

English Discussion Group

American Values: #18

TIME

8:00 p.m. on Zoom
Meeting ID: 251 455 814 Passcode: 522082



Warm up: What was the busiest time in your life? (Keep answers short)

Phrases and idioms in the paragraph:

something; **sb** = somebody.

Idioms: **sth =

sb is (adj) to an extreme = sb is extremely (adj) ***Sally is cautious to an extreme.***

sb does sth to an extreme = sb does sth much more than other people do it

Samuel avoids conflict to an extreme.

pack in sth; pack sth into sth = stuff sth; completely fill sth ***Judy packs in a lot of sleep every weekend.***

it's now or never. NOW is the time to take this opportunity; do it *now*, or forget about it.

make every minute count = manage your time so that you always use your time wisely (efficiently, effectively, etc.)

make every moment count = (same as above, but used especially about enriching our personal relationships)

time flies. Time passes much more quickly than we expect.

sth doesn't count for much = sth is only a little meaningful/helpful ***A half-hearted apology doesn't count for much.***

If you get the impression that Americans are always in a hurry, you're right. Americans look at time as a valuable thing. There might be more American proverb and idioms about TIME than any other topic, and they're probably the sayings you will hear the most. Many Americans are time-conscious to an extreme; they pack in as much as possible to each year, day, hour and minute. Furthermore, COVID has reminded us that life is a race against time, and no one knows how many days are left. Thoughts about "maybe we'll do it someday" have become, "It's now or never." Add this together and you may understand very high levels of stress in America. Since time is limited, people have to make every minute count. That means they are always busy doing something (work or play). Many people work long hours, but even on a vacation time flies as they try to pack in as many experiences as they can.

To many Americans, time spent just sitting and relaxing doesn't count for much, and silence feels like wasted time. In fact, silence makes many Americans nervous, as if they think time is being wasted or they're going to get bored. (That's why students must learn to answer questions quickly; otherwise, the teacher will give an answer him/herself!) It's no wonder that Americans love their smart phones; alarms can remind you about things to do throughout the day, and even while sitting at a "time-wasting" traffic light you can

check messages or play a game. Much of the world has a casual attitude about when an appointment begins, but if you don't understand the high value Americans place on TIME, you'll likely miss opportunities and frustrate your American friends and colleagues.

Questions: (Try to use the underlined phrase or an idiom in your answer.)

1. Many Americans try to make every minute count. In your opinion, how does this attitude improve the quality of somebody's life? Also, how does this attitude reduce the quality of somebody's life?
2. Do you think most Americans are usually too busy? Why or why not?
3. In what ways is the American perspective on time the same as, or different from, your own perspective?
4. Do you ever think, feel, or do something to an extreme? If so, and if you don't mind, please give an example.
5. When you have time for a vacation, do you try to pack in as much as possible every day? Why or why not?

If you have time, read and discuss these ideas from the Bible:

(A) *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; ...a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ...a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.* (Ecc 3:1-8 ESV)

~ How has COVID and recent disasters affected the way you think about time, life/death, weeping/laughing, being silent/speaking, war/peace?

(B) *I mean that you should use every chance you have for doing good, because these are evil times.* (Eph 5:16 ICB)

~ How do people decide how much of your time goes to "doing good" and how much is for yourself (fun, family, work, etc).

Exercise: *Each student should pick one expression or vocabulary term from today's lesson, and create a sentence with it.*

More Proverbs:

1. Time is money. The amount of time that is spent on something influences the amount of money that is earned. Managers want employees to do things quickly. If employees waste time, the company loses profit.
2. There's no time like the present. Now is the best time to do something, so don't delay doing it.
3. Opportunity only knocks once. Take an opportunity immediately, or you'll probably lose that opportunity.
4. the sooner the better It's better to do something as soon as possible, rather than delay action.
5. Make it short and sweet. Speak briefly about the most important issue. **"OK, Joe, make your presentation *short and sweet* because we don't have time for details."**
6. Better late than never. It's better to do something late, rather than never do it at all. (e.g., **"I'm the last one in my family to get the COVID vaccine, but '*better late than never*'!"**)

These lessons were created or adapted by the staff of International Friendship Ministries, P.O. Box 12504, Columbia SC 29211; ifmusa.org; info@ifmusa.org. IFM is grateful to Kathy Williams for most of the original work. Some lessons were adapted from EFLsuccess.com (with permission). IFM makes these lessons available to our participants, but this does not imply our consent for others to publish these lessons online or in print without permission.

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The following can be printed on one page

=====middle level version=====

Oct 14, 2022 ~ American Values #18: Time (Set 2, Lesson 63cez)

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somebody.

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Does it seem like Americans are always in a hurry? Americans look at TIME as a valuable thing. Proverbs and idioms about TIME abound, and you'll hear them often. Many Americans are time-conscious to an extreme; they pack in as much as possible to each year, day, and minute. Furthermore, COVID has reminded us that life is a race against time, and no one knows how many days are left. Instead of "maybe someday" we now say, "It's now or never." Add this together and you may understand very high levels of stress in America. Since time is limited, people have to make every minute count. Many people work long hours, but even on a vacation time flies as they try to pack in as many experiences as they can. To many Americans, time spent just sitting and relaxing doesn't count for much, and silence feels like wasted time. It's no wonder that Americans love their smart phones; alarms can remind you about things to do throughout the day, and they can easily play a game instead of "wasting time." Finally, Americans take appointment times very seriously. If you arrive late, you'll likely miss opportunities and frustrate your American friends and colleagues.

Questions: (Try to use the underlined phrase or an idiom in your answer.)

1. Many Americans try to make every minute count. In your opinion, how does this attitude improve the quality of somebody's life? Also, how does this attitude reduce the quality of somebody's life?
2. Do you think most Americans are usually too busy? Why or why not?
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