



Cultural Linguistic Services
OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Employee Learning Center English Learning Newsletter

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

New words of the week:

I hope we don't **come down with** (get sick with) COVID-19 or any other disease.

We need to **come up with** (invent or make) vaccines for new diseases.

Critical Thinking

Now more than ever before, the ability to think critically about a problem and identify a solution is extremely important. Employers are looking for people who can think "outside the box" and solve complex problems.

When you have the ability to solve difficult problems, you won't make rash emotional (or "gut") decisions and your results will improve. You can make data-driven decisions that provide increased benefit for the entire organization.

Employees who lack critical thinking skills are often the ones who are making poor health choices that affect their job performance (and ultimately the entire team).

-adapted from **8 Critical Soft Skills for Workplace Readiness** by the Conover Company.

Phrases for conversation:

Use these phrases to recommend solutions to problems:

- **We can take care of** infection by social distancing.
- **One solution would be** to wash our hands more.
- **One way to put an end to this would be** a vaccine.
- **I strongly suggest** following other nations' examples.
- **What we need is** good information.
- **The key to** good health is proper hygiene.
- **We need to think outside of the box if** we want better results.

-adapted from Perfect Phrases for ESL Conversation Skills by Diane Engelhardt

Proverb:

"Necessity is the mother of invention."

Meaning: a need or a problem encourages creative efforts to meet the need or solve the problem.



Learn More:

Read about people finding creative ways to do good during this time (You may need to create a **free** account with a user name and password):

https://newsela.com/read/good-combating-fear-coronavirus/id/2001007411/?utm_source=aotd&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=test-1&utm_content=news-2

For relaxation: Watch and listen to this beautiful music video of traditional American and Chinese music: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpFMF55DEKQ&list=RDGpFMF55DEKQ&start_radio=1

Learn more about the musicians here: <https://www.npr.org/2020/04/05/826804361/chinese-folk-music-meets-appalachian-tradition-on-wu-fei-and-abigail-washburn>