



Employee Learning Center

English learning newsletter

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

New words of the week:

We need to ***hunker down*** and ***shelter in place*** (stay in one place and not go out for a while).

We need to do this so we can ***flatten the curve*** of Covid-19 (cause fewer people to become infected).

From *8 Critical Soft Skills for Workplace Readiness*, by the Conover Company:

Skill #1: Attitude

This is where it all starts - your attitude. The ability to respond to guidance, to control your emotions, and to keep your focus is so important in today's workplace. The importance of a positive attitude cannot be overlooked.

What's unique about attitude is that you are completely in control of your own attitude at any given point. You can't always control what happens to you in life, but you can control how you respond to it. Just because something negative happens doesn't mean you have to stay negative.

It's been said that your attitude determines the altitude of your life, or what level you are going to live at. You can set your own course simply by determining to have a positive attitude.

Phrases for conversation:

Use these phrases to talk or complain about problems:

- I'm really **bothered/annoyed/irritated about** all the changing information.
- I have **a lot on my plate** right now.
- I'm having **a hard time/a rough time** working remotely.
- I'm not having **any luck/success with** my technology.
- Our new work schedule is **a real nuisance/bother/pain in the neck**.
- The social isolation **is a killer/is killing me**.
- The situation is **getting on my nerves**.
- Working remotely **is a big hassle**.
- There's something I need to **talk about/deal with**.
- I need to get something **off my chest**.

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

Proverb:

"No news is good news"

Meaning: if we don't hear any news, we won't hear anything bad. Let's listen to music instead!



For more practice:

1. News for You Online

Weekly current event articles and human-interest stories to build skills in reading, comprehension, and vocabulary. **Free** through April 30!

<https://www.newreaderspress.com/news-for-you-online> (Password: 22667F)

2. English learning sites from the U.S. government:

<https://learner.lincs.ed.gov/resources/english>

For fun:

Visit these museums with virtual tours:

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours>