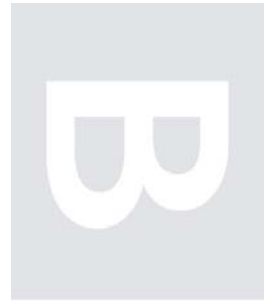


Keep your English  
up to date

## Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets  
with answers

Lesson 23  
Gobsmacked



**BBC WORLD SERVICE**  
LEARNING ENGLISH



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# BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

## Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

### Lesson 23: Gobsmacked

#### CONTENTS

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1. Level, topic, language, aims, materials
2. Lesson stages
3. Answers
4. Tapescripts
5. Student worksheets 1, 2, 3

**Level:** Intermediate and above

**Topic:** Being surprised

**Aims:** Listening skills – A short talk

Language – compound words connected to the parts of the mouth

**Materials:** Worksheet 1 – Introductory speaking and vocabulary exercises,  
Listening section 1  
Worksheet 2 – Listening section 2  
Worksheet 3 – Extra work: Vocabulary and language  
Tapescript – Available in teacher's notes  
Recording of the talk – Available online at [bbclearningenglish.com](http://bbclearningenglish.com)

**This plan was downloaded from:**

[bbclearningenglish.com/radio/specials/1728\\_uptodate/page24.shtml](http://bbclearningenglish.com/radio/specials/1728_uptodate/page24.shtml)

**Lesson 23: Gobsmacked**

**LESSON STAGES**

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**A**

Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a talk by Professor Crystal and that the talk is about the way the English language changes. This particular talk is about compound words.

**B**

Hand out **Student Worksheet 1**. Students do **Speaking Exercise 1** in small groups or pairs.

**C**

Students do the **Vocabulary Exercise 2**, without dictionaries at first.  
Practise the pronunciation of the vocabulary, as they will hear it in the talk.

**D**

Students read **Listening Exercise 3** and then listen to Section 1 of the talk.  
They answer the questions.

Students listen again and answer **Listening Exercise 4**

**E**

Hand out **Student Worksheet 2**

Students answer **Listening Exercise 5**

Students listen to section 2 of the talk and check their answer for **Listening exercise 5**

**F**

Students try to answer **Listening Exercise 6**. They listen again to **Listening Section 2** to check/complete their answers.

**G**

If you wish to do some extra work with the class, hand out **Student Worksheet 3**

For the vocabulary exercise, give the students copies of the tapescript and play the complete talk as they read.

For the language work, you might need to explain the words used in the exercise to the students first.

## **Lesson 23: Gobsmacked**

### **TAPESCRIPTS**

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#### **Listening Section 1**

English loves compound words: 'washing machine' and all that sort of thing. But when you get a compound word, the two parts of the compound are usually stylistically very homogeneous, in other words, they are the same style: formal first part - formal second part, and so on. You don't usually get a compound word where the first part is a slang thing and the second part is a rather ordinary or formal thing - they don't usually mix - but gobsmacked is a perfect exception to that rule.

To be gobsmacked - it means to be astounded, flabbergasted, speechless with amazement.

#### **Listening section 2**

And what you've got is the perfectly ordinary word 'smacked' (to smack) and a northern word 'gob'. Gob is the Northern word for mouth. I used to live in Liverpool for many years and you'd say to people "ah, shut yer gob", you know, and it simply means, mouth. So, to be 'gobsmacked' is to be struck dumb as if by a smack in the face.

Now, it's got a more general use these days than just in the north. I've heard it used throughout the south of England - I've heard it used abroad; it's now very widely used 'to be gobsmacked'. Now, why? Because it became a very fashionable expression by people on television, not everybody on television, I'm thinking especially of people like sports personalities having a terrible day, something horrible happens: footballers in particular are always saying that they're gobsmacked at something happening.

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## Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

### Lesson 23: Gobsmacked

#### ANSWER KEY

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#### VOCABULARY

2.

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| a. <b>homogenous</b>           | when the members of a group are all the same or similar |
| b. <b>slang</b>                | informal language, colloquial                           |
| c. <b>to be astounded</b>      | to be very surprised or shocked                         |
| d. <b>Liverpool</b>            | a city in the north of England                          |
| e. <b>a sports personality</b> | a famous sports player e.g. David Beckham               |
| f. <b>horrible</b>             | not nice or not pleasant                                |

#### LISTENING SECTION 1

3.

- a. iii - gobsmacked
- b. to be very surprised, to be speechless with amazement

4.

- a. True – “English loves compound words”
- b. False – “But when you get a compound word, the two parts of the compound are usually stylistically very homogeneous, in other words, they are the same style: formal first part – formal second part, and so on.”
- c. False – it is the exception to the rule (as given in 4b above)

#### LISTENING SECTION 2

5.

- ii. mouth

6.

- a. False – it is a “perfectly ordinary word”. Gob is the slang word
- b. True – “Gob is the northern word for mouth”
- c. False – “I’ve heard it used abroad.”
- d. True – “It became a very fashionable word by people on television.”
- e. True – “footballers in particular are always saying that they’re gobsmacked at something happening.”

**Lesson 23: Gobsmacked**

**EXTRA WORK**

**1.**

- a. speechless
- b. 'Shut yer gob!' (Shut your mouth!)
- c. to be struck dumb

**LANGUAGE**

**2.**

- a. toothpaste
- b. toothbrush
- c. toothache
- d. mouthwash
- e. mouth-watering
- f. gum shield
- g. tongue-tied
- h. tongue twister
- i. lipstick
- j. lipsmacking
- k. lip-read

## WORKSHEET 1

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### SPEAKING

#### 1. Discuss these questions with other students

- a. Can you remember a time when you were surprised by something?  
When and why? What happened?
- b. Can you remember a time when you were shocked by something?  
When and why? What happened?
- c. Did you do anything of these things at those or other similar times?

Did you stand still?                      Did you breathe in sharply?      Did you sit down?  
Were you unable to speak?      Did you cry?                              Did you laugh?  
Did you scream?                      Did you put your hands up to your face?

### VOCABULARY

#### 2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| a. <b>homogenous</b>           | informal language, colloquial                                |
| b. <b>slang</b>                | to be very surprised or shocked                              |
| c. <b>to be astounded</b>      | a famous sports player e.g. David Beckham                    |
| d. <b>Liverpool</b>            | not nice or not pleasant                                     |
| e. <b>a sports personality</b> | a city in the north of England                               |
| f. <b>horrible</b>             | when the members of a group are all the same or very similar |

**LISTENING SECTION 1**

**3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about an unusual compound word - a word which is made up of two words. Answer these questions.**

**a.** What is the word?

- i. gabsmocked
- ii. gubsmicked
- iii. gobsmacked

**b.** What is the meaning of the word?

**4. Listen again and decide if the following statements are true or false, according to Professor Crystal.**

- a. There are many compound words in the English language
- b. It is unusual for the two words that make up a compound word to both be formal
- c. Gobsmacked is a good example of the language rules for compound words

## WORKSHEET 2

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### LISTENING SECTION 2

**5. Professor Crystal now explains where the word comes from. Before you listen, answer the question below.**

a. Gobsmacked means very surprised. To smack someone means to hit someone, usually with your hand. What do you think 'gob' means?

- i. head
- ii. mouth
- iii. brain
- iv. nose

**6. Listen again to section 2. Are the following sentences true or false?**

- a. Smacked is a very slang or informal word
- b. Gob was originally used in the north of England
- c. Gobsmacked is only used in England
- d. The word is often used on television
- e. Football players are often surprised by things that happen in a game.

Listen again to check your answers.

**WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK**

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**VOCABULARY**

1. Look at the tape script and find words or phrases that mean the following.
  - a. unable to talk (1)
  - b. “stop talking!”
  - c. unable to talk (2)

**LANGUAGE**

2. There are many compound words connected to the mouth and its various parts. Try to make compound words using the words in the box and the parts of the mouth below.

wash	stick	brush	ache	paste	shield
twister	read	smacking	watering	tied	

- a. When you clean you teeth, you use a white cream called tooth\_\_\_\_\_
- b. When you clean your teeth, you put the white cream on a tooth\_\_\_\_\_
- c. If you don't clean your teeth, you might get a tooth\_\_\_\_\_
- d. You can clean your mouth with a liquid called mouth\_\_\_\_\_
- e. The smell of delicious food is mouth-\_\_\_\_\_
- f. In order to protect their teeth, boxers and rugby players wear a gum \_\_\_\_\_
- g. If you can't speak because you are nervous, you are tongue-\_\_\_\_\_
- h. A sentence that is difficult to say is a tongue \_\_\_\_\_
- i. Many women put colour on their lips with a lip\_\_\_\_\_
- j. Food that is really tasty is lip\_\_\_\_\_
- k. Many deaf people can lip-\_\_\_\_\_ in order to understand speech

3. Try saying these tongue twisters

- a. She sells sea shells on the sea shore
- b. Red lorry, yellow lorry