

AMERICAN LANGUAGE COURSE

UNIT 2308

OUTLINE AND STUDY OBJECTIVES

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UNIT 2308

DIALOG

LANGUAGE ENRICHMENT

Student A: Why is it that people in England do not speak the same English as Americans?

Student B: Languages change and, even though people in different parts of the world speak the same language, each will speak differently as the years pass.

Student A: I see. It is the same in my language. People in different sections of my country have different words for things.

Student B: It is interesting to read why a word becomes popular in a language and replaces an old word.

Student A: What do you mean?

Student B: Well, for example, before the early eighteenth century, the places where people stayed overnight were called inns in America. At that time, however, the new American nation felt very friendly toward the French and very antagonistic toward the English. Therefore, they stopped saying, "inn" and substituted the word "hotel." As the years passed, nations all over the world started using the word "hotel."

Student A: This is interesting. You can actually learn history by studying words.

Student B: Oh yes, you can learn many things by studying words.

Student A: I know that. Just yesterday, my instructor told the class that the word "mile" came from a word that originally meant one thousand.

Student B: What's so interesting about that?

Student A: It is interesting because the Romans took a group of soldiers and marched them. Each one thousand paces they made a mark and called it a mile.

Student B: Was it accurate?

Student A: Very accurate. They used it as a standard. The soldiers were highly trained and each one-thousand paces measured 4,860 feet.*

Student B: How do they know it was accurate?

Student A: The ancient highways can be measured and all the miles are the same length.

Student B: It's amazing how the soldiers could keep each pace exactly the same.

*The American mile is 1.61 kilometers (5,280 feet).

NOTES ON THE DIALOG

<i>what do you mean?</i>	This expression is used in informal conversations and it simply means, "I don't understand." It may also be used as part of a sentence such as: What do you mean by that statement? What did that man mean when he said, "It is time for action."
<i>replace</i>	The new book replaced the old book. Paper money will replace coins. This typewriter is too old. I need to replace it. Capt. Jones will be replaced by Capt. Smith.
<i>overnight</i>	He stayed overnight in my house. Take an overnight bag with you.
<i>amazing</i>	unbelievable; remarkable It's amazing how the rockets can reach the moon. It's amazing how much Jim can eat.

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

1. Why do Americans now use the word "hotel"?
2. Do you use the word "hotel" in your country?
3. Which people originally measured a mile?
4. How did the Romans measure a mile?
5. How many steps were considered a mile?
6. Name some English words used in your language.
7. Have you noticed any English words that may have come from your language?

FLUENCY PRACTICE

Substitution Exercise

Substitute "he" or "she" for the *italicized* pronouns and change the verb as required.

Example: I hope you *like* this place.

Change: He hopes *she* likes this place.

1. *I've* never been here before.
2. That's probably the reason *you* wanted to come.
3. Well, *you* don't need to be in a hurry. You have plenty of time.
4. What would *you* like to drink?
5. Well, *I'm* a very light drinker.

6. Would *you* like to dance?
7. *You* look so tired tonight.
8. *You* have had many interesting experiences.
9. *You* haven't done your dialog yet.
10. Why don't *we* put *our* tape on?
11. All right. *You* take the blue one and *I'll* take the red one.

READING

AN AMERICAN INVENTOR

Thomas A. Edison was born in Ohio February 11, 1847; he died in 1931 at the age of 84. During these 84 years, Edison *obtained* (got) patents on about 1100 inventions. Most of these were *worked out* (developed) in his laboratory in Newark, New Jersey. In this laboratory, he employed hundreds of men. Many of them had started working for him as young men and *remained* (stayed) until his death. Edison never *fired* (discharged) a man or let him go because he was too old. This sense of loyalty to his co-workers and their loyalty to him must have accounted for much of his success. Teamwork, cooperation, and dedication were major factors in his projects.

What kind of boyhood would you expect of the inventor? At 10 years he already had his laboratory in his mother's cellar. Here he stored chemicals bought at the local drugstore. He read books on chemistry and physics and performed many experiments, sometimes dangerous ones. *On one occasion* (once) he decided to give his companion, Michael Oates, Seidlitz powder on the theory that this would generate sufficient gases to make Michael rise "like a balloon." The results of this experiment were serious but not *fatal* (destructive of life).

At 12 years he took the job of newsboy on a train. This *provided* (gave) him the opportunity to read more and also gave him money to buy equipment for laboratory experiments. Much of this new equipment was set up in the baggage car of the train; and while he was not busy selling his papers, candy, fruit, etc., he was working in his new laboratory.

At 16 years he began the study of telegraphy and advanced so *rapidly* (fast) in it that at 17 he was an expert operator. He continued to read chemistry, his favorite subject. It was at this period of his life that he invented a new device in telegraphy. This was the big event which established him on a long and successful career in the world of technology.

Edison set up a *first-class* (excellent) laboratory at Newark, New Jersey. He *hired* (employed) men to help him in all areas of his work. Men in industry brought problems to the young inventive genius, and he *sought* (searched for) the solutions with determination and skill. New devices poured from his laboratory. In all, there were almost 1100 inventions patented in his name. The value of his many contributions is estimated to be approximately \$26 billion.

Asked what he considered his own favorite invention, he named the phonograph. Asked for a definition of genius, he replied: "It is 2% inspiration, 98% *perspiration*." (sweat, work).

Besides the phonograph, other well-known inventions were the incandescent lamp, the electric dynamo, a photographic film for motion picture machines, a new type of storage battery, a new type of camera which made possible the first motion picture camera. These are but a very few of the new devices developed by Edison. His name is found today on many of our ^{of} common articles.

What about the early school years of the man? The fact is, there were none. He attended school only three months in his entire life. He tried the public school, but because he was so badly misunderstood by his teacher, his mother took him out and taught him at home. A former teacher herself, she *devoted* (applied) her fine abilities to teaching her son. Who would say she did not do a fine job?

QUESTIONS ON THE READING

1. What was the date of Edison's birth?
2. At what age did he die?
3. How many patents did he obtain?
4. How many men did he employ in his laboratory?
5. At what age did he set up his first laboratory?
6. What was Edison's theory of the powder he gave to his companion?
7. What kinds of books did the inventor read most?
8. What job did he take when he was 12 years old?
9. What did he spend most of his income for?
10. Where did he set up his second laboratory?
11. How much money did he get from four of his first inventions?
12. What did he do with his money?
13. What was the estimated value in dollars of all his inventions?
14. Which of Edison's inventions was his favorite?
15. What was his definition of genius?
16. Name four of his main inventions.
17. How much formal education did he have?
18. Who was his great teacher?
19. Name other great inventors and inventions.

EXERCISE WITH NUMBERS

Add to, subtract from, minus, multiplied by, divided by, sum, total, difference, remainder, product, quotient, equals.

Read the sentences. Then perform the operation.

- I. If 18 is added to 36, what is the total?

$18 + 36 = ?$ Read: Eighteen plus thirty-six equals (=) _____?

Problem:

A wheel is turning at 2000 rpm. If the rpm is increased by 500, at what speed is the wheel turning? Tell what you do in finding the answer.

- II. If 17 is subtracted from 54, what is the *remainder* (difference between)?

$54 - 17 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}?$ Read as: fifty-four minus seventeen equals (=) _____? Or, seventeen subtracted from fifty-four equals (=) _____?

Problem:

A plane is scheduled to depart at 1600 hours. If the schedule is changed so that the plane will leave $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours earlier, at what time will it depart? Tell what you do in finding the answer.

- III. If 150 is multiplied by 8, what is the product?

$150 \times 8 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}?$ Read: One hundred-fifty *multiplied by* (or times) eight equals (=) _____?

Problem:

The capacity of a fuel tank is 180 gallons. If it is made twice as large, how much will it hold? Tell what you do in finding the answer.

- IV. If \$2000 is divided by 5, what is the quotient?

$\$2000 \div 5 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}?$ Read as: Two thousand dollars divided by five equals (=) _____?

Problem:

If Edison received \$40,000 from four inventions, what was the average received for each one? Tell what you do in solving.

Note: Instructors may make other similar problems. Be sure to use the correct words in each process. The italicized words above are normally used in stating mathematical operations. They are also frequently used in conversational English. Since they are words of much practical value, it is good that students master them as soon as possible.

1. Edison went to school only three months. What fractional part of a year was this?
2. How old was Edison in the year 1867?
3. He often worked till 0300 hours in his laboratory. What time was this expressed in civilian terms?
4. He took out 1200 patents in his life. If he worked exactly 50 years, how many patents did he average per year?

GAME - WHO AM I?

Each student selects a great inventor or scientist. He gives one fact to the class about the scientist and they try to name the person. This process is continued until someone names the correct person. Each student should be prepared to make at least eight true statements about the person.

A modern, complex machine such as the aircraft is a *composite* (combination) of several great inventions. Some of these are comparatively recent. Some are thousands of years old. Name as many of these inventions as you can. Make complete sentences.

DICTION*

One of Edison's experiments as a boy is quite unusual and amusing. He and his young companion decided to set up telegraph communication with each other. They strung wire from one home to the other. They used trees for poles and bottles for insulators. Then they installed telegraph keys at each end. They needed only electricity to complete the equipment. So Edison decided to use cats' fur to produce static electricity. Everything worked smoothly except the cats. They *clawed* (scratched) the hands and faces of the young inventors enough to convince the boys that they would have to get a battery instead.

*Note: See page 76 for "Procedures for Dictation."

TAPE 2308A

New words are made by using letters or syllables of a group of words. Instead of saying, "Very Important Person" many people say, "VIP." Instead of saying, "Technical Representative," many simply say, "Tech Rep." This probably occurs because people are in a hurry to say something and make shorter expressions.

Listen and repeat.

a group of words
by using letters or syllables of a group of words
New words are made by using letters or syllables of a group of words.

We say "VIP."
Instead of saying "Very Important Person," we say "VIP."

We simply say "Tech Rep."
Instead of saying, "Technical Representative," we simply say "Tech Rep."

because people are in a hurry
This probably occurs because people are in a hurry.

Repeat my statements. Answer my questions. Give short and complete answers.

People say VIP because it's shorter.

Why do people say "VIP"?
because it's shorter
People say VIP because it's shorter.

Why do people say "Tech Rep"?
because it's shorter
People say TECH REP because it's shorter.

People use shorter expressions because they are in a hurry.

Why do people use shorter expressions?
because they are in a hurry
They are shorter expressions because they're in a hurry.

Listen.

In the military, letters quite often represent a group of words. CO refers to commanding officer. NCO is a short form for non-commissioned officer. As you visit other training bases, you will hear many letters spoken which refer to a group of words.

Listen and repeat.

in the military

letters quite often represent

a word or group of words

In the military, letters quite often represent a word or group of words.

CO refers to commanding officer.

NCO means non-commissioned officer.

Repeat my statements. Answer my questions.

What do letters represent?

a group of words

They represent a group of words.

Where are letters often used?

in the military

Letters are often used in the military.

What is the meaning of NCO?

non-commissioned officer

NCO means non-commissioned officer.

Listen.

A language borrows words from other languages. This occurs when a foreign word expresses something well or there is a need for a new word. English has borrowed many words from other languages. English, on the other hand, has contributed to other languages in the technical fields.

Listen and repeat.

from other languages

A language borrows words from other languages.

when a foreign word expresses something well

This occurs when a foreign word expresses something well.

from other languages

English has borrowed many words from other languages.

on other languages

English has had a steady influence on other languages.

Repeat my statements. Answer my questions.

Why are words borrowed from other languages?

Because they express something well.

They are borrowed because they express something well.

because there is a need for a new word

Words are borrowed because there is a need for a new word.

In what area has English contributed to other languages?

in the technical fields

English has contributed to other languages in the technical fields.

TAPE 2308B

Practice with expressions of addition. Repeat the following expressions and answer my questions. Do not repeat the question.

$$18 + 36 = 54$$

18 added to 36 equals 54.

When 18 is added to 36, the total is 54.

18 + 36 is 54.

The sum of 18 + 36 is 54.

What is the sum of 18 + 36?

The sum is 54.

The sum of 18 + 36 is 54.

54 is the sum of 18 + 36.

54 is the total of 18 + 36.

Now let's practice some expressions of subtraction. Repeat the expressions and answer the questions. Don't repeat the questions.

14 dollars minus eight dollars leaves 6.

14 dollars less eight leaves 6 dollars.

I had 14 dollars and spent eight dollars.

I have 6 dollars left.

If you had 14 dollars and spent eight of them, how many dollars would you have left?

6 dollars

I'd have six dollars left.

$$54 - 17 = 37$$

17 subtracted from 54 = 37.

36 - 18 is 18.

18 subtracted from 36 is 18.

What is 36 - 18?

18

36 - 18 is 18.

$$12 - 6 = 6$$

What is 12 - 6?

12 - 6 is 6.

8 subtracted from 12 is four.

What is eight subtracted from 12?

four

Eight subtracted from 12 is 4.

Ten is the remainder of 25 - 15.

Twenty is the remainder of 30 - 10.

The next practice is with some expressions of division. Repeat the following expressions and answer my questions. Do not repeat the questions.

$$20 \div 5 = 4$$

20 ÷ 5 is 4.

What is twenty divided by 5?

4

20 ÷ 5 is 4.

one hundred dollars divided by five
equals 20 dollars

What does one hundred dollars divided by five equal?

It equals 20 dollars.

Let's practice some useful phrases. Repeat the phrases and sentences.
Answer my questions.

an opportunity to

an opportunity to

an opportunity to

Edison had an opportunity to read.

I had an opportunity to study English.

I had an opportunity to see my friend.

I had an opportunity to travel some.

Did you have an opportunity to travel?

Yes, I had an opportunity to travel.

Yes, I had an opportunity to travel.

accounted for

accounted for

accounted for

Hard work accounted for Edison's success.

Carelessness accounted for the accident.

What accounted for the accident?

Carelessness accounted for the accident.

Carelessness accounted for the accident.

decided to

decided to

decided to

We decided to leave early.

Joe decided to study chemistry.

What did Joe decide to study?

He decided to study chemistry.

He decided to study chemistry.

John decided to go by train.

How did John decide to go?

He decided to go by train.

He decided to go by train.

Who decided to go by train?

John decided to go by train.

John decided to go by train.

Did he decide to go by bus or by train?

He decided to go by train.

depended on

depended on

depended on

For success Edison depended on hard work.

Edison depended on hard work for success.

What did Edison depend on for success?

He depended on hard work.

Edison depended on hard work.

The passengers depended on the pilot's skill.

The passengers depended on the pilot's skill.

Whose skill did the passengers depend on?

the pilot's

They depended on the pilot's skill.

The passengers depended on the pilot's skill.

What did the passengers depend on?

the pilot's skill

They depended on the pilot's skill.