

Keep your English
up to date 2

Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets
with answers

In your dreams



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BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

In your dreams

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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: Ambitions and dreams for the future

Aims: Listening skills – A short talk

Language – ‘In your dreams and other phrases with ‘dream’

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 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 phrase 'in your dreams'.

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 question 'a'.

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 phrases that use the word 'dream'

The final discussion activity is connected to the phrases in the language work section.

AUDIO SCRIPTS

Listening Section 1

You wanna get on TV? 'In your dreams!' That phrase came in during the 1990s. It meant someone is being unrealistic, very optimistic, very hopeful. Any circumstances in which expectations are raised – in your dreams!

It mixes two senses of the word 'dream' – what happens when you're asleep, of course, and the sense of daydream or reverie – it's a very general use.

And I've heard it said all over the place in recent months. I've heard it said in a traffic jam, when the driver thought the road ahead was clearing. 'In your dreams!' said the passenger.

Listening Section 2

And most interesting of all, I've now heard the phrase being extended with the pronoun changing – you see, 'in your dreams' is the second person, but I've now heard it with a first person and a third person. The other day I heard, 'He's going to try for a part in the movie, in his dreams!' – third person. And then one day somebody said to me, 'I hear you're planning a holiday this year'. And I remember muttering to myself, 'in my dreams'!

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ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY

Exercise 2

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| a. unrealistic | unlikely to happen, not very possible |
| b. optimistic | having a positive view on life |
| c. daydream | pleasant thoughts that make you forget what you are doing |
| d. traffic jam | cars in a queue that isn't moving |
| e. pronoun | a word that is used instead of a noun e.g. he or him |
| f. muttering | speaking in a low voice so that people can't hear you |

LISTENING: SECTION 1

Exercise 3

- a. iii. has no chance of doing something; they won't achieve something
- b. i. thoughts and images you feel when you sleep
iii. pleasant hopes or wishes for the future

Exercise 4

- a. True – 'The phrase came in during the 1990s'
- b. False – 'I've heard it said all over the place in recent months.'
- c. False – 'the driver thought the road ahead was clearing. 'In your dreams!' said the passenger.'

LISTENING: SECTION 2

Exercise 5

- a. ii. The phrase is used to refer to anyone, not just 'you'

Exercise 6

- a. False – He's going to try for a part in a movie'
- b. True – Someone said Professor Crystal had been making holiday plans. Professor Crystal responded by saying 'in my dreams', so it was not possible to make plans.
- c. True – 'I remember muttering to myself'.

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EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

Exercise 7

- a. expectations
- b. reverie
- c. being extended

LANGUAGE

Exercise 8

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|---|
| a. recurring dream | - v. | a dream you frequently have when you sleep |
| b. a dream come true | - vi. | something happens after you have wanted it for a long time. |
| c. dream job | - ii. | ideal or perfect employment |
| d. Dream on! | - iii. | in your dreams! |
| e. went like a dream | - i. | something goes very well or successfully without any problems |
| f. beyond my wildest dreams | - iv. | better than anything you ever imagined |

WORKSHEET 1

SPEAKING

1. Discuss these questions with a partner

a. Do you have or have you had any of the following ambitions?

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| to be a film star | to go to university | to own a car |
| to visit the Antarctic | to get married | to have children |
| to buy a house | to visit the USA | to be a professional sports person |
| to be an astronaut | to be happy | to write a book |
| to live by the sea | to be a rock star | to work abroad |

b. What other ambitions or dreams do you have?

c. Think about all these different ambitions. For you, which ones do you think are...

- i. realistic; quite likely to be achieved
- ii. unlikely but possible
- ii. unrealistic; nearly impossible

d. Why?

VOCABULARY

2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| a. unrealistic | unimportant or useless information and stuff |
| b. optimistic | a word that is used instead of a noun e.g. he or him |
| c. daydream | speaking in a low voice so that people can't hear you |
| d. traffic jam | pleasant thoughts that make you forget what you are doing |
| e. pronoun | cars in a queue that isn't moving |
| f. muttering | unlikely to happen, not very possible |

LISTENING SECTION 1

3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about the use of the phrase ‘in your dreams’ in English and answer these questions.

- a.** When someone says ‘in your dreams’ it means they think someone else...
- i. has a good chance of doing something; they are likely to achieve something
 - ii. has an average chance of doing something; they might achieve something
 - iii. has no chance of doing something; they won’t achieve something
 - iv. is asleep
- b.** Which of these meanings of ‘dream’ does the phrase combine?
- i. thoughts and images you feel when you sleep
 - ii. perfect or ideal
 - iii. pleasant hopes or wishes for the future

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

- a.** The phrase appeared at the end of the last century.
- b.** It is still not a common phrase.
- c.** The passenger thought the traffic jam would disappear.

WORKSHEET 2

LISTENING SECTION 2

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

- a.** What change in the use of ‘in your dreams’ has Professor Crystal noticed?
- i. The meaning has changed to include ‘perfect or ideal’
 - ii. The phrase is used to refer to anyone, not just ‘you’
 - iii. It is used in formal situations as well as informal ones

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

- a.** He heard the phrase used to talk about someone’s dream to be a pop star.
- b.** Professor Crystal was unable to make holiday plans.
- c.** Professor Crystal said the phrase ‘in my dreams’ quietly.

WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

7. Find the phrases in the text that have the following meanings.

- a. what people think or hope will happen
- b. pleasant dream like thoughts
- c. made longer or bigger; used more widely

LANGUAGE

8 Look at the example sentences of other phrases with 'dream'. Match the phrases to the definitions below.

- a. I have a **recurring dream**. It's always the same: a car arrives and a giraffe gets out. The giraffe picks me up and I turn into an aeroplane
- b. Selling my script to the Hollywood company was **a dream come true** for me. After all those years without success I'm now moving to Los Angeles.
- c. Teaching is my **dream job**. I love working with people and the holidays are long. Fantastic!
- d. You want to be a rock star? **Dream on!** You can't even sing!
- e. The school play **went like a dream**. Everyone remembered their lines and the audience loved it. Perfect!
- f. I can't believe I've just bought a Ferrari car. Honestly, it's **beyond my wildest dreams**. I never thought I would have one. Would you like a lift?

- i. something goes very well or successfully without any problems
- ii. ideal or perfect employment
- iii. in your dreams!
- iv. better than anything you ever imagined
- v. a dream you frequently have when you sleep
- vi. something happens after you have wanted it for a long time

DISCUSSION

9. Discuss these questions with your partner.

- a. Have you had a recurring dream? Can you describe it?
- b. What would your dream job be?
- c. Have you ever had a dream come true?
- d. Have you ever organised or done anything that went like a dream? Or anything that went disastrously?
- e. Has anything happened to you that was beyond your wildest dreams?
- f. Have you ever had to say ‘dream on!’ or ‘in your dreams!’ to someone? Has anyone said something like this to you?