

ESL360 Reading Guide—SESSION #1

P.S. I Still Love You – Fall 2026 Book Club

This Semester's Schedule

Session	Date	Chapters
1	9/3/2026	Letter + Ch. 1-2
2	9/10/2026	Ch. 3-5
3	9/17/2026	Ch. 6-7
4	9/24/2026	Ch. 8-11
5	10/1/2026	Ch. 12-18
6	10/8/2026	Ch. 19-25
7	10/15/2026	Ch. 26-28
8	10/22/2026	Ch. 29-32
9	10/29/2026	Ch. 33-36
10	11/5/2026	Ch. 37-40
11	11/12/2026	Ch. 41-44
12	11/19/2026	Ch. 45-47
13	12/3/2026	Ch. 48-51
14	12/10/2026	Ch. 52-56

VOCABULARY— SESSION #1

Ten language items from this week's reading, selected for high-utility, reusable language.



butter someone up

IDIOM / PHRASAL VERB • OPENING LETTER (BEFORE CHAPTER 1)

"I'm not saying that to butter you up. I mean it."

If you butter someone up, you say nice things to them, usually because you want them to like you or do something for you.



burn a hole in your pocket

IDIOM / FIGURATIVE EXPRESSION

"I've got hearts in my eyes and a letter that's burning a hole in my coat pocket."

If something is burning a hole in your pocket, you are so eager to use, spend, give, or do something with it that you find it difficult to wait.

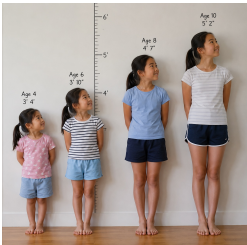


weasel your way out of something

IDIOM / LEXICAL CHUNK

"As we're putting on our shoes, Kitty's still trying to weasel her way out of wearing a hanbok to Aunt Carrie and Uncle Victor's."

If you try to weasel your way out of something, you cleverly or persistently avoid doing something you are expected to do.



grow like a weed

SIMILE / CONVENTIONAL FIGURATIVE EXPRESSION

"It's not our fault you grow like a weed,' I say, fussing with my bow."

If a child grows like a weed, they grow very quickly.



case closed

FIXED EXPRESSION / IDIOMATIC EXPRESSION

"All of the other cousins will be wearing them, and it will make Grandma happy,' Daddy says, rubbing his temples. 'Case closed.'"

If you say case closed about a question or disagreement, you mean that the matter has been decided and there will be no more discussion.



put someone in a sour mood / sour someone's mood

COLLOCATION + FIGURATIVE USE OF "SOUR"

"In the car Kitty keeps saying 'I hate New Year's Day,' and it puts everyone but me in a sour mood." – "Nothing could sour my mood, though, because I'm not even in this car."

If someone or something puts you in a sour mood, it causes you to feel irritated. If something sours your mood, it changes your mood from pleasant to unhappy or irritated.



at the crack of dawn

IDIOM / FIXED TIME EXPRESSION

"Margot is already in a semi-sour mood because she had to wake up at the crack of dawn to get home from her friend's cabin in time."

If you do something at the crack of dawn, you do it very early in the morning, when the day is just beginning.



get someone out of your mind

LEXICAL CHUNK / IDIOMATIC EXPRESSION

"I do know I can't get his Handsome Boy face out of my mind."

If you can't get someone or something out of your mind, you keep thinking about that person or thing even when you would like to think about something else.

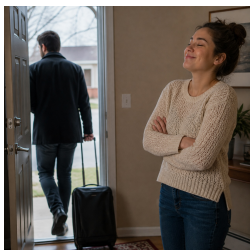


play hard to get

IDIOM / FIXED EXPRESSION

Peter uses the expression "play hard to get" while he and Lara Jean are talking about her behavior toward him.

If you play hard to get, you pretend to be less interested in someone than you really are, especially in a romantic situation, in order to make them more interested in you.



good riddance

IDIOMATIC EXCLAMATION / FIXED EXPRESSION

"Good riddance to him!"

If you say good riddance when someone or something is gone, you mean that you are glad to be free of that person or thing.

GRAMMAR IN USE—SESSION #1

Present Simple vs. Present Progressive

Present Simple

Use the **present simple** for situations that are generally true, habits, routines, and repeated actions.

- My family **celebrates** New Year's together every year.
- My daughter **doesn't like** dressing up.
- We usually **eat** dinner at my parents' house.

Present Progressive

Use the **present progressive** (*am/is/are + -ing*) for actions happening now, situations happening around the present time, and temporary situations.

- My daughter **is studying** nursing.
- We **are planning** a family trip right now.
- I **am trying** to learn how to knit.
- My parents **are staying** with us this month.

How the Meaning Changes

The choice between the two forms changes the meaning:

- **What do you usually do** on New Year's Day? → asks about a habit or routine.
- **What are you doing** for New Year's this year? → asks about a current plan or temporary situation.
- **Where does your sister live?** → asks about her usual/permanent home.
- **Where is your sister staying?** → asks about a temporary situation.

Question Formation: Review

Choose the tense that matches your meaning, and then form the question correctly.

Present Simple Questions

Do/Does + subject + base verb ...?

- What **do you usually do** on New Year's Day?
- **Does your daughter like** traditional clothing?
- Where **does your sister live**?

Remember: after **does**, use the base form: *Does she like it?* ✓

Present Progressive Questions

Am/Is/Are + subject + verb-ing ...?

- What **are you doing** this weekend?
- **Is she wearing** a hanbok today?
- Where **are your parents staying**?

When you hear an interesting specific detail, use a follow-up question to learn more. Pay attention to **tense**, **person**, and **word order**.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS—SESSION #1

1. **When is it worth trying to repair a relationship after something has gone wrong?** What factors help people decide whether to try again or let the relationship end?
2. **What makes an apology effective?** What is the difference between simply saying “I’m sorry” and apologizing in a way that can actually repair a relationship?
3. **What makes a family tradition worth preserving, and when is it reasonable to change or abandon one?** How can families handle traditions differently when generations do not value them in the same way?
4. **Why do people sometimes have different understandings of the same relationship?** What kinds of expectations should be said out loud instead of being assumed?
5. **As children become teenagers and adults, how should a parent’s role in their relationships change?** Where is the line between helpful concern and too much involvement?

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE— SESSION #1

A. Present Simple or Present Progressive

Choose the best answer. Use the context to decide whether the speaker means something usual/general or current/temporary.

1. Peter usually _____ pretty confident, but today he seems nervous.
a. is seeming
b. seems

2. A: Where's Ana? / B: She _____ with her parents for a few weeks, so her commute is longer than usual.
a. is staying
b. stays

3. My family _____ Korean New Year together every year, even when everyone is busy.
a. celebrates
b. is celebrating

4. Don't call Marta at home this week. She _____ at her daughter's house while her kitchen is being remodeled.
a. stays
b. is staying

5. My husband normally _____ to work, but his car is in the shop today.
a. drives
b. is driving

6. A: Why can't you talk right now? / B: I _____ dinner. Can I call you back in twenty minutes?
a. make
b. am making

7. Lara Jean often _____ about what other people are feeling.
a. is worrying
b. worries

8. We _____ with my sister this month while we look for a new apartment.
a. are living
b. live

B. Choose the Question That Matches the Meaning

9. You want to know what your classmate normally does when class ends. Which question should you ask?
a. What do you do after class?
b. What are you doing after class?

10. Your friend has told you that her daughter is temporarily in Dallas. You want to know where she is living during the visit.

- a. Where does your daughter live?
- b. Where is your daughter staying?

11. You want to know whether someone's daughter generally enjoys traditional clothing.

- a. Is your daughter liking traditional clothing?
- b. Does your daughter like traditional clothing?

12. Your friend says, "I can't talk for long. We're getting ready to leave." You want to know their destination.

- a. Where are you going?
- b. Where do you go?

13. You want to know your new classmate's permanent home.

- a. Where are you living right now?
- b. Where do you live?

14. Your friend says her parents are visiting from Mexico for three weeks. You want to know where they are staying during the visit.

- a. Where are your parents staying?
- b. Where do your parents stay?

C. Build the Question

Complete each question. Pay attention to tense, person, and word order.

15. A: My family has a special New Year's tradition. / B: What _____ your family usually _____ on New Year's Day? (*do / do*)

16. A: My daughter refuses to wear dresses. / B: _____ she _____ skirts, either? (*does / like*)

17. A: I can't talk long. I'm in the middle of a really good novel. / B: What _____ you _____ right now? (*are / read*)

18. A: My parents are visiting us for two weeks. / B: Where _____ they _____ while they're here? (*are / stay*)

19. A: My husband gets to work before 7:00 every morning. / B: What time _____ he usually _____ home? (*does / leave*)

20. A: Mina usually wears jeans, but she's wearing a hanbok today. / B: Why _____ she _____ a hanbok today? (*is / wear*)

D. Find and Fix the Mistake

*Each question contains one grammar error. Rewrite it correctly. **Note:** One sentence above is already correct.*

21. What does your family usually does for New Year's?

22. Where does your sister lives?

23. What you are reading right now?

24. Does your daughter like traditional clothing?

25. Where your parents are staying while they visit?
26. What time does your husband usually leaves for work?

E. Session Vocabulary: Use the Expression in a New Context

Choose the language item that best completes each sentence. Each item is used once. Change pronouns or verb forms when necessary.

at the crack of dawn • butter someone up • burn a hole in your pocket • case closed • get someone out of your mind • good riddance • grow like a weed • play hard to get • put someone in a sour mood • weasel your way out of something

27. Sofia has already outgrown the clothes I bought her six months ago. That child _____.
28. I know you don't want to attend the meeting, but don't try to _____. You're the person giving the presentation.
29. Daniel never compliments the boss this much. He must be trying to _____ before he asks for Friday off.
30. I bought my husband a surprise gift yesterday, and it's _____. I can hardly wait until his birthday to give it to him.
31. Our flight leaves at 6:00 a.m., so we'll have to get up _____.
32. That song has been playing in my head since breakfast. I can't _____.
33. Everyone was enjoying dinner until Tom started complaining about the service. He really _____.
34. My noisy neighbors finally moved out after months of keeping us awake. _____!
35. Elena really likes Marco, but she's deliberately waiting before answering his messages because she wants him to pursue her. She's _____.
36. "We've discussed this three times. You cannot borrow the car tonight. _____."

F. Meaning in Context

Choose the one answer that best matches the meaning of the bold expression.

37. Before asking her sister for a big favor, Rosa **battered her up** by telling her how talented and generous she was. Rosa:
- a. praised her sister because she wanted to influence her.
 - b. criticized her sister because she was angry.
 - c. ignored her sister because she wanted privacy.
38. Luis agreed to organize the event, but later he **weaseled his way out of it** by convincing someone else to take his place. Luis:
- a. found a clever way to avoid the responsibility.
 - b. completed the responsibility earlier than expected.
 - c. accepted an additional responsibility.

39. After a difficult tenant finally moved out, the landlord said, “**Good riddance!**” The landlord was:

- a. sorry to see the tenant leave.
- b. glad the tenant was gone.
- c. worried that the tenant might be lonely.

40. I was having a wonderful morning until that rude phone call **soured my mood**. The phone call:

- a. made me feel happier.
- b. made me feel irritated or unhappy.
- c. made me forget what I was doing.

41. The new shoes are **burning a hole in Maya’s closet** because she’s eager to wear them to the party. This means Maya:

- a. wants to use the shoes very soon.
- b. regrets buying the shoes.
- c. plans to return the shoes.

42. My grandson is **growing like a weed**. The pants we bought him in September are already too short. This means he:

- a. spends a lot of time outdoors.
- b. is growing very quickly.
- c. is unusually thin.

G. True or False?

Write *T* for true or *F* for false.

43. ____ We normally use the present simple for habits, routines, and situations that are generally true.

44. ____ If someone says, “I’m staying with my sister this month,” the present progressive helps show that the living arrangement is temporary.

45. ____ After **does** in a present-simple question, the main verb takes the third-person -s: *Does she likes it?*

46. ____ In the question *Where are your parents staying?*, **are** comes before the subject **your parents**.

47. ____ If you **play hard to get**, you openly tell someone that you have no romantic interest in them.

48. ____ **At the crack of dawn** means very early in the morning.

49. ____ If you **can’t get something out of your mind**, you keep thinking about it.

50. ____ **Case closed** can be used to indicate that a decision has been made and the speaker considers the discussion finished.

ANSWER KEY— SESSION #1

A. Present Simple or Present Progressive

1. b. seems
2. a. is staying
3. a. celebrates
4. b. is staying
5. a. drives
6. b. am making
7. b. worries
8. a. are living

B. Choose the Question That Matches the Meaning

9. a. What do you do after class?
10. b. Where is your daughter staying?
11. b. Does your daughter like traditional clothing?
12. a. Where are you going?
13. b. Where do you live?
14. a. Where are your parents staying?

C. Build the Question

15. does / do — What does your family usually do on New Year's Day?
16. Does / like — Does she like skirts, either?
17. are / reading — What are you reading right now?
18. are / staying — Where are they staying while they're here?
19. does / leave — What time does he usually leave home?
20. is / wearing — Why is she wearing a hanbok today?

D. Find and Fix the Mistake

21. What does your family usually do for New Year's?
22. Where does your sister live?
23. What are you reading right now?
24. CORRECT
25. Where are your parents staying while they visit?
26. What time does your husband usually leave for work?

E. Session Vocabulary

27. grows like a weed
28. weasel your way out of it
29. butter him up
30. burning a hole in my pocket

- 31. at the crack of dawn
- 32. get it out of my mind
- 33. put everyone in a sour mood / soured everyone's mood
- 34. Good riddance
- 35. playing hard to get
- 36. Case closed

F. Meaning in Context

- 37. a
- 38. a
- 39. b
- 40. b
- 41. a
- 42. b

G. True or False

- 43. T
- 44. T
- 45. F — After does, use the base form: *Does she like it?*
- 46. T
- 47. F — Someone who plays hard to get pretends to be less interested than they really are.
- 48. T
- 49. T
- 50. T