Keep your English up to date 2

Teacher's pack
Lesson plan and student worksheets with answers

In your dreams

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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
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’.

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

Students do Vocabulary, Exercise 2 - without dictionaries at first. Practise the pronunciation of the vocabulary, as they will hear it in the talk.

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.

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’.

Students try to answer Listening: Section 2, Exercise 6. They listen again to Section 2 to check/complete their answers.

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.
In your dreams

AUDI0 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’!
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’.
## EXTRA WORK

### VOCABULARY

**Exercise 7**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>reverie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>being extended</td>
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</tbody>
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### LANGUAGE

**Exercise 8**

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