Easily Confused Phrases: As Well vs. As Well As

Directions for the teacher:

STEP 1 – Use Task A to confirm the meanings of as well and as well as.

Answers: Sentences 1 and 2 use as well to mean... too

Sentences 3 and 4 use as well as to mean... in addition to (OR: and also)

STEP 2 – Use Task B to check students’ understanding of how the structures work within a sentence. Answers:
1. I have trouble with verb tenses as well as articles.
2. I need help with email. I’d like to work on pronunciation as well.
3. Mike and Tina spoke to the manager about the recent policy changes. Stephanie voiced some concerns as well.
4. Stephanie is a good negotiator as well as a clever problem-solver.

STEP 3 – Use Task C to present as similar-looking structure with a different meaning: may as well/ might as well. Answers:
1. There’s no reason for you to stay.
2. There’s no reason to whisper.
3. You should know that doing homework is unavoidable.

STEP 4 – Optional: Have students create their own examples using all the phrases presented:

- as well
- as well as
- may as well
- might as well

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A. Read the sentences. Identify the meanings of “as well (as).”
1. I hurt my back yesterday while I was lifting heavy boxes. My knees hurt as well.
2. My family is going to a New Year’s Eve party in town. Our neighbors are going as well.

Sentences 1 and 2 use as well to mean...
(choose one) however sometimes too

3. The students as well as the teachers were upset by the news.
4. Sheila is smart as well as kind, and that’s what makes her a good friend.

Sentences 3 and 4 use as well as to mean...
(choose one) because in addition to except for

B. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.
1. I have trouble with verb tenses (as well/ as well as) articles.
2. I need help with email. I’d like to work on pronunciation (as well/ as well as).
3. Mike and Tina spoke to the manager about the recent policy changes. Stephanie voiced some concerns (as well/ as well as).
4. Stephanie is a good negotiator (as well/ as well as) a clever problem-solver.

C. Read the sentences. Answer the questions.
1. “You might as well go. I can finish this by myself.”
The speaker means...
(choose one) There’s no reason for you to stay.
– or –
You’re allowed to leave now.

2. “You may as well stop whispering. I know what you’re talking about.”
The speaker means...
(choose one) I give you permission to stop whispering.
– or –
There’s no reason to whisper.

3. The mother said, “You might as well sit down and start your homework. You’re not going to watch TV until it’s done.”
The mother means...
(choose one) I’m inviting you to sit down and start your homework.
– or –
You should know that doing homework is unavoidable.