

AFARINESH IELTS Radio (Podcast 19)

Cue card:

Describe a situation when you had to teach something to a relative or a friend

You should say:

- whom you taught
- what you taught
- whether it was easy or difficult to teach

And explain how you felt after teaching him/her

Well, teaching is a quite demanding thing to **(1) pull off** effectively. I've actually never put my self in the position of a teacher before, officially though. I mean if I'm asked to do it **(2) incessantly**, I'd eventually **(3) let my guard down** and give it my best shot but it's not by any means **(4) my strong suit**. Knowing stuff is one thing but conveying that something to others is sure as heck a whole different thing. One of my recent **(5) face offs** with this monster **(6) AKA** teaching was when my cousin, not the most stable person I know actually, put me under a lot of pressure so I would teach her some English. I'd already **(7) sized her up** regarding her knowledge in English and guess what she is not only not **(8) competent** in English, she also thinks she knows a lot anyways I ended up sitting right in front of her and she was waiting for me to **(9) utter** something. I was gonna teach her some grammar but every time I was gonna make a point she would start questioning my teaching skills. I decided to **(10) bite the bullet** and don't say a thing because I didn't wanna **(11) escalate things**. Well it didn't go like that the whole time, I mean I **(12) got a threshold** of patience and when she called me a teaching robot I said that's it and **(13) hit the ceiling**. I also **(14) gave her a piece of my mind** about her low IQ. She also **(15) burst into tears** when she was leaving. Gosh... I gotta admit that was one tough experience that **(16) took a heavy toll on** me. Anyways I felt quite terrible afterwards . I wanted to **(17) patch things up** so I called her and apologized.

Collocations and useful phrases

- 1. pull something** ↔ off informal to succeed in doing something difficult:
The goalkeeper pulled off six terrific saves.
- 2. Incessantly**
Incessant continuing without stopping
- 3. let (one's) guard down**
To become less guarded or vigilant; to stop being cautious about potential trouble or danger.
Also worded as "let down (one's) guard."
" We'll wait long enough for them to let their guard down before we launch our invasion.
There will always be people in this business looking to exploit you, so you can never let your guard down.
- 4. Strong suit**

The best or highest valued ability of a person. Mostly used in a negative sense to emphasize that someone is not good at a particular activity.

5. Face-off

informal a fight or argument: a face-off between police and rioters

6. AKA

(also known as) used when giving someone or something's real name together with a different name they are known by: John Phillips, aka The Mississippi Mauler

7. Size sth/sb up

to look at or consider a person or situation and make a judgment about them SYN assess
It only took a few seconds for her to size up the situation.

8. Competent

having enough skill or knowledge to do something to a satisfactory standard OPP incompetent:
A competent mechanic should be able to fix the problem.

9. Utter

to say something:
'You fool!' she uttered in disgust.

10. bite the bullet/ informal

ACCEPT to start dealing with an unpleasant or dangerous situation because you cannot avoid it
any longer: I finally bit the bullet and left.

11. Escalate

if fighting, violence, or a bad situation escalates, or if someone escalates it, it becomes much worse

12. high/low pain/boredom etc threshold (=the ability or inability to suffer a lot of pain or boredom before you react to it)

13. hit the roof/ceiling/ informal

ANGRY to be very angry
Ranieri returned, saw the mess, and hit the roof.

14. give somebody a piece of your mind/ informal

ANGRY/ to tell someone that you are very angry with them:
After the game he gave the players a piece of his mind.

15. burst into tears (=suddenly start crying)

She burst into tears and begged me to stay.

16. Take a heavy toll on

a very bad effect that something has on something or someone over a long period of time
a heavy toll on the environment

17. Patch things up

to end an argument because you want to stay friendly with someone:
Try to patch up your differences before he leaves.