

What's your name?

Topic

Names: An integrated skills lesson with the main focus on listening

Aims

- To develop students' listening skills
- To engage students in a classroom discussion
- To encourage students to think about the cultural significance of names

Age group

Teenagers and young adults

Level

A2, B1, B2

Time

60 minutes +

Materials

1. Names worksheet (1 per student)
2. Names transcript (1 per student)
3. Names answer key (Teacher)

Introduction

For a listening lesson to be successful, the learners need to be engaged with the audio. It might not always be possible to motivate all the learners in the class to the same degree but the important thing is to use an audio which all of the learners, can, in some way, relate to. If you are in a position where you can choose an audio, ask yourself 'Will each and every one of the learners recognise this? Will they be able to say something about it? Will they have an opinion about it?' If the answer to most of those questions is affirmative, then there is a chance that the learners will also be interested in the topic and improve their listening skills in the lesson.

This month's lesson mainly focuses on developing listening skills but other skills are integrated too, with opportunities for speaking, reading and writing. The lesson is based around the topic of 'names'. Everybody has a name and everybody knows other people with names. Names are linked to culture and tradition. They are important to people.

Procedure

1. Warmer	<p>Write some or all of these questions on the board for learners to discuss in small groups or as a whole class.</p> <p>Is your name traditional or modern? Does your name have a translation in other languages? Does anyone in your family share your name? Do you know any famous people with the same name as you? How do people in your country usually choose a child's name?</p>
2.	<p>Tell learners they are going to listen to a radio programme about fashions in names in Britain and the US. Before they listen they guess the answer to 4 multiple-choice questions (part 1 on their worksheet). They should do this in pairs, in small groups, sharing their ideas and giving reasons for their choices. Learners then listen and check their answers. Give a copy of Names Worksheet to each student. Play the audio from: http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/skills/listening-skills-practice/whats-name</p> <p>Note: You can download the audio as an mp3 or you can listen online.</p>
3.	<p>Learners work in pairs. They make a list of all the names they remember from the audio (part 2 on their worksheet). Elicit the names from around the class and write them on the board.</p>
4.	<p>Learners listen for specific information. Play the audio again and ask learners to complete the <i>gapfill</i> exercise (part 3 on their worksheet). Ask learners to compare their answers with a partner and then check the answers as a whole class.</p>
5.	<p>Ask learners if they can add any more names to the board. Then give learners a copy of the transcript (Names transcript) to find the ones they have missed. Add these to the board too.</p> <p>Note: Learners often find it useful to see a transcript of an audio after they finish the listening activities. They can check that they have understood correctly and identify words or phrases that were unclear.</p>
6.	<p>Choose an activity for learners to do with the list of names on the board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Classify the names into groups (learners choose the groups). Order the names from most common to most unusual. Translate the names into learners' own language (for monolingual classes). Learners do an Internet search to find famous people with these names.
7	<p>Homework: Give learners a choice of a homework task or suggest different tasks depending on learners' levels, interests, etc.</p> <p>a) A True/False and a grouping activity on the original Teens site. http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/skills/listening-skills-practice/whats-</p>

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b) A related article 'What's in a name?' with text, audio and activities (B2)

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/magazine-articles/names>

c) Ask learners to find out the top ten boys' names and top ten girls' names at the moment.

d) Writing task: 'Five interesting facts about my name' (A1+)

Contributed by

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