

Topic 1 Culture

1. Vocabulary (The MP3 is available online)

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|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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

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|--|--|
| <p>Yes/No Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Do you believe in ...?</i>• <i>Do you think we should ...?</i>• <i>Do you think everybody should ...?</i>• <i>Do you think that...?</i>• <i>Would you consider ...?</i>• <i>Would you ever consider ...?</i> <p>WH Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>What do you think of ...?</i>• <i>What do you think is the problem between ... and ...?</i>• <i>What do you think is the problem with ...?</i>• <i>What do you think are the causes of ...?</i>• <i>What are the advantages and disadvantages?</i> | <p>OR Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Are you for or against ...?</i>• <i>Would you prefer...?</i>• <i>Would you rather ...?</i>• <i>What is better: - ... or ...?</i> <p>Negative Yes/No Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Don't they...?</i>• <i>Don't you think it's better to ...?</i>• <i>Don't you understand that ...?</i>• <i>Don't you see that ...?</i>• <i>Can't you see that ...?</i>• <i>Wouldn't it be better to ...?</i>• <i>Wouldn't it be wiser to ...?</i>• <i>Wouldn't you agree that ...?</i>• <i>Why shouldn't they?</i> |
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7. Conversation Strategy Practice

Please look at the Topics below. Please have a short conversation using the Topic and Opinion Questions. Pick the right Opinion Questions from above and ask your partner some questions. Your partner should give a brief response.

Example:

Topic = Europe

Student A - *Opinion Question 1* = *What do you think of Europe?*

Student B - Response 1 = *I think it's a great place!*

Student A - *Opinion Question 1* = *Don't you think it's difficult to live there with all the different languages?*

Student B - Response 2 = *I do, but that's also the cool thing about Europe.*

Practice:

Student A

Please ask Opinion Questions with the Topics below & have a short conversation with Student B.

- MT Culture
- Bali Bali Culture

Student B

Please ask Opinion Questions with the Topics below & have a short conversation with Student A

- Korean Education Culture
- Korean Dating Culture

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> |