

Simplified Speech #157 – Adjusting to life as a newlywed

Episode description

What is life like after marriage? Andrew and Kassy have both had their weddings recently and, in this episode, they talk about adjusting to married life and share their experiences dealing with it.

In our Simplified Speech series, native speakers have natural and easy to understand conversations about everyday topics. These episodes are designed to help you improve your listening skills and expand your vocabulary.

Fun fact

According to New Statistics, 53% (20 million) of marriages that happen around the world are arranged. In an arranged marriage, a person doesn't choose who they marry; their relatives do it instead.

Expressions included in the study guide

- To embark on
- To bring up [something]
- [Something]-wise
- To see eye to eye
- Under the gun
- Dire



Transcript

Note: The words and expressions that appear in **bold text** within the transcript are discussed in more detail in the Detailed Explanations section that follows the transcript. The transcript has been edited for clarity.

Andrew: Hello there, everyone. My name's Andrew.

Kassy: And I'm Kassy.

Andrew: And this is the Culips English Podcast.

Hello, friends, welcome back to Culips. This is a Simplified Speech episode. And if you're new to Culips, or you don't know what Simplified Speech is, let me explain. It is our series, which features clear, natural, and easy to understand English conversations about interesting topics. Today, I'm joined by my cohost, Kassy. Hey there, Kassy.

Kassy: Hey there, everyone, and hey, Andrew. Guys, we have a great episode prepared for you today. And actually, Andrew, we're going to talk about a topic that was suggested to us by your wife, correct?

Andrew: Yes, that's right. So, it's kind of funny, Kassy, you know, we always ask our listeners to contact us and suggest topics that they want to hear about. And my wife really took this to heart. You know, she's a Culips listener herself and so she contacted me the easiest way that there is by just talking to me while we were eating dinner. She said, "Hey, you and Kassy, you should talk about this topic." So, yeah, Kassy, since you got married recently, and I also got married about a year ago, my wife told me that she thought we should talk about how we've been adjusting to married life. So that's what we're going to talk about today, everyone, adjusting to life as a newlywed.

Kassy: A newlywed. Andrew, that's a fun word you used right there. Newlywed actually means, you know, a couple that has just married, they are newly wed. They just had their wedding.

Andrew: Yeah, that's right. We could even describe an individual as newlywed as well, like Kassy, you're a newlywed, I'm a newlywed. And I think it's one of those words that's easy to understand once you hear it but before you hear it, you would never think that a word like that exists in English. At least in my opinion, it's a kind of strange-sounding and unique word, newlywed. It seems like a fake word almost, but it is very common, right? When we talk about this context and, listeners, it's a great one to add to your vocabulary, newlywed.

Kassy: Exactly. And, guys, before we get started with our conversation today, I just want to let you know that we have study guides and transcripts for all of our episodes. They are designed by our team of expert English teachers to help you build your English skills and reach your English learning goals faster. To get unlimited access to all of our study guides, plus some great bonuses like invitations to our monthly livestreams, visit [Culips.com](https://www.culips.com) and sign up to become a Culips member.

Andrew: We also want to give a shout-out to one of our listeners from Argentina named Laura, who left us a great review and a five-star rating on Apple Podcasts. Kassy, do you think you could read Laura's message for us?

Kassy: Sure. So, Laura wrote, "I've been listening to Culips since February 2021. I came across Culips while, during the pandemic, I was listening to different podcasts to improve my English. A couple of months later, I became a member and I'm very satisfied with that decision. Listening to the different series made my English improve by leaps and bounds." Good phrase there, Laura. "Listening to Andrew, Kassy, Anna, and Suzanne makes me feel that I am not alone in this path of learning English. The transcripts and the monthly livestreams you can access when you become a member are a great deal. Thank you, guys, for all the work you're doing. Keep up the excellent job."

Andrew: Awesome review there, Laura. Thank you so much. And Kassy, I'm sure you recognize Laura from our monthly livestreams, right?

Kassy: I do, when I saw her name pop up here, I was like, oh, wow, Laura!

Andrew: So, for listeners who don't know, Kassy and I we do host a monthly livestream at the end of each month for Culips members and Laura is one of the regular participants in the livestream and she's always very active in the chat and, yeah, so I feel like even though we haven't technically met Laura in person, Kassy, we do know her. Do you have that feeling as well?

Kassy: Yes, exactly. She's like, you know, one of those friends that you meet once a month and you're, like, great to see you again.

Andrew: Well put, well put. So, thanks again, Laura, for that awesome review and thank you to all of the listeners out there who have been supporting us by leaving reviews and ratings on the apps where you listen to Culips. It really does go a long way in helping spread the word about our podcast to other English learners from around the world.

And with that being said, Kassy, I think it's time to jump into our main topic for today, which is, of course, adjusting to life as a newlywed. Now, I've been married now, I guess, for about 14 months. So, like I said, just a little bit over a year and, Kassy, could you remind us about how long you've been married for now?

Kassy: I'm very much a newlywed. I've been married for 4 months.

Andrew: Four months. OK, so you are technically, then, in the honeymoon phase. It's called the honeymoon phase. Now, I did a little bit of research for this episode to prepare, and I learned that the first 6 months of marriage are called the honeymoon phase. And this is the period where everything is perfect. It's like you're so excited about this new life that you've **embarked on** with your partner and although there might be some little arguments or some big adjustments, usually life is pretty smooth. Now, Kassy, they say that the honeymoon phase only lasts for 6 months, but I'm about 14 months into my marriage and I still kind of feel like I'm in the honeymoon phase. It doesn't really feel like I've left that phase yet. So, I hope that continues into the future as well, but why don't we get into some of the stories that we have to share about adjusting to newlywed life? Kassy, in general, has it been an easy transition for you or a difficult one?

Kassy: So, I've got to say, I think modern marriage versus marriages in the past are a little bit different. Depending on the couple, I really think that marriage almost begins when you move in with someone. And I moved in with my husband I'm gonna say 2 years ago. So, I almost feel like we've been married for 2 years. But the official date was 4 months ago. So, on the day to day, not much has changed. But I guess I can say, knowing that we're officially married makes it feel that much more special.

Andrew: That's a really good point. And in fact, maybe a better topic would be not adjusting to life as a newlywed but adjusting to living with someone because, really, you know, just like getting married and signing some document that says you're legally married now, that's nothing, but the big adjustment comes when you move in with someone and you're living in the same space, in the same place and you have to make all of these changes to either your lifestyle to make your partner feel more comfortable, or your partner has to make some changes to their lifestyle to make you feel more comfortable, or you have to meet in the middle somewhere.

Kassy: Exactly. I heard that some of the most difficult parts of newlywed life or married life is, one, finances and, two, schedules. You know, people might have different ways that they want to spend their money. So, if you guys don't agree with that, it could cause a lot of arguments. Or if, you know, you like to go out and party every weekend but your partner likes to stay home and chill, that could cause a lot of issues as well, which you probably should have figured out a lot of these while you're dating, but it gets even more serious once you're married.

Andrew: Yeah, in fact, I've heard that the leading cause of divorce in the first 3 years of marriage is about finances. There's even a show on TV right now in Korea, Kassy, that I've been watching that is about people who have been divorced and are back in the dating game. They're looking for a new partner. And many of their backstories about why they're divorced are in fact about finances and money. So, I think that is, like you said, something that's very important to clear up before getting married, right? Important topic of conversation. Now luckily, in my marriage, I don't have any problems about scheduling or about finances. I think we have both of those under control, which is good.

Kassy: However, Andrew, I do remember you mentioning that your sleep schedules are a little different. Why don't you tell listeners about that?

Andrew: OK, this is great. I'm glad you **brought this up**, because this is the thing that I have had a difficult time adjusting to. It's not so much our schedule in terms of like when we have to spend time together or what we're going to do on the weekend, but it is more like our daily schedule, especially when we go to sleep. So, my wife is a night owl. She prefers to stay up late in the evening and wake up as late as possible in the day, like, before she has to start work, the last moment possible, she will sleep until that moment, and then get up and start her day. Whereas I am the opposite, I would rather go to bed early in the evening, ideally, like 10:00 or 10:30 and then wake up earlier in the morning, anywhere between like 6:00 and 7:00 a.m. would be perfect for me.

When we moved into our apartment, we got married and we moved in together, we made a mistake in selecting the apartment and, Kassy, you've seen my place, you've been over here before, so you know the layout. But for listeners who don't know, it is a small Korean-style apartment, and it has one main living room and on each side of the living room, there is a room. So, the big one we use for our bedroom and the small one we use for our office. In fact, that is where I am recording right now, in the small, little room. It's kind of my office, my Culips recording studio.

Now the bedroom also doubles as my wife's office, because she is working from home a lot these days. During the pandemic, her company transition to a more work from home kind of situation and that is still ongoing. So, she's 4 days of the week working at home and only 1 day of the week actually going to the office. So that means the bedroom is not just a room for sleeping, it's a multipurpose space. We also have our TV in there, so it's kind of the TV room, the bedroom, and my wife's office.

Kassy: That sounds like it can get very complicated, **schedule-wise**, when she wants to work and you want to relax, it's all in the same room. What do you do?

Andrew: Exactly, because the problem is, especially since my wife is a night owl, sometimes she likes to work at night. And sometimes she likes to watch TV at night and that's time when I would like to sleep. So, it's been difficult navigating how we deal with this. Also, I am very sensitive to light at night. I try to dim the lights early and to make the apartment, like, as dark as possible so that I can get into a healthy sleep mindset, you know, before I go to bed. Whereas my wife is, like, active at night, and she wants to turn the lights on and have it be bright. And these days her hobby is like beading and making necklaces and bracelets out of beads. So she needs the light on to be able to see to do that.

So, yeah, it's been tough. We've had to compromise a lot. She has to compromise on where she can do her TV watching or crafting, bracelet making, or even work. Like, she's been really good about saying, OK, you know, I want to watch TV. But instead, I'll just use the iPad and watch Netflix at the kitchen table. So that's not as comfortable as, like, watching a big TV and relaxing on bed watching TV, right? That's more comfortable. But she's been really good at compromising for me doing that. I guess it goes both ways too, like at the same time, I don't wake up and watch TV in the bedroom when she's trying to sleep. I will just use my computer.

So, yeah, some things like that have been a challenge for us. And in retrospect, in retrospect means looking back at the past, if I could go into a time machine and travel back in the past, I think it would be way better for us to have had an apartment with three rooms. Maybe we could have just one small room only for sleeping, like there's just the bed inside and that's it. And if we had a room like that and then my wife had her own separate workspace, I had my own separate workspace, and then we had a shared living room space with the TV, that would be ideal.

So I think that was our mistake, we didn't know that but we're dealing with the situation amicably. We're both satisfied, maybe not happy with the sleep arrangement, like not, it's not perfect, but it's good enough. We're both getting enough sleep. And when we move out of this apartment into our future place, I hope that we can have that kind of arrangement. At the end of the day, Kassy, this is a very small thing. It's not anything that has caused us to, like, get into fights or yell at each other over anything like that.

How about you and your spouse, your partner? Have you guys had any little things where you don't **see eye to eye**?

Kassy: I think the biggest thing would probably be cleaning. I don't know if you know this, but I am a very messy and disorganized person.

Andrew: Really?

Kassy: Yes, extremely.

Andrew: It doesn't really seem to fit your personality too much.

Kassy: Yeah, people are surprised since I'm a math teacher, you'd think they're more type A and clean and organized. But no, I am very right brained, type B, chaos everywhere. That is my cup of tea. My husband is also not a clean freak, but he does like things in their place, and he likes the floor to be devoid of objects. But I'm one of those people that when I come home, I throw my bag on the floor, I take my jacket off, that's on the floor and it drives him crazy. But I'm trying to get better at it.

Andrew: So, Kassy, maybe this is something that you could try in your relationship, because there are a couple little things that I do that drive my wife crazy. And a couple of little things that she does that drive me crazy. And actually, I shouldn't say do and does, I should say did, because we've pretty much stopped doing these things because of this tip that I'm going to share with you right now. And that tip is you have to tax each other, you have to tax each other.

So this is a little bit too much information, so, I'm a little embarrassed to say this but, whatever, it's OK. So one of my bad habits that I had when I first got married and moved into my place with my wife, especially on days where I was getting ready in the morning to go to work and I was really kind of **under the gun** to get to work quickly. Maybe I was running late or something and I was really rushed. When I would brush my teeth in the morning, I didn't wash out all of the spit from the sink. So there's like a little bit of toothpaste foam and spit in the sink and I didn't do a good job at making sure that was all down the drain and then I just went to work. So then when my wife went to the washroom later, and she went to wash her hands, she'd see this gross, like, toothpaste foam in the sink, right? Disgusting. And that would upset her. Like why does she have to see this dirty thing in the sink and I totally agreed. I was like, "Oh, I'm so sorry, that was my mistake. I shouldn't do that." I wouldn't like to see that either. I completely get where she was coming from. But then I did it again and then I did it again and it was like one of those absent-minded things that I guess I didn't ever notice that I had a bad habit of when I was living alone. But now that I was living with her, she pointed it out to me.

And so we made this rule: if I do that, then I have to buy us coffee and a pastry. There's a nice little bakery by our house. If I do that, then I will make up for it by paying the tax of treating us to a coffee and a pastry. And the bakery near us is expensive so it costs, like, I don't know, \$10 or \$15 to do that. And I don't want to do that. I don't want to use my small monthly free spending money to do that. So, it's worked, I've completely stopped doing it once we implemented that kind of tax system.

And conversely, again this is another kind of TMI bathroom story unfortunately, but my wife has a bad habit or did have the bad habit of not replacing the toilet paper when she finished the roll. So she would use all the toilet paper and then next time I was in there, I look to find there is no toilet paper left in that situation, terrible situation to be in. So I was the same as her, I was kind of angry, like, "Why are you doing this? This is a selfish thing to do. You should try and not do this in the future." And similarly, she was very apologetic. She's, like, "I don't know why I did that. I'm sorry, I'll change. I won't do that in the future." But then she did it again and she did it again. And I was, like, it's tax time. So if you forget to do this, then you have to buy us coffee and pastries. We have the same deal.

Kassy: This pastry shop must love you guys.

Andrew: No, they probably hate us because since we implemented this tax, we have been much better at not doing these things and we've completely avoided them. So, I think I bought coffee and pastries only once and I haven't done that act again. And she hasn't even bought coffee and pastries for us yet, because as soon as the tax was implemented, she smartened up and she hasn't forgotten to replace the toilet paper roll ever again.

So, yeah, Kassy, I think maybe you guys could use this as well. Maybe, you know, if you just throw your bag and your jacket on the floor and you don't tidy up before your husband comes home or something, then you have to pay the tax and you could work out whatever the tax would be. I would suggest, if you think it's not a habit that you can fix easily, maybe just a low tax, like 50¢ or \$1, you could give him. But if there's something you think you could fix easily, then maybe a higher tax would be OK.

Kassy: It's a good idea. OK, I'll try it and I'll get back to you on my progress.

Andrew: Kassy, I said that if I had a time machine and I could go back to the start of my marriage, I would have made sure that we had a three-room apartment for us. If you had a time machine, and you could go back to the start of your marriage, which was only a few months ago, if you could go back then and do something differently, is there anything you would like to change? Or do you think everything's been OK so far?

Kassy: Honestly, I think everything's been OK so far. Similar to you, I guess the housing would be the hardest part. But my situation is even more **dire**, Andrew. We live in a one room studio. So our bedroom, our kitchen, and our living room is all in the same place. So we've really learned how to coexist together. But I'm very much looking forward in Thailand, hopefully, to getting a place with at least two different rooms. It's going to be a luxury.

Andrew: Yeah, that's a good point. People from countries like Korea, where we both live at the moment, Kassy, and some other Asian countries as well, I think maybe our listeners from North America or other parts of the world don't realize that the living spaces are really, really small in some Asian countries. And when you do it alone, it's like a little bit of an adjustment for us North Americans, but then when you add another person into the mix as well, especially you, I really sympathize with you because, yeah, having no personal space of your own, that's tough. But like you said, fingers crossed when you move to Thailand, which will be happening really soon, right? Then you'll be able to find a bigger place and that's something to look forward to for sure.

Kassy: Absolutely.

Andrew: Well, everyone, that brings us to the end of today's episode. Thank you as always for listening and great job on completing an English study session with us. Now, to all of our married listeners out there, we'd love to hear any stories you have about adjusting to married life.

Kassy, while we were recording, too, this popped into my head, like there are different wedding traditions and wedding customs, wedding cultures in different countries around the world. And I know in some parts of the world, you can even get married to someone who you don't really choose, right? It's kind of like an arranged marriage by your parents or your family and I'm wondering, in that situation, the adjustment must be even bigger. That must be a really tough thing to navigate. So if any listeners have some stories about adjusting to life as a newlywed, we would love to hear them. So please leave a comment on Culips.com or on our discussion forum or social media and share them with us.

Kassy: And if you liked this episode, please support us. Your support allows us to keep making English lessons for learners all over the world and we can't do Culips without you. The best way to support us is by signing up and becoming a Culips member. For all the details, just visit our website, Culips.com.

Andrew: You can also support us by following us on social media, telling your friends who are learning English to check us out, or by leaving us a review and rating on Apple Podcasts or wherever you listen to Culips.

That's it for now, but we will be back soon with another brand-new episode, and we'll talk to you then. Goodbye.

Kassy: See ya.

Detailed Explanations

To embark on Phrasal verb

When Andrew talks about the honeymoon phase of marriage, he describes it as being a stage when you're excited about this new life that you've **embarked on** with your partner. **To embark on** something means to start doing it. In this sense, **to embark on** the newlywed life means to start a new life together after getting married.

We normally use **to embark on** when talking about starting something new or exciting, some kind of a change happening in our life. For example, if you **embark on** a journey, it means you start a long trip somewhere, or it could also mean that you are about to experience something new. You can **embark on** an adventure, a new project, or a new career. However, it wouldn't be very common to use this expression when talking about typical daily activities, like going shopping or commuting to work.

Here are a couple more examples with **to embark on**:

Nick: Did you hear about Marco?

Amy: No, what happened?

Nick: He quit his job **to embark on** a new career as a comedian.

Amy: Really? That's crazy!

Andreas: Hey, what are you reading there?

Grace: I found this article about Elon Musk. Did you know that he is planning to send people to Mars soon?

Andreas: Yeah, I heard something about that. Do you think you'd **embark on** a trip to Mars if you had a chance?

Grace: Maybe. Would you?

Andreas: Totally! It would be cool to be one of the first people to live on Mars.

To bring up [something]

Phrasal verb

When answering Kassy's question about sleep schedules, Andrew says that he's glad she **brought this up**. **To bring up** something means to start talking about it. When you introduce a subject you would like to discuss, you **bring it up** in conversation. In this episode, Kassy **brings up sleep schedules**, which means she mentions them because she wants to discuss the subject.

There are two different ways we can use this phrasal verb. We can place the object, or the [something] that we bring up, before or after the preposition up. That is, you can **bring [something] up** or **bring up [something]**.

Here are a couple more examples with **to bring up [something]**:

Liam: I was looking at the papers you left on my desk yesterday and there's something I want to talk about.

Sarah: Is anything wrong with the numbers?

Liam: It's not that. I hate to **bring this up** again, but do you remember what I told you before? About the date? You should always put a date on documents.

Sarah: Right. I'm sorry, I must have forgotten. I promise it won't happen again.

Narciso: I can't wait to finally meet your friends! I can't believe I haven't met them yet—we've been dating for 2 months already.

Zuzanna: I know, but before they come, let me remind you of the taboo topics.

Narciso: I think I remember. First, I'm not supposed to talk about Steve's ex-girlfriend. Second, I can't mention your trip to Australia. And, finally, I shouldn't **bring up politics** in a conversation.

Zuzanna: Yes, last time somebody **brought up politics** we had a huge fight. I don't want that to happen again.

Narciso: Don't worry, everything is going to be fine.

[Something]-wise

Suffix, informal

Hearing about Andrew and his wife's housing situation, Kassy says it can get very complicated **schedule-wise**. The suffix **-wise** means speaking of. By adding this suffix to a noun, we specify the aspect of something we're talking about in the rest of the sentence. In this case, what Kassy is saying is that speaking of schedules, having one room for multiple purposes can get very complicated.

You can add the suffix **-wise** to a lot of nouns, like weather, time, location, food, money, health, etc. For example, you can say somebody's doing well **money-wise** but not so great **health-wise**, or that your English is good **speaking-wise**, but not so good **writing-wise**.

This way of using the suffix **-wise** is very common in spoken English. However, it's best to avoid using it in formal writing, such as an academic essay.

Here are a couple more examples with **[something]-wise**:

Patrice: Welcome back! How was your honeymoon?

Eve: It was awesome, thanks for asking!

Patrice: You went to New Zealand, right? Did you like it there?

Eve: It was amazing **food-wise**, and the people were very nice. We weren't so lucky **weather-wise**, though. It rained almost all the time.

Patrice: Well, you never know with the weather!

Emma: I really like this house! What about you?

Sam: Me too, and it's close to my office so it's perfect **location-wise**.

Emma: And **price-wise**? Do you think you can afford it?

Sam: It's not the cheapest one, but I've been saving up for a very long time. What I have should be enough.

Emma: Great! I'll start the paperwork, then.

To see eye to eye

Idiom

After sharing his story, Andrew asks Kassy if she and her husband have had any situations where they don't **see eye to eye**. **To see eye to eye** means to agree on something, to see things the same way. If you **see eye to eye** with someone, you have similar opinions about something. And if you don't **see eye to eye** with someone, you disagree with them.

In this episode, Kassy says that she and her husband don't **see eye to eye** on cleaning. This means they have different opinions on how cleaning should be done. They disagree about it.

This idiomatic expression is commonly used in both everyday conversations and in business situations. For example, you can say that you **see eye to eye** with your boss, business partner, or coworkers.

Here are a couple more examples with **to see eye to eye**:

Katia: Our baby is going to be born soon. We need to choose a name, honey.

George: Right. I don't really have any ideas yet, but I definitely don't want it to be any of these strange names parents call their children nowadays, you know what I mean?

Katia: I totally agree. I'm not a big fan of these exotic names myself. I'd prefer something more traditional for our kid.

George: I'm glad we **see eye to eye** on this.

Anna: I heard you quit your job again. Is that true?

Ahmad: Yeah, it is.

Anna: But that was your third job in the past 2 months! What happened this time?

Ahmad: Well, you know. My boss and I didn't **see eye to eye**. He wouldn't even listen to me when I tried to suggest something.

Anna: I don't always **see eye to eye** with my boss, but you don't have to always agree on everything with everyone. It's normal to have different points of view.

Ahmad: Yeah, I guess you're right.

Under the gun

Idiom, informal

When talking about getting ready in the morning, Andrew says he was **under the gun** to get to work quickly. To be **under the gun** means to be in a situation where you have to do something in a short amount of time. When you're **under the gun** to do something, you're in a hurry trying to finish a task in time. This expression is mainly used in North America. In this episode Andrew is **under the gun** to get ready for work, which means he is in a rush and doesn't have a lot of time to do it.

You can use this expression when you're in a stressful situation, under pressure, worried about getting something done—almost as if someone is pointing an actual gun at you. For example, if you need to finish a project before the deadline, you can say you're **under the gun** to finish the project.

Here are a couple more examples with **under the gun**:

Deepa: Hey, Ben, can I talk to you for a second?

Ben: Yeah, sure. What's up?

Deepa: I was just wondering if you could help me with my research.

Ben: Can it wait? I'm kind of **under the gun** here with the opening of the new store. I have until the end of the week and there's still so much to be done!

Deepa: I see. I'll leave you to it then. Good luck!

Jane: Did you have your driving test yesterday?

Raman: Yeah. I don't really want to talk about it.

Jane: Oh no, is everything OK?

Raman: I didn't pass. I was **under the gun** to finish my school projects and didn't really have time to prepare for the test.

Jane: I'm sure you'll pass next time! You're a good driver.

Dire Adjective

When comparing their housing situations, Kassy says that hers is more **dire**. **Dire** means terrible, desperate, or serious, depending on the context. Kassy means that her situation is worse than Andrew's. It's more difficult for her and her husband to coexist in a one-room studio.

This adjective is often used in formal situations when talking about something very bad, even extreme, such as emergencies, natural and man-made disasters, or financial difficulties. You might hear phrases like **dire** situation, **dire** circumstances, or **dire** consequences. For example, if someone is in a **dire** financial situation, it means they have very serious money problems.

Here are a couple more examples with **dire**:

Sophia: Eddie! What are you doing here?

Eddie: Didn't you ask me to drive you to work today?

Sophia: I did, but I thought you said your car had broken down.

Eddie: Yeah, but I took it to a mechanic yesterday, and he said the problem wasn't as **dire** as we thought. It's fixed now!

Sophia: That's great news! Shall we go then? I don't want to be late.

Eddie: Sure, get in!

Arturo: Have you seen Mary?

Mindy: I don't think she's at the office today.

Arturo: But she's never missed a day of work!

Mindy: She must have some kind of a **dire** emergency then.

Arturo: I should probably give her a call and find out what happened.

Quiz

1. Which of the following would you NOT be able to embark on?

- a) a journey
- b) a career
- c) a trip to the grocery store
- d) an adventure

2. If you bring something up in a conversation, you _____.

- a) criticize it
- b) want to talk about it
- c) don't want to discuss it
- d) raise your voice

3. If you see eye to eye with someone, it means you:

- a) agree with them
- b) disagree with them
- c) meet them in person
- d) look at each other

4. If you're under the gun, you are _____.

- a) feeling sick
- b) learning how to shoot
- c) hunting
- d) trying to finish something quickly

5. True or false? A more dire situation is a better situation.

- a) true
- b) false

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Tell about your experience of sharing a living space with someone.
2. What do you think of Andrew's tax idea? Would it work for you?
3. What is something you don't see eye to eye about with a friend or a family member?
4. Are there any topics you try not to bring up in a conversation?
5. Describe a time when you felt under the gun.

Quiz Answers

1.c 2.b 3.a 4.d 5.b

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