

Keep your English
up to date 2

Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets
with answers

Cred



BBC WORLD SERVICE
LEARNING ENGLISH



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Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

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1. Level, topic, language, aims, materials
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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: Reputation and credibility

Aims: Listening skills – A short talk

Language – ‘Cred’ and other words derived from the root ‘cred’

Materials: Worksheet 1 – Introductory speaking and vocabulary exercises,
Listening section 1

Worksheet 2 – Listening section 2

Worksheet 3 – Extra work: Vocabulary and language

Audio script – Available in teacher’s notes

Recording of the talk – Available online at bbclearningenglish.com

This plan was downloaded from:

bbclearningenglish.com/radio/specials/1130_uptodate2/page2.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, an expert on the English language, and that the talk is about the way English is changing. This particular talk is about the word 'cred'.

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 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 words derived from the root 'cred'. Students match words to definitions and then complete example sentences

The final discussion activity is connected to the topic of the lesson – who do you believe?

AUDIO SCRIPTS

Listening Section 1

Cred, short for 'credibility', that is, among your peer group. It started out in the late 1970s, in the phrase, 'street cred', which meant having reputation or status among your mates or your friends on the street.

And then it became more general, the phrase became fashionable, trendy, that was the meaning. It had an adjective use, people said things like, 'That's a cred show!' or 'You're wearing cred jewellery!' – meaning fashionable jewellery, trendy jewellery.

Listening Section 2

But it was mainly as a noun that it came into widespread use. It meant sort of belief, or persuasiveness, or something that goes down well with an audience. A politician might be said to have 'zero cred when it comes to matters of security'. In other words, nobody believes what he says at all. Or rappers might be said to be 'battling for cred', in other words, getting an audience that likes them. Shows, cinema shows, theatre shows, might be said to have 'lots of cred' if they go down well. And this website has got a lot of cred!

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ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY

Exercise 2

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| a. your peer group | people of a similar age or lifestyle to you |
| b. reputation | the opinion people have of you because of what you did in the past; the opinion can be good or bad |
| c. status | social or professional rank, level or position; it can be high or low |
| d. trendy | fashionable |
| e. persuasiveness | the ability to make people believe what you are saying |
| f. zero | nothing |

LISTENING: SECTION 1

Exercise 3

- a. iii. credibility
- b. a positive meaning – a good reputation amongst peers, or fashionable/popular

Exercise 4

- a. False – ‘It started out in the late 1970s’
- b. True – ‘reputation or status among your mates or your friends on the street.’
- c. False – ‘fashionable, trendy, that was the meaning’

LISTENING: SECTION 2

Exercise 5

- a. ii. a noun
- b. iii. If something has cred, people like it and believe it

Exercise 6

- a. True – ‘it was mainly as a noun that it came into widespread use’
- b. False – ‘nobody believes what he says at all’
- c. True – ‘And this website has got a lot of cred!’

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EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

Exercise 7

- a. widespread use
- b. rapper
- c. audience

LANGUAGE

Exercise 8a

- a. credulous
- b. credentials
- c. credible
- d. credibility
- e. credo

Exercise 8b. incredulous/incredible/incredibility

Exercise 8c.

- i. We can't offer him the job – he doesn't have the right academic **credentials**.
- ii. They definitely didn't believe me; they had such an **incredulous** look on their faces.
- iii. 'The customer comes first' is the unwritten **credo** of consumer societies.
- iv. I don't think that that political party have got any **credible** ideas about how to reduce child poverty
- v. However, the corruption scandal has reduced the Prime Minister's **credibility**, so perhaps the other political party will win the election.

WORKSHEET 1

SPEAKING

1. Discuss these questions with a partner

- a. In your life of work and/or study, what kind of things can give someone a good or bad reputation?
- b. When you were at school or college how did your friends influence the way you dressed or behaved? For example, did you follow similar fashions? Was there a common way to misbehave? Were there some things you couldn't do because your friends would laugh at you?
- c. To you, how important are other people's opinions of you? Choose a number between 1 and 10, where 1 means you do not care at all what other people think of you, 10 means you do everything you can to make people think positively about you. Are the numbers you choose different if you think about the following people's opinions of you: friends/strangers/family/teachers?

VOCABULARY

2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| a. your peer group | social or professional rank, level or position; it can be high or low |
| b. reputation | the ability to make people believe what you are saying |
| c. status | people of a similar age or lifestyle to you |
| d. trendy | the opinion people have of you because of what you did in the past; the opinion can be good or bad |
| e. persuasiveness | nothing |
| f. zero | fashionable |

LISTENING SECTION 1

3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about the use of the word 'cred' in English and answer these questions.

a. Of which word is 'cred' an abbreviation?

- i. credulous
- ii. incredible
- iii. credibility
- iv. credit-worthy

b. Does it have a positive or negative meaning?

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

- a.** The word 'cred' first appeared in 1917
- b.** Originally, 'cred' described how people were seen by their friends.
- c.** When 'cred' describes an object, it means the object is unpopular.

WORKSHEET 2

LISTENING SECTION 2

5. Listen to Section 2 of the talk and answer this question.

a. What type of word did the adjective ‘cred’ become?

- i. a verb
- ii. a noun
- iii. an adverb

b. Complete this sentence in the best way: If something has cred...

- i. ...people do not like it or do not believe it.
- ii. ...people believe it but do not like it.
- iii. ...people like it and believe it

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

- a.** ‘Cred’ is used by most people as a noun.
- b.** It is a good idea for a politician to have no cred.
- c.** Professor Crystal thinks that people like the BBC Learning English website.

WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

7. Find the verbs/verb phrases in the text that have the following meanings.

- a. used by many people
- b. a performer who uses a form of spoken poetry with music
- c. a group of people who watch a performance

LANGUAGE

8a. The word 'cred' is also the root for many other words. The general meaning of 'cred' is believe. Try to match these words derived from 'cred' with the definitions below.

credible credentials credulous credo credibility
--

- a. Adjective – believing things too easily; gullible
 - b. Noun (plural) – the official documents or personal experience which show you are a suitable person for a job
 - c. Adjective – believable or able to be trusted
 - d. Noun – the quality of believability
 - e. Noun – a statement of the beliefs of a person or group e.g. a religion
 - f. This refers to someone from the countryside; not from the city. People who live in the city use it to show that someone is an outsider and does not understand urban life.
- 8b. Which of these words can we make negative by adding 'in' to the beginning?
- 8c. Complete these sentences with a word from Exercise 8a – you might need the negative form.

- i. We can't offer him the job – he doesn't have the right academic _____.
- ii. They definitely didn't believe me; they had such an _____ look on their faces.
- iii. 'The customer comes first' is the unwritten _____ of consumer societies.

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- iv. I don't think that that political party have got any ____ ideas about how to reduce child poverty
- v. However, the corruption scandal has reduced the Prime Minister's ____, so perhaps the other political party will win the election.

DISCUSSION

9. Who do you believe? Discuss this list of people and information sources. Do you trust them? How do you decide which to believe and which to doubt? Have you ever lost your trust in any of them? Why?

- a. the political leaders of your country / in other countries
- b. journalists in your country / from other countries
- c. internet bloggers
- d. internet information sites
- e. shop assistants
- f. the police
- g. the armed services
- g. religious authorities
- h. doctors
- i. friends and family