The Flatmates
Meet The Flatmates

Teacher’s pack
Lesson plan and student worksheets with answers

BBC WORLD SERVICE
LEARNING ENGLISH

bbclearningenglish.com
BBC Learning English – The Flatmates
Introductory lesson plan: Meet The Flatmates

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**Aim**
An introductory session which introduces the Flatmates characters to students

**Level**
Low intermediate level and above.

**Preparation**
One copy of the student worksheet per student.
Students also need internet access, or a copy of the 'background' pdf available at: http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/people.pdf
One copy of each of the 6 A4 flatmates posters available at: http://www.bbclearningenglish.com/teachingenglish

**Lesson time**
Approximately 45 - 60 minutes

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**Teachers' notes: Lesson Procedure**

**Stage 1**
Show the students the A4 flatmates posters (or project them on to the whiteboard if you can) and ask them to guess what each character is called. There are several ways you can do this:

- Stick the A4 posters around the class: students walk round and write their suggested names on the posters. When they have finished, read out the names – count the most popular ones.

- Write the names on the board and get students to match them to the characters. Give one point for each correct match.

- Write the names on the board and students vote for which character has which name.

**Stage 2**
Give out the student worksheet: students check the characters’ names.
Stage 3
Students work in small groups to do task 1 on their handouts. Circulate and encourage discussion, speculation & justification of their answers.

Stage 4
Students do task 2 on their handouts ie. they check their answers to task 1 by looking at the Flatmates Background webpage or handout. The answers are:

1. Who moved to Britain at the age of 12? Helen
2. Who fell in love with Michal? Helen
3. Who works as a nurse? Alice
4. Who comes from Poland? Michal
5. Who is interested in sport, fashion and music? Khalid
6. Who stole some chicken from the kitchen? Kitty (this is not mentioned in the reading text)
7. Who has had some problems with the police? Tim
8. Who left the flat when their father was ill? Michal
9. Who is the newest flatmate? Khalid
10. Who wants to run his/her own business? Tim

Stage 5
Students read the text more carefully to find the answers to task 3 on their handouts. Get them to check their answers in pairs or small groups before feeding back as a class. The answers to task 3 are:

1. Tim wants to be a successful businessman. True: 'Tim's ambitious and very competitive. He'd like to start up his own business…'

2. Tim got sacked from his job because he was cheating the customers. False: 'Tim realised it was his boss who was behind the fake watches and in a show-down with him, Tim resigned.'

3. Helen is studying politics and history at university. False: 'She is at university studying politics and economics.'

4. Helen is a very hard-working student. False: 'She wants to get a good degree but doesn't study as much as she should.'

5. Helen doesn't like Michal any more. False: She's heartbroken, but she still daydreams about Michal.

6. Khalid doesn't get on too well with Tim. True: 'After a chat with Tim recently, he realised there might be some tension between them.'

7. Alice is divorced. False: 'Paul is going to get a divorce.'

8. Michal is Tim's uncle. False: 'Michal is Tim's cousin from Poland.'
9. Michal's uncle had a heart attack. **False:** 'Michal's father had a heart attack.'

10. Michal still loves Helen. **False:** '... he's fallen in love with someone else.'

**Stage 6**
Students are encouraged to speculate on characters by doing task 4. There are no right or wrong answers to this task.
Meet the Flatmates
Here are The Flatmates!

Alice  Michal  Khalid  Helen  Kitty  Tim

Task 1: Guess who...
Look at the pictures. Read the questions and write your guesses in the spaces.

1. Who moved to Britain at the age of 12? ________________
2. Who fell in love with Michal? ________________
3. Who works as a nurse? ________________
4. Who comes from Poland? ________________
5. Who is interested in sport, fashion and music? ________________
6. Who stole some chicken from the kitchen? ________________
7. Who has had some problems with the police? ________________
8. Who left the flat when their father was ill? ________________
9. Who is the newest flatmate? ________________
10. Who wants to run his/her own business? ________________

Task 2: Check your guesses
Go to http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/people.shtml
(or your teacher will give you a handout). Read it quickly and check your guesses. You will not be able to find the answer to one of the questions. How many did you get right? _________
Task 3: Reading comprehension
Read the text again and decide if the statements below are true or false.

1. Tim wants to be a successful businessman.  T/F
2. Tim got sacked from his job because he was cheating the customers.  T/F
3. Helen is studying politics and history at university.  T/F
4. Helen is a very hard-working student.  T/F
5. Helen doesn't like Michal any more.  T/F
6. Khalid doesn't get on too well with Tim.  T/F
7. Alice is divorced.  T/F
8. Michal is Tim's uncle.  T/F
9. Michal's uncle had a heart attack.  T/F
10. Michal still loves Helen.  T/F

Task 4: Think about it!
Talk to your partner and decide: Which flatmate is...

... the noisiest?
... the quietest?
... the most adventurous?
... the hardest working?
... the best-looking?
... the happiest?
... the most interesting?