

Current World Problems

Welcome to Talk Time!

How are you? How was your week?

Discuss the idiom of the week – “Cheer up”

Let's get started



Discuss this picture as a group.

- What do you see?
- How do you think the person in the picture feels?
- How does this picture make you feel?
- Why do people become homeless?
- Are there homeless people in your native country? Explain.

Make a list as a group.

- What problems in the world are you most concerned about? What are some problems you hear about in the news?



In pairs, talk about two or three problems from the list above. Ask and answer these questions:

- What do you know about this problem? Where does the problem occur? What causes the problem?
- What do you *want* to know about this problem? What questions do you have?
- How can we help solve this problem?

Conversation skills

As we discuss, let's ask each other questions using the words *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how*. Let's also use the phrase "Tell me more." The best questions are the questions YOU ask!

Discussion: Discuss these questions as a group.

How often do you listen to the news or read the news?

How do you like to learn the news: from the newspaper, radio, television, or the Internet?

Do you listen to or read the news from your native country? How often? What is happening in your country now?

Do you trust the news? Why or why not?

How is poverty in the U.S. different than poverty in your native country?



In your native country, what are the main health problems? (For example, obesity is a problem in the U.S.)

Is AIDS or HIV a problem in your country? How do people get AIDS or HIV?

Is unemployment currently a problem in your native country? Is unemployment a problem in the Seattle area? Do you know people who have lost their jobs recently? Explain.

In your native country, who takes care of the elderly? Are there nursing homes in your country?

What are some reasons people use illegal drugs? Talk about drug problems in your native country and in the Seattle area.

Do you think prisons teach people to be good citizens? Why or why not? How could the prison system be improved?

Seattle is one of the top places where human trafficking occurs. Criminals kidnap people from around the world and sell them as slaves. Criminals smuggle women and children through the Sea-Tac Airport, through the Port and Seattle, and along the I-5. What can governments do to stop human trafficking?

Is war necessary? Why or why not?



Group Reflection:

What did you learn today? How does talking about problems in the world make you feel? If you are depressed, how can you cheer up? What do you want to talk about next week?