

**Supplementary Guideline Part A for
University of Maryland ESOL Conversation Program
Fall Semester 2012**



Written and Compiled by Clare Cheng and Yin Yuan

Volunteer can use the following games for program members to practice idioms/common phrases or concepts used throughout Fall 2012 semester or from previous semesters.

- a) Charade: Write several items on slips of paper and put them in a hat/bag/cup. Then each student acts out the idiom and have the rest of the students guess what the idiom is without saying any words.
- b) Idiom-millionaire: Have a set of questions (multiple choice) for the idioms and have students take turns answering a question (same set working to reach towards the goal). Draw the lifeline on the board.
- c) Memory game: have the definition and the idiom shuffled up and have students turn them over as they try to match up the definition to the right idiom (slips of paper facing down).
- d) Have students pair up/or as a group use 7 of the idioms from the list and write a story. Competition between different groups: fastest, most romantic, funniest story etc.
- e) Use one of the idioms and write a sentence (can be true or made up). Everyone put theirs in a bag/hat/cup. Pass the bag around and have students take turn to draw from it and read it. The rest of the group guesses who wrote it.

Session 1: Human Family



Name:

Date:

Time Capture Sheet

This morning, the first thing that came to my mind was...	When I go grocery shopping, I feel because....	The music that I listen to on the way to Conversation Group this morning was....
The food I ate last night and the food I ate this morning are...	One thing that I miss about my homeland the most is...	One struggle that I had in the past few days is...
I am wearing... (color of shirts, shorts, and style of clothes)	I feel happy when...	I get nervous when....
One thing that I constantly worry about is...	The last time I called home (people back in my native country), I felt...	If I could have one wish that comes true, I wish....
If I could have anything in the world (unlimited), I would choose to have...	The last time I felt like crying was when...	One thing that I want to do if I could do anything now is....

Culture Corner

Human Family

Maya Angelou

I note the obvious differences
in the human family.
Some of us are serious,
Some thrive on comedy.

Some declare their lives are lived
as true profundity,
and others claim they really live
the real reality.

The variety of our skin tones
can confuse, bemuse, delight,
brown and pink and beige and purple,
tan and blue and white.

I've sailed upon the seven seas
and stopped in every land,
I've seen the wonders of the world,
not yet one common man.

I know ten thousand women
Called Jane and Mary Jane,
but I've not seen any two
who really were the same.

Mirror twins are different
although their features jibe,
and lovers think quite different thoughts
while lying side by side.

We love and lose in China,
we weep on England's moors,
and laugh and moan in Guinea, and thrive on
Spanish shores.

We seek success in Finland,
are born and die in Maine.
In minor ways we differ,
in major we're the same.

I note the obvious differences
between each sort and type,
but we are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike.

We are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike.

We are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike.

Who Belongs? Changing Concepts

William Kaplan

Throughout the world, citizenship has become a matter of urgent public policy and growing debate. It is not hard to understand why. Behind the rhetoric, citizenship represents our aspirations for ourselves and our society. It tells us who we are and where we, as a given country, wish to go. But more so than at any other time in the past, it is a troubling concept because the world, not to mention accepted standards of justice and fair play, has so radically changed. For citizenship to continue to have meaning, we must draw a line between "them" and "us"; but how can we justify a citizenship, which, for whatever reasons, discriminates between people? Citizenship laws set out the legal rules that enable us to draw a line and make a justification. But like many laws, those governing citizenship provide, at best, an unsatisfactory mean for resolving a fundamental social and political question: who belongs?

Citizenship

The Roman Republic distinguished between civil rights, meaning equality before the law without participation in government, and political rights, or membership in the sovereign body with full political participation. Only people who had both civil and political rights had citizenship rights.

Additional Possible Statements for Game of Things:

- On a peaceful summer evening, what are the two things that you would do to spend the evening by yourself?
- If you could choose to have one quality/characteristic/personality in yourself, what would you choose?
- How do you identify yourself?
- What are the most beautiful things in this world?

Session 2: Hometowns and Childhoods (All materials are in session guidelines.)

Session 3: Meaning/Purpose of Life

Additional Questions for Purpose of Life Session

1. If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?
2. If I gave you \$10,000, what would you spend it on?
3. If you could talk to anyone in the world, who would it be?
4. If you could live in any period of history, when would it be?
5. If you could be someone else, who would you be?
6. If you could have any question answered, what would it be?
7. If you could do your dream job 10 years from now, what would it be?
8. If you had to be allergic to something, what would it be?
9. If you could learn any skill, what would it be?
10. If you were sent to live on a space station for three months and only allowed to bring three personal items with you, what would they be?

Anticipation Guide

Before		Statements	After	
Agree	Disagree	There is no meaning in life.	Agree	Disagree
Agree	Disagree	There is a meaning in life that people should seek.	Agree	Disagree
Agree	Disagree	You create your meaning in life.	Agree	Disagree
Agree	Disagree	Everyone has a different purpose in life.	Agree	Disagree

Quotes on the Meaning of Life

“Prime numbers are what is left when you have taken all the patterns away. I think prime numbers are like life. They are very logical but you could never work out the rules, even if you spent all your time thinking about them.”

— Mark Haddon, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*

“You will never be happy if you continue to search for what happiness consists of. You will never live if you are looking for the meaning of life.”

— Albert Camus

“Do you know a cure for me?”

“Why yes,” he said, “I know a cure for everything. Salt water.”

“Salt water?” I asked him.

“Yes,” he said, “in one way or the other. Sweat, or tears, or the salt sea.”

— Karen Blixen, *Seven Gothic Tales*

“Because children grow up, we think a child's purpose is to grow up. But a child's purpose is to be a child. Nature doesn't disdain what lives only for a day. It pours the whole of itself into the each moment. We don't value the lily less for not being made of flint and built to last. Life's bounty is in its flow, later is too late. Where is the song when it's been sung? The dance when it's been danced? It's only we humans who want to own the future, too. We persuade ourselves that the universe is modestly employed in unfolding our destination. We note the haphazard chaos of history by the day, by the hour, but there is something wrong with the picture. Where is the unity, the meaning, of nature's highest creation? Surely those millions of little streams of accident and wilfulness have their correction in the vast underground river which, without a doubt, is carrying us to the place where we're expected! But there is no such place, that's why it's called utopia. The death of a child has no more meaning than the death of armies, of nations. Was the child happy while he lived? That is a proper question, the only question. If we can't arrange our own happiness, it's a conceit beyond vulgarity to arrange the happiness of those who come after us.”

— Tom Stoppard, *The Coast of Utopia*

“There is not one big cosmic meaning for all; there is only the meaning we each give to our life, an individual meaning, an individual plot, like an individual novel, a book for each person.”

— Anaïs Nin, *The Diary of Anaïs Nin, Vol. 1: 1931-1934*

“Life has no meaning. Each of us has meaning and we bring it to life. It is a waste to be asking the question when you are the answer.”

— Joseph Campbell

“Life is problems. Living is solving problems.”

— Raymond E. Feist, *Silverthorn*

“I go to seek a Great Perhaps.”

— François Rabelais

“I have learned that you can go anywhere you want to go and do anything you want to do and buy all the things that you want to buy and meet all the people that you want to meet and learn all the things that you desire to learn and if you do all these things but are not madly in love: you have still not begun to live.”

— C. JoyBell C.

“Plato says that the unexamined life is not worth living. But what if the examined life turns out to be a clunker as well?”

— Kurt Vonnegut, *Wampeters, Foma and Granfaloon*

“There are powers far beyond us, plans far beyond what we could have ever thought of, visions far more vast than what we can ever see on our own with our own eyes, there are horizons long gone beyond our own horizons. This is courage- to throw away what is our own that is limited and to thrust ourselves into the hands of these higher powers- God and Destiny. To do this is to abide in the realm of the eternal, to walk in the path of the everlasting to follow in the footprints of God and demi-gods. The hardest part for man is the letting go. For some reason, he thinks himself big enough to know and to see what's good for him. But in the letting go.....is found freedom. In the letting go..... is found the flight!”

— C. JoyBell C.

“I believe that I am not responsible for the meaningfulness or meaninglessness of life, but that I am responsible for what I do with the life I've got.”

— Hermann Hesse, *Verliebt in die verrückte Welt: Betrachtungen, Gedichte, Erzählungen, Briefe*

“We're on this planet for too short a time. And at the end of the day, what's more important? Knowing that a few meaningless figures balanced—or knowing that you were the person you wanted to be?”

— Sophie Kinsella

“The purpose of life is to stay alive. Watch any animal in nature--all it tries to do is stay alive. It doesn't care about beliefs or philosophy. Whenever any animal's behavior puts it out of touch with the realities of its existence, it becomes extinct.”

— Michael Crichton, *Congo*

“To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end of life.”

— Robert Louis Stevenson, *Familiar Studies of Men and Books*

“Beyond work and love, I would add two other ingredients that give meaning to life. First, to fulfill whatever talents we are born with. However blessed we are by fate with different abilities and strengths, we should try to develop them to the fullest, rather than allow them to atrophy and decay. We all know individuals who did not fulfill the promise they showed in childhood. Many of them became haunted by the image of what they might have become. Instead of blaming fate, I think we should accept ourselves as we are and try to fulfill whatever dreams are within our capability.

Second, we should try to leave the world a better place than when we entered it. As individuals, we can make a difference, whether it is to probe the secrets of Nature, to clean up the environment and work for peace and social justice, or to nurture the inquisitive, vibrant spirit of the young by being a mentor and a guide.”

— Michio Kaku

“When you learn to appreciate everything around you, that is when you have found the true meaning of life. But when you have learned to love another with all your heart, that is when you have finally understood and start to actually fulfill the purpose of your existence.”

— Jamine Isabel E. Uy

“If there is meaning in life at all, then there must be meaning in suffering.”

— Viktor E. Frankl

“As soon as you look at the world through an ideology you are finished. No reality fits an ideology. Life is beyond that. ... That is why people are always searching for a meaning to life... Meaning is only found when you go beyond meaning. Life only makes sense when you perceive it as mystery and it makes no sense to the conceptualizing mind.”

— Anthony de Mello

“Life has to be given a meaning because of the obvious fact that it has no meaning.”

— Henry Miller

“The only purpose of our lives consists in waking each other up and being there for each other.”

— Johanna Paungger, *Moon Time: The Art of Harmony with Nature and Lunar Cycles*

“The end is not the reward; the path you take, the emotions that course through you as you grasp life - that is the reward.”

— Jamie Magee, *Embody*

“The problem for us is not are our desires satisfied or not. The problem is how do we know what we desire.”

— Slavoj Žižek

“We think we can make honey without sharing in the fate of bees, but we are in truth nothing but poor bees, destined to accomplish our task and then die.”

— Muriel Barbery, *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*

“Only when you accept that one day you'll die can you let go, and make the best out of life. And that's the big secret. That's the miracle.”

— Gabriel Bá, *Daytripper*

“Philosophers can debate the meaning of life, but you need a Lord who can declare the meaning of life.”

— Max Lucado, *Traveling Light: Releasing the Burdens You Were Never Intended to Bear*

“God and Destiny are not against us, rather they are for us, they are the ones who never forget the things we have long forgotten, the ones who hear the desires of our heart that our own heads can't hear, and they are the ones who never forget who we really are, long after our minds have forgotten the images of who we are. We come from God and we belong to Destiny, yet for some reason of ignorance we think that to be the master of our own fates and the captain of our own souls means to write everything down on a paper and plan everything out on a grid! Such great things to be done, and we think they are accomplished by our primitive ways! No. We must only know what we want. And want what we want. And then fly high enough to see all that which we want that we couldn't yet see.”

— C. JoyBell C.

“He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? But to act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

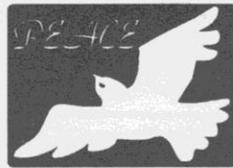
— Anonymous, *Holy Bible: King James Version*

“George, she says it's the truth that matters. We live and die for the chance to maybe tell a little bit of the truth, maybe shame the Devil just a little bit before we go.”

— Mira Grant, *Feed*

“The greatest create of power you have on earth, whether you are an angel, a spirit, a man or woman or child is to help others.”

— Anne Rice, *Servant of the Bones*



What is Your Purpose?

A person who has no idea about his purpose becomes like a tourist who keeps stepping off at the wrong train stations. He arrives someplace, but it's never the right place. Your purpose is your life's control center. Your purpose may be obvious to you. If it is not obvious, you need to do some thinking and analysis.

When considering what your purpose might be, first think about all four basic life areas: family, profession, public service and religion. (Peter McWilliams, 1991.) Most people's lives can fit in these four general areas. You may spend some time in every area, but when considering your purpose, your life's navigator, it helps to narrow your focus to only one life area. How do you know which area is the best for you? The one that inspires you the most, the one that you think about the most, is your life area.

Once you have selected your life area, you are in a position to find your true purpose. Be careful that you are not misled by the wrong intentions. Be aware of your own hidden agendas. If, for example, you are intrigued most by the family area and you decide your purpose is to get married and raise three healthy, happy children, that's fine. But if your hidden agenda is to find a rich husband so you don't have to work, so you can impress your friends, you will most certainly experience problems.

You will only find your true purpose with good, noble, honest intentions. Here are only a few examples: to entertain others, to teach others, to improve your town, to serve God, to heal people in pain, to make a better product or service, to raise children, to keep your community safe. Many people decide that their purpose is "to help others." That is too general. Notice that all of the above examples can help others. A more narrow, more specific purpose will be a better control center for your life.

Are you wondering if simply having fun and enjoying yourself makes a good purpose? Well, think about it. Having fun provides only short-term satisfaction. Eventually you either become bored or tired of relaxing, drinking with friends, playing cards, or watching movies. Relaxation is important and is a great reward for hard work, but it makes a weak purpose for life. A

good test whether you have a strong purpose, is to ask the question, "does it make a difference?"

When you have found your life's purpose keep it to yourself. Don't talk about it. It is sacred. Keep the roots deep within you. It is your compass for life. If you have selected the right purpose, it is rare that you will change it. You may change what dreams you follow, but

your purpose will not change. For example, if you feel your purpose is to "heal people in pain," your dream may vary from becoming a physician, to a physical therapist, to a nurse, or to any other healing profession. It may take a few tries before you find the right dream. Your purpose is not so variable. It is the center that your potential dreams revolve around.

Questions:

1. What life area – family, profession, public service or religion – holds most interest for you, that you think about the most?
2. What do you think is your purpose? (Do not share this with just anyone.)

Session 4: Love

1. **Puppy Love**

Puppy love is an idiom that refers to the strong feeling of affection between two young people. It is also called *young love*.

Example: They say it is just puppy love. The high-school sweethearts say it is true love.

2. **Head over Heels in Love and Hung Up On**

The idiomatic expressions *head over heels in love* and *hung up on* both mean to be very much in love with another person. They can even mean obsession or infatuation.

Example: He's head over heels in love with Sue! He's totally hung up on her.

3. **Hit it Off**

To *hit it off* is to instantly get along well with a person from the first meeting. It is an idiom that refers to instant connections.

Example: They hit it off from the beginning and have been together for two decades now.

4. **Whisper Sweet Nothings**

The idiom "*whisper sweet nothings*" implies saying intimate words to someone. Usually, people say sweet nothings in someone's ears.

Example: Grandpa whispered sweet nothings in grandma's ears while they were seated in the porch overlooking the lake.

5. **Find Mr. Right**

Find Mr. Right is an idiom that connotes finding the right male partner. This idiom specifically says that Mr. Right is a husband material or somebody who can be a future husband.

Example: She wants to find Mr. Right. At her age, she feels that she's ready for marriage.

6. **Pop the Question and Ask for Someone's Hand in Marriage**

Pop the question and *ask for someone's hand in marriage* are idioms that refer to marriage proposals. *Pop the question* is casual while *ask for someone's hand in marriage* is a little formal.

Example: The prince asked for her hand in marriage in an elaborately planned proposal in the yacht.

7. **Tie the Knot, Walk Down the Aisle and Get Hitched**

The idioms *tie the knot*, *walk down the aisle* and *get hitched* mean to get married. *Get hitched* is a bit informal in tone while *walk down the aisle* signifies getting married in a church where there is an aisle.

Example: She walked down the aisle in style, wearing her gorgeous mermaid-cut tulle wedding gown.

8. **On the Rocks**

On the rocks is an idiom that connotes having problems in a relationship.

Example: The relationship is on the rocks and the couple seems unable to find ways to resolve their differences.

9. **Kiss and Makeup**

Kiss and makeup is an idiom that means becoming friends or lovers again after a nasty fight.

Example: We are quick to kiss and makeup. We make sure arguments make us stronger, not weaker.

10. **A Match Made in Heaven**

The idiom *a match made in heaven* refers to two people in a relationship who seem to get along with each other extremely well.

Example: They are a match made in heaven. They enjoy doing things together and cannot stand being away from each other for even a single day.

Session 5: Making Decisions/Turning Points

Additional quotes for Life Experiences Story Time

Indecision becomes decision with time. ~Author Unknown

The doors we open and close each day decide the lives we live. ~Flora Whittemore

The inability to make a decision has often been passed off as patience. ~Author Unknown

Everything is something you decide to do, and there is nothing you have to do. ~Denis Waitley

Decisions become easier when your will to please God outweighs your will to please the world. ~Anso Coetzer

Although every man believes that his decisions and resolutions involve the most multifarious factors, in reality they are mere oscillation between flight and longing. ~Herman Broch

Do not plant your dreams in the field of indecision, where nothing ever grows but the weeds of "what-if." ~Dodinsky,

Using the power of decision gives you the capacity to get past any excuse to change any and every part of your life in an instant. ~Anthony Robbins

“Not only is there often a right and wrong, but what goes around does come around, Karma exists, chickens do come home to roost, and as my mother, Phyllis, liked to say, “There is always a day of reckoning.” The good among the great understand that every choice we make adds to the strength or weakness of our spirits—ourselves, or to use an old fashioned word for the same idea, our souls. That is every human’s life work: to construct an identity bit by bit, to walk a path step by step, to live a life that is worthy of something higher, lighter, more fulfilling, and maybe even everlasting.”

~Donald Van de Mark, *The Good Among the Great: 19 Traits of the Most Admirable, Creative, and Joyous People*

Cultural Corner: Making Decisions/Turning Points

The Starfish Story: one step towards changing the world

By Peter Straube

You may have heard this one, but I find that it doesn't hurt to be reminded of it every once in a while. First let me tell you the story, and then we can talk about it.

Once upon a time, there was an old man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach every morning before he began his work. Early one morning, he was walking along the shore after a big storm had passed and found the vast beach littered with starfish as far as the eye could see, stretching in both directions.

Off in the distance, the old man noticed a small boy approaching. As the boy walked, he paused every so often and as he grew closer, the man could see that he was occasionally bending down to pick up an object and throw it into the sea. The boy came closer still and the man called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young boy paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean. The tide has washed them up onto the beach and they can't return to the sea by themselves," the youth replied. "When the sun gets high, they will die, unless I throw them back into the water."

The old man replied, "But there must be tens of thousands of starfish on this beach. I'm afraid you won't really be able to make much of a difference."

The boy bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it as far as he could into the ocean. Then he turned, smiled and said, "It made a difference to that one!"

adapted from The Star Thrower, by Loren Eiseley (1907 – 1977)

We all have the opportunity to help create positive change, but if you're like me, you sometimes find yourself thinking, "I'm already really busy, and how much of a difference can I really make?" I think this is especially true when we're talking about addressing massive social problems like tackling world hunger or finding a cure for cancer, but it pops up all of the time in our everyday lives, as well. So when I catch myself thinking that way, it helps to remember this story. You might not be able to change the entire world, but at least you can change a small part of it, for someone.

They say that one of the most common reasons we procrastinate is because we see the challenge before us as overwhelming, and that a good way to counter that is to break the big challenge down into smaller pieces and then take those one at a time—like one starfish at a time. And to that one starfish, it can make a world of difference.

"A single, ordinary person still can make a difference – and single, ordinary people are doing precisely that every day." – Chris Bohjalian, Vermont-based author and speaker



Undo Buttons in Life

(Inability to deal with failure and psychological problems):

Suspect in Colorado Theater Shooting Appears in Court

By **JACK HEALY** and **DAN FROSCH**

CENTENNIAL, Colo. — His hair a frizz of neon orange, his hands shackled, James E. Holmes sat impassively through his first court appearance on Monday, a starkly different figure from the once-promising student recalled by acquaintances or the black-clad gunman accused of striding into a crowded movie theater and fatally shooting 12 people.

Sitting next to one of his publicly appointed defense lawyers, Mr. Holmes, 24, gave little outward sign of recognition as a district court judge here informed him of his rights and of the likelihood that he would face charges of first-degree murder. Prosecutors are expected to file charges formally next Monday.

The proceeding offered the first public glimpse of Mr. Holmes since he was arrested outside the Century 16 multiplex in Aurora early Friday, just minutes after the shooting. But the hearing answered none of the questions about his state of mind, his motives or his decline from neuroscience graduate student to the sole defendant in Colorado's worst mass shooting in more than a decade.

Mr. Holmes appeared dazed during the hearing, staring down toward the courtroom floor, his eyes sometimes bugging out wide, sometimes nearly closed. One of his lawyers had to nudge him to stand up when the judge entered the courtroom.

A few family members of victims sat in the front rows of the second-floor courthouse, some of them staring hard at Mr. Holmes as defense lawyers and prosecutors discussed whether there should be limits on what information was conveyed to the news media and said they would grant the defense access to Mr. Holmes's apartment and the suburban theater where the shooting occurred.

It was all over in less than 15 minutes, and Mr. Holmes was led back to jail, where he is being held away from other inmates. He will continue to be held without bond.

Outside the courthouse, the Arapahoe County district attorney, Carol Chambers, said Mr. Holmes could face a multitude of charges. Not only were 12 people killed and 58 injured, but the police also say that Mr. Holmes lay explosive booby traps in his Aurora apartment that appeared designed to kill police officers or any first responders.

Ms. Chambers said investigators were still poring over "an enormous amount of evidence."

"We would never presume that it would be slam-dunk," she said. "We will work very hard on this case to

prosecute it, just like we would any other case.”

At a news conference in San Diego, where Mr. Holmes’s family lives, Lisa Damiani, a lawyer for the family, declined to answer specific questions about his relationship with his family. But, when asked, she said the family stood by him. “Yes they do,” Ms. Damiani said. “He’s their son.”

Ms. Damiani also said the family’s hearts go out to the victims of the shooting, several of whom still remain hospitalized with critical wounds. On Monday, a spokesman for University of Colorado Hospital said that two wounded patients’ conditions had been upgraded, and that another had been released.

Three days after the shooting unfolded, details were still emerging about Mr. Holmes, a budding scientist who was doing graduate work at the Anschutz Medical Campus of the University of Colorado, Denver, before he dropped out and who once received a prestigious grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Those who knew Mr. Holmes, who is from Southern California, have described him as quiet and strange, albeit talented.

The Aurora police chief, Dan Oates, has said that the authorities are making progress in the case, but he has cautioned that the investigation will take time. It appears the legal process will, too — Mr. Holmes is next due in court Monday for a preliminary hearing, and will be arraigned later. A year could pass before the case goes to trial.

Mr. Holmes’s defense lawyers did not make any public comment on Monday.

Police have said they believe that Mr. Holmes began planning his rampage months ago, when he began acquiring the guns and ammunition he used for the shooting and also to rig his apartment with explosives. Mr. Holmes was able to purchase thousands of rounds for his weapons over the Internet.

Ms. Chambers, who has a reputation in Colorado for seeking the death penalty in murder cases, declined to say what punishment she would seek. Ms. Damiani, the Holmes family’s lawyer, said she had been told the death penalty was a “strong possibility.”

David Sanchez, the father-in-law of a man wounded in the rampage, offered his view outside the courthouse when asked what penalty might be appropriate if Mr. Holmes were convicted: “I think death is.”

John Eligon and Serge Kovalski contributed reporting from Aurora, Colo.

Idioms for Making Decisions:

1. **it's up to you:** for you to decide
2. **arrive at a decision/reach a decision:** to make a decision; decide. *Have you arrived at a decision yet? We will reach a decision tomorrow.*
3. **eleventh-hour decision:** Fig. a decision made very late in a process, or at the last possible moment. *Eleventh-hour decisions are seldom satisfactory. The president's eleventh-hour decision was made in a great hurry, but it turned out to be correct.*
4. **on the fence:** When you can't decide between 2 or more options, you can say "I'm on the fence". It means, *I can't decide.*
Ex: I can't decide if I should go to England for my summer holidays and see my old English teacher, Ben, or go to America and see my uncle Jimmy. They are both great options so I'm on the fence.
NB - Sometimes, somebody might say to you "**Don't sit on the fence**". This means, make a decision!
5. **I'm Torn Between:** when you have more than one option and you can't decide which to choose, you can use this English idiom. It means that you have two good choices but you can't decide which is the best.
Ex: My Father has offered to buy me a new car. He says I can have a Ferrari 355 or a Porsche 911. I'm torn between the two because in reality, I like them both equally!
6. **a Bird in the Hand is Worth Two in the Bush:** You use it when you know you have something, but you still consider trying to get something which is better or more, even though you may lose what you had in the first place.
Ex: Sylvia, I've been offered a job with Dia Supermarket. I have an interview with Ducati motorcycles next week but they may say no. I don't want to risk losing the job with Dia Supermarkets so I am going to say yes. Although I would prefer to work for Ducati Motorcycles, a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. A definite job with Dia Supermarket is better than only a possibility of a job with Ducati.