

Topic 2 Culture

1. Vocabulary (The MP3 is available online)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. D <u>a</u> mn ing | 6. Dis <u>c</u> ard ed |
| 2. De <u>n</u> ounced | 7. E <u>r</u> od ed |
| 3. Th <u>r</u> owaway | 8. In <u>s</u> en si tive |
| 4. <u>C</u> ogs | 9. Down <u>r</u> ight |
| 5. <u>E</u> x ploit ed | 10. A <u>b</u> an doned |

2. Definitions and Samples

	Word	Form	Definition	Example	Usage Tips	Parts of Speech
1	Damning	<i>adj</i>	causing or leading to condemnation or ruin	A damning flaw in the program cost the company millions of dollars	Like: <u>condemnation</u> , <u>criticism</u> , <u>castigation</u>	Damnation (n) Damn (v)
2	Denounced	<i>v</i>	to criticize (someone or something) harshly and publicly	The government called on the group to denounce the use of violence.	Like: <u>condemn</u> , <u>attack</u> , <u>decry</u>	Denouncement (n) Denouncer (n)
3	Throwaway	<i>adj</i>	made to be thrown away after use	We live in a throwaway society, just look at our use of cellphones and coffee cups.	Similar to: <u>temporary</u> , <u>expedient</u> , <u>provisional</u>	Throwaway (n) Throw away (pv)
4	Cogs	<i>n</i>	a subordinate but integral part	Be more than a cog in the machine - create, inspire!	Like: <u>slave</u> , <u>worker</u> , <u>worker bee</u>	Cog (n) Cog (v)
5	Exploited	<i>v</i>	to take unfair advantage of	He had a reputation for exploiting his workers.	Like: <u>use</u> , <u>abuse</u> , <u>oppress</u>	Exploit (n) Exploitation (n) Exploitability (n) Exploitable (adj) Exploiter (n)

	Word	Form	Definition	Example	Usage Tips	Parts of Speech
6	Discarded	<i>v</i>	to throw (something) away because it is useless or unwanted	How are our old cellphones discarded ?	Like: <u>scrapped</u> , <u>abandoned</u> , <u>junked</u>	Discardable (adj) Discarder (n)
7	Eroded	<i>v</i>	to gradually destroy something	Waves erode the shore.	Like: <u>deteriorate</u> , <u>corrode</u> , <u>wear away</u>	Erosion (n)
8	Insensitive	<i>adj</i>	showing that you do not know or care about the feelings of other people	He's just a rude, insensitive jerk.	Like: <u>indifferent</u> , <u>callous</u> , <u>heartless</u>	Insensitively (adv) Insensitiveness (<i>n</i>) Insensitivity (n)
9	Downright	<i>adj</i>	to the fullest degree: totally or completely	The movie was downright stupid.	Like: <u>absolutely</u> , <u>outright</u> , <u>thoroughly</u>	
10	Abandoned	<i>v</i>	left without needed care or protection	There are many abandoned houses throughout Ireland after the economic crisis.	Like: <u>left alone</u> , <u>deserted</u> , <u>forgotten</u>	Abandonment (n)

3. Vocabulary Practice

In **Pairs**, please respond and discuss your opinions about the following questions or statements. Please use the **underlined** word in your response and discussion.

1. Have you read any **damning** reports about your government recently?
2. Some people **denounce** gay marriage as evil, what do you think?
3. What do you do to lessen the impact of our **throwaway** culture on the environment?
4. What are the advantages of being a **cog** in the machine?
5. Do you know of any group of people that have been **exploited**?

6. I see a lot of **discarded** cigarette butts on campus. What do you think about this problem?
7. Korean culture is getting **eroded** day by day due to western influences. Do you agree with this statement? How can we keep and strengthen Korean culture?
8. Have you ever acted **insensitive** to others?
9. Is cheating on your homework **downright** wrong?
10. Have you ever **abandoned** something because you were tired of it? (Like a project...)

4. Reading and Listening (The *MP3* is available online)

Pope Francis delivered a **damning** message to European leaders when he addressed the European Parliament in Strasbourg. He **denounced** what he saw as Europe's '**throwaway** culture' where the elderly, the terminally ill and unborn children are ignored. He said technology and economics were more important to politicians than those suffering. He told his audience: "Men and women risk being reduced to mere **cogs** in a machine that treats them as items of consumption to be **exploited**, with the result that whenever a human life no longer proves useful for that machine, it is **discarded**." He added: "It is the inevitable consequence of a throwaway culture, and an uncontrolled consumerism".

The Pope was very critical of Europe's politicians and systems. He warned that Europe's once dynamic, caring and artistic cultures were being **eroded** by red tape, saying: "The great ideas which once inspired Europe seem to have lost their attraction, only to be replaced by the bureaucratic technicalities of its institutions." He said bureaucracy was "perceived as **insensitive** to individual peoples, if not **downright** harmful". The Pope said Europe risked losing its sense of community, saying: "One of the most common diseases in Europe today is the loneliness typical of those who have no connection with others. This is especially true of the elderly, who are often **abandoned** to their fate, and also in the young."

5. Reading Practice

In **Pairs**, have a short discussion on the following:

- a. Do you think your country is much like the Europe above, less caring for people, and more concerned with profits and technology? If yes, what should be done about it?

6. Conversation Strategies

Delaying your Response, maybe to avoid giving an answer.

Delaying Strategies	Asking someone information
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>I can't answer that directly.</i>• <i>I'll need time to think about that.</i>• <i>That's a very interesting question, because...</i>• <i>That's a difficult question to answer, because...</i>• <i>That's a tough question to answer, because...</i>• <i>To be honest, that's a difficult question, because ...</i>• <i>That's a very good question. The reality is that ...</i>• <i>What do you mean by that?</i>• <i>What do you mean by ...?</i>• <i>Well, it depends on what you mean...</i>• <i>Well, if you ask me, it all depends on your circumstances...</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>I'd like to know</i>• <i>I'm interested in</i>• <i>Could you tell me..?</i>• <i>Could I ask about ...?</i>• <i>Do you know if...?</i>• <i>Do you know what....is?</i>• <i>Do you happen to know whether or not...?</i>• <i>Do you happen to know what.... is?</i>

7. Conversation Strategy Practice

Using the Opinion Questions from the 1st Chapter, along with general Wh. Questions – Who, Where, Why, What, When, Whom, How – Can you ask your Partner questions about the following Topics? Your partner must use Delaying Strategies and follow these up by Asking for more Information.

Example:

Topic = **Spanish bullfighting**

Student A: Opinion Question = *What do you think about **Spanish bullfighting**?*

Student B: Delaying Strategy = *That's a very interesting question, because **I did go and see it once in Spain.** Could you tell me what you think?*

Student A: Response = *Eh, hmm, I don't like it. It's cruel and barbaric.*

Practice:

Student A:

Please ask Opinion Questions with the Topics below and chat with Student B.

Drinking

Classical Music

Student B:

Please ask Opinion Questions with the Topics below and chat with Student B.

Hip Hop

Tattoos

8. Phrasal Verbs

These *Phrasal Verbs* are very common in relation to **Culture**.

Phrase	Meaning	Collocation	Example
Soak *up*	To spend time experiencing, listening to, or feeling something enjoyable	culture sun	When I travel, I really try to <u>soak up</u> the local culture. We're having a great time, <u>soaking up</u> the sun.
Tap into*	To understand and express something such as people's beliefs or attitudes	culture	As a foreigner, even though I am married to a Korean, it is difficult to <u>tap into</u> Korean culture sometimes, especially when it comes to understanding Korean customs.
Grow up in*	To be raised or brought up in a place or situation	culture name (country, city...)	I <u>grew up in</u> a liberal culture, despite my father being quite conservative.
Dive into*	To do something in a very enthusiastic way	culture work study	I love <u>diving into</u> a new culture, meeting its people, tasting new foods and trying the language.
Keep up with*	To remain in contact with	friends the news current events trends	I do make a point of <u>keeping up with</u> current trends in society. It's just part of who I am.

9. Idioms/Phrases

These Idioms are very common and they are connected to **Culture**.

Idioms/Phrases	Meaning	Situation	Example
Culture shock	A condition of disorientation affecting someone who is suddenly exposed to an unfamiliar culture or way of life or set of attitudes		Have you ever <i>experienced</i> <u>culture shock</u> while in a foreign country?
Not make head or tail of	Cannot understand at all	This idiom is always used with <i>can</i> or <i>could</i> . The nouns <i>head</i> and <i>tail</i> are often made plural.	I <u>can't make heads or tails</u> of this grammar. I really need help!
Inside joke	A joke that is understood or meant to be understood only by certain people who are in the know about the details		I couldn't understand why they were laughing at me. It must have been an <u>inside joke</u> .
Dog-eat-dog world	A very competitive and sometimes unfair world	This idiom can be used when people resort to almost any means to achieve their goals.	I heard that Steve Jobs stole the mouse idea from Xerox. It's a <u>dog-eat-dog world</u> out there.
Greek to me	If you don't understand something, it's all Greek to you.		I haven't a clue what this menu says. It's <u>all Greek to me!</u>