Lesson 01. English Gone Wrong

▶ English language learning in Korea

▶ Word scramble quiz

1 Language points

1) more than a little
2) to spend a fortune on something
3) to have a good shot at doing something
4) no wonder
5) to stop at nothing
6) to go so far as to do something
7) to give someone an edge / the upper hand
8) the rat race

① more than a little

- euphemism (e.g. die = pass away)
- a lot, very, much, etc.

▶ Mark was more than a little annoyed that his flight was delayed.

▶ South Korean parents are more than a little obsessed with their children's education.

② to spend a fortune on something

- to spend a lot of money
- Note: fortune can be used with pay or cost as well

▶ My friend Yu-Jin spends a fortune on travel because she'll only stay in luxury hotels.

▶ Korean parents are willing to spend a fortune on the best English 학원 in 압구정.

③ to have a good shot at doing something

- to have a good chance at doing something
- feels like an ambitious and special goal

▶ Min-seon had a shot at becoming a star, so he auditioned for the part.

▶ I think Yu-ri has a shot at getting an 800 on the TOEIC since she's been studying so hard.

④ **no wonder**

- something is not surprising
- = small wonder

▶ No wonder he's so hungover! He had 회식 until 2AM!

▶ After trying to read that difficult novel in English, it's no wonder Jun-il is so frustrated with English.

⑤ **to stop at nothing**

- willing to do anything to achieve a goal
- very strong expression

▶ Those lions will stop at nothing to defend their kill from the hyenas.

▶ Mothers in Korea will almost stop at nothing to get their kids to the 수능 on time.

▶ It seems that Ju-young will stop at nothing to increase her TOEFL score.

⑥ **to go so far as to do something**

- introduces the surprising extent or limit that one will reach to achieve something
- extreme statement

▶ John will go so far as to move to another city to avoid his ex-girlfriend.

▶ She's even going so far as to play English tapes while she's sleeping.

⑦ **to give someone an edge / the upper hand, rat race**

- edge/upper hand both meaning advantage
- rat race- competitive environment in society

▶ Kristy gets so stressed in the rat race with her high school friends.

▶ Athletes take steroids to give themselves a slight edge over the competition.

▶ She's studying the whole weekend so she'll have an edge on Monday's test.

2 Apply to the book

▶ <u>Page 3, activity A, #1</u>

The reason I'm learning English is….

▶ **Sample answers**

…. because I want *to have* __*a shot at getting*__ that job in London.

…. that I think I *have a shot at getting* this promotion.

▶ **Page 5, #11**

Agree/disagree: Learning English is a life-long process.

▶ **Sample answers**

I agree, but as soon as I retire and I'm out of the *rat race*, I will study for personal enjoyment.

I strongly agree. In order to *get / have the upper hand* in school, work, or even travel, you should learn English your whole life.

Definitely! Making English a lifelong process *gives me the edge* I need to get ahead in the rat race of life!

▶ **Page 6 discussion question #2**

Describe some of the factors that make English so difficult to learn.

▶ **Sample answers**

I think that English sentence structure is *more than a little* complicated.

▶ **Page 6, discussion question #14**

What is the highest amount you'd be willing to pay an English tutor for an hour of teaching?

▶ **Sample response**

If I were richer, I'd maybe pay 100,000 won, but I wouldn't *go so far as to pay* three or four hundred for the best in the city.

▶ **Page 6, activity C: revise Korea's English education system**

▶ **Sample statements**

It's *no wonder* kids aren't learning much English in public schools! The system is too old-fashioned!

Small wonder 학원 are popping up everywhere. There's so much demand for English right now.

No wonder kids in Korea are so stressed. The English portion of the 수능 is ridiculously difficult!

3 Review quiz

#1.

Q. Why are you learning English?

A. The reason I'm learning English is that _____.

I think / shot / a / I have / getting / at / promotion / this

I think I *have a shot at getting* this promotion

#2.

Q. Why do so many people in Korea take English speaking classes?

A. Young people especially do because _____.

they know / when / will give them / that strong speaking skills / doing business abroad / an edge

they know that strong speaking skills will give them an edge when doing business abroad

#3.

Q. I heard some moms in Korea pray at both churches and temples before the 수능.

A. Yeah, some moms _____.

at success / to give / will stop at nothing / a shot / their kids

will stop at nothing to give their kids a shot at success