

# LESSON 127

## 697 social

What do we mean by a person's social life? By a person's social life, we mean what they do with their friends etc. in their free time outside work.

### edge

### little by little

### intend

What part of the table is this? That part of ... is the edge

Can we balance a coin on its edge? Yes, we can ...

Can we cut bread with the thick edge of a knife? No, we can't ...

The verb "to edge" means "to move slowly and carefully towards somewhere".

What does the verb "to edge" mean? The verb ... "to move slowly and carefully towards somewhere"

Why does a car have to edge forward slowly when turning from a side street into a main street? A car has to edge forward ... so that the other cars have enough time to see what it intends doing

### tin

### preserve

### aluminium

Why do factories put food in tins? Factories put food in tins to preserve it

What metal is a tin made of? A tin is made of tin or aluminium

## 698 on average

On average, how many times a week do you go out socially? On average, I go out ...

## Comparatives and superlatives of adjectives, participles and adverbs

**Most adjectives of two syllables which have the stress on the first syllable form their comparatives and superlatives by adding "-er" and "-est". For example, "clever – cleverer – cleverest" and "simple – simpler – simplest".**

How do most adjectives of two syllables which have the stress on the first syllable form their comparatives and superlatives?

Most adjectives  
of ... by adding "er" and "-est"

Give me some examples, please.

narrow narrower narrowest;  
happy happier happiest

**However, adjectives ending in "-ful" or "-less" form their comparatives and superlatives by using "more than" and "the most". For example, "helpful – more helpful – the most helpful" and "careless – more careless – the most careless".**

Which adjectives of two syllables form their comparatives and superlatives by using "more than" and "the most"?

The adjectives  
of ... are those ending in "-ful" or "-less"

Give me some examples, please.

careful more careful the most careful;  
useless more useless the most useless

**Some adjectives are made from the participles of verbs. For example, "a surprising result" or "an interested child". These adjectives form their comparatives and superlatives by using "more than" and "the most". For example, "boring – more boring – the most boring" and "pleased – more pleased – the most pleased".**

699 How do we form the comparatives and superlatives of adjectives made from the participles of verbs?

We form the ... by using  
"more than" and "the most"

Give me some examples, please.

exciting more exciting the most  
exciting; tired more tired the most tired

**There are some exceptions to these rules, but if you are not sure how to form the comparative and superlative of an adjective, it is best to use "more than" and "the most".**

If you are not sure how to form the comparative and superlative of an adjective, what is it best to do? If you are not sure ..., it's best to use "more than" and "the most"

**Adverbs that are made by adding "-ly" to an adjective form their comparatives and superlatives by using "more than" and "the most". For example, "carefully – more carefully – the most carefully".**

How do we form the comparatives and superlatives of adverbs that are made by adding "-ly" to an adjective? We form the ... of adverbs that are made by adding "-ly" to an adjective by using "more than" and "the most"

Give me some examples, please. happily   more happily   the most happily; loudly   more loudly   the most loudly

## sympathy

What kind of people do you have most sympathy for? The kind of people I have most sympathy for are those who have a serious illness etc.

## 700 reckon

## airline

Do you reckon you could jump up and touch the ceiling? Yes, I reckon I could ...  
~ No, I don't reckon I could ...

Which airline do you reckon is the biggest in the world at the moment? I reckon ... is the ...

## horrible

Can the weather sometimes be horrible in the middle of winter? Yes, the weather can ...

## anxiety

## anxious

Do you feel any anxiety about the future of the world? Yes, I feel some ... ~ No, I don't feel any ...

Why is a shopkeeper always anxious to please his customers? A shopkeeper is ... so that they will come back again

## possession

What's your most valuable personal possession?

My ... is/are my ...

## 701 entertain

Supposing you could entertain a famous person at your house, either a great figure in history or someone alive today, who would you choose?

Supposing I could entertain ..., I'd choose ...

## background

## apply

What do we mean by the background of a picture or a photograph?

By the background ..., we mean the part which is behind the main subject

When students apply to go to university, are they asked questions about their personal background?

Yes, when students ..., they're asked ...  
~ No, when students ..., they aren't asked ...

What kind of activities do you apply your energy to most?

The kind of activities ... are ...

Does the law of the land apply to everybody?

Yes, the law ...

Do you know what you have to do to apply for a new passport?

Yes, I know what ... ~ No, I don't know what ...

## highly

## the Browns

Give me a sentence with the word "highly".

It's highly probable that the Browns won't come today.

Name me a profession that is both highly respected and highly paid.

A profession that is ... is ...

## 702 ancient

## Egypt

Which is one of the most ancient civilizations in the history of the world?

One of the ... is the Egyptian civilization, the Babylonian civilization etc.

**degree**

**angle**

**right angle**

**grade**

**centigrade**

How many degrees are there in a right angle?

There are **90**  
degrees in a right angle

What do you think the temperature is today?

I think the  
temperature is about ... **degrees centigrade** today

If a student gets an A grade in an exam, is that a good result or a bad result?

If a student ..., that's a **good** result

**somewhat**

Give me a sentence with the word "somewhat".

I'd say he was  
somewhat lacking in common sense

On average, are Scandinavian people somewhat taller than people in the rest of Europe?

Yes, on average,  
Scandinavian people are somewhat ...

**at all**

Give me a sentence with the words "at all".

It's very strange; I've  
worked hard all day but **don't** feel tired at all

### 703 **Idiom 28**

why on earth = a very strong form of "why"

e.g. Why **on earth** didn't you call me and ask for help?

What does the idiom "why on earth" mean?

The idiom ...  
"a very strong ..."

Give me an example, please.

I just can't understand  
why **on earth** they **got** married if  
they **don't** like each other very much

## unity



### Dictation 84

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There are various means of transport/ we can use these days./ but in the old days./ people only had the choice/ of going on foot/ or on horseback./ or by some horse drawn form of transport./ Being overweight/ is usually due to overeating./ One usually needs to be taught/ how to operate a factory machine./ Unity is essential for success/ in a battle./ Tom is the elder/ of the two children./ though even he is not very old./ They just could not decide/ whether to rent a house/ for a fortnight/ or stay at a hotel./ Eventually, however./ they chose to rent a house.