Branding and brand names

Topic
Advertising

Aims
• To help students express opinions, likes and dislikes
• To help students develop vocabulary though brainstorming and dictionary work
• To help students develop speaking skills through making a short oral presentation

Age group
Teens

Level
B1+

Time
60 – 90 minutes

Materials
• Branding and brand names student worksheet

Introduction
During this lesson students will rank their favourite brand names and discuss what they like/dislike about them. They will read and discuss the context of a text about brand naming and complete related vocabulary building exercises. Lastly students will create and brand their own imaginary product which they will present to the rest of the class

Procedure
1. Introduction (5 – 10 mins) • Write ‘Brand Names’ on the board and ask students to give you some examples of brand names.

   TIP: Be sure that students understand that brands and not just expensive names like Gucci or Ray Ban but also include products like Nike, Nescafe, Cadbury’s, Coca Cola etc.
2. Task 1: Reading and comprehension (15 minutes)

- Get the students to skim read the short text on brand naming in task 1 on the worksheet and underline any new vocabulary. Students should ask their friends or look up the meaning of any new words in a dictionary.
- Students then complete the comprehension questions in task 2 as a discussion in pairs. Teachers should check for comprehension.
- Students then complete the matching exercise in task 3 individually or in pairs.

**TASK 3 ANSWERS:**

- a) From the Latin word meaning ‘Snow-white’ **NIVEA**
- b) This was the fifth perfume made by the same company. **CHANEL** No. 5
- c) Named after the Greek goddess of victory. **NIKE**
- d) Originally a Japanese family name Toyoda. The inventors changed one letter to make it easier to pronounce overseas. **TOYOTA**
- e) Names after an African gazelle. **REEBOK**
- f) The family names of two men, one a motor enthusiast and the other an engineering genius. Stuart **ROLLS** and Henry **ROYCE**

3. Task 2: Make a poster (20 minutes)

- Ask students to look back at their lists of brands from the introduction exercise. They can add more brands from the other suggestions if necessary. They should have a total of 10 brand names. Ask them now to rank their brands from 1 – 10 (1 should be their favourite brand, and 10 the one they like the least).
- Then ask students to work in pairs to write a sentence or two about what they know about each brand.
- Hand out poster paper and pens and get students to make a poster titled “Our top ten brands” for display on the wall in the classroom. Make it clear that the posters must include the sentences they wrote about each brand.
- Once students have completed their posters they can circulate and read each other’s posters and vote on the best.

4. Task 3 – prepare a mini presentation (20 – 30 minutes)

- Put students into new pairs. Ask them to look at task 4 on the worksheet.
- The task sheet has seem useful phrases that may help students with their presentations. Teachers should also teach any other phrases / language which they think their students need. The task sheet also has a list of ideas in case students can’t think of their own inventions. Encourage them to be creative! Depending on the student and/ or cultural context, teachers may want to assess the oral presentations to increase student motivation, as teens may make more effort if they know they are being assessed.

5. Optional follow up

- For a homework writing activity: Students choose one of their favourite brands, research its history and then write a short (70-100) word history of the brand.

Contributed by

Fiona Lawtie

www.teachingenglish.org.uk

© The British Council, 2013 The United Kingdom’s international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. We are registered in England as a charity.