

Talk a Lot

Problems

General Questions

1. Are there any words or phrases that you don't know? Find them in a dictionary.
2. Take some cards. Describe the word or phrase on a card without saying it.
3. How many words and phrases have... a) 1 syllable, b) 2 syllables, c) 3 syllables, d) 4 syllables, e) 5 syllables, f) 6 syllables?
4. Put words and phrases with more than one syllable into groups according to where the strong stress falls.
5. Put the words and phrases into... a) alphabetical order, b) reverse alphabetical order.
6. Find and put into groups... a) compound nouns, b) words with suffixes.
7. Find words that... a) begin with a vowel sound, b) end with a vowel sound, c) begin with a consonant sound, d) end with a consonant sound. Put them into sound groups.
8. Find words which contain silent letters (letters which are not pronounced).
9. How many words and phrases can you remember when they are all turned over?
10. Put words and phrases that contain the same sounds into groups, using the IPA.

Lesson Questions

1. Which word or phrase sounds like... a) prediction, b) attention, c) cool chill, d) elect, e) rambling, f) warden, g) wild bear, h) remorse, i) bet, j) fluency, k) rating?
2. This is a regular payment which the government makes to people when they retire.
3. i) Find a word or phrase which has a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the... a) 1st syllable, b) 2nd syllable, c) 3rd syllable, etc. ii) Do any *not* have a schwa?
4. This problem results in zits, which can be annoying and make people worry about their appearance.
5. "We finally got mum a place in a _____, but she's afraid to meet the residents."
6. Find all of the problems relating to... a) babies, b) cards, c) playground, d) prison, e) coffin, f) exam, g) nightclub, h) chocolate.
7. Define "disillusionment". How is it different from "disappointment"?
8. "Georgina's parents always had such _____ for her, so it's a real pity that she didn't do better in her exams."
9. Which word or phrase means... a) a skin condition, b) financial aid while at university, c) permanent separation, d) bunking off school, e) aspiration, f) dependence, g) a nursery or nanny, h) betting, i) your property is worth less than your mortgage?
10. Which word is a problem which causes people not to bother going job-hunting?

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Discussion Words Question Sheet

Answers

General Questions

1. Answers will vary.

2. Answers will vary.

3. a) 1 word has 1 syllable: debt. b) 8 words and phrases have 2 syllables: neglect, gambling, divorce, fuel bill, boredom, childcare, dating, acne. c) 13 words and phrases have 3 syllables: peer pressure, state pension, loneliness, student loan, ambition, detention, appearance, suicide, broken home, addiction, STI, truancy, bullying. d) 9 words and phrases have 4 syllables: single parent, benefits trap, obesity, ingratitude, contraception, retirement home, euthanasia, alcoholism, child poverty. e) 5 words and phrases have 5 syllables: sibling rivalry, disillusionment, criminal record, high expectations, Alzheimer's Disease. f) 4 words and phrases have 6 syllables: funeral expenses, fertility treatment, negative equity, reconciliation.

4. 2 syllables: these words and phrases have the strong stress on the first syllable: **gambling**, **fuel bill**, **boredom**, **childcare**, **dating**, **acne**; these words have the strong stress on the second syllable: **neglect**, **divorce**. 3 syllables: these words and phrases have the strong stress on the first syllable: **peer** pressure, **loneliness**, **suicide**, **truancy**, **bullying**; these words and phrases have the strong stress on the middle syllable: **addiction**, **ambition**, **detention**, **appearance**, state **pension**; these words and phrases have the strong stress on the third syllable: student **loan**, broken **home**, **STI**. 4 syllables: these words and phrases have the strong stress on the first syllable: **alcoholism**, **benefits trap**; these words and phrases have the strong stress on the second syllable: **obesity**, **ingratitude**, **retirement** home, child **poverty**; these words and phrases have the strong stress on the third syllable: **contraception**, single **parent**, **euthanasia**. 5 syllables: this word has the strong stress on the first syllable: **Alzheimer's Disease**; these words and phrases have the strong stress on the third syllable: sibling **rivalry**, **disillusionment**; these phrases have the strong stress on the fourth syllable: criminal **record**, high **expectations**. 6 syllables: this phrase has the strong stress on the first syllable: **funeral expenses**; this phrase has the strong stress on the second syllable: **fertility treatment**; this phrase has the strong stress on the fourth syllable: **negative equity**; this word has the strong stress on the fifth syllable: **reconciliation**.

5. a) acne, addiction, alcoholism, Alzheimer's Disease, ambition, appearance, benefits trap, boredom, broken home, bullying, childcare, child poverty, contraception, criminal record, dating, debt, detention, disillusionment, divorce, euthanasia, fertility treatment, fuel bill, funeral expenses, gambling, high expectations, ingratitude, loneliness, negative equity, neglect, obesity, peer pressure, reconciliation, retirement home, sibling rivalry, single parent, state pension, STI, student loan, suicide, truancy. b) As a), but in reverse order.

6. a) This word is a compound noun: childcare (child + care). b) The following words and phrases contain suffixes: **addiction**, **ambition**, **contraception**, **detention**, **high expectations**, **reconciliation**; **bullying**, **dating**, **gambling**, **sibling rivalry**; **disillusionment**, **fertility treatment**, **retirement** home; **negative equity**, **obesity**, **child poverty**; **student loan**, **single parent**; **funeral expenses**, **criminal record**; **acne**; **alcoholism**; **Alzheimer's Disease**; **appearance**; **boredom**; **broken home**; **euthanasia**; **ingratitude**; **loneliness**; **neglect**; **peer pressure**; **state pension**; **suicide**; **truancy**.

7. a) These words and phrases all begin with a vowel sound (grouped by IPA sound): /æ/ **ambition**, **Alzheimer's Disease**, **alcoholism**, **acne**; /ə/ **appearance**, **addiction**; /ɪ/ **ingratitude**; /əʊ/ **obesity**.

b) These words and phrases all end with a vowel sound (grouped by IPA sound): /i/ **sibling rivalry**, **truancy**, **negative equity**, **child poverty**, **acne**; /ə/ **peer pressure**; /aɪ/ **STI**; /eə/ **childcare**; /ɪə/ **euthanasia**.

c) These words and phrases all begin with a consonant sound (grouped by IPA sound): /s/ **sibling rivalry**, **single parent**, **state pension**, **STI**, **student loan**, **suicide**; /d/ **dating**, **debt**, **detention**, **disillusionment**, **divorce**; /b/ **benefits trap**, **boredom**, **broken home**, **bullying**; /f/ **fertility treatment**, **fuel bill**, **funeral expenses**; /r/ **reconciliation**, **retirement home**; /k/ **contraception**, **criminal record**; /tʃ/ **childcare**, **child poverty**; /n/ **negative equity**, **neglect**; /j/ **euthanasia**; /g/ **gambling**; /h/ **high expectations**; /l/ **loneliness**; /p/ **peer pressure**; /t/ **truancy**.

d) These words and phrases all end with a consonant sound (grouped by IPA sound): /n/ **addiction**, **ambition**, **contraception**, **detention**, **reconciliation**, **state pension**, **student loan**; /t/ **debt**, **disillusionment**, **fertility treatment**, **neglect**, **single parent**; /m/ **alcoholism**, **boredom**, **broken home**, **retirement home**; /z/ **Alzheimer's Disease**, **funeral expenses**, **high expectations**; /d/ **criminal record**, **ingratitude**, **suicide**; /s/ **divorce**, **loneliness**, **appearance**;

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Discussion Words Question Sheet

/ŋ/ bullying, dating, gambling; /p/ benefits trap; /l/ fuel bill.

8. Many English words contain one or more **silent letters** – letters which are part of the spelling of a word, but which are not pronounced. The aim of this activity is to demonstrate how so often the spelling of a word in English is different from how it sounds when spoken. Below are some good examples of words in this group of discussion words that have silent letters. The silent letters are shown in brackets. No doubt your students will be able to identify some more.

divo [r] ce, de [b] t, hi [g] h expectations, lon [e] lines [s], disil [l] usionment, suicid [e], bo [re] dom

9. Answers will vary.

10. There are many possible answers to this question; for example, “gambling”, “acne”, “Alzheimer’s Disease”, and “alcoholism”, (among others) all contain the vowel sound /æ/. Use the phonetic chart on p.18.6 of the **Talk a Lot Elementary Handbook** (available free from <https://purlandtraining.com/>) and the phonetic spellings of the vocabulary words on the *Discussion Words (with the IPA)* handout to help your students put the words into sound groups.

Lesson Questions

1. a) addiction. b) detention. c) fuel bill. d) neglect. e) gambling. f) boredom. g) childcare. h) divorce. i) debt. j) truancy. k) dating.

2. state pension.

3. i) a) Words which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 1st syllable: appearance, addiction. b) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 2nd syllable: student loan, boredom, reconciliation, single parent, benefits trap, broken home, contraception, funeral expenses, truancy, euthanasia, negative equity, alcoholism. c) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 3rd syllable: peer pressure, child poverty, criminal record, obesity, loneliness, ambition, detention, state pension, appearance, Alzheimer’s Disease, addiction, funeral expenses, retirement home, fertility treatment. d) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 4th syllable: sibling rivalry, single parent, contraception, disillusionment. e) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 5th syllable: disillusionment, high expectations, negative equity. f) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 6th syllable: reconciliation, funeral expenses, fertility treatment. ii) 12 words and phrases don’t have a weak stress schwa sound: neglect, divorce, fuel bill, childcare, debt, dating, suicide, ingratitude, STI, gambling, acne, bullying.

4. acne.

5. retirement home.

6. Answers will vary. Suggested answers: a) childcare, single parent, broken home, contraception, STI, fertility treatment, child poverty. b) gambling, debt. c) bullying, acne, boredom, loneliness, truancy. d) peer pressure, alcoholism, criminal record, boredom, loneliness, detention, suicide, addiction, bullying, disillusionment. e) suicide, funeral expenses, retirement home, euthanasia, debt, single parent. f) sibling rivalry, boredom, ambition, bullying, truancy. g) sibling rivalry, obesity, peer pressure, loneliness, appearance, dating, STI, bullying, acne. h) obesity, loneliness, appearance, boredom, addiction, bullying, acne.

You could also do this quiz the other way around: read out the groups of words above and ask your students to match each group with one of these categories:

babies cards playground prison coffin exam nightclub chocolate

Or, students could think of their own category names for each word list, or devise their own categories and word lists.

7. “disillusionment” is a feeling that something is no longer worthwhile, and therefore doesn’t matter, while “disappointment” is a more trivial feeling that something hasn’t gone how you wanted it to, e.g.

*“I experience **disillusionment** when I imagine the future and find nothing at all to look forward to.”*
*“I felt **disappointment** when my football team lost an important match.”*

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Discussion Words Question Sheet

“disappointment” is more of a short-term feeling, and may be experienced fairly often – although hopefully not too often! – while “disillusionment” is more of a long-term problem, which may indicate the beginning of depression.

8. high expectations.

9. a) acne. b) student loan. c) divorce. d) truancy. e) ambition. f) addiction. g) childcare. h) gambling. i) negative equity.

10. benefits trap.