

AMERICAN LANGUAGE COURSE

UNIT 2304

OUTLINE AND STUDY OBJECTIVES

DIALOG: WEATHER

NOTES ON THE DIALOG

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

FLUENCY PRACTICE

READING: RECREATION

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

FLUENCY PRACTICE

TAPE 2304A

TAPE 2304B

UNIT 2304

DIALOG

WEATHER

- Resident:** You act like it is hot today.
- Visitor:** You haven't been outside, have you? Must be near 100 degrees.
- Resident:** You can expect a lot of hot weather during the summer.
- Visitor:** The hot air seems to rise from the ground and hit you in the face.
- Resident:** Steam or vapor rising from the ground after a rain is worse.
- Visitor:** Is it hot like this all over the United States?
- Resident:** It is hot in most parts of the country now. But it is quite comfortable in the mountains and on the coast.
- Visitor:** I'd like to see some snow again.
- Resident:** You can find snow on some of the peaks in the mountains.
- Visitor:** I hear that you had hail only a month ago.
- Resident:** You should have seen the damage it did. The pieces were really big. Windows and windshields were shattered, large dents were made in car tops and fenders; trees were stripped of their leaves.
- Visitor:** Did the hail bring any relief from the heat?
- Resident:** Not much. We may get several days of cloudy weather and drizzle, though. This will bring cooler weather.
- Visitor:** As I understand it, drizzle is a mistlike rain.
- Resident:** That is correct, to drizzle means to rain in very small drops.
- Visitor:** I'm not sure that I know what you mean when you speak of sleet.
- Resident:** Rain and drizzle are liquid forms of precipitation. Snow, hail, and sleet are frozen or partly frozen forms.
- Visitor:** Snow is easy to understand. It's the difference between hail and sleet that I don't understand.

Resident: Hail consists of large icy particles. The hailstones or pieces are often big enough to break windows and damage crops. Sleet refers to tiny icy particles. They may stick to windshields and interfere with visibility. Then they may cover the streets and highways and make them slippery.

Visitor: I suppose you have a great deal of cold weather during the winter.

Resident: Well, the winters are bitter cold in some parts of the country and mild in others.

Visitor: I understand that it is usually mild in the South and in California.

Resident: Right. It may be freezing, 32 degrees Fahrenheit, or below in the north and 80 degrees Fahrenheit in some parts of Florida, Texas, and California.

NOTES ON THE DIALOG

Must be near 100 degrees The temperature must be 100 degrees.

Steam or vapor rising from the ground after a rain is worse. Steam which rises from the ground after a rain is worse, or Steam as it rises from the ground is worse.

summit or top The top of a hill or mountain. The highest point. We also speak of reaching physical, intellectual, etc., peaks.

Burst or break into fragments or small pieces.

dent *depression* You can make a dent in soft metal by pressing or striking it.

The hail was so hard and fell so fast that it made a dent in the fender.

bitter This term usually refers to a disagreeable taste. Bitter cold means disagreeably cold, extremely cold.

slippery *Be careful!* Don't step in the oil.

That spot is slippery.

The street is icy. It is slippery.

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

1. According to the dialog, does the visitor feel the heat?
2. How hot does he think it is outside?
3. Do you prefer cold or hot weather?
4. Do you have snow in your country?
5. Do you enjoy skiing?
6. Do warm air and steam rise?
7. What is the difference between rain and drizzle?
8. What is the difference between hail and sleet?
9. To reduce degrees Fahrenheit to degrees centigrade, we subtract 32° and multiply by $\frac{5}{9}$.
If it is 100 degrees Fahrenheit, how much is it centigrade?
10. To convert (change) degrees centigrade to degrees Fahrenheit, multiply by $\frac{9}{5}$ and add 32°.
If it is 50 degrees centigrade, what is it Fahrenheit?

FLUENCY PRACTICE

Order of Some Phrases and Clauses

The student should repeat the first sentence read by the instructor and then say the alternate sentence. Books closed.

Phrases

1. This afternoon the humidity is high.
The humidity is high this afternoon.
2. Each day there were adverse (unfavorable) weather conditions.
There were adverse weather conditions each day.
3. It was unusually cool last night.
Last night it was unusually cool.
4. During a storm air moves in an erratic (uncertain) pattern.
Air moves in an erratic pattern during a storm.
5. We can avoid severe (serious) damage by listening to weather reports.
By listening to weather reports, we can avoid severe damage.
6. In thunderstorms there is a great accumulation (build-up) of electricity.
There is a great accumulation of electricity in thunderstorms.

Clauses

1. They abandoned (left) the boat when the storm struck.
When the storm struck, they abandoned the boat.
2. Because of the rotation of the earth, a movement of air is caused.
A movement of air is caused, because of the rotation of the earth.
3. We left before it began to rain.
Before it began to rain, we left.
4. Just before a severe weather warning was received, the planes took off.
The planes took off just before a severe weather warning was received.
5. As soon as we arrived, the party began.
The party began as soon as we arrived.
6. While he was putting in the gas, I checked the tires.
I checked the tires while he was putting in the gas.

USEFUL SENTENCES

First, repeat the following sentences in unison after the instructor. Books open. Then repeat the sentences individually. Books closed.

1. Wind which blows toward the front of the car is called a headwind.
2. The opposite wind is called a tailwind.
3. A sudden burst of wind may cause damage to property and life.
4. Thunderclouds have a heavy charge of electricity.
5. Hailstones sometimes have a diameter of 3 inches, or even more.
6. Many thunderstorms have hail which causes much damage.
7. The weatherman cannot always be right in his forecast.
8. Precautions must be taken when weather conditions are bad.

Note-taking

Here is a brief sample of a local weather forecast. Your instructor will read a slightly different forecast. Listen to the instructor and take notes.

Weather Forecast: (Sample)

Cloudy to partly cloudy. Local thunderstorms. Wind south-southeast at 8-16 miles per hour. Humidity - 78%, maximum temperature about 95° F.

Dictation

Each student reads a sentence from the first paragraph of the reading selection "Recreation." The other students write the sentences on a piece of paper. Your instructor will assist in correcting any mistakes.

READING**RECREATION**

The average work week in the United States is 40 hours. This gives the worker much time for recreation.

Many Americans take part in some kind of sport. For many years baseball, football, basketball, and tennis have been popular sports. In recent years boating has become the favorite recreation for millions.

Many Americans like to hunt and fish. Nearly 40 million fishing and hunting permits are issued each year. Other popular sports include swimming, bicycling, skating, and all kinds of ball games. In communities all over the nation, playgrounds, swimming pools, golf courses, and recreation centers are provided. Many cities have ice-skating areas, baseball fields, swimming pools, and playgrounds lighted at night.

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

1. Name some sports that are popular in the U.S.
2. How long is our average work week?
3. What is a hunting permit and why do we need them?
4. Have you ever watched a football game?

Thousands of workers get a 2-week or longer vacation with pay. Many Americans use this time to travel. They especially enjoy seeing the beautiful scenery and natural wonders and points of historic interest in so many parts of the country. Each year over 64 million visit the national parks. Many of the parks have public camping areas as well as hotels and restaurants. In many parks visitors can swim, fish, attend lectures, and participate in a variety of sports and outdoor activities. There are 27 national parks in the United States and more than 22,000 state parks.

5. What is a national park?
6. Can everybody use a public swimming pool?
7. What do workers do in their vacation time?
8. What does "paid vacation" really mean?

Americans like to see other countries as well as their own. Each year more than 600,000 go to Europe and about 50,000 to South America. While 600,000 travel to Bermuda, the West Indies, and Central America. Asian and African countries also attract more tourists each year.

Millions of Americans spend their free time in a wide variety of ways. Photography, stamp-collecting, and gardening are only a few of their favorite interests. Others include painting, sculpture, and woodworking. A great many persons like to do things to make their homes more attractive. Many study in their spare time; some go to night school to advance their education. And most Americans go to the movies, listen to the radio, and watch television.

9. Do you have any hobbies?
10. Do adults sometimes attend school? Why?
11. Do you prefer going to the movies or watching television? Why?
12. Which countries attract a lot of tourists each year?

About 143 million persons attend basketball games each year. The major league baseball games attract more than 32 million yearly, and enthusiasms reach a high pitch during the World Series games in the fall. College football draws about 25 million spectators. At home, millions watch all kinds of sports events on television, or listen to sports broadcasts on the radio. There are also countless numbers who attend baseball, football, and other team contests played in small towns or neighborhood playgrounds and school sports areas.

13. How would you rather follow the games?
14. Have you listened to a radio lately?
15. Which kind of sports event do you like to see?

What kind of sports do you take part in yourself?

NOTES ON THE READING

permits are issued

permits are given out officially.

Each year many fishing and hunting permits are issued.

Diplomas are issued to high school graduates.

Many certificates are issued to medical school graduates each year.

recreation centers

Places for reading, watching television, listening to music, dancing, playing indoor and outdoor games, etc.

as well as

in addition to

Americans watch television as well as listen to the radio.

They have dancing, swimming, as well as skating and all kinds of games.

Americans like to see other countries as well as their own.

average

something that represents a middle point between extremes.

If the water in a lake is from one foot to thirty feet deep, its average depth is 15 feet.

If a person earns \$100, \$125, \$150, \$175, and \$200 from week to week, his average is \$150 per week for a period of five weeks.

FLUENCY PRACTICE

Substitution Exercises in Use of Special Expressions

Rather than – instead of – in place of

The instructor may ask one of the students to read the first of a pair of sentences and then ask another to say the second with books closed, if possible. If sentences are too long to remember, open your books.

Example: 1st student: Instead of waiting until the last minute, I would start studying early.

 2nd student: I'd start studying early rather than wait until the last minute.

1. Instead of going over the rough road, the driver traveled the longer route.
2. The driver traveled the longer route rather than go over the rough road.
3. Why don't you use the workshop to make money rather than use it for recreation?
4. In place of using the workshop for recreation, why don't you use it to make money?
5. Instead of flying through the thunderheads, the pilot changed his course.
6. The pilot changed his course rather than fly through the thunderheads.
7. The family went by jet rather than spend five days on an ocean liner.
8. In place of spending five days on an ocean liner, the family went by jet.

9. I would replace the tire instead of trying to repair it.
10. I would replace the tire rather than try to repair it.
11. Rather than take a trip around the world during your vacation, why don't you just tour the United States?
12. Instead of taking a trip around the world, why don't you just tour the United States during your vacation?
13. The boy preferred to play football instead of playing in the band.
14. The boy preferred to play football rather than play in the band.

Otherwise – if not – if you don't – if he doesn't, etc.

Read the sentences below for meaning and fluency. Then change each sentence according to the example given.

Example: You should study your lesson; otherwise you might fail.

Change: If you don't study your lesson, you might fail.

Remember to start each sentence with an *If* clause, but keep the meaning of the statement.

1. You should know the rules of baseball; otherwise you will not understand the game.
2. The traveler must know how to read road maps; otherwise he can't be sure he's on the right route.
3. A driver observes the rules of safety; otherwise he would have many accidents.
4. Be sure to be here on time. Otherwise you will be left behind on this trip.
5. Tourists should make reservations in advance. Otherwise they may have difficulty finding a place to stay.
6. We must keep working on our space projects. Otherwise we will fall behind in space progress.
7. The oil must be replaced occasionally. Otherwise the engine will get hot.
8. People should plan their vacation carefully. Otherwise they may not enjoy it.

TAPE 2304A

Listen.

There are many forms of precipitation which are a hazard to flying and driving. Precipitation is any form of water or ice which falls on the earth. Precipitation can be a light mist that seems to float to the earth or it can be huge pieces of hail which come crashing to the earth causing great damage.

Repeat what I say. Answer the girl's questions.

Precipitation

Precipitation

Precipitation is any form of water or ice which falls to the earth.

Precipitation is any form of water or ice which falls to the earth.

What is precipitation?

Precipitation is any form of water or ice which falls to the earth.

Rair:

Rain

Is rain a form of precipitation?

Yes, rain is a form of precipitation.

Mist

Mist

Small particles of water

Small particles of water

Mist is very small particles of water.

Mist is very small particles of water.

What is mist?

Mist is very small particles of water.

Mist may be suspended in the atmosphere.

Mist may be suspended in the atmosphere.

Mist may gently fall to the earth.

Mist may gently fall to the earth.

Is mist a form of precipitation?

Yes, mist is a form of precipitation.

Misting**Misting**

If a mist is falling, we say it's misting.

If a mist is falling, we say it's misting.

Drizzle**Drizzle**

A drizzle is a light rain.

A drizzle is a light rain.

What is a drizzle?

A drizzle is a light rain.

Shower**Shower**

A shower is rain that falls for only a short time.

What is a shower?

A shower is rain that falls for only a short time.

Showering**Showering**

If a shower is falling, we say it is showering.

Is a shower a form of precipitation?

Yes, a shower is a form of precipitation.

Rain is a general word that means any kind of water falling to the earth.

Is rain a form of precipitation?

Yes, rain is a form of precipitation.

Cloudburst**Cloudburst**

A cloudburst is a very heavy rain.

A cloudburst is a very heavy rain.

What is a cloudburst?

A cloudburst is a very heavy rain.

Listen.

Now the girl will ask you some questions. Answer each question with a complete affirmative answer. Repeat the correct answer. Repeat when you hear me. Answer when you hear her.

Is it raining?

Yes, it's raining.

Remember to answer with a complete affirmative answer.

Did it rain yesterday?

Yes, it rained yesterday.

Is it misting?

Yes, it's misting.

Did it mist this morning?

Yes, it misted this morning.

Is it sprinkling?

Yes, it's sprinkling.

Did it sprinkle a while ago?

Yes, it sprinkled a while ago.

Did we have a shower yesterday?

Yes, we had a shower yesterday.

Did we have a cloudburst this morning?

Yes, we had a cloudburst this morning.

Listen.

Remember that precipitation means any form of water or ice which falls on the earth. Because of the very low temperatures at high altitudes in the atmosphere, the moisture in the air sometimes freezes. Precipitation then occurs in the form of snow, sleet, or hail.

Repeat what I say. Answer the girl's questions.

Frozen precipitation

Frozen precipitation

Snow, sleet, and hail

Snow, sleet, and hail

Snow, sleet, and hail are frozen precipitation.

Snow, sleet, and hail are frozen precipitation.

Snow is flakes of frozen water.

Snow is flakes of frozen water.

What is snow?,

Snow is flakes of frozen water.

Snowflake

Snowflake

A snowflake is a soft crystal of ice.

A snowflake is a soft crystal of ice.

What is a snowflake?

A snowflake is a soft crystal of ice.

It usually snows in the winter.
It usually snows in the winter.
When snow falls, we say it's snowing.
When snow falls, we say³ it's snowing.

Sleet
Sleet
Sleet is frozen rain.
Sleet is frozen rain.
What is sleet?
Sleet is frozen rain.

It's sleeting.
It's sleeting.
When sleet falls, we say it's sleeting.
When sleet falls, we say it's sleeting.

Listen.

Now you will hear some questions about frozen precipitation. Answer each question with a complete *negative* answer. Repeat when you hear me. Answer when you hear the girl's question.

Is it snowing?
 No, it's not snowing.

Remember to answer with a complete negative answer.

Did it snow yesterday?
 No, it did not snow yesterday.

Do you think it will snow?
 No, I don't think it will snow.

Is it sleeting?
 No, it's not sleeting.

Did it sleet this morning?
 No, it did not sleet this morning.

Is it sleeting?
 No, it's not sleeting.

Is it hailing?
 No, it's not hailing.

Did it hail yesterday?
 No, it did not hail yesterday.

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Now you will hear more questions about frozen precipitation. Answer each question with a complete *affirmative* answer. Repeat when you hear me. Answer when you hear her questions.

Is it snowing?
Yes, it's snowing.

Remember to answer with a complete affirmative answer.

Did it snow yesterday?
Yes, it snowed yesterday.

Do you think it will snow?
Yes, I think it will snow.

Is it sleeting?
Yes, it's sleeting.

Did it sleet this morning?
Yes, it sleeted this morning.

Is it sleeting?
Yes, it's sleeting.

Is it hailing?
Yes, it's hailing.

Did it hail yesterday?
Yes, it hailed yesterday.

Answer the girl's questions using the near equivalent. Repeat the correct answer after me.

ABOUT and APPROXIMATELY are near equivalents.

About
Approximately

Is it about 4 o'clock?
Yes, it's approximately 4 o'clock.

Remember to use the near equivalent in your answer.

Did it cost approximately 10 dollars?
Yes, it cost about 10 dollars.

Were you driving about 20 miles per hour?
Yes, I was driving approximately 20 miles per hour.

Are there approximately 10 people here?

Yes, there are about 10 people here.

Is it about 8 miles to San Antonio?

Yes, it's approximately 8 miles to San Antonio.

SUDDENLY and VERY QUICKLY are synonyms.

Suddenly

Very Quickly

Did the lightning strike suddenly?

Yes, the lightning struck very quickly.

Did the storm come very quickly?

Yes, the storm came suddenly.

Did he stop suddenly?

Yes, he stopped very quickly.

Did the engine start suddenly?

Yes, the engine started very quickly.

DAMAGE and HARM are near equivalents.

Damage

Harm

Did the hail cause harm?

Yes, the hail caused damage.

Did the hail cause damage?

Yes, the hail caused harm.

Can tornadoes cause great harm?

Yes, tornadoes can cause great damage.

Can tornadoes cause great damage?

Yes, tornadoes can cause great harm.

Can hurricanes cause tremendous damage?

Yes, hurricanes can cause tremendous harm.

DAMAGE and HARM are near equivalents – they mean very much the same thing. *Damage*, however, is usually used with *things* and *harm* is usually used with *people*.

FREQUENTLY and OFTEN are near equivalents.

Frequently

Often

Do you go to town frequently?

Yes, I go to town often.

Do you go to town often?

Yes, I go to town frequently.

Does he watch TV frequently?

Yes, he watches TV often.

Does he often watch TV?

Yes, he frequently watches TV.

Does the phone ring frequently?

Yes, the phone rings often.

Does the phone ring often?

Yes, the phone rings frequently.

TAPE 2304B

Listen.

The average work week in the United States is 40 hours. In other words, most Americans work 8 hours a day, five days a week. Saturdays and Sundays are holidays. This leaves a lot of time for rest and recreation. Many Americans spend much time hunting, fishing, playing or watching ball games. Millions of Americans go to ball games or watch them on television.

Answer the following questions. Then repeat the responses.

What is the average work week in the United States?
40 hours.

The average work week is 40 hours.

Do some people work longer than this?
Yes, they do.

Do some people work less than 40 hours?
Yes, they do.

How many days a week do most Americans work?
Five days.
Most Americans work five days a week.

How many hours a day do they work?
Eight hours.
They work eight hours a day.

Do they work Saturdays and Sundays?
No, they don't.
They don't work Saturdays and Sundays.

How do many Americans spend their holidays?
Hunting, fishing, playing and watching ball games.

These are just some of the popular sports, aren't they?
Yes, they are.

Boating is popular in the United States, isn't it?
Yes, it is.
Boating is very popular.

Listen.

Thousands of workers get a 2-week or longer vacation with pay. Many Americans use this time to travel. Each year over 64 million visit the national parks. Many of the parks have public camping areas. They also have hotels and restaurants.

Repeat the following expressions. Then complete the responses. For example, you will hear and repeat: "a 2-week or longer vacation, a 2-week or longer vacation, Workers get a 2-week or longer vacation." Then you will hear: "Workers get..." You should say: "Workers get a 2-week or longer vacation." Repeat the correct response when you hear it.

a 2-week or longer vacation
 a 2-week or longer vacation
 Workers get a 2-week or longer vacation.
 Workers get
 Workers get a 2-week or longer vacation .

use this time to travel
 use this time to travel
 Many Americans use this time to travel.
 Many Americans
 Many Americans use this time to travel.

Over 64 million visit the national parks.
 Over 64 million visit the national parks.
 Each year over 64 million visit the national parks.
 Each year
 Each year over 64 million visit the national parks.

public camping areas
 public camping areas
 Many of the parks have public camping areas.
 Many of the parks have
 Many of the parks have public camping areas.

hotels and restaurants
 hotels and restaurants
 They also have hotels and restaurants.
 They also have
 They also have hotels and restaurants.

Listen and repeat.

in a wide variety of ways
 in a wide variety of ways
 Americans spend their free time in a wide variety of ways.

in many different ways
 in many different ways
 Americans spend their free time in many different ways.

favorite interests	*
favorite interests	*
Photography and gardening are favorite interests.	*
painting, sculpture, and woodworking	*
painting, sculpture, and woodworking	*
Others include painting, sculpture, and woodworking.	*
to make their homes more attractive	*
to make their homes more attractive	*
Many persons do things to make their homes more attractive.	*
to make their homes more beautiful	*
to make their homes more beautiful	*
Many persons do things to make their homes more beautiful.	*
in their spare time	*
in their spare time	*
Many study in their spare time.	*
in their free time	*
in their free time	*
Many study in their free time.	*
to advance their education	*
to advance their education	*
Some go to night school to advance their education.	*
to improve their education	*
to improve their education	*
Some go to night school to improve their education.	*
<hr/>	
Listen.	
Let's try a short substitution practice. For example, you will hear: "Americans spend their free time in a wide variety of ways/in many different ways." You should say: "Americans spend their free time in many different ways." Then repeat the correct response when you hear*.	

Americans spend their free time in a wide variety of ways / in many different ways.	**
Americans spend their free time in many different ways.	*
They do things to make their homes more attractive / to make their homes more beautiful.	**
They do things to make their homes more beautiful.	*
Many persons study in their spare time / in their free time.	**
Many persons study in their free time.	*
Some go to night school to improve their education / to advance their education.	**
Some go to night school to advance their education.	*