know the moves.
- B:** So what do you do on Friday nights?
- A:** Well, actually, I play bass in a small rock band.
- B:** You play bass but you don't dance? That's funny.
- A:** Yeah, I know.
- B:** Do you make any money from playing?
- A:** I do alright.