

THEME 10 VALUES AND NORMS LISTENING SKILL (SUNSHINE)

A. Listen to a part of a lecture from a sociology class and complete the chart about values. (Tapescript 58)

PAST

PRESENT

1. Modesty

2. _____

3. Patience

Most families teach this value to their children.

B. Listen again and answer the following questions. (Tapescript 58)

1. What are values?

2. Define norms.

3. How are values and norms different from each other?

Tapescript 58

Teacher: Good afternoon everyone. I hope you had a good lunch and you feel refreshed because today we have a lot to cover. First, we will look at what values and norms are. Of course, we will look at these concepts from a sociological perspective. Then, we will compare the values and norms of societies in the past and present. Alright, let's start.

What is the definition of values? Values are cultural standards for a society. In other words, they are general beliefs about what is important and what is right for a society. Values provide the basis for social behavior in a society. OK.

Now, let's take a look at what social norms are. Norms are standards, rules, guides and expectations for actual behavior.

So, what is the difference between values and norms? Let me give you an example: Honesty is a general value; it's a general belief that people should be honest. Norm is the expectation that students will not cheat in the examinations and be honest about their performance. Is this clear?

Student 1: Teacher, can you give another example?

Teacher: Sure. Helpfulness is a value, OK? Society expects you to be helpful. Norm is the behavior you show about this value. For example, when you see an old person carrying heavy bags, you are expected to help that person and this is the norm. Is this clear?

Student 1: Yes, teacher. Thank you.

Teacher: You're welcome. Now, let's take a look at the norms and values of societies in the past and present. In general, we can say that most values don't change in time, but their importance increases or decreases depending on the time period lived in. Let's take the example of modesty. In the past being modest was highly valued in most societies. In other words, not showing off what you have or who you are or what you do was important. No one knew who was rich or poor because even rich people led modest and simple lives. This seems to have changed in today's modern societies. Now people try to show others how rich they are, how smart they are, or how popular they are. I think all societies should think about that.

So, class, what do you think about the values of the modern world? Yes, Ahmet?

Student 2: I believe the values of the modern world are more materialistic. But there are good things, too. For example, self-confidence was not an important value, in fact, people thought it was rude to look self-confident, but now most parents teach their children to be self-confident, which is very good for personal development.

Student 1: I agree with you. However, other important values are ignored. For example, being patient about anything was an important value in the past; it was a sign of wisdom and integrity, but now people can't wait for anything! They want things to happen fast and easy. But, in the past, people were patient and more understanding.

Teacher: I agree with both of you. Now, let's take a break and when we come back, we'll talk more about values and norms.