

Keep your English
up to date 2

Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets
with answers

Blog



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LEARNING ENGLISH



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Teacher's notes contents

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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: The Internet

Language: 'Blog' and other Internet vocabulary

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, language and discussion
Audio script – Available in teacher's notes
Recording of the talk – Available online at

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/specials/1130_uptodate2/page5.shtml

This plan was downloaded from:

bbclearningenglish.com/radio/specials/1728_uptodate/page5.shtml

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LESSON STAGES

A

Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a talk by Professor Crystal from the University of Wales and that the talk is about the way the English language changes. This particular talk is about the word 'blog'.

B

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

C

Students do **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: Section 1, Exercise 3** and then listen to Section 1 of the talk.
They answer the questions 'a' and 'b'.

Students listen again and do **Listening: Section 1, Exercise 4**.

E

Hand out **Student Worksheet 2**
Students read **Listening: Section 2, Exercise 5** and then listen to Section 2 of the talk.
They answer the questions 'a' and 'b'.

F

Students try to answer **Listening: Section 2, Exercise 6**. They listen again to 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 audio script and play the complete talk as they read.

The language work focuses on other Internet related vocabulary. Students fill the gaps in the short text.

The final discussion activity is connected to the topic of the lesson – The Internet.

AUDIO SCRIPTS

Listening Section 1

In 2001, I wrote a book called, *Language and the Internet*, and I didn't mention the word blog. Well, this year, I have a second edition out. In it goes, that's how fast the internet moves. Those who blog, bloggers, carry out the activity of blogging, setting up a blog site, with a unique web address in order to do so. It's an abbreviation of 'web log'; a phrase that was first used in 1997, both as a noun and as a verb, a web log.

It's essentially a content management system, a way of getting content on to a web page; it's a genre, a bit like diary writing, or bulletin posting. I mean, people add their posts or diary entries, with some regularity, if you're a blogger you do it daily at least, often several times a day.

Listening Section 2

So at one extreme there's the personal diary, kept by an individual who wants to tell the whole world about his or her activities, or interests and opinions and so on. And then at the other extreme, there's the corporate blog, maintained by an institution, such as a radio station or a music store.

Well, there are even more coinages about to come, it seems to me. The totality of all blog sites in the world is known as the blogosphere. And if you have a blog and it goes on for too long, be careful, because somebody might describe you as having blogarrhoea!

ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY

- 2.
- a. **second edition** the second time that a book is printed, usually with some changes made to the content
 - b. **an abbreviation** a shortened version or form of something, usually a word
 - c. **a genre** a type of text, story or film e.g. a novel, a poem, a romance
 - d. **a bulletin** a news letter of an organisation or society; or a news update
 - e. **corporate** of or connected to business and companies
 - f. **coinage** the invention of a new word or phrase

LISTENING: SECTION 1

3

- a. web log.
- b. iii. A diary

4.

- a. True – He did not put it in his book about Internet and Language, so we assume he didn't know it.
- b. False – 'both as a noun and as a verb, a web log.'
- c. False – 'if you're a blogger you do it daily at least'

LISTENING: SECTION 2

5.

- a. personal diary and corporate
- b. ii. blogosphere iv. blogarrhoea

6.

- a. False – He says they are at different extremes (on the scale of different blogs)
- b. False – 'there are even more coinages about to come, it seems to me'
- c. True – 'if you have a blog and it goes on for too long, be careful'. The new word is an adaptation of diarrhoea

EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

7.

- a. setting up
-

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- b. with some regularity
- c. maintained

LANGUAGE

8.

The **Internet** is a global system for connecting smaller computers together. A computer joins this network via a **modem**. The Internet supports the **world wide web**, which is an information storage system. In order to **surf the web**, the computer needs a browser which lets you read the information on the Internet e.g. Internet Explorer. The **browser** allows you to visit different websites or **web pages**, all of which have a unique **web address**. If you often visit a website you can **bookmark** it, or add it to a list of favourites. Often you can move around the web by clicking on a **link**, which takes you automatically to the new page. It is also possible to save web pages to your computer, so that you can view them **offline** i.e. without connecting to the Internet.

As well as the world wide web, the Internet also supports **e-mail**, which is a communications system rather than an information storage system. You can send extra files with an email message, these are known as **attachments**.

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Worksheet 1

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

SPEAKING

Exercise 1

Discuss these questions with a partner.

- a. Do you ever do these things? Say how often and give examples.
- i. Read the news on the Internet
 - ii. Shop on the Internet
 - iii. Watch videos on the Internet
 - iv. Listen to Internet radio
 - v. Write things for a web page
 - vi. Use chat rooms on the Internet
 - vii. Put photographs on the Internet
 - viii. Search for information on the Internet

VOCABULARY

Exercise 2

Match these words and phrases to their definitions.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| a. second edition | a shortened version or form of something, usually a word |
| b. an abbreviation | of or connected to business and companies |
| c. a genre | the second time that a book is printed, usually with some changes made to the content |
| d. a bulletin | a type of text, story or film e.g. a novel, a poem, a romance |
| e. corporate | the invention of a new word or phrase |
| f. coinage | a news letter of an organisation or society; or a news update |

LISTENING: SECTION 1

Exercise 3

Listen to Professor Crystal talking about the use of the word ‘blog’ in English and answer these questions.

- a. What word is ‘blog’ a shortened version of?

- b. What is a ‘blog’ most similar to?
 - i. a letter ii. a newspaper article iii. a diary iv. a novel

Exercise 4

Listen to Section 1 again and decide if the following statements are true or false, according to Professor Crystal.

- a. In 2001, Professor Crystal didn’t know about the word ‘blog’.
- b. The original word, web log, was only a noun.
- c. People usually update their blogs once a week.

Worksheet 2

LISTENING: SECTION 2

Exercise 5

Listen to Section 2 of the talk and answer these questions.

- a. Which two types of blog does he mention?
- b. Which of these new words does he mention in this part of the talk?
i. blogger ii. blogosphere iii. blogmania iv. blogarrhoea

Exercise 6

Listen to Section 2 again. Are these sentences true or false?

- a. Professor Crystal thinks the two types of blog are very similar.
- b. Professor Crysal thinks there won't be any more new blog words.
- c. If you have blogarrhoea, you can't stop writing your blog.

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Worksheet 3 - Extra work

VOCABULARY

Exercise 7

Find the words or phrases in the text that have the following meanings.

- a. starting a new venture e.g. a business
- b. frequently
- c. managed and updated

LANGUAGE

Exercise 8

- a. Complete the description of the Internet with the words in the box.

web address	Internet	web pages	modem	web address	world wide web
surf the web	link	browser	offline	attachments	e-mail

The (a)_____ is a global system for connecting smaller computers together. A computer joins this network via a (b)_____. The Internet supports the (c) _____, which is a information storage system. In order to (d) _____, the computer needs a browser which lets you read the information on the Internet e.g. Internet Explorer. The (e)_____ allows you to visit different websites or (f)_____, all of which have a unique (g)_____. If you often visit a website you can (h)_____ it, or add it to a list of favourites. Often you can move around the web by clicking on a (i)_____, which takes you automatically to the new page. It is also possible to save web pages to your computer, so that you can view them (j)_____ i.e. without connecting to the Internet.

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As well as the world wide web, the Internet also supports (k)____, which is a communications system rather than an information storage system. You can send extra files with an email message, these are known as (l)_____.

DISCUSSION

Exercise 9

Do you agree or disagree with these statements. Discuss with a partner

- a. Blogging is waste of time for the blogger and the reader.
- b. Young people spend too much time surfing the web.
- c. The Internet makes all our lives easier.
- d. E-mail puts to much pressure on people's lives.
- e. I could not live without the Internet.
- f. The Internet is just a way for big corporations to make more money.
- g. The Internet has very few disadvantages.