


LESSON C: WELL, ACTUALLY LESSON D:
TEENAGE YEARS USING I MEAN,

Unit 5

Growing up

In Unit 5, you learn how to . . .

- use the simple past in statements and questions (review).
- use time expressions to talk about the past.
- use *all, most, a lot of, a few*, etc.
- talk about memories of childhood, school, and your teenage years.
- correct yourself with expressions like *Wait, Actually*, and *I mean*.



Lesson C Well, actually, . . .

Conversation strategy Correcting things you say

A Can you think of possible ways to complete these replies?

A How old were you when you moved here? **A** Who took you to school on your first day?
B I was seven. Actually, no, I was . . . **B** My dad. No, wait, my . . . took me.

Now listen. What does Thomas remember about his first day of school?

Thomas Look at these old photos. My uncle sent them to me.
Ali Oh, is this you?
Thomas Yeah, with my best friend. We were in kindergarten together.
Ali Oh. Do you remember much about kindergarten?
Thomas Not really. Well, I remember my first day of school. Actually, I don't remember the day, but I remember on the way home I missed my bus stop.
Ali Oh, no!
Thomas Yeah. And I kept riding around until I was the last kid on the bus.
Ali So how did you get home?
Thomas Well, the teacher, I mean, the bus driver had to call and find out my address and everything, and he took me home.
Ali So that was when you were five?
Thomas Yeah. Uh . . . no, wait. . . . I was only four. I started school early.

Notice how Thomas corrects the things he says with expressions like these: *Well; Actually; No, wait*. Find examples in the conversation.

"No, wait. . . . I was only four."

Match the sentences with the corrections. Then compare with a partner.

1. I don't remember anything about my childhood. e
2. I started gymnastics when I was five. d
3. I hated swimming lessons. b
4. I lived with my grandparents for a year. f
5. I played piano until I was ten. a
6. All my friends were very nice. c

- a. Actually, no, I was 11 when I quit.
- b. Well, they were OK, but I was always scared.
- c. Well, most of them, not all of them.
- d. No, wait. I was six.
- e. Well, actually, I remember a few things.
- f. No, wait. Actually, it was two years.

2 Strategy plus I mean

You can use **I mean** to correct yourself when you say the wrong word or name. This is just one use of **I mean**.

Well, the teacher,
I mean, the bus
driver, had to . . .

In conversation . . .

Mean is one of the top 100 words. About 90% of its uses are in the expression **I mean**.

A Complete the questions by correcting the underlined words. Use the words on the right.

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| 1. Did you read a lot of cartoons, I mean, <u>comic books</u> | 7 | stuffed animals |
| 2. Did you have a <u>motorbike</u> , I mean, a _____? | 8 | basketball |
| 3. How often did you visit your <u>parents</u> , I mean, your _____ | 6 | friend |
| 4. Did you go <u>skiing</u> in the winter, I mean, _____? | 2 | mountain bike |
| 5. Were you afraid of <u>cats</u> , I mean, _____? | 4 | skating |
| 6. Did you have an imaginary <u>classmate</u> , I mean, _____ | ✓ | comic books |
| 7. Did you collect <u>animals</u> , I mean, _____? | 5 | horses |
| 8. Were you good at playing <u>chess</u> , I mean, _____ | 3 | grandparents |

Complete the conversations with the sentences in the box.

Actually, no, it was 2002.

Well, at least most of them didn't.

No, wait. I was nine.

Well, actually, it was dark brown.

Actually, no, I was 18 when I quit.

Well, no, I guess I spent some weekends with my grandparents.

Well, not perfect, actually. My dad lost his job.

✓ Well, not all of them. Josie speaks three languages.

No, wait. . . . Her name was Mrs. Santos.

1. A All my friends are bilingual. They all speak two languages.

Well, not all of them. Josie speaks three languages.

B That's amazing!

2. A My best friend and I had sleepovers every weekend when we were kids.

Well, no, I guess I spent some weekends with my grandparents

B That sounds like fun.

3. A We moved to Rio de Janeiro when I was ten.

No, wait. I was nine

B So you were pretty young.

4. A I was on a swimming team until I was 16.

Actually, no. I was 18 when I quit.

B That's the reason you swim so well.

5. A My brother and I had a perfect childhood.

Well, not perfect, actually. My dad lost his job.

B Really? But you were generally pretty happy, right?

6. A My cousin lived with us for a year – in 2003, I think.

Actually, no. It was 2006.

B That was your cousin Alice, right?

7. A My favorite teacher in elementary school was Mrs. Santana.

No wait... her name was Mrs. Santos.

B Oh, yeah? My favorite teacher was Mr. Stiller.

8. A When I was little, none of my friends had pets.

Well, at least most of them didn't.

B But you had a dog, right?

9. A I had black hair when I was born.

Well, actually, it was dark brown.

B Really? I was born with no hair at all!

Lesson D

Teenage years


1 Reading

A Brainstorm the word *teenager*! What do you think of? Make a class list.

teenager: parties, loud music, fights with parents

B Read the interview. Which of Jennifer's answers are funny? Which are interesting?

AN INTERVIEW WITH ...
Jennifer Wilkin



Jennifer works in publishing. We asked her about her memories of being a teenager.

Did you enjoy being a teenager?
It was mostly OK, but I had some difficulties, like everyone else. When you're a teenager, you're unsure of yourself.

What were the fashions then?
I was a teenager in the '80s, and so the clothes were very colorful. I was a fashion rebel, though – I always wore black, and I wore a lot of cheap silver jewelry. Often I wore vintage clothing.

What kind of music did you listen to?
My tastes were varied – I was a classical violinist, but I listened to punk rock and new wave music. I had all my "weird" cassette tapes, and I was never without them.

- **What's your best memory from your teenage years?**
I guess it was a trip I took every summer with my youth group. It was a time to travel, be with close friends, and be away from my parents.
- **And your worst?**
I think going to school was the worst. I'm not a social type, and it gave me all kinds of anxiety.
- **What's one thing you remember about school?**
I remember that everybody tried to be different, but they tried to be the same, also.
- **What was your favorite subject?**
My favorite subject was psychology. I loved analyzing my friends.
- **Were you ever in trouble? Why?**
I got detention lots of times because I was late for school every morning, but I never got in real trouble.
- **How did you spend your free time?**
Actually, I spent a lot of time driving around in friends' cars, honking at people's houses as we drove by. I also spent time reading, playing with my dog and cat, or tormenting my younger sister.
- **What do you miss about your teenage days?**
NOTHING! Except my jeans size.
- **What's one piece of advice you would give to today's teenagers?**
Get off your computer, and turn off the TV!

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