

# Speak English With Vanessa

Free PDF Worksheet

## Advanced Vocabulary in the News

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*Dear English Learner,*

*Get ready to speak confidently with advanced vocabulary taken from a real [news story](#) where I live. I recommend reading these sample sentences out loud and using the blank space on the last page to answer my challenge question using the vocabulary. Thanks so much for learning English with me!*

*Your teacher,  
Vanessa*

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### Advanced Vocabulary in the News

As Asheville City council **ponders the idea** of purchasing a hotel to provide housing for **the homeless**, the company that owns a neighboring shopping center prepares for a **legal fight**.

**To ponder an idea:** *to wonder or consider something carefully*

Have you ever **pondered** what it would be like to speak English fluently?

*Note: "To ponder" is more often used in formal situations, and "wonder" is used in casual situations*

**The homeless:** *someone who doesn't have a home*

Several organizations give coats to **the homeless** during the winter.

**Legal fight:** *settling an issue through legal intervention*

The court case will be dropped because the costs involved in a **legal fight** are too high.

The city is looking at a Ramada near River Ridge Marketplace, which is home to 26 businesses, including Best Bride Prom & Tux.

Owner Denise Knapp feels a **homeless shelter** and a **retail area** would be **anything but an ideal marriage**. She says Horne Properties, which owns River Ridge, is ready for a legal fight.

**Homeless shelter** - *place where people without a home can stay*

He stayed at the **homeless shelter** until he found a job and an apartment.

**Retail area** - *a group of shops located near each other*

Shopping is a lot more convenient now that a new **retail area** opened up near our house.

**Anything but an ideal marriage** - *a union or partnership that won't work together at all*

Keeping the cat and the dog cooped up together in this small room is **anything but an ideal marriage**.

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Folks at Beauty Bar Asheville say the homeless population has already caused concerns about safety and trash. So, **if the city moves forward with the project** at River Ridge, the fear is that things could get even worse.

**Moves forward** - *proceeds, decides to take action and begin*

We won't be able to **move forward** with construction until the loan is approved.

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“I’m not happy about it at all,” says stylist Susan Shepherd.

**“It’s been an influx** the past few months of trash in our parking lot.”

Influx - *significant increase*

With this sudden **influx** of rain our crops are growing really quickly.

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The need for such housing for the homeless heightened recently. Last week, 50 homeless people moved out of the Red Roof Inn on Smoky Park Highway. The city **partnered with the chain** to give them temporary refuge during the pandemic.

**Partnered with the chain** - *worked together with the Red Roof Inn™ hotel chain*

\*A chain is a group of similar hotels, restaurants, or other businesses that are located in a variety of locations

This **chain** of restaurants will be expanding to 3 new cities this year.

McDonalds™ and Starbucks™ Coffee are popular examples of chains that are global. They can be found in cities all around the world.

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The **nonprofit** Homeward Bound will soon **close on the purchase** of a Days Inn to help address the need. But the executive director tells News 13 that space may not be available for residents until late 2022.

**Nonprofit** - *an organization that has legal status to operate with a social benefit*

The American Cancer Society is really committed to finding a cure for cancer so I donate to this **nonprofit** every year.

**Close on the purchase** - *real estate term for completing a sale*

After the inspections are complete we hope to **close on the purchase** of our new home.

Folks we spoke to at River Ridge say the city's project would create more problems than it solves. "We don't want that in our community, **we don't want that in our backyard**, I know that our city council doesn't want it **in their backyard**," Knapp said.

**In our/their backyard** - *located in a nearby proximity*

I live in the country because I don't want a lot of traffic **in my backyard**.

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"It's hard to conduct a business and **keep a good reputation** when that's in your parking lot every day coming in," Shepherd said.

The sale of the Ramada property has not yet been finalized. We reached out to the City of Asheville for an interview about the matter, but the city declined our request.

**Keep/up a good reputation** - *maintain a positive image in the eyes of the public*

If the restaurant owner continues to argue with his customers he's not going to be able to **keep up a good reputation** and he'll probably lose a lot of business.

## Vanessa's Challenge Question

Use the space below to write a few sentences answering this question. Try to use 5 vocabulary expressions. **Write a local news report (it can be true or made up) where you use some of the vocabulary from this lesson.**

Sample answer:

*The local department of transportation is pondering the idea of putting in a new section of interstate to help with the influx of traffic coming in and out of the city. Locals have protested that they don't want highway traffic in their backyard or on their farmland. As the transportation department moves forward with development, the locals have turned it into a legal fight.*

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