

Asking for Help

Welcome to Talk Time!

How are you? How was your week?
Read the idiom of the week – “Give me a hand”



Let's get started

- 1) Read the title of the story. What do you think the story is about?
- 2) Read the story aloud together.

Shouting for Help: A Lifesaver






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, “Help! Help me! Help!” for a situation where there was immediate danger. 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. 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.

3) Discuss these questions as a group.

- How do you feel about shouting for help in English? Have you ever done it?
- What would you do if you heard someone shouting for help?

Interview a partner about asking for help. Say, “Do you ask for help when . . .?” Write the answers in the boxes below. Ask him/her to give examples.

Name	Your car breaks down? 	You lose something? (your keys) 	You're lost? 	You're sick? 	You're depressed? 
Kelli	Yes. She asked a stranger for jumper cables once.	Sometimes.	Sometimes.	Yes. She asks her husband to cook for her!	Yes. She talks to her friends.

Share your partner's answers with the group.

Discussion

- 1) Do you prefer to solve problems alone, with the help of family, with the help of friends, with the help of coworkers or with the help of “outsiders”? Give examples.
- 2) Have you ever asked a stranger for help? What happened?
- 3) Have you ever helped a stranger? Explain.
- 4) Have you ever called 9-1-1? What happened?
- 5) What questions do you have about calling 9-1-1?
- 6) In your native country, is it common for people to seek help from a therapist? Explain.



Activity #1 Read the scenarios as a group. With a partner, talk about solutions to the scenarios. Then, share your answers with the group.

Scenario 1

It is 10:00pm. You see a stranger walking around your neighbor’s house. Your neighbor is on vacation. You are worried that the stranger might be a burglar, but you are not sure. What do you do?

Scenario 2

You are walking on a quiet street in your neighborhood. Ahead of you, you see a car crash into a tree. You are the only witness. The driver is badly hurt. You want to help, but you left your cell phone at home and you don’t speak English very well. What do you do?

Scenario 3

You have a job interview in one hour. You missed the first bus. If you wait for the next bus, you will be fifteen minutes late for the interview. Your friend is not working today and could drive you to the interview, but you had an argument last night. What do you do?

Activity #2 There are different ways of asking for help. Some ways are more polite than others. Read the sentences below. They are marked with stars, according to how polite they are. With your leader, decide when you might use each sentence. For example, when might you say, “Hey, I need some money”? Would you say this to your friend? To your coworker?

- * Hey, I need some money.
- ** Could I borrow five dollars?
- *** Do you think you could lend me five dollars?
- **** Do you think you could possibly lend me five dollars?
- ***** I hope you don’t mind my asking, but I wonder if it might be at all possible for you to lend me five dollars.

Group Reflection

What did you learn today? What do you want to talk about next week?