

Lesson 10: At the Amusement Park

Jennifer and Ben are at an amusement park, but they have very different ideas about how to have fun there. Listen to their conversation and mark these statements "True" or "False":

Listening Comprehension

True or False?

1. You need to sign a document before riding the "Screamer"
2. Jennifer doesn't want to go on any rides at all.
3. Ben doesn't want to eat a hot dog because he isn't hungry.
4. The "Screamer" is quite popular.
5. Ben tries to convince Jennifer to ride it.
6. Last year Jennifer didn't let Ben ride the Ozone Drop.
7. The Ozone Drop goes over a hundred miles an hour.
8. Jennifer changes her mind at the end of the dialogue.
9. They agree to meet in half an hour.

Conversation Text

Ben: Come on Jennifer, let's go and ride the 'Screamer'. It'll be a **blast**.

Jennifer: **Count me out!** I'm not going on a ride where I have to sign a **waiver** stating that if I die, the amusement park isn't responsible.

Ben: But the "Screamer" is the park's main attraction! It'll get your heart **pumping**, that's for sure.

Jennifer: How about the bumper cars, huh? Bumper cars are fun. And then maybe we can ride the ferris wheel – that's about as much **adrenaline** as I can handle.

Ben: It's not like you'll be perfectly safe on the bumper cars. You could get **whiplash**, you know.

Jennifer: Okay, smart guy, then how about doing something simple. Let's go get a hot dog; **I'm starving**.

Ben: Me too, but I'd rather ride the 'Screamer' on an empty stomach. Maybe afterwards we can **grab** a snack.

Jennifer: That's exactly what I'm talking about – why on earth would you want to go on a ride that's pretty much guaranteed to make you **puke**? I'm going to go watch the clowns and **munch on** a corn dog.

Vocabulary

a blast = a great time; lots of fun

count me out = I'm not going to participate

waiver = a document where you agree to give up some rights

pumping = beating very fast

adrenaline = excitement, especially from danger

whiplash = injury to your neck caused by sudden start or stop motion

I'm starving = I'm extremely hungry

grab = an informal word for "get"

puke = vomit

munch on = eat casually

Ben: Are you really going to **pass up the chance** to go on the “Screamer”? It’s the *world’s fastest ride* where you’re **upside down** the whole time! People **flock** to this park from miles away just to ride it.

Jennifer: Ben, I like to enjoy myself at the amusement park – meaning I will not get on a roller coaster that’s basically **a brush with death**. But if that’s your idea of fun, then... go ahead. **Be my guest**.

Ben: Come on, you gotta **get out of your comfort zone**! **Live it up** a little!

Jennifer: This year it’s the ‘Screamer’ and next year it’ll be something else. What was it last time...oh yeah...the ‘Ozone Drop’. And if I recall correctly, after you got off that ride you nearly **passed out**.

Ben: Yeah, but man, what a ride. I got dropped ten **stories** at a hundred and fifty miles an hour. Good times.

Jennifer: **Whatever floats your boat**. Go on, go ride the ‘Screamer’ and meet me back here in an hour. I’ll be here with my feet firmly planted on the ground.

Vocabulary

pass up the chance = not take advantage of the opportunity

upside down = inverted

flock = come and gather in large numbers

a brush with death = an instance of nearly dying

be my guest = do what you want

get out of your comfort zone = try different things that may make you uncomfortable

live it up = enjoy yourself, often extravagantly

passed out = fainted; lost consciousness

stories = floors/levels of a building

whatever floats your boat = whatever makes you happy... even if it’s a bit strange

Ben: You'll be here with a red balloon **giggling** about the **dorky** clowns. Oh well – **your loss**. I'm gonna get in line for the "Screamer."

Jennifer: And I'm gonna enjoy my clowns and hot dogs. Don't you just love the amusement park? It has something for everyone.

Ben: True. OK, see you in an hour!

Vocabulary

giggling = laughing with short, high-pitched sounds

dorky = stupid, silly

your loss = you are the one who is missing a good opportunity

Vocabulary Quiz

Complete each sentence with a word from the box. Two words are not used.

be my guest

count me out

grab

starving

blast

flocks

pass out

upside down

brush

giggling

pukes

whiplash

1. "Could I use your computer for a sec?"
"Oh sure, _____."
2. Everyone _____ to the ice cream truck on a hot summer day.
3. I can't see anything; the basement light isn't working. Can you
_____ a flashlight for me?
4. If you're going to see a horror movie, _____. I always get
nightmares from films like that.
5. The monkey hung _____ from the tree, using only his tail to
hold onto the branch.
6. My grandfather had a _____ with death on the battlefield, when
a bullet narrowly missed his heart.
7. She's still suffering from _____ after her car hit a tree last week.
8. We had a _____ at the zoo - the kids loved seeing all the
different kinds of animals.
9. My friend doesn't like boat trips at all; he gets seasick and sometimes he
_____.
10. The restaurant took over an hour to prepare our food! We were
_____ by the time it was served.

Speaking Task

Talk about a time when you've **gotten out of your comfort zone** – done something that initially made you afraid or uncomfortable. Describe the experience, how you felt about it before, and how you felt about it afterwards. Would you do it again?

Record your answer at www.speakpipe.com/espressoenglish or e-mail the MP3 to homework@espressoenglish.net for feedback!

Answers

Comprehension Questions:

1. True
2. False
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. False
7. True
8. False
9. False

Vocabulary Quiz:

1. be my guest
2. flocks
3. grab
4. count me out
5. upside down
6. brush
7. whiplash
8. blast
9. pukes
10. starving