



English

Level 6

Small Talk

How have things been with you?

What does the weekend have in store?

Have you been keeping up-to-date with the news this week?

Conversation

The UK has had a form of democratic government for 750 years. Has democracy helped, and where has it failed?

What do you reckon will be the next evolutionary leap for humankind?

If you were going to live with some farm animals, with which would you choose to live?

Grammar: Embedded Questions

The formula for embedded questions:

main statement + question word + subject + verb (+ object/preposition/compliment if necessary)

Do you know how I get to the train station?

Do you remember where we parked the car?

Could you tell me whether the bus has already gone?

****Make embedded statements or questions for these questions****

- Where is the exit?
- How many do you have?
- Is this yours?
- Why are you doing that?

Flair & Skills: Pun
(also called paronomasia)

What is a pun?

A pun is a piece of clever word-play based on similar meanings.

- I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.

- It's not that I dislike school; it's just I don't like the principal of it



Vocabulary

executive
chief executive officer (CEO)
chief financial officer (CFO)
computer programmer
President
Prime Minister
politician
consultant
health and safety inspector
spokesperson
line manager
advisor (financial, legal, etc.)

Dialogue

Interviewer: Emili, **is it?** Come in and have a seat. Sorry to have kept you waiting. **Did you find the place OK?**

Emili: Yes, no problem. Actually, I took a taxi: I didn't want to be late.

Interviewer: Gosh, **I hope you haven't been waiting long.** We **overran** on a couple of things this morning, meaning there is a bit of a **backlog** at the moment, so I guess we shouldn't **beat about the bush**. First of all, **let me be clear**: I'm not going to talk about money, hours or anything like that today. This is just a **get-to-know-you** meeting so we can learn a little about each other. So, to start, can you introduce yourself?

Emili: Ok. Well, my name is Emili and I've been living in London for 4 years now, working as an IT analyst, although I'm looking to find something more interesting.

Interviewer: I see. Do you mind if I ask how old you are. Or is it a secret?

Emili: No, no, **it's no secret**. I'm 28.

Interviewer: So **young, fresh and clean**. And you are from Edinburgh, is that right?

Emili: Yes, I'm from Edinburgh, although I was actually born in Newcastle. I moved when I was 6 months old.

Linking Phrases

also
furthermore
moreover
what is more
in addition
additionally
besides
above all
as well (as)
in the same way
not only ... but also

Notes:

- AB51 website (includes all study areas and further notes): www.ab51.org
- To practice this class with a native speaker, please contact djamiewills@gmail.com
- To request a different level of class, also contact djamiewills@gmail.com
- Delicious Wednesday is an English Corner based on food and discussion. For more details join the wechat group: 美味周三英语角

Prohibition is the ban of making, selling and transportation of alcohol. It was enforced in the USA between 1920 and 1933.

Enforcement

Prohibition was the 18th Amendment to the US Constitution. It was proposed near the end of 1917, and became law on January 16th, 1920.

It was a continuation of an anti-alcohol drive during World War I.

However, the origins are much older and more general: a large amount of religious groups have, since America's formation, seen alcohol as a vice needing banned. Many countries have 'Temperance Movements', looking to ban alcohol or decrease its use. In the 19th century, the US's temperance movement had between 1 and 2 million members.

Meanwhile, heavy drinking was very popular in the 19th century.

Problems

Prohibition was immensely unpopular with many Americans, particularly working class people who felt richer bosses could drink private supplies, but poorer people had no access (the Washington Post newspaper suggested 80% of US Congressmen and Senators drank, whilst bootlegger George Cassidy said he had illegally supplied Congress for 10 years).

More famous, however, is the rise in organised crime caused by prohibition. With no legal way to get alcohol, 'Speakeasy' bars became common (called 'speakeasy' because they were supposed to be secret). There is debate as to how effective prohibition was: some say it did cut drinking, but others say it did not.

Gangsters also saw an opportunity to make a lot of money selling illegally made alcohol. Legal clubs were replaced by those run by gangsters. Some of America's most famous gangsters, such as Al Capone, made fortunes selling alcohol.

Government and senior figures also believed the unpopularity of prohibition made many people dislike and ignore the government more than before.

Finally, the need for alcohol for religious reasons (sacramental wine) created a loophole that allowed people to buy wine.

Repeal

National prohibition was ended by Franklin Roosevelt on March 22nd 1933 with the 21st Amendment. New law allowed drinks of a 4% alcoholic volume, although states and counties could still impose prohibition.

Upon repealing the act, Roosevelt declared 'I think this would be a good time for a beer'.

21st Century Opinion

Although there are still some people who believe that alcohol should be banned (often citing religious reasons), most Americans see prohibition as a mistake: as well as stopping people getting drink, it also helped boost organised crime.