

Idiom Building: Exaggerating

A) Instructions: Look at the sentences below. Fill in the spaces using a word from the box in the middle.

I waited at the supermarket checkout. They need more staff!

I've told you a times! Why won't you ever listen?

I broke my father's new phone. He's going to me!

freezing	dying
nowhere	forever
kill	million

It's in here! Can't you put the heating on?

I'm for a coffee! Could you make one for me?

My parents live in the middle of It's 10 miles to the nearest store!

B) Check your understanding.

1. to be very angry =
2. to be far away from everything =
3. very cold =
4. again and again =
5. to want something a lot =
6. a long time =

Exaggerating: Picture Captions



Yes: our house is in the middle of
But look at the view. It's fantastic!



Why won't you do the dishes? I've
asked you a times!



It is in here - and this
radiator isn't even warm!



I hate airports. It takes to get
through security. It's really stressful!



I've spilled red wine on my parents' new
carpet. They're going to me!



The seatbelt sign is on! But
I'm to use the bathroom!

Discussion Questions

Ask and answer these questions with a partner:

- Would you like to live in the middle of nowhere? What are the advantages and disadvantages of living somewhere isolated?
- "My parents are going to kill me!" Can you think of a time when your parents were angry with you? What had you done wrong?
- Do you ever feel that you are dying for a cup of coffee / glass of wine? When was the last time?
- Can you tell your partner about something that takes forever?
- Is there something your parents used to ask you a million times to do?
- Is it ever freezing where you live / work? Is your house well insulated? Is your house boiling in the summer?

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Teaching Notes

Target Structure:	Expressions of Exaggeration
Vocabulary:	General
Level:	Intermediate
Time:	40 minutes
Preparation:	None

Suggested Teaching Method

This worksheet looks at six common expressions where the speaker is exaggerating.

Part A

Elicit (or pre-teach) 'exaggerate'. Distribute the worksheets.

Elicit the answer to one of the speech bubbles from a confident student.

Students can work alone, or in pairs. If working in pairs, have one student read a bubble to his/her partner. Encourage students to work through the bubbles in a random order, so that they don't overhear other pairs' answers.

When the students have finished, they can check with a new partner from a different group.

Finally, go through the answers with the group.

Part B

Students can work alone and check in pairs. Go through the answers with the group. Give additional information as necessary.

Picture Captions

Have students cover the first page before beginning this exercise.

Students can work alone and check in pairs. Go through the answers with the group.

Discussion Questions

Students should read through the questions first. Answer any vocabulary queries.

Give a few minutes for students to write some notes in the spaces after the questions. They don't need to write sentences – that can be set as homework, if you wish.

After the students have had a few minutes to think about their answers, assign pairs, or small groups. Students can ask and answer the questions. Encourage follow-up questions and eye contact.

Monitor the discussion, but try not to interrupt. Make notes on English errors while you are monitoring.

When the discussion comes to a close, elicit some feedback to the questions. Also, write on the board some errors you heard while monitoring. Elicit correction.

Answer Key

Part A

I waited forever at the supermarket checkout. They need more staff!

I've told you a million times! Why won't you ever listen?

I broke my father's new phone. He's going to kill me!

It's freezing in here! Can't you put the heating on?

I'm dying for a coffee! Could you make one for me?

My parents live in the middle of nowhere. It's 10 miles to the nearest store!

Part B

1. to be very angry = kill [me]
2. to be far away from everything = in the middle of nowhere
3. very cold = freezing
4. again and again = a million times
5. to want something a lot = dying (to do / for something)
6. a long time = forever

Picture Captions

Yes: our house is in the middle of nowhere. But look at the view. It's fantastic!

Why won't you do the dishes? I've asked you a million times!

It is freezing in here ... and this radiator isn't even warm!

I hate airports. It takes forever to get through security. It's really stressful!

I've spilled red wine on my parents' new carpet. They're going to kill me!

The seatbelt sign is on! But I'm dying to use the bathroom!

How are we doing?



Have you taught this lesson? We would be pleased to hear your feedback.

Send your comments to editor@handoutsonline.com.

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