

Lesson Plan

Lesson Plan

# Animation

## Topic

British Animation

## Aims

- To practise speaking
- To review question formation
- To develop listening skills
- To develop reading skills
- To design a cartoon character and write a comic strip

## Age group

12 - adult

## Level

B1-B2

## Time

60 - 90 minutes

## Materials

1. Animation Student worksheet
2. Internet links: <http://www.aardman.com/> - Website of makes of Wallace and Gromit  
<http://www.dfilm.com/moviemaker/index.html> - free website for making short animations  
<http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/> - free website for making cartoon strips

**Lesson Plan**
**Lesson Plan**

<http://www.britishanimationawards.com/> British Animation Awards website

**Introduction**

This lesson is based on British animation and some tasks require visual aids so it does require a little more preparation on your part than the other Essential UK lessons. The British animation industry has seen something of a boom in recent years with the success of creations such as Bob the Builder, Nick Park's Wallace and Gromit, the film Valiant or the new hi-tech film version of the 1970's classic The Magic Roundabout.

Task 1 looks at pictures of cartoon characters and Task 2 gets students talking to each other about animation. Task 3 involves watching a clip of some British animation for students to comment on and Task 4 is a reading task about the making of Valiant. Task 5 and Task 6 are creative tasks where students have the chance to create a cartoon character and a comic strip.

**Procedure**

<b>1. Task 1 – Flash the face</b>	<p>This task requires you to get some pictures of cartoon characters and pictures of characters from animated films. Pick characters from a variety of countries including some that are from the country you teach in or are popular there. You could get the pictures from the internet.</p> <p>Tell the students you are going to flash them a picture of a famous 'person' and you want them to tell you who it is. When they have guessed the characters select a few of the most popular ones and ask students to tell you what they know about them. If you like, add a few British classics from your childhood such as Postman Pat, The Wombles or The Magic Roundabout (depending on your age, your childhood favourites may be different!) If the students don't know who they are use this information gap for them to ask questions about them.</p>
<b>2. Task 2- Find the animation fans</b>	<p>This is a find somebody who activity to get students speaking to each other and finding out who is interested in animation. Tell students they have to put different class mates in each row, they can't just talk to one person. If you have lower levels check they know how to ask the questions before they stand up to mingle with each other and if necessary write them up on the board for students to refer to. Encourage them to ask follow up questions.</p> <p>Eg. "do you have a favourite cartoon?"</p> <p>"have you watched any cartoons this week?"</p> <p>"are you a good artist?" etc.</p>
<b>3. Task 3– Let's watch a clip!</b>	<p>For this task you will need to have access to a TV and a DVD/video player or projector and a DVD/video or clip of a British animated film or series. See if teachers or students</p>

**Lesson Plan**
**Lesson Plan**

	<p>could lend you one or have a look in the local or school library, or look online.. If it's the first time you are using video in class, try to have it set up and ready to go before the students arrive to avoid any technical hitches when you have the room full of students! If you have a computer room with a big screen you could download a clip from the internet.</p> <p>If you have limited time, five minutes of viewing would be enough for students to complete the task. If time isn't a problem you could watch if you combine with some 'while you watch' or 'after you watch' tasks. Getting the students to write some true or false sentences about the clip is one simple type of activity..</p>
<b>4. Task 4 – Reading: Animation flies home</b>	<p>This is a reading task for higher level students from the (no longer available) British Council Culture Lab site.</p> <p>Before students do the reading comprehension show them some pictures of the characters from Valiant and use them to explain the title. You'll find pictures on <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valiant_%28film%29">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valiant_%28film%29</a></p> <p>Put students into small groups to do this task. The pre-reading task will help you find out how interested your students are in animated films. If there are a few animation fans, split them up into different groups to do the task to spread the enthusiasm!</p>
<b>5. Task 5 - Design your own cartoon character</b>	<p>Tell your students they have got a job with a production company and they are going to design a new character for an animated film. Give an example of a character and ask a student to draw what they think the character would look like. Ask students who like drawing and divide the budding artists up into different groups. When all the groups have finished show the group all the characters and you could have a class vote on which one is the best.</p>
<b>6. Task 6 – Make your own comic strip (optional)</b>	<p>Put students in pairs for this task. If you like, use big A3 paper and get students to make the comic strip as big as they like and use different shapes and designs. The basic comic strip in the classroom materials could be used if you haven't got much time, but if students are into the task I would get them to make bigger comic strips so they can really go to town.</p> <p>You could also use some online tools for this if you have access to a computer room – for example using this website: <a href="http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/">http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/</a></p>

**Contributed by**

Jo Budden