

BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

Netizen

Keep your English up to date 2

Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets
with answers

Netizen



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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: Internet use

Aims: Listening skills – A short talk
Language – ‘netizen’ and other blend words

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 word 'netizen'.

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 question 'a'.

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 blend words.

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

AUDIO SCRIPTS

Listening Section 1

When the Internet began, 'net' became a new prefix. We had words like 'net news' and 'net speak', and all sorts of things like that. And then it became a suffix as well: hyper net, news net and so on.

And then blends started to appear, with a familiar word changed. So we had 'netizen' – that is, a citizen of the Internet, an Internet citizen, netizen for short, somebody who lives their whole life there. And these people are also called 'netties', or 'netters' or even 'net-heads', I've heard.

Listening Section 2

And then we get 'netiquette' – the conventions which govern acceptable behaviour when engaging in internet dialogue. The etiquette of Internet, netiquette, especially used in emailing and chat rooms. Many sites actually offer guidance about how to behave linguistically.

There's a joke about this which relies on that little symbol, you know, the @ symbol, which you use in your email address, david.crystal @ so and so dot com. Here's the joke: How do you know you're a real netizen?

Answer: When all of your friends have an @ in their names!

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ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY

Exercise 2

- a. **prefix** a small word that we add to the beginning of another word in order to change the meaning
- b. **suffix** a small word that we add to the end of another word in order to change the meaning
- c. **blend** a mixture or combination of two or more things
- d. **chat rooms** Internet sites where people communicate with others, often strangers.
- e. **guidance** help and advice
- f. **symbol** a sign that represents something e.g. a flag

LISTENING: SECTION 1

Exercise 3

- a. i. Internet
- iii. citizen

Exercise 4

- a. False – ‘When the Internet began, ‘net’ became a new prefix’ and ‘And then it became a suffix as well’
- b. True – ‘somebody who lives their whole life there.’
- c. True – ‘these people are also called ‘netties’, or ‘netters’ or even ‘net-heads.’

LISTENING: SECTION 2

Exercise 5

- a. ii. Good manners and behaviour when using the Internet

Exercise 6

- a. False – ‘netiquette, especially used in emailing and chat rooms.’
- b. True – ‘Many sites actually offer guidance about how to behave linguistically.’
- c. False – ‘the @ symbol, which you use in your email address.’

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EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

Exercise 7

- a. familiar
- b. conventions
- c. relies on

LANGUAGE

Exercise 8

- a. **electrocute** = *electricity* + *execute*
to kill someone with electricity
- b. **guesstimate** = *guess* + *estimate*
an intelligent guess
- c. **Spanglish** = *Spanish* + *English*
Language that uses Spanish and English words
- d. **aquarobics** = *aqua* + *aerobics*
exercise routines performed in a shallow swimming pool
- e. **infotainment** = *information* and *entertainment*
a programme that uses information in order to entertain the audience, rather than just educate
- f. **camcorder** = camera + recorder
a camera that can record moving images – a video camera
- g. **rockumentary** = *rock (music)* + *documentary*
a documentary about a music group
- h. **Chunnel** = *(the English) Channel* + *tunnel*
the tunnel which connect England and France
- i. **smog** = *smoke* + *fog*
a heavy and polluted fog caused by smoke mixing with natural fog

WORKSHEET 1

SPEAKING

1. Discuss these questions with a partner

- a. Which of you uses the Internet most during a typical week?
- b. What do you like/dislike about the Internet?
- c. Do you spend time communicating with strangers over the Internet?
- d. Do you find it easy to communicate with people over the Internet? Do you think your personality is different when on the Internet compared to when you are with people in the real world?
- e. Are you a member of any Internet-only communities? Do these communities have any rules or codes of behaviour?
- f. Why do some people say that people shouldn't spend a lot of time on the Internet?
- g. Do you think you use the Internet too often?

VOCABULARY

2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| a. prefix | a mixture or combination of two or more things |
| b. suffix | a small word that we add to the beginning of another word in order to change the meaning |
| c. blend | Internet sites where people communicate with others, often strangers. |
| d. chat rooms | a small word that we add to the end of another word in order to change the meaning |
| e. guidance | a sign that represents something e.g. a flag |
| f. symbol | help and advice |

LISTENING SECTION 1

3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about the use of the phrase ‘netizen’ in English and answer this question.

a. Which two words are combined to make ‘netizen’?

- i. Internet
- ii. network
- iii. citizen
- iv. zen

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

- a.** ‘Net’ was added to the end of words before it was added at the beginning.
- b.** A ‘netizen’ spends as much of their life as possible on the Internet.
- c.** There are several other words with a similar meaning to ‘netizen’.

WORKSHEET 2

LISTENING SECTION 2

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

- a.** What is the best definition of ‘netiquette’?
- i. The computer programming language used by chat room software developers
 - ii. Good manners and behaviour when using the Internet
 - iii. The correct grammar and vocabulary for emails and chat rooms.

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

- a.** ‘Netiquette’ is most associated with Internet news sites and search engines.
- b.** Some websites help people to learn about good netiquette.
- c.** The joke refers to the way people write their names on letters.

WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

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

- a. normal and common
- b. the rules and normal ways of doing something
- c. depends on

LANGUAGE

8 'Netizen' and 'netiquette' are blend words; they are combinations of two already existing words. Look at the blend words in the example sentences below. What words do you think they are made of? What do you think the blend words mean?

- a. Turn off the electricity before you change the light bulb. You don't want to **electrocute** yourself
- b. I can't be sure how much money the business will make, but to make a **guesstimate**, considering what other businesses make, I'd say about a million dollars a year.
- c. Many people in New York, especially those from Puerto Rico, speak **Spanglish**.
- d. I've joined a new fitness class at the gym – **aquarobics**. Have you ever done that?
- e. Many news shows are not just about the facts nowadays, they're really **infotainment** shows.
- f. I got a digital **camcorder** yesterday. I'm going to make some films for the Internet.
- g. I saw a great **rockumentary** about U2 last night. It was about their latest tour.
- h. I went thought the **Chunnel** to get to France from England. It was much quicker than the boat.
- i. London used to have a terrible problem with **smog**, until they banned open fires in houses.

DISCUSSION

9. Discuss these questions with your partner.

- a. Make a few guesstimates for the following questions:
 - i. How many cups of tea will you drink in your life time?
 - ii. How many cups of coffee will you drink in your lifetime?
 - iii. How much time will you spend watching TV this year?
 - iv. How much time will you spend using the Internet this year?
 - v. How many hours of English have you studied in your life?
- b. Have you got a camcorder? What do you use it for?
- c. Have you ever tried aquarobics or similar exercise classes? Did you enjoy the classes?
- d. Have you ever watched a rockumentary? If not, which band would you like to see a rockumentary about?
- e. Does your city or country suffer from smog? What pollution problems do you have?
- f. Do you prefer infotainment shows or serious educational ones?