
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Shakespeare Speaks

The green-eyed monster: Lesson plan



The video to accompany this lesson plan can be found here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/course/shakespeare/unit-1/session-13>

Aims: Students will...

- listen for gist and detail in the context of a video on Shakespeare's life, language and plays.
- understand the meaning, use and form of the idiom **the green-eyed monster**.
- be able to understand and use further colour idioms.

Task A: Lead in and gist

- Pause the video on the image of Will and Thomas Swann drinking (03.34) and ask students to predict in pairs why they are getting so drunk.
- Play the video from the start and tell students to answer the question: **Why are Will and Thomas getting drunk?** They discuss in pairs and then check as a class.

Answer

Thomas is drowning his sorrows because he thinks that his wife is cheating on him. Will is being a loyal friend and keeping him company – or maybe he doesn't want to go home!

Task B: Detail

- Give students a few minutes to read the questions and then play the video again for students to mark true or false. Encourage them to also note down why.
- Students discuss answers in pairs and then check answers as a class.

Answers

- 1) Bess the barmaid is annoyed by Thomas's behaviour. **True.** *He's scaring away her customers.*
- 2) Thomas saw his wife with another man. **False** *Robert Harley told Thomas Swann that he saw Mrs Swann with another man. Thomas is angry about what he heard, not what he saw.*
- 3) Thomas's jealousy is more extreme than Othello's. **False** *Othello murdered Desdemona, his wife. Thomas Swann gets angry and makes threats - but he doesn't kill Mrs Swann.*
- 4) Shakespeare's character, Iago, is a loyal friend to Othello. **False** *Iago lies to Othello. He says that Othello's wife is cheating on him, because he knows how destructive jealousy can be.*

Task C: Language: The green-eyed monster

- Students read the sentences and discuss the answers in pairs from memory.
- Play the narrator section from 02.44 to 03.22 for students to check answers.

Answers

- 1) The phrase 'the green-eyed monster' describes how jealousy can **destroy** people.
- 2) We normally use 'the green-eyed monster' to describe jealousy in **relationships**.
- 3) What causes Ronan Keating to have an attack of 'the green-eyed monster'? **His wife going out without him.**

Task C: Discussion

- Give students time to prepare and then put them into new groups to share stories.
- Share interesting answers and focus on good examples of language, and errors to correct.

Task D: Colour idioms

- Ask students what emotions the colours blue and red are normally associated with.
Answer: If you **see red** you become very angry. If you **feel blue** you feel sad.
- Tell students that they are now going to learn some more colour idioms. They turn over the worksheet and work in pairs to complete each phrase with a colour. Warn them that one of the expressions is not actually the name of a colour!
- Check answers as a class:

Answers

- 1) Omar's teacher saw him take the money. She caught him **red-handed**.
 - 2) Jean told a small lie to avoid hurting Sacha's feelings. It was just a little **white** lie.
 - 3) My brother passed his exams easily. He passed with flying **colours**.
 - 4) I was surprised to see her out of the **blue**.
 - 5) The grass isn't always **greener** on the other side.
 - 6) He's the **black** sheep of the family.
 - 7) The **green-eyed** monster rears its ugly head.
- Check understanding of the idioms and practise pronunciation. Highlight to students the use of the set phrase in number 7) 'The green-eyed monster **rears its ugly head**'.
 - Practise the idioms with a game from the worksheet [Eight Vocabulary Activities](#).

Task E: Find someone who...

- Give students time to read the sentences and check they know how to form the questions. Then demonstrate the task by doing an example with a confident student.
- Students stand up, mingle and try to write a (different) name for each sentence. Encourage them to ask follow-up questions to find out more information and record it on their sheets.
- After ten minutes, share interesting answers and carry out error correction as a class.

The green-eyed monster: Worksheet one



Task B: Detail

True or false?

- 1) Bess the barmaid is annoyed by Thomas's behaviour.
- 2) Thomas saw his wife with another man.
- 3) Thomas's jealousy is more extreme than Othello's.
- 4) Shakespeare's character, Iago, is a loyal friend to Othello.

Task C: Language: The green-eyed monster

- 1) The phrase 'the green-eyed monster' describes how jealousy can _____ people.
- 2) We normally use 'the green-eyed monster' to describe jealousy in _____.
- 3) What causes Ronan Keating to have an attack of the green-eyed monster?



Task C: Discussion

Talk about a time you had an attack of the green-eyed monster.

- Why did you feel so jealous?
- How did you behave?
- Did you regret your actions afterwards?



The green-eyed monster: Worksheet two

Task D: Colour idioms



- 1) Omar's teacher saw him take the money. She caught him _____-handed.
- 2) Jean told a small lie to avoid hurting Sacha's feelings. It was just a little _____ lie.
- 3) My brother passed his exams easily. He passed with flying _____.
- 4) Maria came to my house without calling first. I was surprised to see her out of the _____.
- 5) Sara, you always think other people have a better life than you, but the grass isn't always _____er on the other side.
- 6) Tom is so different from the rest of his family - they are much more successful than him. He's the _____ sheep of the family.
- 7) Francisco gets so jealous when he sees Maria talking to other men. The _____-eyed monster rears its ugly head.



The green-eyed monster: Worksheet three

Find someone who...	Name and extra information
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• has told a white lie • has passed an exam with flying colours • sometimes feels like the black sheep in their family • has been caught red-handed doing something they shouldn't have done • has had an attack of the green-eyed monster • never feels like the grass is greener on the other side • feels a bit blue on a Monday morning • saw red last week	