

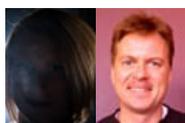


1094 Welfare

Todd talks with Rachel about how people feel about welfare in the United States.

Rachel: So what about America? If you lose your job what happens?

Todd: Well, we have what you have. It's not called the dole though, it's called welfare, and basically what happens is if you lose your job, you can get money from the government, but it's really short-term. I think it's only six months or a year, but the biggest difference I think between Europe and America is the word. We call it welfare. And welfare is really negative. If you tell somebody that you're on welfare, or even on unemployment, then people really look at you negatively.



Rachel Todd

Well, actually let me clarify. There's two: There's welfare which is kind of more long-term like if you have children, and then there's unemployment which is money you get from the government if you don't have a job. If you're on unemployment, it's not as bad but people still kind of look at you like you're **a loser**. That you should go out and find a job., and if you're on welfare, it has a really **negative connotation**. People look at you like you're just lazy basically.

Rachel: Is that true if you're in a community where, like, the majority of people are on welfare? Are there any places like that in America?

Todd: Yeah, there are some really impoverished areas that have a lot of people on welfare and I imagine that they probably look at it differently but I think that maybe **deep down** they probably wouldn't want to be on welfare. I mean the main problem is those people probably weren't given the same quality of education. They don't have the same job opportunities, so deep down they probably wish they had a better job, but they don't, so they're kept in this **vicious cycle** that keeps them down, so I think that there might even be resentment and because they have resentment for basically the terrible **hand they've been dealt** in life they look at welfare almost like an entitlement because that's basically the predicament they've been given.



Rachel: Yeah, that sounds similar to areas of Britain with like extreme deprivation. There's places like that where three generations have been on the dole sort of thing.

Another problem is for single mothers. Sometimes, the cost of childcare means that it's not actually worth them getting a job. Is it the same in America?

Todd: Yeah, definitely. We don't have any government supported

Quiz

1) Todd says welfare is _____ .

- a) seen negatively
 b) temporary
 c) accepted

2) If you are on welfare some people feel you are _____ .

- a) lazy
 b) a loser
 c) a victim

3) He thinks people in impoverished areas _____ .

- a) want to be on welfare
 b) do not like being on welfare
 c) are not happy about it

4) He thinks people on welfare _____ .

- a) are stuck in a cycle
 b) might have resentment
 c) need to work harder

5) For single mothers there _____ .

- a) is no childcare
 b) is support from police
 c) a lot of opportunities

Reset Quiz

Show Answers

Vocabulary

a loser

People look at you like you're a loser.

A loser is someone who is not successful at things they do. Notice the following.

1. My brother is too lazy to get a job. He's such a loser.
2. In some countries, if you have little money, people think you are a loser.



negative connotation

Being on welfare has a negative connotation.

A negative connotation is a bad feeling or idea suggested by a word or situation. Notice the samples.

1. In western countries, living with your parents after graduating university has negative connotations.
2. 'Ignorant' means not having knowledge, but it also has a negative connotation when used informally as meaning stupid.



deep down

Deep down they wish they had a better job.

'Deep down' talks about your true feeling about something or somebody. Note the following examples.

1. He is polite, respectful and friendly to customers,



childcare. And actually there's been instances where law enforcement people like sheriffs and police officers have said that they actually prefer that some single mothers are on welfare because if they're not then it leads their children to be more susceptible to crime or to life in crime, so if they don't have a strong parent figure at home, it could really have affects, you know, later on in life, so it really is sort of this vicious cycle for single mothers in poor areas that they don't have child care. They don't have education. They don't have job opportunities, and so it's really kind of hard for them to get out, and they feel almost hopeless.

Rachel: Yes, it sounds like we have somethings in common even though our welfare systems are so different, but I hope these people, their children especially can get out of this cycle.

Speaking Challenge

Answer these questions related lesson.

Q1 Why is poverty a vicious cycle?

A1

Q2 Have you been dealt a bad hand in life? Why or why no

A2

Q3 Have you ever felt like a loser? Why?

A3

Q4 Why does being on welfare have a negative connotation?

A4

Q5 Do you think welfare is a good idea?

A5

but deep down he hates his job.

- I always appear confident during a presentation, but deep down, I'm actually a little nervous

vicious cycle

Poor people are kept in this vicious cycle.

A vicious cycle is a very bad situation that is continuous and difficult to stop. Notice the sample.



- People with no education are kept in a vicious cycle of poverty.

hand they've been dealt

They have resentment for the terrible hand they've been dealt.



The hand you are dealt talks about things in your life that you can't control. Here are two examples.

- Bill Clinton was born into a poor family, but made the best of the hand he was dealt.
- Paris Hilton had very rich parents. She was dealt a lucky hand.

Vocabulary Quiz

loser • connotation • deep down
vicious • hand

- That word has a negative .
- He says he is not sad but he really is.
- Poverty is a cycle that is hard to get out of.
- Sometimes in life you are dealt a bad .
- He is a nice guy but everyone thinks he is a .

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