

Living Life!

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People are different from animals in many ways. One of those ways is that we talk – we use words to communicate with each other.

From the time of Adam and Eve until the time of Noah people had only *one* language. There are over 6000 languages spoken in the world today.

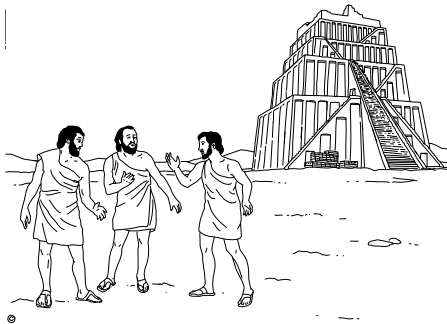
Then came the huge flood that destroyed the whole world except for Noah and his family and some of each of the animals.

After that time, Noah's three sons and their wives had children and grandchildren ... until there were once again a lot of people – many nations of peoples – in the world. By the way, the city of Nineveh (Mosul) was built by Nimrod – the son of Cush, the son of Ham, the son of Noah.

It was during this time that God created *many* languages because of the disobedience of the people! After the flood, God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” Noah's sons were obedient in having many children, but they were disobedient because they didn't “fill” the earth. Instead, they all stayed in one place, which displeased God.

This is the history of God creating the languages. It comes from the book of “Beginnings” (Genesis) which the prophet Moses wrote:

The Dispersion of the Nations at Babel



“The whole earth had a common language and a common vocabulary. When the people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. Then they said to one another, “Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” (They had brick instead of stone and tar instead of

mortar.) Then they said, “Come, let's build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens so that we may make a name for ourselves. Otherwise we will be scattered across the face of the entire earth.”

But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the people had started building. And the LORD said, “If as one people all sharing a common language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be beyond them. Come, let's go down and confuse their language so they won't be able to understand each other.”

So the LORD scattered them from there across the face of the entire earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why its name was called Babel – because there the LORD confused the language of the entire world, and from there the LORD scattered them across the face of the entire earth.”

Later, God gave the prophet Moses this command: “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold guiltless anyone who takes his name in vain.”

When the prophet Jesus was on the earth, he told the people this: “Do not take oaths at all – not by heaven, because it is the throne of God, not by earth, because it is his footstool, and not by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. Do not take an oath by your head, because you are not able to make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no.’ More than this is from the evil one.”

Today many people in our world are guilty of using the name of God in vain. They constantly say things like, “Oh my God!” and “By God!” when they really are not asking God for help in a serious way. Because it is so common, we tend to think that it is OK to say it, but it is *not* OK. It is very disrespectful and disobedient to God.

Let's obey God by using the language that he gave us in a respectful way and by encouraging others to do the same.

What is True Freedom?

Taking an oaths and making vows is an important part of our countries and cultures. Here is a glimpse into American oaths and vows:

Presidents, judges, lawyers, and military personnel must swear their allegiance to the country and to the Constitution. The President of the United States is sworn into office at an official ceremony after he has been elected. He, must put his left hand on a Bible, raise his right hand, and swear to uphold the laws of America with integrity. This is his oath:

I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

- Presidential oath of office, Article II, Section 1, United States Constitution

In a court of law when testifying as a policeman or as a witness, people must swear to tell the truth and nothing but the truth.

When new immigrants receive their citizenship in America, they must go to an official ceremony where they raise their right hands and swear their allegiance to America swear that they no longer give allegiance to their former countries.

Those who become doctors in America take an oath of moral, ethical, and professional integrity when they repeat the Hippocratic Oath or its modern version, the Lasagna Oath.

A bride and groom make a vow before God and their family and friends to love each other in good times and bad times and to stay married until one of them dies.

Christian parents frequently dedicate their young children in church and promise before God and the church members to raise their child in a way that honors God.

These are all examples of serious oaths and vows in American culture. It is so important to remember that God is our King – our ultimate authority – and that we are responsible to live our lives and do our jobs in a way that honors and pleases him.

When we know, understand, and have the *truth*, then we will have true *freedom*. True freedom is not a state of politics. True freedom is a state of one's heart. Many people who live in "free" America are not free because they don't have truth in their lives. Many people who live in communistic countries where they have little or no political freedom *are* free because they have the truth. Strive to know the Truth.

Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth.

– George Washington

Job

Job's Good Life

There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. And that man was pure and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. Seven sons and three daughters were born to him. His possessions included 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys; in addition he had a very great household. Thus he was the greatest of all the people in the east.

Now his sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one in turn, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. When the days of their feasting were finished, Job would send for them and sanctify them; he would get up early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job thought, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's customary practice.

Satan's Accusation of Job

Now the day came when Satan came to present himself before the LORD. The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" And Satan answered the LORD, "From roving about on the earth, and from walking back and forth across it." So the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a pure and upright man, one who fears God and turns away from evil."

Then Satan answered the LORD, "Is it for nothing that Job fears God? Have you not made a hedge around him and his household and all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his livestock have increased in

the land. But extend your hand and strike everything he has, and he will no doubt curse you to your face!"

So the LORD said to Satan, "All right then, everything he has is in your power. Only do not extend your hand against the man himself!"

Job's Integrity in Adversity

Now the day came when Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and a messenger came to Job, saying, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing beside them, and the Sabeans swooped down and carried them all away, and they killed the servants with the sword! And I – only I alone – escaped to tell you!"

While this one was still speaking, another messenger arrived and said, "The fire of God has fallen from heaven and has burned up the sheep and the servants – it has consumed them! And I – only I alone – escaped to tell you!"

While this one was still speaking another messenger arrived and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands and made a raid on the camels and carried them all away, and they killed the servants with the sword! And I – only I alone – escaped to tell you!"

While this one was still speaking another messenger arrived and said, "Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and suddenly a great wind swept across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they died! And I – only I alone – escaped to tell you!"

Then Job got up and tore his robe. He shaved his head, and then he threw himself down with his face

to the ground. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will return there. The LORD gives, and the LORD takes away. May the name of the LORD be blessed!" In all this Job did not sin, nor did he charge God with moral impropriety.

Satan's Additional Charge

Again Satan present himself before the LORD. Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a pure and upright man, one who fears God and turns away from evil. And he still holds firmly to his integrity, so that you stirred me up to destroy him without reason."

But Satan answered the LORD, "Skin for skin! Indeed, a man will give up all that he has to save his life! But extend your hand and strike his bone and his flesh, and he will no doubt curse you to your face!"

So the LORD said to Satan, "All right, he is in your power; only preserve his life."

Job's Integrity in Suffering

So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and he afflicted Job with a malignant ulcer from the sole of his feet to the top of his head. Job took a shard of broken pottery to scrape himself with while he was sitting among the ashes.

Then his wife said to him, "Are you still holding firmly to your integrity? Curse God, and die!" But he replied, "You're talking like one of the godless women would do! Should we receive what is good from God, and not also receive what is evil?" In all this Job did not sin by what he said.

- Job 1:1-2:1, 2:3-10; 1:6 and 1:12 were abridged.

Language Learning and Teaching

The Cloze Listening Exercise

A cloze is a listening and writing exercise. The student does not say anything during the exercise. The teacher reads the text to the student; the student listens and writes. After the student has completed the exercise, the teacher can use the topic to begin a discussion in the class or to give a writing assignment.

Choose the text.

- Write your own text or choose a paragraph or short story to make into a cloze. You can also use songs that are recorded, however songs are the most difficult kind of listening exercise because the vowel sounds are stretched out.
- Choose a text that is relevant to your students in both topic and grammar.
- Make two copies of the text: one copy is the teacher's text that he reads from. The second copy will be made into a cloze exercise.

Make the cloze.

- Replace every seventh to tenth word with a blank line. If every seventh word is omitted it is a more difficult exercise because the student will have to write more quickly. If every tenth word is omitted, it is easier because the student has more time to write the missing word.
- The blank lines should all be the same length so that the student can't guess if the word is long or short.
- Double space the text.
- Number the blanks.
- Make a photocopy of the cloze for your student; keep the original to copy later for other students.
- Make an answer key with answers that are numbered to correspond to the blank lines.

Teach the cloze.

- Give your student the cloze exercise.
- Tell him to listen carefully and to write the words that are missing from the blanks.
- Read the teacher's text at a normal speed while the student writes the missing words in the blanks.
- Tell your student to listen again and to check and correct his work.
- Read the text again so that your student can hear the pronunciation of the words that he missed.
- Read the text a third time if the student needs it, or go on to the next step.
- Answer your student's questions about words in the text that he doesn't understand.
- Allow the student to check and correct his own work by using the Answer Key.
- Discuss the content of the text.

Practice with the example cloze. Ask a friend to read this page to you while you write the missing words in the blanks in the text on the next page. The answers to the cloze are below.

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Answer Key for the cloze on the next page	3. the	9. are	15. seventh	21. student	27. him	33. words
	4. the	10. vowel	16. seventh	22. Double	28. are	34. if
	5. a	11. relevant	17. because	23. of	29. a	35. next
1. and	6. assignment	12. two	18. tenth	24. copy	30. in	36. text
2. the	7. a	13. text	19. has	25. answers	31. to	37. and
	8. You	14. made	20. lines	26. Teach	32. so	38. Discuss

The Cloze Listening Exercise



























A cloze is a listening _____ writing exercise. The student does not say anything during _____ exercise. The teacher reads the text to the student; _____ student listens and writes. After the student has completed _____ exercise, the teacher can use the topic to begin _____ discussion in the class or to give a writing _____.

Choose the text. Write your own text or choose _____ paragraph or short story to make into a cloze. _____ can also use songs that are recorded, however songs _____ the most difficult kind of listening exercise because the _____ sounds are stretched out. Choose a text that is _____ to your students in both topic and grammar. Make _____ copies of the text: one copy is the teacher's _____ that he reads from. The second copy will be _____ into a cloze exercise.

Make the cloze. Replace every _____ to tenth word with a blank line. If every _____ word is omitted it is a more difficult exercise _____ the student will have to write more quickly. If every _____ word is omitted, it is easier because the student _____ more time to write the missing word. The blank _____ should all be the same length so that the _____ can't guess if the word is long or short. _____ space the text. Number the blanks. Make a photocopy _____ the cloze for your student; keep the original to _____ later with other students. Make an answer key with _____ that are numbered to correspond to the blank lines.

_____ **the cloze.** Give your student the cloze exercise. Tell _____ to listen carefully and to write the words that _____ missing from the blanks. Read the teacher's text at _____ normal speed while the student writes the missing words _____ the blanks. Tell your student to listen again and _____ check and correct his work. Read the text again _____ that your student can hear the pronunciation of the _____ that he missed. Read the text a third time _____ the student needs it, or go on to the _____ step. Answer your student's questions about words in the _____ that he doesn't understand. Allow the student to check _____ correct his own work by using the Answer Key. _____ the content of the text.

Alphabet

A, a	Australia		J, j	Jordan		S, s	sunflower	
B, b	bicycle		K, k	kangaroo		T, t	tomato	
C, c	camel		L, l	lemon		U, u	umbrella	
D, d	dress		M, m	monkey		V, v	van	
E, e	eye		N, n	nurse		W, w	watermelon	
F, f	fox		O, o	old		X, x	x-ray	
G, g	guard		P, p	porcupine		Y, y	yawn	
H, H	hotel		Q, q	queen		Z, z	zebra	
I, i	Iraq		R, r	rope				

Beauty

This rug was photographed in Zakho, 2007.

