

My Grandfriend

Topic

Friends, Families, Describing people

Learning outcomes

- Listen to short descriptions of people and identify key information
- Use the present simple to describe where people live, their pets, what they like and what they do

Age and level

5-8 (A1)

Time

Approximately 45-55 minutes

Materials

- Student worksheet
- Template

Introduction

In this lesson, learners explore the topic of intergenerational friendships through the topic of grandfriends, friends from an older generation such as a grandparent, neighbour or family friend. They listen as the teacher describes the lives of three grandfriends, choosing the pictures which correspond to each person. They use the information to invent a grandfriend, or to describe a grandparent or an older person they know.

Procedure

Stage	Instructions
-------	--------------

<p>At the start of the lesson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome the learners as they arrive: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check that you can all hear and see each other. 2. Check that they can see the first slide. 3. If they can't, ask them (or ideally an adult they have present) to check their settings or troubleshoot in the way you have shown them previously. You may need to write this in the chat facility if they cannot hear you. • Tips: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider having a short task for the learners to do until they have all arrived. For example, you could have a poll set up (if your platform has this function) or a simple activity where they write in the chat, such as to say what they've done that week. 2. Consider muting learners' microphones after greeting them to avoid having too much background noise when you get started. Tell them if you do this and explain why. You could also suggest that, if possible, they use a headset with a mic rather than their device's in-built speakers and mic.
<p>1. Introduction to topic of 'grandfriend' (5 – 10 minutes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display the Student Worksheet on the screen or ask them to look at their copies if you have emailed them to the learners. • Point to the pictures of Jan, Bob and Pam and explain that they are somebody's grandfriends. Explain that a grandfriend is a friend who is older, such as a grandparent, a great aunt or uncle, a neighbour or family friend. • Ask children for a show of hands: Have they got a grandfriend? Ask: Where does she/he live? Does she live in a house or a flat? Has he got a pet? What's his favourite food? What does she like doing? <p>Note: Learners may talk about anyone from another generation, e.g., an aunt or uncle or family friend who may not be that old – the point is we're talking about friends who aren't the same age as we are.</p>
<p>2. Listening (10 – 15 minutes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point to the picture of Jan on the board. Ask: What's her / his name? Explain that you will describe Jan. They must listen carefully and decide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1. Does she live in a flat, a house in a town, a big house in the mountains or a small house in the woods? ○ 2. Does she have a pet fish, cat, dog or horse?

- 3. Is her favourite food pizza, fish and chips, fruit and vegetables or salad?
- 4. Does she like cooking, fishing, cycling or painting?
- Read the sentences below about Jan aloud. Pause after each sentence for learners to give the answers (e.g. in the chatbox).

This is my grandfriend, Jan. She lives in a big house in the mountains. She's got a pet horse. Jan's favourite food is fish and chips. She likes cooking.

Answers: 1c, 2d, 3b, 4a
- Repeat the steps with the descriptions of Bob and Pam. Learners mark the answers (a, b, c, or d) in their notebooks or on the worksheets (if you have been able to email them to learners).

Here's my friend Bob. He lives in a flat in a big city. He's got a pet cat. His favourite food is salad. He likes fishing.

Answers: 1a, 2b, 3d, 4b

This is Pam. She lives in a house in a town. She's got a pet dog. She likes eating fruit and vegetables. She likes painting.

Answers: 1b, 2c, 3c, 4d
- **Note:** There are three grandfriends and four options in each section (the extra options give learners more choices when describing a grandfriend later).

3. Speaking (15 – 20 minutes)

- Play a quick guessing game. Ask them to repeat the grandfriends' descriptions from memory, using the pictures on the screen or in the worksheet to help them. With stronger classes, you could take the pictures away to make it more challenging.
- Display the 'My Grandfriend' template on the screen or draw it yourself. Make an example grandfriend with the class using the template: it could be a grandmother, great uncle, a neighbour or an invented person.
- Draw a picture of the person in the portrait square and write their name. In box 1, draw a picture of where they live; in box 2 a picture of a pet (if they have one); in box 3 a picture of their favourite food; and in box 4, a picture of what they like doing. Describe the person as you draw, or ask learners to give ideas.
- Now it's the learners' turn to invent a grandfriend, or to describe a grandparent or an older person they know.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get learners to copy the template onto paper (if you haven't been able to send it to them). • Display the Student Worksheet again to help learners choose answers to complete their templates. These are only examples and if learners are describing a real person, they will want to draw their own pictures and may need some help with new vocabulary. They can invent if they are not sure. Early finishers could colour their pictures. • Learners present their grandfriends to the class or in breakout groups.
4. Wrap up (5 – 10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask learners if they can remember information about another learner's grandfriend.
Extension activities / Homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You could ask learners to write about their grandfriends after they have spoken about them. This could be set for homework.

Lesson plan developed for online teaching by:

Karen Elliott