

Lesson 45: A Useful Tip

Conversation Lesson with a Story, Vocabulary Practice, Questions and Activities

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The Story

Some years ago, when the brother of an acquaintance of mine was a university student, he bought his first car. Eager to show it off, he asked his parents to go for a ride. As they were driving along, he glanced in his rear-view mirror and saw his father sitting in the back seat with his mouth open. He took this as the sign of his father's surprise. Shortly afterwards, he heard his father whisper to his mother, 'If you keep your mouth open, your teeth don't rattle.'

Source: The Internet TESL Journal



Choose the best answer.

1) An 'acquaintance' is a person ...

- a) who works for you
- b) studying at a college
- c) you know a little
- d) unknownto you



Choose the best answer.

2) To 'show something off' means to ...

- a) hide something you have bought
- b) lend something to someone
- c) keep watching at something beautiful
- d) let people see something new, nice, etc.



Choose the best answer.

- 3) To 'whisper' means to ...
 - a) see something very strange
 - b) say something very softly
 - c) write something down
 - d) pull something heavily



Choose the best answer.

- 4) To 'rattle' means to ...
 - a) make a lot of quick little noises
 - b) laugh loudly at something
 - c) take something up and down
 - d) drive a car at a very high speed



Questions for Discussion

- 1) Was the father really pleased with the ride? How do you know?
- 2) How did the mother feel?
- 3) What do you think of showing off?
- 4) Do you have a driving licence? Tell me about it.
- 5) What qualities should a good driver have?



Activities

- Now tell your friend(s) the story in your own words.
- Pronounce the following words several times:
 - a) acquaintance
 - b) rear-view mirror
 - c) shortly afterwards
 - d) whisper
 - e) rattle

Content Story

A Quotable Quote

'Any man who can drive safely while kissing a pretty girl is simply not giving the kiss the attention it deserves.'

Albert Einstein

- What does the quote 'say'? Explain.
- Do you know any other quotes/idioms etc. about cars?



Modern Proverbs

'In California, cars are clothes.' 'Slow bodies want fast cars.'

 How do you understand the sayings above? Tell me something about it.



Role Play

Imagine the following situation:

You and your three English speaking friends are planning to go to Italy together this summer, but you have not decided yet which means of transport to use. You should **discuss the possible means of** transport and their dis/advantages with one of the friends. In the end, you should agree on the most suitable one. Person B will play the role of your English speaking friend and will start the conversation.



Role Play: Ideas to Help You

The following ideas may help you:

- Bus
- Plane
- Train
- Car
- Hitchkike
- Other

Role Play