A VUCA WORLD

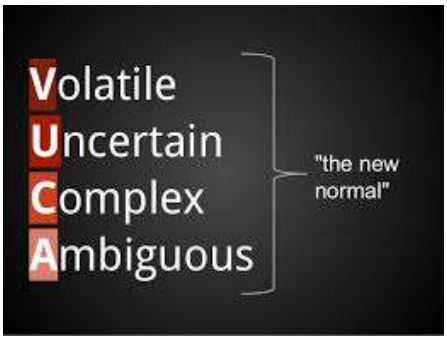


EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Learn and practice some new idioms and expressions to giving your opinion.

Activity One - VUCA - Ask and answer the questions.

1. VUCA stands for Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous, have your heard this acronym before?
2. In what context have you heard it?
3. Do you believe that the world today is more Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous, than in recent history?
4. What are the challenges making our world unstable?
5. How can you prepare for these challenges in the context of your job?
6. How can you prepare for them as a parent?
7. How can you prepare for them as a citizen?
8. Give an example of something V, U, C, A…



Activity Two - Idioms…

Idiomatic words are very interesting because they evolve with each language and they resonate well, engaging people. Often idioms contain strong metaphors or to illustrate what you want to say. It's very useful to learn idioms, both to improve your comprehension and to be a more effective communicator. Here are some examples linked to the theme of this lesson, do you know them? Use each one in a sentence to talk about the subject of a VUCA world.

1. **Drastic Times Call For Drastic Measures:** *When you are extremely desperate you need to take extremely desperate actions.*
2. **If It's Not One Thing, It's Another:** *When one thing goes wrong, then another, and another…*
3. **When It Rains, It Pours:** *Since it rarely rains, when it does it will be a huge storm.*

Activity Three - Match the idiom to the definition.

Practice Makes Perfect:	Anything from the past that isn't significant or important anymore.
Off the Record:	It is your decision this time.
Water Under The Bridge:	By constantly practicing, you will become better.
Turn A Blind Eye:	The more experiences you try the more exciting life can be.
The Ball Is In Your Court:	Something said in confidence that the one speaking doesn't want attributed to him/her.
Variety Is The Spice Of Life:	Refuse to acknowledge something you know is real or legit.
Rome Was Not Built In One Day:	If you want something to be completely properly, then its going to take time.

Activity Four - **Use three of the idioms from activity three in sentences.**

Activity Five - **Read the article.**

What VUCA Really Means for You

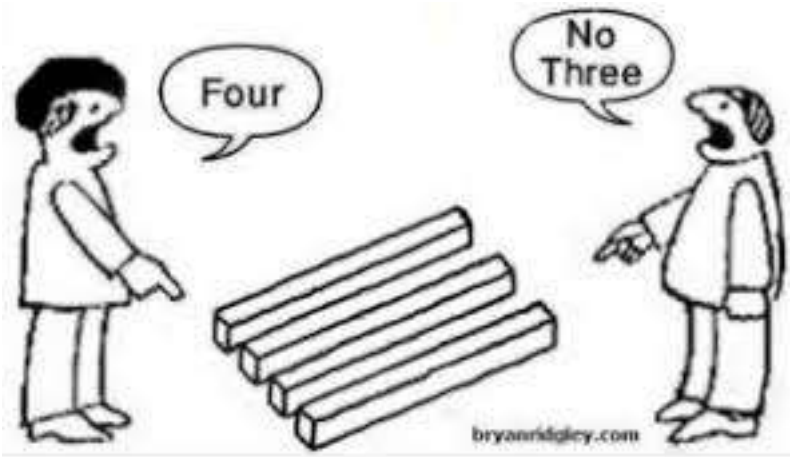
It's become a trendy managerial acronym: VUCA, short for *volatility, uncertainty, complexity,* and *ambiguity,* and a catchall for "Hey, it's crazy out there!" It's also misleading: VUCA conflates four distinct types of challenges that demand four distinct types of responses. That makes it difficult to know how to approach a challenging situation and easy to use VUCA as a crutch, a way to throw off the hard work of strategy and planning—after all, you can't prepare for a VUCA world, right? Actually, you can. Here is a guide to identifying, getting ready for, and responding to events in each of the four VUCA categories.



Source: https://hbr.org/2014/01/what-vuca-really-means-for-you

Activity Seven - Expressing opinions in an idiomatic way.

- I'm convinced that
- I would say that
- It seems clear to me that
- Ultimately..
- Basically..
- Realistically..
- My impression is that…
- I suppose that…
- I personally think that..
- In any case…
- I would argue that
- It seems to me that
- Primarily
- To begin with
- You have to consider that…
- Not to mention the fact that…



Activity Seven - Your opinion

Of the challenges you face at work, and as a citizen, which are C, which are V which are A and which are U?

Activity Eight - Give your OPINION on the following statements:

1. People tend to have a knee jerk reaction to events in the media, but then they forget all about the underlying issues and just carry on as if nothing ever happened.

2. People often pass the buck by blaming their boss, employer, the government, but don't want to take there share of responsibility for difficulties they encounter.

3. Wealthy people often seem unconcerned about the issues currently facing society, or humanity in general. They tend to forget that we are all in the same boat!

4. We carry on with our working lives, often resisting change, however the pace of change in today's society means that there's no use burying our heads in the sand. We should all be bending over backwards to find innovative solutions.

5. There are complex new issues and challenges facing society, and technology is available to resolve a lot of them. However our political leaders don't seem able to cut the Mustard and harness technology fast enough.

