English in Perspective 9

Quarter 3

Most Essential Learning Competency (MELC)	Code
Differentiate biases from prejudices	EN9LC-IVf-13.3

U3 L5

Strategy Point (Listening Comprehension)

Can you recall an experience when you were wrongfully judged by someone you know? How about by someone you do not know? Similarly, did you ever make judgments about something or someone prior to knowing the facts? Now, read the following discussion to know more about biases and prejudices.

Biases versus Prejudices

The term *prejudice* refers to preconceived, usually unfavorable, feelings towards a person or people because of their sex, age, gender, belief, race/ethnicity, social class, religion, disability, and other personal characteristics.

According to Gordon Allport, an American psychologist, *prejudice* means a feeling, favorable or unfavorable, towards a person or thing **prior to** or **not based on** actual experience.

Study the following scenarios:
1. Thinking a customer cannot afford a branded luxury item because of their skin color
2. Assuming a woman cannot handle the pressure of a high-stress job as well as a man
3. Being apprehensive to hire someone with a disability because you think they cannot do the job

From these examples, what do you think are the dangers of prejudice? What can these possibly lead to? How then do we manage these kinds of thoughts?

The term *bias* refers to prejudice **in favor** or **against** one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair. This can be reflected through one-sided statements that lack a neutral viewpoint and can be learned implicitly within cultural contexts.

Biased words and phrases are considered prejudiced, offensive, and hurtful. These include expressions that demean or exclude people because of age, sex, race, ethnicity, social class, or physical or mental traits.

Study the following examples:
1. When elected, he will be the first person of color in the White House.
2. There are many elderly people in this town.
3. He has had the physical handicap since he was 5.

How then is bias different from prejudice? How are they related?

Further Enrichment

Access this link and watch the video to understand better the concept of bias and prejudice:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-H7frxDgk48&t=250s. It demonstrates the differences between the two terms. Afterwards, share your insights on these concepts with a classmate.

Have you ever witnessed a bias or prejudice exhibited by someone? How did you react to it? Is this how you think you should have reacted?

Proceed to *Evaluate* and answer *Strategy Application* to test your understanding of the concepts of *bias* and *prejudice*.

Strategy Application

Based on your understanding on the differences of a bias and a prejudice, examine the following scenarios/statements. Then, identify whether it is a *bias* or a *prejudice* that is being illustrated. Write your answer on the line provided before each number.

_____ 1. According to a statement he made last January, the current president believes that the presidency is not for a woman because of the differences in the *'emotional setup'* of men and women.

_____ 2. "Laziness is a trait in blacks. It really is, I believe that." - Donald Trump

_____ 3. KC mentioned being offended after a salesman exclaimed "They're very expensive," inside a luxury boutique after asking to see their bags.

_____ 4. "A well-educated black has a tremendous advantage over a well-educated white in terms of the job market." - Donald Trump in an 1989 interview.

Most Essential Learning Competency (MELC)	Code
Judge the validity of the evidence listened to	EN9LC-IVh-2.15

U3 L7

Strategy Point (Listening Comprehension)

During this age when information is made readily available, how do you know if the information you have received and heard is fact or fiction? How can you determine whether your source/s are credible or valid? Recall what you have learned in your past lessons about arguments and read the following discussion to learn about a related skill.

Validity of Evidence

When arguing, the soundness and strength of one's point is established through valid pieces of evidence. To determine the validity of an evidence, you may consider looking at the following factors:

- *author/speaker*—What are his or her credentials - is her or she a recognized expert in the field? Are they representing an organization? If so, what is the organization's mission and goals? If you are unsure, try doing a simple online search on the author/speaker or their organization.
  Example:
  - having a nutritionist dietician talk about diet fads, myths (*valid*)

- *source of information*—If the source includes references, look at a few of the references; Do they look like reliable sources of information? Does it look like the author is citing the source correctly? Use your best judgment.
  Example:
  - hearing a debater cite Facebook or WikiPedia as his/her source (*not valid*)

Whenever new information is presented to you, you may consider asking the following questions before believing it:
1. Who said it?
2. Can I trust the source?
3. Is that person biased on this subject?
4. Am I biased on this subject?
5. Where can I get reliable information?

Sources:
- https://umd.instructure.com/courses/1082806/pages/what-is-a-good-source-determining-the-validity-of-evidence
- *https://www.schooljournalism.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Reliable-Sources-by-Sue-Lau*

Go to *Elaborate* and answer *Strategy Application* to check your understanding of this discussion on validity of evidence.

Strategy Application

Access the following videos and determine whether the information presented is valid or not by filling out the table. Provide a short explanation why you think so.

Evidence	Valid?		Explanation
	Yes	No	
1. On April 1, 1957, BBC reported that a family grew spaghetti from trees. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVo_wkxH9dU			
2. TED-Ed released a lecture-video on spotting fad diets. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V15Z-yyiVg			
3. CNN reports new info in Princess Diana's death: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzb5txult2k			
4. Donald Trump mentioning the coronavirus was China's fault during a debate: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kK9UU3dTo8			