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## Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets  
with answers

Lesson 16

Happy-clappy



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# BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

## Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

### Lesson 16: Happy-clappy

#### 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:** Religion

**Language:** Reduplicated words: Happy-clappy

**Aims:** Listening skills – A short talk  
Language – guessing meanings of reduplicated words

**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)

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### Lesson 16: Happy-clappy

#### LESSON STAGES

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##### A

Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a talk by Professor Crystal about the way the English language changes. This particular talk is about words that use sound in an interesting way.

##### 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 Exercises 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, make sure the students read the advice in question 3 about guessing the meanings of these kinds of words.

Make sure you drill (practise saying aloud) these words, as the sound of these words is particularly there to be enjoyed.

## **Lesson 16: Happy-clappy**

### **TAPESCRIPTS**

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#### **Listening Section 1**

This is one of those reduplicated words, where the two words are almost the same, but they just change one little part: change the vowel, or change the consonants in this particular case - usually the consonant at the front, like "willy-nilly" - and "Ping-Pong" is one where the vowel changes. Well "happy-clappy" came in in the, oh 1980s I suppose, referring to a member of usually a Christian charismatic group, characterised by enthusiastic handclapping and a very extrovert emotion, set of emotions being expressed – but it isn't restricted to that. I've heard it used in all sorts of other contexts as well.

#### **Listening section 2**

It's a mildly mocking word. If somebody says that somebody is "happy-clappy", there's a sort of feeling of distaste about it. And the thing is, that the idea has moved beyond the religious circumstance now. It refers to anybody showing some kind of extrovert emotion, some kind of rather superficial feeling very often. You might say of somebody "he's got a very happy-clappy attitude". It means he's just producing his emotions without much thought all the time. So anybody who gets very enthusiastic and suddenly becomes a little over the top... starts to act out something... I'm now getting very happy-clappy about all this... 'cos I'm so happy to be on the radio, and now ... well, this isn't really very appropriate for the BBC, is it?

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### Lesson 16: Happy-clappy

#### ANSWER KEY

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#### SPEAKING

1.

b. Catholic, Protestant, Greek Orthodox, Church of England, Methodist, Evangelical (this last one is the type from which the word 'happy-clappy' has come from)

#### VOCABULARY

2.

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| a. <b>a duplicate</b>        | a copy or double for something                      |
| b. <b>a consonant</b>        | strong sounding letter sounds, not vowels           |
| c. <b>to clap your hands</b> | to make a noise with your hands, in applause        |
| d. <b>mocking</b>            | laughing at something in a negative or critical way |
| e. <b>extrovert</b>          | very open or out-going, not hidden                  |
| f. <b>superficial</b>        | not serious or honest                               |

#### LISTENING SECTION 1

3.

- a. ii. It is made of two words that have very similar sounds  
b. Happy-clappy

4.

- a. False – willy-nilly and Ping-Pong  
b. False – it appeared in the 1980s  
c. True – a member of a Christian charismatic (evangelical) group  
d. False – They show their emotions openly during the religious service.  
e. False – he has heard it used in other contexts too

#### LISTENING SECTION 2

5.

- b. A critical or disrespectful feeling

6.

- a. False – it is 'mildly mocking', so it is not so strong  
b. True – we say 'a happy-clappy person'  
c. False – the feeling is that the emotion is superficial, not deep  
d. False – he thinks it is not appropriate

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## Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

### Lesson 16: Happy-clappy

#### EXTRA WORK

1.

- a. emotions
- b. distaste
- c. enthusiastic

#### LANGUAGE

2.

- a. i. Ping-Pong is table tennis
- b. ii. Willy-nilly means without order, care or attention

3.

- a. **Boohoo** describes the sound a child makes when crying
- b. **Hotpot** is a meal cooked in one container. It has meat and vegetables.
- c. A **legal eagle** is a very good lawyer
- d. **Pitter-patter** is the sound a child's feet make when walking quickly
- e. **Tip-top** means something is very good, it is the number one
- f. A **walkie-talkie** is a machine for communicating by speech over distance
- g. **Wishy-washy** means something is rather vague or indefinite. It lacks substance
- h. **Mama** means mother

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## WORKSHEET 1

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You are going to listen to a short talk given by Professor David Crystal about language change and new developments in English.

### SPEAKING

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

- a. What are the main religious faiths in your country?
- b. What types of Christianity do you know of?
- c. Have you ever seen a U.S. style religious TV program? How would you describe it?
- d. How are religious faiths treated in your country?
  - The majority of the population believe strongly in a religion
  - Many people regularly go to a holy place to worship
  - Religion is a tradition in my country, but not many people follow it now
  - Some parts of society are very critical of religions
  - There are many different faiths and religions in my country

### VOCABULARY

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

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| a. <b>a duplicate</b>        | very open or out-going, not hidden                  |
| b. <b>a consonant</b>        | not serious or honest                               |
| c. <b>to clap your hands</b> | laughing at something in a negative or critical way |
| d. <b>mocking</b>            | to make a noise with your hands, in applause        |
| e. <b>extrovert</b>          | strong sounding letter sounds, not vowels           |
| f. <b>superficial</b>        | a copy or double for something                      |

## LISTENING SECTION 1

**3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about a special type of word. He focuses on one particular example. Answer these questions.**

- a. What is special about this type of word?
  - i. It is made of any two words
  - ii. It is made of two words that have very similar sounds
  
- b. What is the example word that is connected to religion?

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

- a. The other two examples he gives are ‘willy-milly’ and ‘Ping-Pong’
- b. Happy-clappy came in in the 1970s
- c. The word refers to a type of Christian
- d. This type of person hides their feelings and emotions
- e. The word is only used in this religious context

**WORKSHEET 2**

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**LISTENING SECTION 2**

**5. Happy-clappy describes a type of person. It also carries a feeling. What feeling do you think this word carries?**

- a. A respectful feeling
- b. A critical or disrespectful feeling
- c. A feeling of disbelief
- d. A feeling of belief and acceptance

Listen to Section 2 of the talk and check your ideas. Were you correct?

**6. Are the following sentences true or false?**

- a. Happy-clappy has a strong negative meaning or feeling
- b. Happy-clappy is an adjective
- c. If someone is happy-clappy, they show deep genuine emotion
- d. Professor Crystal thinks it is good to behave in a happy-clappy way on the BBC

**Listen again to check your answers.**

## WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

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### VOCABULARY

1. Look at the tapescript and find words or phrases that mean the following.

- a. feelings
- b. a dislike of something which you find unpleasant or inappropriate
- c. full of interest and excitement

### LANGUAGE

2. Match the other reduplicated words from the talk with their definitions

- a. Ping-Pong                      i. a sport or game known as table tennis
- c. willy-nilly                    ii. do something without care and attention

3. Here are some more reduplicated words. Try to match them to their definitions.

You can often use one of the words in the reduplicated pair to help you guess the meaning e.g. Happy-clappy (Happy is an emotion)

Sometimes, the sound of the reduplicated pair will help you find the meaning e.g. Ping-Pong (the sound of the ball in table tennis)

<b>legal eagle</b>	<b>boohoo</b>	<b>tip-top</b>	<b>hotpot</b>
<b>walkie-talkie</b>	<b>wishy-washy</b>	<b>pitter-patter</b>	<b>mama</b>

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ describes the sound a child makes when crying
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ is a meal cooked in one container. It has meat and vegetables.
- c. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a very good lawyer
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ is the sound a child's feet make when walking quickly
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ means something is very good, it is the number one
- f. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a machine for communicating by speech over distance
- g. \_\_\_\_\_ means something is rather vague or indefinite. It lacks substance
- h. \_\_\_\_\_ means mother