BBC LEARNING ENGLISH
Shakespeare Speaks
Spotless reputation: 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-12

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 modern form of the idiom **spotless reputation.**
- be able to understand and use expressions for talking about good and bad reputations.

Task A: Lead in and gist
- Write a list of five crimes on the board (for example, dropping litter, murder, armed robbery and under-age drinking) and ask students to order them from most to least serious. They then choose an appropriate punishment for each crime.
- Tell students that Queen Elizabeth is not happy today and wants to punish someone. Play the video from start to finish and students need to find out the answer to this gist question: **Why is Queen Elizabeth so angry?**
- They discuss in pairs and then check as a class.

Answer:
The Queen is angry with the Earl of Essex for plotting to kill her. She is also annoyed with Will because he performed his play, Richard II, for the Earl of Essex.

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. Ask them to note down the reasons for their answers.
- Students discuss answers in pairs and then check answers as a class.

Answers

1) Queen Elizabeth doesn't want anyone to know that she has sentenced the Earl of Essex to death**. False; she wants everyone to know that she sentenced him to death.**

2) The Earl of Essex failed to murder Queen Elizabeth. **True; the Earl of Essex planned to kill her, but he got caught before he could carry out his plan.**

3) Queen Elizabeth doesn't worry about what people think of her. **False; the Queen's reputation is very important to her. She wants people to love and fear her.**

4) Shakespeare published other writers' work, and said that it was his own. **False; other writers' work was published under Shakespeare's name.**

5) Will and his actors are worried about their upcoming performance of Richard II. **True; they are performing for the Queen and are worried that if she doesn't enjoy it, they will be sent to the tower.**

Task C: Language: Spotless reputation

- Students read the sentences and discuss the answers in pairs from memory.
- Play the narrator section from 02.26 to 03.33 for students to check answers.

Answers

1) The adjective 'spotless' means**: completely clean.**
2) Your 'reputation' is what **other people** believe about your character**.**
3) A person who has a 'spotless reputation' **always** behaves in a honest way.
4) In the example, the athlete has **damaged** her spotless reputation by taking drugs.

Task D: 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 E: Expressions for talking about good - and bad – reputation

- Before class put the following six expressions up on the wall outside the classroom. One expression per piece of paper. 1) **Her reputation has been tarnished. 2) She has a good track record. 3) He's squeaky clean. 4) Her name is mud around here. 5) He lost face with his staff. 6) It gave the company a bad name.**
- Put students into pairs and tell that they are going to do a running dictation to learn some more expressions for talking about reputations.
- Students take it in turns to run outside, remember as much as they can of the sentence and dictate it for their partner to write down. They can run back as many times as necessary for each sentence, until they have written all six.
- Check written work and help students to correct their sentences.
- Students record the phrases in the appropriate columns on the table in Task E.
- **Answers**: see page five of this document for completed table and definitions.
- Practise the idioms with a game from the worksheet **Eight Vocabulary Activities.**

Task F: Discussion

- Give students time to prepare and then put them into new groups to share ideas; encourage them to use the new expressions they've learnt in this lesson.
- Share interesting answers and focus on good examples of language and errors to correct.

Spotless reputation: Worksheet one

Task B: Detail

True or false?

1) Queen Elizabeth doesn't want anyone to know that she has sentenced the Earl of Essex to death.

2) The Earl of Essex failed to murder Queen Elizabeth.

3) Queen Elizabeth doesn't worry about what people think of her.

4) Shakespeare published other writers' work, and said that it was his own.

5) Will and his actors are worried about their upcoming performance of Richard II.

Task C: Language: Spotless reputation

1) The adjective 'spotless' means:

   a) completely clean
   b) quite clean

2) Your 'reputation' is what _____ believe about your character.

3) A person who has a 'spotless reputation' _____ behaves in a honest way.

   a) generally
   b) always

4) In the example, the athlete has _____ her spotless reputation by taking drugs.

Spotless reputation: Worksheet two

Task D: Discussion

Do you believe that it is important to have a **spotless reputation**? Why / why not?

Task E: Expressions for talking about good - and bad - reputations

A spotless reputation	A damaged reputation
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Task F: Discussion

a) What kind of things can **give someone a bad name?**

b) What well-known people/companies can you think of who used to have **a spotless reputation,** but something has happened to **tarnish** it?

Answers:

A spotless reputation	A damaged reputation
• **be squeaky clean** always behave in a completely moral and honest way • **have a good track record** have a good reputation, based on the things that you have done	• **tarnish someone's reputation** damage someone's reputation • **lose face** lose your status and the respect of others • **someone's name is mud** describes someone who has a bad reputation or who people are angry with • **give something/someone a bad name** damage the reputation of something / someone