

The Tooth Family

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The Tooth Family is a flash-animated song available online on the British Council's site for young learners LearnEnglish Kids. You can find it here: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/kids-songs-tooth-family.htm>

The song is useful to practise family vocabulary and is a fairly simple, repetitive song aimed at primary level or low level learners. It is easy to understand and concentrates on present tense structures and simple vocabulary. It is especially useful for teachers as part of a unit or topic on the human body, and can also be integrated into 'Health' as a cross-curricular theme.



On this page you will find tips for using and exploiting the song in the classroom.

Stage 1: Introducing the topic of 'The Human Body'

In the classroom you could choose a warm-up activity to revise the parts of the body. There are many materials available on LearnEnglish Kids to help you do this, depending on the level of your students. You can find materials here:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/kids-topics-human-body.htm>

For example if your students are primary or very low level you could use the worksheet 'Label the Skeleton'. For learners a little older you could try the 'Human Body Quiz' also available in this section. You might also like to practise basic vocabulary using the interactive game 'Parts of the Body', where the aim is to avoid squashing the monkey.

Other useful games to practise parts of the body are 'Simon says', hangman or anagrams. If you feel really ambitious you could make an articulated skeleton using the downloadable worksheet from the same section. You could use paper fasteners for the joints to ensure they move. Whatever activities you choose for the introductory stage make sure you include the word 'tooth' and the irregular plural 'teeth' which very young learners may find difficult.

Stage 2: Focus on teeth and oral hygiene

You could try this activity in your classroom. Draw a large face on the board. Give it lots of teeth and ask your students if they know any facts about teeth (e.g. How many teeth do babies and adults have, what are the different teeth called, what do different teeth do). Now colour the teeth black. Ask your students to give you suggestions for looking after teeth. This activity naturally lends itself to practising advice structures like 'you should' or 'it is a good idea to...'. Once you have elicited suggestions orally you could consolidate with the worksheet 'Looking after your teeth' also available in the same section on LearnEnglish Kids. Students can read and match the parts of the sentences. You can find the worksheet here:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/kids-print-teeth.pdf>

This activity is also suitable as part of a health education lesson on looking after yourself/ hygiene.



Stage 3: Listening to the Tooth Family song

Play the song 'The Tooth Family' to the class. During the first hearing you could ask your learners to write down the characters in the song as they listen and watch. After listening you could ask your students what the song says about each character. They could check this during the second hearing after which they can do the printable worksheet. This contains a simple matching exercise and a wordsearch with ten vocabulary items from the song.

Finally your students can listen to the song again and sing along!

Stage 4: Follow-up work

You might like to exploit the cross-curricular aspects of this topic area further by asking your students to make a poster for a dentist's surgery aimed at children and encouraging them to look after their teeth. All of the suggestions elicited in stage 2 could be included and you could ask students to illustrate the poster to make the task more creative.