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Pre-Intermediate
Learning new words and expressions
Episode 3 - Fishing for compliments.



Let's listen to a dialogue:

Dialogue:

- Hello, Mark, how are things? You look unhappy and exhausted.
- Oh, Sonya, my life is so complicated!
- What's wrong?
- I am a middle-aged man who lives in a dormitory. I didn't live up to my parents' expectations. I can't score a good job. And I can't find a compatible girlfriend. My life is a mess.
- Oh, no, it's not true. You're just fishing for compliments.
- No, really. On top of that, I can't give up smoking and I know I should cut down on sweets. I can't even persuade myself to go to the gym once a week.
- You are being too harsh on yourself. You are a very attractive guy and a good mixer. And you shouldn't let other people's opinion offend you.
- You're right. I suppose I need to find a good role model... Maybe Chuck Norris. Yep, that's right. I want to be like Chuck Norris.

Listen to some of the key sentences:

My life is so complicated!

I am a middle-aged man who lives in a dormitory.

I didn't live up to my parents' expectations.

I can't score a good job.

I can't find a compatible girlfriend.

You're just fishing for compliments.

On top of that, I can't give up smoking

I should cut down on sweets.

I can't even persuade myself to go to the gym once a week.

You shouldn't let other people's opinion offend you.

I need to find a good role model.

Let's look at some interesting words:

exhausted means "very tired" - They came home exhausted. She was too exhausted to talk with him on the phone. There is also another nice expressions: I am so exhausted, I am going to go home and crash which means I'm going straight home to go to sleep right away perhaps after partying hard.

Complicated means "difficult, complex, hard to analyze" - This test is complicated. This cake recipe is so complicated! It need a lot of ingredients.

middle-aged people are people between the ages of about 40 and 60 - He was a middle-aged businessman who travelled a lot.

dormitory is a dormitory! - Many students live in dormitories while they study at university.

to live up to somebody's expectations. It means you do what is expected of you. For example, if someone expects you to be a great person you should live up to that. My parents wanted me to become a surgeon. I didn't live up to their expectations. She lived up to everyone's expectations and won a gold medal!

to score - to gain points in a game. Here to score a good job means to get, obtain, gain something you have desired. It's hard for a student to score a good job. He lived up to his own expectations and score a job he always wanted.

compatible - able to exist or to be used together. He's my friend just because we are compatible people. I can't find a compatible device. His behavior was not compatible with her words.

When we speak about bad habits we can use the following expressions: **to give up** drinking, smoking, watching telly all the time etc. And "to cut down on something" in the meaning "reduce": I should cut down on chocolate. They should cut down on alcohol, on fried food etc.

Let's look at two words **persuade** and **convince**. To convince is to change someone's mind, make a person believe that something is true. And persuade is to move to action. For example, my brother convinced me that this car was the best choice for me. And my brother persuaded me to buy a car.

Another interesting expression "to be too harsh on oneself", it expresses self-criticism. Look, you're doing great! Don't be so harsh on yourself. She was never satisfied with what he did and was too harsh on herself.

to offend - to hurt a person's feelings: She said he was a loser and her words offended him. Something can be offensive. He made some offensive remarks about her clothes.

role model - a person who can be a good example for you. My parents are my role models and I did everything to live up to their expectations. My only role models were my older friends. They did drugs and I did drugs as well.

There is also an idiom "**to fish for compliments**". It is very popular today. When a person fishes for compliments he usually criticizes himself to make other people praise him, and say "No, you're wrong! You are so clever and nice and attractive and wonderful!" For example: Emma, you know you don't look fat in that dress. Are you fishing for compliments?

And let's finish with some synonyms. We had the word "attractive". What other words you can use instead of "beautiful"?

attractive, fine, good-looking, pretty, lovely, cute
Very beautiful are gorgeous, stunning, dazzling
For men you can use "handsome" or "attractive"

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