

AU PAIR IN AMERICA TELEPHONE INTERVIEW PREPARATION COURSE.

The Golden Rule of these classes is : NO FRENCH SPOKEN.

Please take this seriously because you have an important objective and we have to get results !

Lesson One : Questions to prepare :

Our aim is to familiarise you with as much idiomatic speach as possible and so we will be working on different questions that may be asked but also different **WAYS** these questions can be asked.

Activity One : Class survey : ask these questions to two other people in the class. Now tell the class what their answers were.

Questions A

1) Do you have any previous childcare experience? If so, how was it and what did you do?		
2) How do feel about helping with chores around the house?		
3) Do you mind ironing kids' clothes?		
4) Do you know how to drive?		
5) Do you like sports?		
6) Can you take care of more than one kid at a time?		
7) Do you have any siblings?		
8) If there was an accident while we weren't around, what would you do?		
9) Is there any kind of food that you won't eat?		
10) Do you smoke or drink?		
11) Do you mind reading stories or singing songs to the kids?		
12) Do you like the outdoors?		
13) Do you know how to cook?		
14) What is a meal that you would make for the kids?		
15)Would you mind giving the kids baths?		

Activity Two Simulations of telephone interviews.

- Your teacher will ask you one of the following questions and you will answer.
- What do you notice about the questions compared to the first fifteen ?

Questions B

1) Have you worked with kids in the past? If so, what was it like?

2) Would you mind helping out with household chores?

3) Would you be able to iron the kids' clothes?

4) Are you used to driving?

5) Are you interested in sports?

6) Can you watch several children at once?

7) Do you have any brothers or sisters?

8) What would you do if one of the kids got hurt and we weren't there?

9) Do you have any food restrictions?

10) Do you have any bad habits like drinking or smoking?

11) If our kids wanted you to sing them a song or read them a story, would you mind doing it?

12) Do you like being outside and in nature?

13) Can you prepare meals?

14) What kind of food would you make for our children?

15) Would you be ok with giving baths to the kids?



Lesson Two : IDIOMS.

You need to know how to understand what your host family is saying on the phone even if they use **idiomatic** speach.

With your partner talk about what you think these expressions mean and then tell the class what you decided.



Activity One :

1) It's a "big leap" you're taking coming to America from "across the pond."

2) We usually have a schedule for the children, but sometimes we "play it by ear."

3) We liked your application, but "actions speak louder than words."

4) It's not easy being the "new kid on the block;" do you think you will be able to handle it?

5) While you are here, you will be working "around the clock" and "all eyes will be on you." Will you be able to deal with that?

6) Our kids are often "at each other's throats" when they are bored. Will you be able to provide them with activities to keep them busy?

7) As an Au Pair, you will " have your work cut out for you." Do you feel that you are ready for this kind of responsability?

8) While in America, you're not going to be in "your neck of the woods." Are you scared about that?

9) It looks like our family might be "right up your alley!"

10) Often times you will have "to think outside the box" to find solutions to problems. Are you able "to roll with the punches?"

Activity Two :

In teams : You must pick one of the idioms out of the hat and use it in a sentence about being an au pair. If you get it wrong the other team can try (and get two points) . If you get it right your team will get a point.

Activity Three :

In Pairs : Link the idioms to their meanings. These are the 25 most common idioms in the English Language.

Activity Four :

Competition – form a sentence about being an au pair that uses as many of the idioms on the list as possible. The person who uses the most idioms correctly wins.

Lesson Three – Stress – Key words.

English is a stress based language. This means that **the important words are stressed**. Once you understand this then you can listen out for the key words which means you don't have to understand every word that is said in order to comprehend what the person means.

Let's read the information sheet about stress.

- Listen to the text below and underline the stressed words.

Hi, my name is Mr. Smith. It's nice to finally be able to talk to you. My wife and I are really looking forward to having someone help out around the house. We have two kids: a 6 year-old girl, Susie, and a 9 year-old boy, Tommy. After reading your application, I have just a few questions to ask you. It says here that you are very interested in sports; would you be able to help our son with basketball? It also says that you have never been to the U.S.; will you be able to adapt to our ways of life quickly enough to be able to take good care of our kids? Your application also says that you have the BAFA. What is that exactly? One more question: we would really love for our kids to learn French; would you mind teaching them French while you are here?

- **Listen to the real family profile that your teacher will read out.**
- **Write down the stressed information and tell the class everything that you have learned about the family.**
- **Answer the teachers questions about that family.**

Now take turns to read some other real family profile letters out loud and stress the important words.



Lesson Four : Your questions for the American Family. Asking Questions.

Question forms in English.

1. Write a question for your family for each of the question words.
2. Now take it in turns to ask these questions to eachother.
3. You must answer as if you were the family on your family sheet.

You can use the dictionary to check that you understand all of the question words first if you want.

Which **When** **Why** **Where**	**When** **Who** **Whose**	**How** **How many** **How often**



Final Test : You will each be individually tested by your teacher.

- He will pretend to be calling you to find out more about your motivation and evaluate your English level.
- Then he will pretend to be a family.
- Prepare questions you would like to ask and information you would like to give.