

Topic: Help

Let's get started . . . When you were a child, did you ever ask for help? Give an example.

Story: A new immigrant to the U.S. went to English classes. One day, the teacher taught the class how to ask for help: "Please, can you help me?" The class also practiced shouting and yelling "Help!! Help me!! Help!!" for a situation where there was immediate danger, such as drowning or an attacker. It was a little embarrassing to practice shouting "Help!" All the students hoped they wouldn't need to do it.

One day, the new immigrant was swimming in a lake. She suddenly became tired and had trouble. She was sinking under the water. Then, she remembered the English lesson. As her head came above the water, she yelled "Help! Help! Help!" People at the lake came to help her and pulled her out of the water.

How do you feel about shouting for help in English? Have you ever done it? Pretend you're in trouble and practice shouting "Help!"

What would you do if you heard someone shouting for help??



In pairs, talk about these questions. Switch pairs.

Is it easier to give help or to receive help? Why?

Who asks **you** for help? What **kind** of help do they ask for? Do you like giving help? Why or why not?



Who do **you** ask for help? What **kind** of help do you ask for? Do you think that people like helping you? Why or why not?

Share with the larger group something you learned.

Interview 3 people about when they ask for help. Write their names in the far left column. Say, "Do you ask for help when . . .?" (Write "yes" or "no" under each one.) Ask them to give an example.

Name	Your car breaks down? 	You lose your keys? 	You're lost? 	You're sick? 	You're depressed? 

Discussion Questions - talk in pairs or small groups.

Who helps in times of trouble? (Examples below.) In your native culture, do people solve these troubles **alone**, with the help of **family**, with the help of **friends**, with the help of **coworkers** or with the help of **"outsiders"**? Give examples.

	Solve it alone	Solve it with family	Solve it with friends	Solve it with coworkers	Solve it with "outsiders"
Trouble with money					
Trouble with the police					
Trouble at work					
Other trouble _____					

The Beatles' song "HELP!" goes like this:



"When I was younger, so much younger than today,
I never needed anybody's help in any way..."

Help me if you can, I'm feeling down,
I do appreciate you being 'round.
Help me get my feet back on the ground.
Won't you please, please, help me?"



Are the words in the song "Help" true for you or for someone you know?

Dialogue (Conversation) - Practice one of the conversations. Then, make a new conversation. Practice in pairs and share your new conversation with the group.

Hong is getting a file from the file cabinet. She pulls out two drawers. The file cabinet starts to fall over on her. She cries out to Bill for help.

<i>Harder</i>	<i>Easier</i>
Hong: Help! Help! Bill: Oh no! Let me get that off you. Hong: I can't believe I pulled out two drawers. What was I thinking? Bill: It's definitely risky. Are you ok? Did you hurt anything? Hong: No. I'm going to have a bruise on my arm, but I think I'm ok. Thanks for the help.	Hong: Help! Help! Bill: Oh no. I'll get it. Hong: Why did I do that? Bill: That was scary. Are you ok? Hong: I have a bruise. But, I'm ok. Thanks for your help.

New vocabulary: shout, yell, "immediate danger", drowning, attacker, sinking, depressed, "get my feet back on the ground", trouble, breaks down, lose, lost, solve, "feeling down"

Keep talking about it this week: Ask a coworker or friend: "When do you ask other people for help?" Write down their answers and share at Talk Time next week.

More on The Beatles song "Help!": http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNcShXs_CMM