

Taxes, Law, and, Community Issues

9: Dealing with Taxes

INTRO clip

Narrator: There you go. One chicken bones. Two eyeballs. Three bat wings. Hm. I wonder what else I need to make Rosalinda love me. Monkey teeth! That should do it. Oh, hello. Welcome back to English for All.

In this series of episodes you will learn about paying taxes, dealing with the law and being part of the community. You will also learn about count nouns and non-count nouns. Let me explain.

Count nouns are things you can count. For more than one you add an 's' or an 'es.' For example, you can count tails. One tail. Two tails. Three tails.

Non-count are different. You can't count them. You can't count lemonade or water or magic love potion. For these you count the container instead, for example, one bottle of magic love potion, two bottles of magic love potion and so on. Interesting, yes?

Now let's watch the Tshombe as he learns how to pay taxes.

Story Start -up

Tshombe: One fresh glass of lemonade.

Joe: Yup, the IRS wants to audit you.

Tshombe: Audit me? What's that?

Joe: They want to talk to you. You're going to have to show them all your receipts. They want to know you're paying all your taxes.

Tshombe: What receipts? I don't keep receipts. Too much paper.

Joe: Oh, no. You should keep receipts.

Tshombe: Do you keep receipts?

Joe: Of course. Receipts are important.

Tshombe: Then what should I do?

Joe: Talk to a tax advisor or an accountant before you go.

Tshombe: I can't afford that.

Joe: You don't need money. There are many services that offer free help with your taxes.

Tshombe: Free?

Joe: Yeah, the local library has information on community service centers that offer free help with taxes. You can also get free advice on the Internet.

Tshombe: Good idea. Hey, look. Isn't that Pat Springdale, the woman on the news?

Joe: Yes, it is. Maybe she's going to buy something. Give me a sec.

Excuse me. Aren't you Pat Springdale? I watch you all the time. You're amazing.

Pat: Why, thank you. You know, I really like your merchandise. You have wonderful things here.

Joe: Oh, thank you very much. I'll give you the best discount ever. Two for the price of one.

Pat: Well that's nice of you. Then I will take these two rings and these four necklaces.

Joe: Those will look great on you.

Pat: Thank you.

Joe: Pat, can I call you Pat?

Pat: Sure.

Tshombe: Fresh glass for you.

Anna: Hi.

Tshombe: Hello.

Anna: Could I have two glasses of lemonade, please?

Tshombe: Sure. Hey, you are from the new gift store, right?

Anna: Yes, my grandmother owns it. My aunt Clara's the store manager. I'm just working there for the summer.

Tshombe: Welcome to the neighborhood. I'm Tshombe.

Anna: Hi, I'm Anna.

Joe: Did you see? Pat Springdale bought a few things. I think she likes me.

Tshombe: Sure, she does. Joe, this is Anna. Anna is from the new gift store.

Anna: Hi.

Joe: Hi Anna, I'm Joe.

Anna: Hi, nice to meet you.

Tshombe: If there is anything we can do to help, let us know. We like to help each other out.

Aunt Clara: Anna, what are you doing? Come over here right now, please.

Tshombe: I think she likes you.

Aunt Clara: What were you doing with those men?

Anna: I was just getting some lemonade. They seem very nice.

Aunt Clara: Well do they have to be right here in front of my store? I mean, I can't sell anything if they're right in front of my store. They need to go to another street.

Tshombe: And two cups of ice.

Mrs. Vargas: Excuse me.

Tshombe: Hi. You must be Aunt Clara. Welcome to the neighborhood. If you need help with anything, just let me know.

Mrs. Vargas: It's Mrs. Vargas. And yes I do need something. I need you to move.

Tshombe: Excuse me?

Mrs. Vargas: You're in front of my store.

Tshombe: But I have always been here. My customers know I'm here.

Mrs. Vargas: Not anymore. This my store and my store front.

Tshombe: But this is where—

Mrs. Vargas: There are laws. You can't just set your juice cart up anywhere you want.

Tshombe: I have a permit. And this is lemonade, very fresh. Would you like some?

Mrs. Vargas: I don't like you in front of my store. You will scare my customers. Find somewhere else to sell your juice.

Joe: Whew! Boy, you've got a way with women. I think she likes you more than Anna.

Tshombe: I'm going.

Joe: No, you're not going to move, are you?

Tshombe: I have to go anyway. I need help with my taxes.

Joe: Okay. See you tomorrow.

Life Skills Clip
Building shown first

Tax woman: Okay, I see the problem. You need to pay the correct amount of income tax.

Tshombe: I paid all my taxes.

Tax woman: I think there's a problem with your deductions.

Tshombe: Deductions?

Tax woman: Yes. It's the money that you're allowed to subtract.

Tshombe: I only deducted my business expenses, medical expenses and my gift to charity.

Tax woman: Well, you deducted lemons. That's okay. Your business expenses look fine. You also deducted 20 cases of sugar and 300 bags of ice?

Tshombe: Yes, that's right.

Tax woman: Well, your medical expense look okay. But you did deduct a lot for charity. Which charity?

Tshombe: My mother.

Tax woman: You can't claim your mother as a charity. But you can claim her as a dependent.

Tshombe: A dependent?

Tax woman: A dependent is someone who lives with you. You pay for their food and rent?

Tshombe: No. She lives in Guyana. But I send her money every month.

Tax woman: Hm. Well, there is a way to claim a relative in a different country as a dependent. But as a dependent, she must earn less than \$2,800 a year and she must receive half her support from you.

Tshombe: I can't claim her. She makes more than \$2,800. Are there any other deductions I can claim?

Tax woman: Are you married? Do you have any children?

Tshombe: I would love to have a wife and children but unfortunately, I don't have them yet.

Tax woman: Okay. I see another problem. It says you made \$10,000 last year?

Tshombe: Yes, that's what I wrote.

Tax woman: But your bank statement says you deposited more than \$15,000 last year. Do you have two jobs?

Tshombe: No, I only have one job.

Tax woman: Did you report all of your income?

Tshombe: No. I report all my income then I'll pay to pay too much in taxes.

Tax woman: Mr. Gabriel, taxes aren't meant to punish you. They help run the country. They pay for important things like schools, roads, and even the police. So it's important that you're completely honest with the IRS.

- Tshombe: I understand but don't you see? I can't afford to be honest.
- Tax woman: You can't afford to break the law either. If you don't pay all of your taxes, you could be in big trouble. The IRS can charge you with civil fraud or tax evasion.
- Tshombe: Tax evasion?
- Tax woman: That means that you lied so you didn't have to pay taxes. The IRS can charge you a big fine and they can send you to prison. I suggest you tell the truth.
- Mr. Simon: It says here, Mr. Gabriel, that you sell lemonade. Is that correct?
- Tshombe: Yes.
- Mr. Simon: And you have no other job and no other income?
- Tshombe: Yes.
- Mr. Simon: All right. Now it says here you made \$10,000 last year. Is that true?
- Tshombe: \$10,000? Um. Well, if I made more than that, I owe more money in taxes, right?
- Mr. Simon: Yes, if you have no other deductions. Well? Did you make more money or not?
- Narrator: And freeze!

Grammar clip

Hm. What do you think Tshombe will do? Will he tell the truth about his income and pay more taxes or will he lie about his income so he doesn't have to pay the extra money?

Before we find out, let's review today's language lesson. Countable nouns are things you can count. One, two, three, etcetera. When you have more than one of these nouns you add an 's' or an 'es' to make it plural. Watch and listen.

And I will take these two rings and these four necklaces.

Do you have two jobs?

Let's look at non-count nouns. Non-count nouns are nouns you can't make plural with an 's.' Instead you add a container or some form of measurement. The container gets an 's' or an 'es' at the end. Watch and listen.

Could I have two glasses of lemonade, please?

You can't count lemonade. You don't say, 'two lemonades.' You say two glasses of lemonade. You add an 'es' to glass to make glasses. Let's look at another example.

You also deducted 20 cases of sugar and 300 bags of ice.

Sugar and ice are also non-countable nouns. We add a container to say how much. Ten cases of sugar. Three-hundred bags of ice. There are many non-countable nouns.

Making Choices A clip

Now let's see what happens to Tshombe. Ready? And action!

Mr. Simon: Well? Did you make more money or not?

Tshombe: No. I only made \$10,000.

Mr. Simon: Are you sure?

Tshombe: Yes, I'm sure.

Mr. Simon: All right then. That's it Mr. Gabriel. You may go.

Tshombe: That's it? I don't owe any more money?

Mr. Simon: No, but, if there is a problem, we will let you know.

Tshombe: Thank you, Mr. Simon. Thank you very much.

Tshombe: Yes, Mama, I will send you some money. But please, make sure to send me a receipt with that. These tax people, they count everything. Oh, Mama, I have to go now. The mailman. No, Mama, I don't have a girlfriend yet, although I did meet a beautiful girl named Anna. Yes, but, I have to go. Yes, yes. I love you, too. Bye-bye.

Hey, Yanic.

Yanic: Hi, Tshombe. I have something here for you from the IRS. It doesn't look like a refund. What did you do, man?

Tshombe: What did I do? Nothing.

Yanic: Sign here, please. Thank you. Good luck, man.

Tshombe: [Reading letter] "Mr. Gabriel, upon review of your records, the IRS has adjusted your income to be \$15,000. You have until June 3 to pay additional taxes of \$850 plus a fine of \$600, plus \$300 in interest. The total amount due is \$1,750."

Making Choices B clip

Narrator: Tshombe made a bad choice. He lied to the IRS. He didn't report all of his income. That was a mistake. Look what happened. Hm. Let's give Tshombe another chance. Ready? And action!

Mr. Simon: Well? Did you make more money or not?

Tshombe: Yes, I think I made a mistake. I made more money than that.

Mr. Simon: How much more?

Tshombe: I didn't keep very good records.

Mr. Simon: It's important that you keep good records.

Tshombe: I know I sold about \$60 worth of lemonade a day. I made around \$15,000.

Mr. Simon: So, you reported \$10,000 but you made \$15,000. Hm? Hm? That's \$5,000 you didn't report.

Tshombe: Oh. So how much more do I owe?

Mr. Simon: You owe \$850.

Tshombe: \$850?! I don't have \$850.

Mr. Simon: I'm sorry. That's how much you owe.

Tshombe: But I don't have it.

Mr. Simon: Well, I can give you three months to pay. Or you can set up a payment schedule for the next couple of years. With that you can pay some each month with interest.

Tshombe: What happens if I just can't pay?

Mr. Simon: You'll be fined and charged even more interest.

Tshombe: How much is the fine?

Mr. Simon: Around \$600.

Tshombe: \$600?! I'll pay the taxes. If I work hard, I can pay it. I know I can.

Mrs. Vargas: City councilman Jones, please. This is Mrs. Vargas. I'm a friend. No, he doesn't know what this is about and I don't think it's any of your business.

Hello? City councilman Jones? This is Clara Vargas. [Giggles] Oh, Charlie, stop it. Charlie, this is important. I'm opening up my new store in a few days and I need you to do something about these annoying street vendors. There's one right in front of my door. Yes, I know he has a permit but there must be something you can do.

[Laughs] Good. That sounds perfect.

Review and summary

Narrator: Hm. I wonder what Mrs. Vargas is trying to do. I know it's not good news for Tshombe. He did do the right thing by telling the IRS the truth but now he has to find the money to pay his taxes. How will he do that? You'll find out in the next episode. But now, I'm going to give this little gift to Rosalinda.

Taxes, Law, and, Community Issues

10: Dealing with the Law

Intro Clip

Narrator: Hm. I wonder if the magic love potion worked. Rosalinda loves me? Rosalinda doesn't love.
Rosalinda—

Oh, hi. Welcome back to English for All. In today's episode you will learn about the law. What do you know about the law? Do you know what to do if the police stop you? Do you know what not to do? You will also learn about quantifiers.

Quantifiers are words that express how much of something like many, much, any, some, a lot of, a little and a few. Now, how many cards are there on this table? There are many cards on this table. Some of these cards mean good luck and a few of these cards mean bad luck. Now, Tshombe has many problems and not much luck. He will need a little luck to pay off his taxes, but Mrs. Vargas doesn't want him to sell any lemonade in front of her store. Hm.

Now, let's watch and see what happens.

Story Start-up Clip

Woman: Goodbye, Tshombe. See you tomorrow.

Tshombe: Bye-bye.

Joe: Hey, Tshombe, it's time to go. We're only allowed to be here till five o'clock.

Tshombe: Joe, I need to be here much later than usual. I have to work many extra hours to make the money I owe the IRS. Today I had a slow day, only a few customers.

Joe: What if the police come and give you a ticket? It may not be worth it.

Tshombe: I have no choice.

Joe: How much money do you owe?

Tshombe: A lot of money.

Joe: How much?

Tshombe: Too much. \$850.

Joe: Wow. You do owe a lot of money. You'll need to work a lot of extra hours.

Tshombe: Yes, I know. But I think I can do it. A few good days will help.

Joe: Well, with a little luck, you'll make it.

Mrs. Vargas: Hello, boys.

Tshombe: Hello, Mrs. Vargas.

Mrs. Vargas: It's a beautiful day today, isn't it?

Tshombe: Yes, it is. Would you like some lemonade?

Mrs. Vargas: Oh, no, no thank you. I don't want any.

Tshombe: I told you she was a nice person.

Joe: Tshombe, did you really listen to her?

Tshombe: What?

Joe: The way she spoke.

Tshombe: What about it?

Joe: It's the same voice the doctors use when they talk to patients that are doomed. It's the same voice generals use when they send their men off to certain death.

Tshombe: No.

Joe: Yes. I don't trust her, not even this much.

Tshombe: No.

Joe: Yes!

Tshombe: Uh oh.

Joe: What? Hurry up and pack.

Tshombe: Why?

Joe: It's the police!

Life Skills clip

Police officer: Are you Tshombe Gabriel?

Joe: I paid my taxes, officer. I swear.

Police officer: This is a letter from the Commission on Street Vending to let all of you know that there's a city council motion to keep street vendors off of Market Street.

Tshombe: What?

Police officer: There have been many complaints about the street vendors here and the city council is looking into the matter.

Tshombe: It's her fault. Are you responsible for this? Are you trying to shut us down?

Mrs. Vargas: I just want a safe place to run a business. By the way, aren't you supposed to leave at five P.M.? Officer, it's true. They are not allowed to be here after five P.M. Why don't you check his permit?

Police officer: May I see your permit, please?

Tshombe: My permit?

Police officer: Mr. Gabriel. I'm afraid you'll have to close up your cart and leave.

Tshombe: I can't believe this.

Police officer: Did you hear me? I said you need to leave.

Tshombe: No.

Police officer: No? Excuse me?

Tshombe: I can't leave.

Police officer: You must leave.

Tshombe: No, I have to sell a lot of lemonade in order to pay my taxes.

Police officer: I'm sorry. You can come back again tomorrow. Are you going to close up the cart or not?

Narrator: And freeze! (*keep at end of Life Skills clip*)

Grammar clip

Oh, it doesn't look good for Tshombe. What do you think he's going to do? Cooperate with the police or not? Hm. But before we see what happens, let's review today's lesson.

Today we are practicing with words that express the quantity of something. The word many is used with countable nouns. Remember countable nouns use an 's' or an 'es' at the end when there is more than one. Let's watch.

There have been many complaints about the street vendors here.

The word much is used with non-countable nouns. Even though you can count dollars, the word money is considered a non-countable noun.

How much money do you owe?

A few is used with countable nouns. A few is two or three. Watch and listen.

Today I had a slow day, only a few customers.

Tshombe wasn't happy with just a few customers was he? With non-countable nouns, a little is a small amount of something.

Well, with a little luck, you'll make it.

Some quantifiers can be used with countable nouns and non-countable nouns. A lot of can be used with both.

How much money do you owe?

A lot of money.

*Wow. You do owe a lot of money.
You'll need to work a lot of extra hours.*

Any is a word you use in negative statements. It means none or zero. It can be used with countable nouns like cards.

Now I don't have any cards. You can also use any with non-countable nouns like lemonade.

Would you like some lemonade?

Oh, no, no thank you. I don't want any.

That wasn't so bad, was it? Let's take one more look at our chart. Many, much, any, some, a lot of, a little and a few.

Making Choices A

Now let's see what happens to Tshombe and action!

Police officer: Are you going to close up the cart or not?

Tshombe: I am not going anywhere.

Police officer: Okay, that's it. Let me see your driver's license or another form of identification.

Tshombe: Why?

Police officer: Sir, just show me your ID.

Tshombe: I have a right to know what you're doing.

Police officer: I am issuing you a citation.

Tshombe: A citation? For what? I didn't do anything.

Police officer: You are here past your permitted time.

Tshombe: This is unbelievable. It's absurd!

Police officer: I need your signature.

Tshombe: I'm not signing it. I didn't do anything wrong.

Police officer: If you don't sign it, I have to take you to the police station. All right, sir. You are under arrest. You have the right to remain silent—

Tshombe: Get off me!

Police officer: If you say anything—

Tshombe: Let go of me!

Police officer: –can be used against you in a court of law.

Tshombe: Stop!

Police officer: You have a right to an attorney. If you cannot afford one, one will be provided for you by the state. Now, do you understand these rights?

Tshombe: Yes.

Police officer: All right then, come along.

Making Choices B start

Narrator: Oh, Tshombe made many mistakes. One, he didn't cooperate with the police officer. Two, he didn't sign the ticket. Three, he resisted arrest. Luckily for Tshombe there are many cards in the deck. Let's see what happens when Tshombe listens to the police officer. And action!

Police officer: I'm sorry. You can come back again tomorrow. Are you going to close up the cart or not?

Tshombe: I am officer. But could you please tell me what these complaints are about?

Police officer: I'm sorry. I don't have an answer to your question. All I know is that some people complained. If the city council motion is passed, you may all lose your rights to sell your goods on this street.

Tshombe: What are we supposed to do? How will we make a living?

Police Officer: You can talk to my chief. He's the one who told me to bring you that letter.

Tshombe: Your chief, huh?

Police officer: Have a good day, sir.

Review and Summary clip

Narrator: Tshombe learned an important lesson. Always cooperate with police officers. If you are ever stopped by the police, one, do what the police tell you. Two, sign the ticket. It does not mean you are guilty. It only means you agree to go to court. And three, never fight with a police officer. Resisting arrest is a very serious crime.

But of course, all of this does not help Tshombe sell lemonade or pay his taxes. Join us next time to see what happens.

Oh, this is the last card. Let's see if Rosalinda loves me. "Dear Wizard, I want to meet you for breakfast. I have something very important to tell you." I need to make a new love potion. Let's see. Two beautiful flowers. One. Two. And four pieces of chocolate. One. Two. Three and four. Abracadabra. Boom!

Taxes, Law, and, Community Issues

11: Discussing Community Issues

Intro Clip

Narrator: Whoo! So sorry I'm late. My breakfast with Rosalinda went longer than expected. But guess what? I think she really loves me. Hehehe. But that's not important now. We need to get back to the story.

The last time we saw Tshombe he had a big problem. Market Street was closed to street vendors. Today you'll see how Tshombe learns to work with other street vendors to solve this problem.

Today you will also learn how to use the words each, one, another, other and others. Watch and listen.

Story Start-up Clip

Tshombe: I can't believe it. If it's not one problem it's another. First, I have to pay more taxes. Now I can't even work to pay them.

Joe: They can't just shut us down.

Tshombe: We have rights.

Joe: We want to see—

Tshombe: —the chief of police.

Woman: Hold it! Hold it. One at a time.

Tshombe: We want to see the chief of police.

Woman: Well do you have an appointment to see him?

Tshombe: Yes, I have one. I called earlier. My name is Tshombe Gabriel.

Woman: How about him? Does he have an appointment?

Tshombe: No, he's with me.

Woman: All right. Hold it. Take a seat. I'll see what I can do.

Tshombe: You're drinking another one? How many cups of water can you drink?

Joe: I'm very thirsty and I'm very nervous.

Woman: All right. The chief will see you both.

Joe: We will fight with all our might and bring down the people that won't let us sell our stuff on the—

Police chief: Hello. You are the street vendors, right? Please, have a seat. Would anyone like a glass of water?

Joe: Yes, thank you.

Tshombe: No, thank you.
Police chief: Well, what can I do for you?

Tshombe: Well, I can't speak for all of the street vendors but I know that if they shut us down, I won't be able to sell my lemonade. I have to sell my lemonade to pay my taxes. If I don't pay, the IRS will fine me or put me in jail.

Police chief: I'm not sure I understand you.

Joe: We're street vendors. We sell things. That's how we pay our rent, our utility bills, our grocery bills. It's our only income.

Police chief: Well I understand how important your jobs are but look at all these letters of complaint.

Tshombe: I know Mrs. Vargas is unhappy, but do you have any other complaints?

Police chief: There are many other complaints.

Tshombe: What do they say? I want to see each one.

Police chief: Well, the letters say that the street vendors are too noisy. The carts are unsafe, that street vendors are aggressive.

Joe: Aggressive?!

Police chief: Yes. People say you are rude. You make people feel bad if they don't buy from you. Then they don't come to that area to shop anymore. It hurts everyone.

Tshombe: But who complained?

Police chief: Well, the merchants. I have letters from, uh, um, Mrs. Vargas.

Tshombe: Of course Mrs. Vargas. But do you have any other letters from other merchants? We have never had a problem with anyone else.

Police chief: Well, um—

Tshombe: There aren't any other complaints. You can't find one from another store owner, can you?

Police chief: Well, there were others. At least—I thought there were others.

Tshombe: I can't believe it. One person can shut us down.

Police chief: No, that's not true. The city council needs to vote on it. I suggest you talk to your city council member to see what you can do.

Life Skills Clip
City Hall picture

Council woman: According to our records, we have several complaints. We discussed them at our last meeting. Unfortunately only Mrs. Vargas showed up from your community. None of the street vendors came.

Tshombe: We didn't know about the meeting.

Council woman: It's important to stay informed.

Tshombe: But how do we find out about these things?

Council woman: You can find out about issues in your community three ways. One, by reading the local newspaper; two, by watching the local public access TV station; and three, by calling up City Hall and asking about specific meetings.

Joe: Is it too late? What can we do now?

Council woman: Well, you can present your case and talk about why street vendors are good for the community at the next city council meeting. We'll decide about street vendors then.

Tshombe: When's that?

Council woman: The day after tomorrow.

Tshombe: That doesn't give us much time.

Council woman: I must tell you, Mrs. Vargas has hired a very powerful attorney. She also has friends in the community.

Tshombe: Oh no. We don't stand a chance.

Council woman: That's not true. You have power too. If you can get community support for your cause, then you have a chance.

Joe: How can we do that?

Council woman: Well, the best way is to start a petition. Ask registered voters in the community if they will sign a petition to support street vendors.

Tshombe: Voters, that's a good idea.

Council woman: You can also talk to the media.

Joe: The media?

Council woman: That's right. An article in the local newspaper about you and the other street vendors will also help.

Tshombe: These are all great ideas but we don't have that much time.

Council woman: That's true. The best way to win your case is to organize the vendors and be very specific about what you want to change.

Tshombe: Stay organized and be specific.

Street vendor meeting

Tshombe: We have to decide something.

Man: I just want to stay on Market Street.

Man: I have my family to support.

Woman: What are we going to do?

Joe: You know what we're going to do? We are going to buy Market Street. And after we buy Market Street—

Woman: Joe, come on, be serious.

Joe: I am. And let me tell you one thing, the businesses don't like us because they say we take their customers.

Everyone: Yeah, that's right.

Joe: They went to city council.

Everyone: Yes, yes.

Joe: They went to the police!

Everyone: Yeah!

Man: Let's just boycott their stores.

Joe: But we still won't be on Market Street.

Man: We have to figure out something, absolutely.

Joe: —figure something out. We're not just going to sit around and not do anything.

Bad Conscience: Man, all these people are stupid! You are wasting your time here. Get out of here and go and sell your lemonade somewhere else.

Good Conscience: Don't listen to him Tshombe. He's wrong.

Bad Conscience: You are telling me I'm wrong? Hahahahaha.

Good Conscience: Help your friends, Tshombe. Working together with the other street vendors is the only way you'll win your case.

Bad Conscience: Think about Number One, Tshombe. That is you. Forget about all the others.

Good Conscience: What? You must work together, Tshombe. Listen to each other. Choose the best ideas from the group and organize.

Bad Conscience: Tshombe, you think—

[Everyone talking at once at meeting]

Tshombe: Be quiet! Be quiet! I have something to say.

Narrator: And freeze!

Grammar clip

Narrator: What do you think Tshombe will do? Will he help his fellow workers organize before the city council meeting or will he just care about himself, about Number One? Hm. Before we find out, let's review today's lesson.

The word *one* can be used instead of a noun to represent a single person or thing. Watch and listen.

Well do you have an appointment to see him?

Yes, I have one.

There aren't any other complaints. You can't find one from another store owner.

The word *each* refers to a single item or person within a group of the same type.

There are many other complaints.

What do they say? I want to see each one.

Now, the word *other* or *others* refers to additional people or things of the same type. Watch and listen.

Forget about all the others.

The word *another* usually refers to one additional person or thing of the same kind.

You're drinking another one? How many cups of water can you drink?

Good job!

Making Choices A

Now let's watch what Tshombe does. Ready and action!

[Everyone talking at once at meeting]

Tshombe: Be quiet! Be quiet! I have something to say. I don't care about your silly ideas.

Joe: What?

Tshombe: We can't fight city council. We can't fight the people with connections and money. This is a big waste of time. Do you have any more time to give to this? I don't. I need to make money.

Man: How are we going to make this money if we can't sell on Market Street?

Tshombe: I'm leaving Market Street.

Joe: What?

Tshombe: It's not the only street in the world.

Woman: That's so selfish, Tshombe. We all can't move to another street.

Man: Don't you see that we're all connected?

Tshombe: I don't care. I need to sell my lemonade. I am wasting my time here!

Joe: Tshombe, wait. Tshombe, wait!

Man: Tshombe don't go! Wait!

Man: I can't believe him.

Joe: Me neither. What are we going to do?

Man: I don't know.

Tshombe: There you go. Thank you very much. One glass? Each of you? Okay.

Police officer: Hi again. I see you found a new place to sell lemonade.

Tshombe: Yes, sir. With all the customers in the park, I will pay off my taxes in two or three weeks.

Police officer: Good for you. May I see your permit?

Tshombe: My permit? You saw my permit.

Police officer: Yes, but that was for selling on Market Street. This is West Side Park and I need to see your permit for selling here in this park.

Tshombe: Oh, please. You know I don't have a permit for this park.

Police officer: I'm sorry. I have to give you another citation.

Tshombe: Another citation? Please, officer. They are about \$100.

Police officer: That's right.

Tshombe: Thank you very much. Enjoy them and come back again.

Not again, officer. Please, I beg you.

Police officer: Sorry.

Tshombe: Hey guys, can you believe I'm getting another ticket for selling lemonade?

Making choices B

Narrator: Poor Tshombe. He's in trouble with the law and his friends are speaking to him. Hm. It's important to work together. To make changes in our communities we need to identify the problem and the solution and then give it our full attention. Let's go back and give Tshombe another chance. And action!

[Everyone talking at once at meeting]

Tshombe: Be quiet! Be quiet! I have something to say. I know we are all angry and upset but I think we need to work together. We want to show that street vendors help the community.

Joe: How can we do that?

Tshombe: I know we don't have much time but maybe we can find some support from the community leaders.

Woman: That's a good idea.

Joe: Maybe we can start a petition.

Man: It will say, we support street vendors and want them on Market Street.

Woman: Perfect.

Man: We can write a letter to the editor of the newspaper.

Woman: Yeah. Maybe they'll write a story about us.

Tshombe: Those are all excellent ideas! Now, who wants to be in charge of the petitions? Okay, Joe. You are in charge of the petitions. What else do we need?

Woman: What about posters?

Man: Flyers!

[Everyone talking at once]

Tshombe: These are all excellent ideas everyone. Okay, remember, we only have two days. Give it all of your attention and don't forget, tell everyone you see.

Joe: I have another idea!

Review and Summary

Narrator: That was much better. They identified the problems and the solutions. Unfortunately they don't have much time. What do you think will happen at the board meeting? Where did Joe go? To find out, watch our next episode. Until then practice with one, each, another, other and others.

Guess who? See you next time!

Taxes, Law, and, Community Issues

12: Civic Participation

Intro Clip

Narrator: Today I am very sad. Rosalinda went on vacation with her parents. Oh, but never mind. Let's get back to learning English. Today you will learn about special types of pronouns, object pronouns such as me, him, her, it, us, you and them, and indefinite pronouns such as someone, anyone, everyone and no one.

You will also learn about civic participation. How can you participate in your community? How can you make changes in your neighborhood? Let's watch.

Story Start-up clip

Joe: Thank you for seeing me, Pat, Ms. Springdale.

Pat: Oh, Pat's fine. Thank you.

Joe: Thank you for seeing me, Pat.

Pat: How can I help you?

Joe: You know we are street vendors, right?

Pat: Yes.

Joe: Well, there are some people who want to shut us down.

Pat: Shut you down?

Joe: Yes. They say we make the neighborhood dangerous.

Pat: That's crazy.

Joe: I know.

Pat: But I don't understand. What can I do to help?

Joe: You are a reporter, right, Pat?

Pat: Yes, I am.

Joe: Come up and sign the petition. Street vendors need your help. Please support your local street vendors. Thank you very much. Please step up and sign.

Camera man: Rolling.

Pat: Market Street has long been a place where people go to do their shopping. They buy their flowers, their jewelry, even that cold glass of lemonade.

But today it's a street where vendors are asking people to sign petitions.

Tshombe: Sign the petition. Thank you very much for supporting us.

Pat: What have the merchants been doing to you?

Woman: They want to shut down our stands and they say we're a problem to the community. We've never had a problem with anyone.

Pat: How do you feel about all of this?

Man: Who is this Mrs. Vargas? Someone should tell her she's wrong. She doesn't even know us.

Pat: Some of the store owners complained that you're doing illegal things. What do you have to say about that?

Tshombe: We are not doing anything illegal. And no one has ever complained to us. All we want to do is sell our goods.

Joe: Yup.

Man: Yeah.

Pat: Have the vendors been a problem?

Mrs. Vargas: They are a huge problem. They're loud and they sell drugs.

Vendors: What?!

Mrs. Vargas: We merchants just want a safe place to do business.

Tshombe: We don't sell drugs. That's a lie! Plus the street does not belong to you. It belongs to all of us!

Vendors: Yes, that's right!

Mrs. Vargas: The sidewalk in front of my store belongs to me!

Tshombe: It is not hers!

Mrs. Vargas: It is too!

Tshombe: No it is not! We have—

Mrs. Vargas: It is too!

Tshombe: We have been here also.

Joe: It's our street – our street –our street!

Pat: Tomorrow, the future of these street vendors will be decided when both sides present their cases to the city council. I'm Pat Springdale reporting live from Market Street.

Tshombe: Support the street vendors. Sign our petition. Thank you, sir. Support the street vendors. Sign our petition.

Joe: Thank you very, very much. That's 500 signature.

Anna: Hi.

Joe: Hi.

Anna: Can I sign the petition?

Joe: You want to sign the petition?

Anna: Yeah.

Joe: Great. Here you go.

Mrs. Vargas: Ooooooh!

Joe: What was that? Stay right here. I'll be right back.

Tshombe: Are you okay?

Joe: Mrs. Vargas are you all right?

Tshombe: Are you okay?

Joe: Are you okay, Mrs. Vargas?

Tshombe: Are you okay?

Joe: Mrs. Vargas, are you okay?

Mrs. Vargas: Yes, yes. I'm fine. Get away from me!

Tshombe: I can't believe this. No one is here. Where are all the people from the community? Did you tell them to come?

Man: I told them. Everyone will be here.

Tshombe: Where are Sylvia and the rest of the vendors?

Man: They're already inside.

Tshombe: Okay, what about the petitions? Where are they? We need them. If we don't have them, we don't have a case.

Man: Joe has them. Don't worry.

Life Skills clip

Anna: I don't know. This isn't right.

Mrs. Vargas: It'll be fine. If they ask, just say what I told you to say.

Anna: I can't lie to them.

Mrs. Vargas: If you want to keep your job at the store, you'll tell them our little story.

Charlie: Clara, are you all right? I heard you fainted.

Mrs. Vargas: Oh. I'm fine, Charlie. Thank you for asking. This is my niece, Anna. Anna, this is city councilman Jones.

Anna: Hi.

Mrs. Vargas: And this is my lawyer, Sam Powers. Mr. Jones is on the city council.

Sam: It's a pleasure to meet you, Councilman Jones.

Charlie: The pleasure is mine. I've heard about you. Clara, I think you're in good hands. Excuse me. I'll see you inside.

Mrs. Vargas: Well, that went well.

Tshombe: Look at her. She is ready. And look at him. He looks so important. Look at us. We don't have a chance.

Joe: Hi.

Tshombe: What's happening? Where is everyone?

Joe: They're on their way.

Tshombe: What about the petitions? Where are they?

Joe: Tshombe, someone took them.

Tshombe: Someone took them?

Joe: I don't know what happened. After Mrs. Vargas fainted, I went back to the stand and the folder with the signatures was gone.

Tshombe: Who took it?!

Joe: I don't know! I bet Mrs. Vargas is responsible.

Man: We can't prove that.

Tshombe: What are we going to do?

Man: Come on, guys. It's time to go.

Chairman: This meeting is called to order.

Council woman: The first issue on the agenda is street vending on Market Street. Representing the merchants is Clara Vargas.

Mrs. Vargas: My name is Clara Vargas. One of the stores on Market Street belongs to me. But I speak for the other merchants on the street.

Street vending hurts our business. There is too much noise and too much traffic because of street vendors.

Tshombe: She's lying.

Woman: Tshombe, calm down. If you get angry, no one's going to listen to us.

Mrs. Vargas: It is also not fair. I pay more taxes. I pay rent. They don't.

Tshombe: I pay taxes!

Charlie: Please, sir. You'll have your turn to speak. Right now it's Mrs. Vargas' turn.

Mrs. Vargas: Thank you. But most of all, I care about the community. I saw street vendors taking drugs and selling stolen property.

Tshombe: What a liar!

Charlie: Please, sir. Calm down. You'll have to leave if you don't wait your turn. Go on Mrs. Vargas.

Mrs. Vargas: I think I'm done.

Charlie: And now we'll hear from the street vendors. Representing the street vendors is Tshombe Gabriel. Please come forward.

Woman: –control yourself, okay?

Joe: Stay calm.

Charlie: Mr. Gabriel. Do you have something to say? I think I've had enough of these street vendors.

Chair woman: Mr. Gabriel. Do you have anything to say?

Tshombe: Yes, I do.

Narrator: And freeze!

Grammar Clip

This doesn't look good for Tshombe and the street vendors. What do you think Tshombe will do? Will he tell his story or not? Hm. We'll find out in just a moment. But first let's learn about pronouns.

The words me, him, her, it, us, you and them are object pronouns.

What about the petitions? We need them. If we don't have them we don't have a case.

Joe has them. Don't worry.

One of the stores on Market Street belongs to me.

The street does not belong to you. It belongs to all of us.

Look at her. She is ready. Look at him. He looks so important. Look at us. We don't have a chance.

We also looked at indefinite pronouns. Indefinite pronouns are words that don't refer to a specific person like anyone, someone, no one, everyone. Let's watch.

No one is here. Where are all the people from the community? Did you tell them to come?

I told them. Everyone will be here.

What about the petitions? Where are they?

Someone took them.

That was easy, right?

Making Choices A

Now let's watch and find out what happens to Tshombe. And action!

Chair woman: Mr. Gabriel. Do you have anything to say?

Tshombe: Yes, I do.

Charlie: Mr. Gabriel, please tell us your side of the story.

Tshombe: I want to say that she is a liar. But that is not important because she is rich and rich people can buy anything including votes from the members of city council.

Charlie: Mr. Gabriel! Are you saying Mrs. Vargas gave money to the city council members to buy their votes?

Tshombe: I am saying that she is rich and rich people can get anything they want. And you are all corrupt politicians.

Mrs. Vargas: That was such a wonderful lunch. I haven't eaten there in years.

Charlie: Thank you.

Mrs. Vargas: Really, Charlie.

Charlie: That's disgusting.

Mrs. Vargas: These street people are so lazy. Why can't they just find a job?

Charlie: I don't know.

Tshombe: Do you have any change?

Making Choices B

Narrator: Hm. That didn't go very well. Tshombe didn't stand up for what he believed in. He didn't defend himself or the other street vendors. Hm. Luckily we can give Tshombe another chance, right? Let's see what happens. And action!

Chair woman: Mr. Gabriel. Do you have anything to say?

Tshombe: Yes, I do. My name is Tshombe. I am a street vendor but I did not come here to talk about myself. I came to talk about a very important subject. Street vending.

Audience: Woo Hoo! Yeah! Yes!

Tshombe: The street is not owned by the merchants. They do not belong to them. It does not belong to us. The street does not belong to him or her or you. They belong to the city and the people of the city.

What do the people want? They want safe streets. Here is a letter from the fire marshall. He says there are no fire hazards because of the street vendors. Here is a letter from the police chief. There have been no unusual crimes on the street because of street vending. Over 150 people wrote letters supporting us. Over 2,000 people signed the petition supporting us.

Mrs. Vargas: Where are these petitions?

Chair woman: Excuse Ms. Vargas. It's Mr. Gabriel's turn to speak.

Mrs. Vargas: He has no community support.

Charlie: Well, Mr. Gabriel, do you have any of those petitions? We'd like to see them. Well, do you have them? Well?

Tshombe: No, sir. Somebody stole them.

Charlie: Stole them.

Tshombe: Yes, sir. We had a folder full of signatures and petitions and somebody took them from our stand.

Mrs. Vargas: That's ridiculous. No one stole them. They never had any signatures or petitions.

Tshombe: Yes we did!

Mrs. Vargas: Sure, you did.

Charlie: Well, Mr. Gabriel, where are those petitions?

Anna: I took them, sir.

Charlie: Excuse me?

Anna: Yes, I took them. My aunt told me I must steal them or lose my job. I am very, very sorry. Please forgive me.

Street vendors are good for the community. And here is the proof. Here are the petitions.

Mrs. Vargas: You're fired.

Charlie: May we see them, please? Well, this does change everything.

Tshombe: There you go. Thank you.

Hey, Joe, guess what? If I sell five more glasses of lemonade, I will have enough money to pay my taxes.

Joe: Five more glasses? Congratulations, Tshombe.

Tshombe: There you go. Thank you.

Anna: Five large glasses of lemonade please?

Tshombe: Five glasses? Anna, hi.

Anna: Hi. I'm really sorry about what happened.

Tshombe: Don't be sorry. Thanks to you, everything worked out okay.

Anna: Yes, it did.

Tshombe: What's going to happen to the store?

Anna: Well after my grandmother found out about what my aunt did, she fired her. And asked me if I wanted to manage the store!

Tshombe: Really?

Anna: Yes, so I'm going to be the new store manager!

Tshombe: That's wonderful, Anna! Whenever you need some lemonade to cool off, just let me know.

Anna: Thanks. I'll drink to that. Cheers.

Review and summary

Narrator: Isn't that nice? Tshombe and the community were able to make a difference. They worked together and fought for what was right. Now remember, you can make a difference too. Learn about your community. Find out what's going on and what you can do to help others.

Well, thanks for watching and remember to practice your English. See you next time on English for All!

Hello? Rosalinda? Oh you're back. Oh, I missed you. What? Dinner, tonight? Hm. I'll be over immediately!