

Dorset life

Topic: Life in Dorset

Aims:

To develop students' vocabulary

To develop students' ability to listen to and extract information from a difficult authentic listening

To develop students intensive listening

Level: Intermediate +

Introduction:

This lesson focuses on developing students knowledge of a part of the UK. It also helps them to develop their vocabulary and listening skills and their ability to take notes while listening to quite a challenging audio script.

Procedure

Pre-listening activity

- Ask your students if they have heard of a place called 'Dorset'. Ask them what they know about it. Don't worry if they don't know anything. Show the students some images of Dorset. You can either get these from Flickr at: <http://www.flickr.com/search/?q=dorset> or if you have an internet connection and a projector in class you can show images in class by going to: <http://www.flickrriver.com/search/dorset/> and scrolling down the page as more images appear.
- Get students to brainstorm any words they can associate with the images. Ask them to try to think of 2 - 3 words for each image. Help the students with any words they want to say but don't know in English.
- Once the students have seen the images ask them which ones they like and why. Put the students in pairs to discuss if they would like to visit Dorset and why.
- Tell the students that they are going to learn some new words. Give them the vocabulary matching sheet below and see how many of the words they can match to the definitions. Help them with any words they don't know or let them have a dictionary to help.

Vocabulary		Definition
parish		- adj. - widely known and famous
hamlet		- noun - a woman that cares for sheep
Anglo Saxon		- noun - a busy rapid energetic movement
low-key		- adj. - of or relating to or characteristic of a Germanic people who conquered England
hustle bustle		- noun - a local church community
housing estate		- adj. - quiet
renowned		- noun - a community of people smaller than a village
shepherdess		- noun - a collection of houses built in a similar style

Answers:

parish - noun - a local church community

hamlet - noun - a community of people smaller than a village

Anglo Saxon - adj.- of or relating to or characteristic of a Germanic people who conquered England

low-key - adj. - quiet

hustle bustle - noun - a busy rapid energetic movement

housing estate - noun - a collection of houses built in a similar style

renowned - adj. - widely known and famous

shepherdess - noun - a woman shepherd

Listening activity

- Now tell the students they are going to listen to a man from Dorset talking about the place he lives. Ask them to listen and make notes about two things.
 - Information about the man
 - Information about the place he lives
- Play the audio of the interview through once. Don't get any feedback from your students after the first listening, but ask them to compare any information they heard in pairs or small groups. The listening is quite difficult and they may not get much the first time.
- Once they have had a few moments to compare their answers, let them listen to the interview a second time and once again let them compare their answers. This time have a look around and see how much information they were able to hear.
- If they have got quite a lot then get some answers and write up some of the information on the board, though it might be good to let them listen one more time.
- Finally, get some information up on the board, but don't say if the information is correct or not, just write up whatever students offer you.
- Once you have some information on the board, give out the script from the listening and ask students to read and check the information on the board.

Post listening activity

- Ask your students to imagine the man is coming to visit their town. Ask the students to work in pairs and plan a one day trip around their town to show him things he might like there and to introduce him to the culture of the town.
- Once the students have had to plan the visit, change the pairs and get them to compare their tours and decide which the man would most enjoy.

Intensive listening

- Give out the intensive listening activity below. It has four sections of the tape with some large gaps where a number of words are missing (the number of words is at the end of each section). Tell the students they will hear the four clips from the audio and they must listen and write in the missing words.
- Play each clip twice and get the students to compare what they have written.

Listen and write in the missing words

1. In the last twenty, thirty years, we've had _____ (4) around the village.
2. Some of them are only perhaps ten houses. It has not really altered the village _____ (5). Because the school's been able to keep going, the village post office, the shops that we have here.
3. The downside of it is, it's _____ (5) considerably.
4. There's not actually many people of my age that were born and bred in Sixpenny Handley that's actually left in the village _____ (7) and there's not actually the jobs that's around here for them.

Answers:

1. In the last twenty, thirty years, we've had fifteen estates put up around the village.
2. Some of them are only perhaps ten houses. It has not really altered the village because it's helped the village. Because the school's been able to keep going, the village post office, the shops that we have here.
3. The downside of it is, it's pushed the house price up considerably.
4. There's not actually many people of my age that were born and bred in Sixpenny Handley that's actually left in the village because of the prices of the houses and there's not actually the jobs that's around here for them.

Script: Rob Jesse Interview

Interviewer: So, Rob, can you just tell me whereabouts in the UK you're from and what you like about your area?

Rob: Right, I live in a little place called, a little village in Dorset, on the edge of Dorset, which is called Sixpenny Handley. It's actually got its name as an Anglo-Saxon name, which was Saxpena Hanlege. It's a small village and it actually has a parish that joins in lots of other small hamlets things like that. So there's about six hundred and seventy houses in all small villages and hamlets around here.

Interviewer: And what do you like best about your area?

Rob: I think it's sort of low-key, there's no 'hustle-bustle', things like that. People are very very friendly here.

Interviewer: Can you tell me in what way your area has changed over the last 20 years?

Rob: Right, over the last twenty years I've lived here. I'm fifty-nine and I've lived here all this time. In the last twenty, thirty years, we've had fifteen estates put up around the village. Only small ones – the biggest one's about thirty, forty houses in them. Some of them are only perhaps ten houses. It has not really altered the village because it's helped the village. Because the school's been able to keep going, the village post office, the shops that we have here. We have a hairdressers. It's brought a lot of money into the village. The downside of it is, it's pushed the house price up considerably. There's not actually many people of my age that were born and bred in Sixpenny Handley that's actually left in the village because of the prices of the houses and there's not actually the jobs that's around here for them.

Interviewer: Right...and is this region famous for anything, would you say?

Rob: Well we're very close to the Cranborne Chase, which is a world-renowned natural sight. It's got wonderful woods that people come out to. The AONB is doing lots of things around here.

Interviewer: What's that?

Rob: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which if you've been to Sixpenny Handley and walked around, you would agree that it is really outstanding.

Interviewer: And is this area famous for any special foods?

Rob: My wife is a shepherdess. We actually breed Dorset sheep. She actually shows them and we have some poll Dorset, which is the one without the horns and we have the Dorset horns – with the horns. So that's the rare old breed. One time, actually it nearly died out but it's making a good comeback now.