

## Movember

### Topic

Charity symbols and events, health and mental health

### Aims

- To develop students' reading skills
- To develop students' speaking skills
- To develop students' writing skills

### Age group

Adults and secondary

### Level

B1, B2

### Time

60 minutes +

### Materials

1. Movember text and worksheets <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/uk-now/read-uk/movember>
2. Online chat group worksheet

### Introduction

In this lesson students read about the Movember charity, discuss issues related to charities and health, then join an 'imaginary' online chat group to organise their own charity event.

### Procedure

#### 1. Introduce the topic (10 minutes)

- Make a list or show pictures of charity symbols (e.g., pink ribbons for breast cancer, rubber wrist bands) and ask the students what they represent (charities). Do students know which specific charities they represent?
- Now show or draw a picture of a moustache and students speculate about what sort of charity a moustache might be a symbol for. (Men grow moustaches in November to collect money for charity. The Movember

moustache helps to inform people about health for men.) Ask students what they know about 'Movember' and tell them they are going to read about this charity event in a moment.

**2. Reading** (15 minutes)

- Tell the class that they are going to read a text about Movember. Pre-teach *charity, shave, raise money* for lower levels. Hand out the text and give students 3 minutes to quickly read and underline the different ways that people raise money for Movember. *Answer: grow a moustache, organise a party, buy a ticket for a party, sponsored run, buy charity products*
- Ask students to read the text again in more detail and complete exercises 1 and 2 on the worksheet from the LearnEnglish Teens website. Answers: 1 Check your understanding – 1 false, 2 true, 3 false, 4 true, 5 true, 6 false, 7 false, 8 true. 2 Check your vocabulary – 1g, 2f, 3e, 4h, 5d, 6b, 7a, 8c.

**3. Discussion** (15 minutes)

- Write the following questions on the board or dictate them to the class:  
*Is Movember a good way to raise money for charity? Why or why not?*  
*What similar events have you heard about?*  
*Why is it important to inform people about cancer and mental health?*  
*Have you ever done anything for charity? What did you do?*  
*Have you ever sponsored anyone for charity?*  
*If you had 1000 euros which charities would you give it to?*
- Give students a few minutes to think about their answers to these questions and to make notes if they want. Put students into small groups to talk about the questions. Make sure you monitor the groups and make notes of any common errors for class correction after the activity. Each group should choose a secretary to make notes of ideas discussed. After the discussion ask the group members to look at their secretary's notes and then to summarise their discussion. Each group should briefly tell the class about the main points of their discussion.
- Write on the board any errors you heard during the discussion for a quick class correction session.
- **Alternative discussion:** write each question on a separate piece of paper. Before the class, stick the questions on the walls around the classroom. Ask students to move around the classroom in groups and discuss each question for a few minutes before moving to the next question.

**4. Writing - Organise a charity event** (20 minutes)

- Tell the class that they are going to organise an event to raise money for charity. They are going to discuss this in an 'imaginary' online chat group. (They need to use their imaginations as the online chat will actually be written on paper!) Ask them what kind of online chat groups they use, eg Facebook, Twitter, Skype, Whatsapp.
- Ask the students to suggest which charity they want to collect money for as well as different events they could organise to raise the money. Make list of these on the board. Elicit language that the students will need to organise an

event, e.g., *Shall we...? How about...? We could...? Good idea! I'm not sure I agree... I don't really like that idea...*

- Students sit in groups of 3 (or 4 if necessary). Give each student in the group a letter - A,B,C etc. Give out one group chat handout to each group. Tell student A to write the first comment in the 'chat', e.g., *Shall we collect money for Movember?*. The paper is then passed to student B who must respond to the previous comment, e.g., *Good idea!* Next, student C has to write, and so on. You could demonstrate this to the class with one group first.
- Set a time limit of 10 minutes for this writing activity. Did the students manage to organise an event in this time? Do they need a few more minutes? Now collect the chats from each group and give out to a different group. Ask the students to read and say whether their chat is similar or different to this one. You could also display all the 'chats' on the wall for students to read.

**5. Extension activity**

- Students could create flyers with the form of moustaches to spread and to promote the concept of the Movember movement. They could write simple sentences on them with language, such as: 'Keep that mo growing', 'Save a life – wear a moustache', etc. Others flyers could briefly explain different aspects of Movember.

**Contributed by**

Thanks to our TE Facebook users Giselle Santos and Liz Williams for the suggestions for the introduction and extension activities.