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Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets
with answers

Lesson 14
Showbiz



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Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

Lesson 14: Showbiz

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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: Fame and show business

Language: Abbreviations: shortened forms - showbiz

Aims: Listening skills – A short talk

Materials: Worksheet 1 – Introductory speaking and vocabulary exercises, listening section 1
Worksheet 2 – Listening section 2
Worksheet 3 – Extra work: Vocabulary
Tapescript – Available in teacher's notes
Recording of the talk – Available online at bbclearningenglish.com

This plan was downloaded from:

bbclearningenglish.com/radio/specials/1728_uptodate/page15.shtml

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LESSON STAGES

A

Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a talk by Professor David Crystal about the way the English language changes. This particular talk is about a type of abbreviation known as clipping. Clippings are shortened versions of 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 answers for **Listening exercise 5**.

F

Students read **Listening Exercise 6 and Listening Exercise 7**. They listen again to **Listening Section 2** to answer the questions.

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.

The language work focuses on other shortened forms.

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TAPESCRIPPTS

Listening Section 1

Showbiz. This is probably one of the most popular abbreviations of a word that took place in the 20th century in the United States. It's an abbreviation - showbiz - of show business. And, to begin with, it was written as two separate words: show space/biz; still is, to some extent, but increasingly these days, you'll see it written as a single word, showbiz, and pronounced like that. It's actually been around since the 1940s, very wide use indeed as a noun.

Listening section 2

“That’s show biz!” they used to say in all kinds of circumstances, where something was happening that was unexpected, or something was going off the rails, or somebody lost their job, or some special circumstance came up: “that’s show biz!” And it was used as an adjective too. “We’re going to have a show biz treatment tonight” or “...a show biz tribute”...or something of that kind. It hasn’t actually developed very many other uses as yet (these shortened forms often don’t, you know), but it’s actually something that I think is going to come in the near future. I've heard for instance an adjective form “going show-bizzy” – that’s b-I-z-z-y, not b-u-s-y – meaning ‘typical of show biz’, in the last 5-10 years.

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ANSWER KEY

SPEAKING

1.b Here are some ideas: (NB: the films, directors and actors are not connected)

Era	Films	Directors	Actors
1920s, 30s, 40s	Modern Times	Charlie Chaplin	Carole Lombard
	Casablanca	Howard Hawks	Humphrey Bogart
	The Wizard of Oz	Billy Wilder	Mae West
The 1950s	Ben Hur	Alfred Hitchcock	Doris Day
	From here to Eternity	Douglas Sirk	Marilyn Monroe
	On the Waterfront	John Ford	Rock Hudson James Dean
The 1960s	The James Bond films	George Cukor	Sean Connery
	West Side Story	Robert Wise	Steve McQueen
The 1970s	Jaws	George Lucas	Dustin Hoffman
	Star Wars	Martin Scorsese	Dennis Hopper
	The Godfather	Woody Allen	Mia Farrow
The 1980s, 90s	E.T.	Steven Spielberg	Tom Cruise
	Titanic	James Cameron	A. Schwarzenegger
	Terminator	Oliver Stone	Leonardo di Caprio
Since 2000	A Beautiful Mind	Ron Howard	Nicole Kidman
	Gangs of New York	Sofia Coppola	Russell Crowe Denzel Washington

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VOCABULARY

2.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a. an abbreviation | a shortened version of a word |
| b. circumstances | situation or context |
| c. to lose your job | to become unemployed |
| d. to go off the rails | to fail to follow the plan |
| e. a tribute | an event or action which shows respect or appreciation for something or someone |
| f. as yet | Up to this point in time, so far |

LISTENING SECTION 1

3.

- a. show biz and/or showbiz
- b. show business

4.

- a. **True – “of a word that took place in the 20th century in the United States”**
- b. False – “And, to begin with, it was written as two separate words”
- c. False – “It’s actually been around since the 1940s”

LISTENING SECTION 2

5.

- b. **When things happened that were surprising, or something happened that was not planned**

6.

- a. False – “And it was used as an adjective too”
- b. False – “It hasn’t actually developed very many other uses as yet (these shortened forms often don’t, you know)”
- c. True – “but it’s actually something that I think is going to come in the near future”

7.

- a. showbizzy
- b. typical of show business

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EXTRA WORK

1.

- a. popular
- b. unexpected
- c. to come up

LANGUAGE

2.

- a. plane
- b. phone
- c. paper
- d. blog
- e. ad
- f. limo
- g. bra
- h. photo

3.

- a. phone
- b. blog
- c. bra
- d. ad
- e. limo
- f. photo
- g. plane
- h. paper

LISTENING SECTION 1

3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about an abbreviation which is connected to the performing arts. Answer these questions.

- a. What is the abbreviation?
- b. What is it short for?

4. Listen again. Are these sentences true or false?

- a. The abbreviation comes from North America
- b. Originally, it was written as a single word
- c. The word has existed since 1914

WORKSHEET 2

LISTENING SECTION 2

- 5. The abbreviation was commonly used in the expression ‘that’s showbiz!’
When do you think people said this?**
- a. When an unknown actress suddenly became famous
 - b. When things happened that were surprising, or something happened that was not planned
 - c. When people made a lot of money through very little work, or through knowing someone important in the world of show business

Listen again to section 2 and answer these questions.

- 6. Are the following sentences true or false?**
- a. The word is only used as a noun
 - b. Abbreviations often develop many other uses
 - c. Professor Crystal thinks new uses will appear soon
- 7.**
- a. **What is the new adjective that Professor Crystal has heard?**
 - b. **What does it mean?**

WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

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

- a. Well-liked or common
- b. Not planned, a surprise
- c. appeared unexpectedly, happened by surprise

Language

2. What do you think are the shortened versions of these words?

- a. aeroplane -
- b. telephone -
- c. newspaper -
- d. web log -
- e. advertisement -
- f. limousine -
- g. brassiere -
- h. photograph -

3. Put the correct abbreviation in the sentences below

- a. Can I use your mobile _____. I need to call my mother.
- b. I write my _____ every day – do you want the address?
- c. Women can buy a special sports ____ for when they play football
- d. I bought this car because I liked the _____ on TV
- e. The actor arrived in a white _____ and then walked up the red carpet
- f. Could you take a _____ of me please?
- g. Look at that _____. It's flying very low
- h. I read a _____ every day, usually when I'm on the train