

In attendance:

Students: Yunyoung, Rainbow, Hyunju, Yoko, Kathy, Xi lin
Volunteers: Joyce * Phoebe, Libby, Debra

Discussion: Vocabulary Words related to Income Taxes

Activities: Picture descriptions
Telephone call to physicians' offices

The vocabulary words associated with income taxes and savings plans, etc., resulted in good discussion, with students making an effort to speak and be understood, as well as to understand. Discussion about taxes, savings plans, medical care, and retirement continued through most of the first hour.

During the last part of the first hour, Joyce shared a picture and asked that each student speak about it, building upon what was said before. The picture featured a fairly austere scene of a small herd of bison in North Dakota, during winter. The students each had something to say about the picture, including discussion about the importance of bison to early Native Americans, as well as the use of bison as food in modern America. Kathy noted that the slaughter of bison in early America was a means of controlling and/or defeating certain tribes. Hyunju shared a live video of bison during her recent trip to a national park.

Following the break, Joyce asked students to share their impression of the culture of boys growing up in the US, as related to sports and competitiveness. Students discussed competitive sports, the use of realistic appearing 'firearms' used in games such as paintball, and the availability of air-guns. Discussion continued as students shared different countries' views on sports vs. academics etc.

The last activity was a telephoning exercise, where students followed a script of a phone call to a physician's office. Working in pairs, one student played the part of the office staff and the other the patient making the call. Then, they took turns playing the parts without a script. The students clearly enjoyed this exercise, used their language skills, and even got inventive describing their 'ailments'.