



Samantha, a Soap Opera and Vocabulary Book for Students of English as a Second Language

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Using a soap opera story line approach, Samantha provides an innovative method for increasing the reading and communication skills of adult and young adult students of English as a second language. The interesting topics raised will provoke students to verbalize their own ideas and at the same time provide them with excellent practice in reading comprehension, vocabulary building, an idiom usage. Instructors and students will find the combined story and exercises valuable in generating oral discussions and developing a strong interest in reading.

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Samantha

A Soap Opera and Vocabulary Book for
Students of English as a Second Language

Meryl Robin Becker

Chapter 8

Should She or Shouldn't She?

Part 1

Vocabulary

These are the vocabulary words you will learn in this chapter. Each word has a definition and a sentence. Notice that many words have more than one meaning.

1. voice (noun)—sound made in speaking or singing
He knew from the sound of her voice that she was furious with him.
2. offend (verb)—to make someone sad or angry, insult
Using bad language and speaking rudely may offend people.
3. indecisive (adjective)—not sure, not able to make a decision;
indecisively (adverb)
*She was indecisive over whether to buy this perfume or that one.
"I don't know what to do," he said indecisively.*
4. exclaim (verb)—to speak with excitement or surprise
*"How could you withdraw all of the money from our joint account without telling me!" exclaimed Peter.
The women started to exclaim over the new baby.*
5. quick (adjective); quickly (adverb)
 - 1) fast
*Let's have a quick sandwich before we go to school.
He gets mad easily. He has a quick temper.
Polish the car quickly because we have to leave soon.*
 - 2) fast in being able to understand
He's intelligent and quick in his studies.

6. urgent (adjective)—something of great importance that needs to be done quickly

I have an urgent letter for Ms. Jefferson.

7. puzzle

- 1) (noun)—something difficult to understand; (verb)—to make difficult to understand; puzzled (adjective)—not able to understand

It's a puzzle to me how we can waste so much money.

Your sad sighs puzzle me.

He knew she didn't understand because she gave him a puzzled look.

- 2) (noun)—a game that is hard to do

A jigsaw puzzle is a picture that is cut into pieces and you must put the pieces back together.

8. hardly (adverb)—almost not at all

After paying the rent I had hardly any money left.

9. grab (verb)

- 1) to take quickly

I have to grab my books and leave or I'll be late for school.

When they asked George if he wanted the free tickets, he grabbed at the chance.

- 2) to take quickly, by force

The little girl tried to grab the toy away from her brother.

10. abrupt (adjective); abruptly (adverb)

- 1) sudden

Her singing career came to an abrupt end when she had an operation on her throat.

I'm sorry to stop your meeting so abruptly, but one of your employees has had a bad accident.

- 2) not polite

He offended me when he gave me such an abrupt answer to my question.

He ended our appointment so abruptly that I knew he would never give me the job.

11. cry

- 1) (verb)—to have tears come out of the eyes; (noun)—a period of crying

He felt so bad when he got dismissed from his job that he cried.

When I'm depressed I feel better after a good cry.

- 2) (verb)—to call out loudly; (noun)—a loud call, yell

"Veronica is in first place!" cried Elvira as she watched the race.

When we heard his cry for help we knew he was in trouble.

12. desperate (adjective)—causing great need or worry; being willing to do anything to get what one wants; desperately (adverb)

Because he hadn't eaten for three days, he felt a desperate need for food.

She is in desperate trouble.

When she saw that the whole room was on fire, she ran desperately toward the door.

Idioms

Idioms are words that have special meanings in English when used together.

1. stop by—go, usually for a short time

I need to stop by the gym and get my sneakers.

Will you be home after work? I thought I'd stop by.

2. his lips met hers—his lips touched her lips; they kissed

When her lips met his, she knew it was love.

3. so what?—showing that you don't care about something or that it is not important

More people came to the party than we expected, but so what? We have plenty of food.

4. get to know—begin to know

Traveling to different parts of the United States is a good way to get to know this country.

5. hold back (past tense—*held back*)—stay or keep back, showing you don't want to do something
Because she dislikes being first, she always holds back when the others jump in the water.
She held back her answer to give the others a chance to reply.

6. little while—short time
I've only known him for a little while.

Part 2

Vocabulary

Complete each of the following sentences with one of the vocabulary words on the list. Don't forget to read the words before the blank *and* the words after the blank to help you find the missing vocabulary word.

Remember that all of the answers (a, b, c) under one number are different meanings of the same word. When a word has more than one meaning, there is a parenthesis () after the sentence. In the parenthesis put the number of the meaning from the vocabulary list in Part 1.

urgent	abrupt
quick	exclaim
cry	offend
hardly	desperate
voice	puzzle
indecisive	grab

1. Because she had a sore throat her _____ sounded funny on the phone.
2. a) When babies are hungry, they _____. ()
 b) He gave a loud _____ when he saw the police taking away his car. ()
3. Tell George to call his wife right away. It's _____.

4. a) I don't like that bank; the service there is too _____. ()
 b) My vacation came to an _____ stop when someone stole all my money. ()
5. a) I have a 300-piece _____ to put together. ()
 b) I don't understand the way she's acting. It _____ (s) me. ()
6. a) He was in a hurry so he walked _____ (ly). ()
 b) She has a _____ mind. ()
7. a) When the glass fell off the table, she _____ (bed) it before it hit the floor. ()
 b) As she was walking through the park recently, a man _____ (bed) her bag and ran away with it. ()
8. You will _____ your sister if you wear a t-shirt and jeans to her wedding.
9. Because she was so _____ it took her a long time to decide what to wear.
10. When she found out her child was missing, she felt _____.
11. With the lights out, I can _____ see.
12. "Our team beat the other team by 20 points!" _____ (ed) Laura.

Idioms

Complete each of the following sentences with one of the idioms on the list. Don't forget to read the words before the blank *and* the words after the blank to help you find the missing idioms.

so what?
 get to know
 holds back

his lips met hers
 stop by
 little while

1. I know Lisa is mad at me, but _____ I never liked her anyway!
2. He put his arms around her waist, _____, and they kissed.
3. A shy person _____ his feelings.
4. Now that I am in the same class as Martha, I hope to _____ her better.
5. Can you _____ the store and buy a shovel for the garden?
6. I can only stop by your house for a _____ and then I have to go to work.

Part 3

Summary

Bradley is leaving Samantha for Gloria. Bradley and Gloria fight and make up. Samantha meets John Paul on the beach and knows that Bradley has seen her kissing John Paul.

Questions to think and talk about before you read:

- How do you think Samantha will feel now that she knows Bradley has seen her with John Paul?
- Do you think it's okay for Samantha to kiss John Paul?

Episode 8. Should She or Shouldn't She?

"I have to leave now," said Samantha abruptly to John Paul as they stood on the beach together. She knew Bradley had seen them kissing.

"Why?" asked John Paul, putting his arms around her. "We're

having such a nice time." As he bent down to kiss her again, she pushed him away and said, "I want to go, now!"

"What's so urgent?" asked John Paul in a puzzled voice. "You were fine just a minute ago."

"I'll see you sometime at the hospital," she said. She started to walk quickly away but he grabbed her hand.

"What happened?" he asked. "Did I do something to offend you?"

"No," she replied, turning away from him. "I just shouldn't be here."

"Then let's go," he said, walking with her. "Come home with me."

"Come home with you!" exclaimed Samantha, staring at him. "I hardly know you!"

"You could get to know me better," he said, bringing her closer.

"I shouldn't," said Samantha, as he put his arms around her. "I couldn't," she said as his lips met hers. "I'm a married woman!" cried Samantha desperately, pulling away.

"So what?" answered John Paul. "Your husband is doing the same thing. Come to my house with me. Anyway, we won't do anything; we'll just talk."

"Well..." said Samantha indecisively. "I could stop by for just a minute..."

"Okay," said John Paul, pulling her along. "Let's go."

But Samantha held back. "I do have a lot of things to do at home. Maybe another time."

"Come on," said John Paul softly as he looked into her eyes. "Just for a little while."

"Well..." said Samantha.

Part 4

Questions

1. Why does Samantha want to leave? How do you think she's feeling?
2. Why is John Paul puzzled? How is Samantha acting toward him?
3. Where does John Paul want Samantha to go?
4. Give one reason Samantha has for not going with John Paul.
5. What does John Paul mean when he says, "We won't do anything; we'll just talk"?

6. Did you believe John Paul when he says that he and Samantha will just talk at his house? Why or why not?
7. In your opinion, is it okay for Samantha to go with John Paul or is it wrong?
8. In your opinion, does Samantha go with John Paul or not?

Part 5

Fill in the blanks next to each definition with your vocabulary words. Then put the words together in the blanks that follow and see what the sentence says!

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. not able to understand | _____ (ed) |
| 2. very important, needing attention quickly | _____ |
| 3. sound of speaking | _____ |
| 4. willing to do anything because of great need | _____ |
| 5. sudden | _____ |
| 6. when tears come out of the eyes | _____ |
| 7. in a fast way | _____ (ly) |
| 8. spoke with excitement | _____ (ed) |
| 9. to take quickly | _____ |
| 10. almost not at all | _____ |
| 11. not sure | _____ |
| 12. make angry, insult | _____ |

I was 1) _____ by an 2) _____ 3) _____,
 4) _____ and 5) _____, that gave a 6) _____ and
 7) _____ 8) _____, "If you 9) _____ you're
 10) _____ 11) _____, but you may 12) _____!"