

## Warm Up

In our last lesson, we had a warm up activity about count and noncount nouns. Today, let's continue with that topic.

Many food items are primarily considered as noncount nouns. In their noncount form, they are paired with a variety of different words to help distinguish the amount of each noun that is needed.

Look at the modifier words in the lefthand columns of the charts below. If you think these modifier words, also noun as counters, can be used with one or more of the food nouns in each chart, write a circle in that space. If you don't think these modifier words can be used with the food nouns below, leave the space blank.

	bread	flour	rice	butter	meat	fish	milk
a loaf of							
a slice of							
a bag of							
a cup of							
a piece of							
a pat of							
a stick of							
a cut of							
a pound of							

	celery	broccoli	garlic	corn	grapes	lettuce	asparagus
a head of							
an ear of							
a clove of							
a stalk of							
a bunch of							
a kilogram of							

## Useful Expression

In today's scene, Sheldon says, *I'd like to work with you on this, Sonny, not against you.*

When a person or thing is working with you, that person or thing is helping you to do or accomplish something. They are cooperating with you.

When a person or thing is working against you, that person or thing is doing something to hinder you. In other words, they are interfering with your progress so that you do not accomplish the thing that you are working on.

We can use this expression in many ways and with many conditions: when talking about the weather, the odds of success/failure, a system, time, our bodies, the landscape/terrain, public opinion, technology, history, gravity, expectations, etc.

### Example

- I want to finish painting my house this week, but the weather is working against me.
- If the weather keeps working with me, I'll finish painting my house in a day or two.
- I want my children to learn to love reading books, but technology is working against me.
- A lot of people think that A.I. will work with us to make the world a better place.

## Activity

Look at the following examples and fill in the blanks with the words **with** or **against**.

1. The President and his team have been trying to make a sweeping reform of the financial system, but **public opinion** is working \_\_\_\_\_ them.
  2. We're fortunate. It looks like **the weather** is going to work \_\_\_\_\_ us. We're going to have a beautiful day for a picnic.
  3. It's tempting to say that technology is making our lives better, but when you look at the rising amounts of depression and other mental health problems, it might be better to say that **technology** is working \_\_\_\_\_ us.
  4. Many studies have shown that if you are white in America, the **system** works \_\_\_\_\_ you, and if you are non-white, the **system** works \_\_\_\_\_ you. This is known as systemic racism.
  5. It's no secret that as we age, our bodies begin working \_\_\_\_\_ us. That's why it's important to exercise regularly and eat well from a young age.
- **Can you make any original examples about experiences you've had in your life, or about general truths you have observed?**

## Today's Scene

Prior to today's scene, the electricity to the bank was cut off. This means that Sonny, Sal, and their hostages don't have access to lights or air conditioning. They are hot and uncomfortable.

As today's scene begins, Sonny seems aggravated by his current circumstances and is quick to begin making demands. To his surprise, Detective Moretti, the man that Sonny had been negotiating with, has been replaced by an FBI agent named Sheldon.

Let's see how Sheldon handles Sonny and the hostage situation differently than Moretti did.



## Role Play

Today's dialogue is mostly between Sonny and Sheldon. There are, however, three other characters that have lines. I think today's role play will work well if the person playing Sonny also says the lines for Sylvia, the Woman, and Sal.

As you are reading the lines for today's scene, remember to try to speak like the actors do in the movie. Sonny is loud, demanding, and slightly violent. Sheldon is very calm and soothing. See if you can convey these characteristics while playing each of these characters.

## Conversation

In today's scene, Sheldon says to Sonny, *You handled yourself real well, Sonny. A lot of men would have choked.*

The expression to choke means to buckle or give into pressure. Many athletes choke in championship games, which is to say that they don't play as well as they usually do because of being nervous.

If you choke on an exam, that means that you were prepared for the exam, but you didn't do well on it because you were too nervous.

### Examples:

- I planned to ask Christine out the other day, but I choked.
- I went to a job interview yesterday, and I completely choked.
- I choked during the presentation this morning.
- etc.

### Question

Is there a time in your life when you choked under pressure? If so, tell your partner about it.

If nothing comes to mind, can you think of a moment when somebody you know choked under the pressure of a particular situation, or when a famous athlete choked in a big game? Be sure to include as many details as you can.