

BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

Not

Keep your English
up to date 2

Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets
with answers

Not



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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: Opinions

Aims: Listening skills – A short talk

Language – ‘Not!’ and other phrases connected with opinions

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 'not'.

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 are connected to giving opinions.

The final discussion activity is connected to opinions and using 'not'.

If you wish to practise the phrases from the language work, give the students some controversial topics to discuss e.g. capital punishment, vegetarianism, alcohol

AUDIO SCRIPTS

Listening Section 1

In the *Sunday Times* a couple of week's ago, I saw a usage written down – previously, I'd only heard it in speech. The headline read: 'Dumb Blondes, Not!' It was an article about a group of very high-powered women, and the headline was saying – Dumb blondes, they are not!

Well, you can see what it is, It's an abbreviation to the word 'not'. It's an unusual usage, putting the 'not' at the end, instead of in the middle. It's a bit like a tag – you know – tag questions, and tag statements. It's used to negate a statement of fact.

Listening Section 2

But it's more than just a negative. It's actually emphasising the negative opinion of the speaker. The speaker is really saying, 'What I've just said is rubbish!' It's like, 'No way!' or 'I don't think so!'

So it's usually used after an opposite point of view. I heard somebody say this coming out of a cinema, 'O, yeah, it was great film, not!' And then I've heard, 'This is a cool website, not!' And, 'Sure we're ready, not!'

So listen out for it. It's a fashion and it might not last. And if it doesn't, you can always say, 'That's a cool bit of slang, not!'

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ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY

Exercise 2

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| a. The Sunday Times | a good quality newspaper in Britain |
| b. headline | the 'title' of a newspaper article |
| c. dumb | not clever |
| d. high-powered | successful and with influence (describing a person) |
| e. to negate something | to make something negative |
| f. cool | good or fashionable |

LISTENING: SECTION 1

Exercise 3

- a. iii. at the end of the sentence
- b. ii. we disagree with our last statement

Exercise 4

- a. False – 'I saw a usage written down – previously, I'd only heard it in speech.'
- b. True – 'It was an article about a group of very high-powered women.'
- c. True – 'It's an unusual usage, putting the 'not' at the end, instead of in the middle.'

LISTENING: SECTION 2

Exercise 5

- a. ii. It is an emphatic structure; it makes something stronger
- a. The person thought the movie was good.
- b. Another person thought an Internet site was rubbish.
- c. Professor Crystal thinks we'll definitely use 'not' like this in the future.

Exercise 6

- a. False – 'O, yeah, it was great film, not!'
- b. True – 'This is a cool website, not!'
- c. False – 'It's a fashion and it might not last.'

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EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

Exercise 7

- a. abbreviation
- b. rubbish
- c. point of view

LANGUAGE

Exercise 8a.

1. 'I'm in **favour** of higher taxation on air travel.'
2. 'Are you **for** or **against** the death sentence for murderers?'
3. 'I don't like this film.' '*Neither do I. Let's go home!*'
4. 'I **doubt** the world will ever be free of nuclear weapons.'
5. 'I think the future will be worse than the present.' '*I'm not so **sure**. I think ...*'
6. 'I don't think there should be any prisons.' '***Come off it!** What would we do ...*'
7. 'If you **ask** me, footballers are paid too much money.'
8. 'I'm bored!' '***So am I. Why don't we go out for a walk?***'

Exercise 8b

- i. Are you for or against...?
- ii. I'm not so sure. + Come off it! (Informal and strong).
- iii. Neither do I. + So am I.
- iv. If you ask me...
- v. I doubt...
- vi. I'm in favour of...

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WORKSHEET 1

SPEAKING

1. Discuss these questions with a partner

a. What's your opinion about these topics?

Children and television Guns and the police Current clothes fashion

b. Which of these things influence or affect your opinions in general?

Put them in order of influence. In what ways do they influence you?

1 newspapers 3 friends 5 religion

2 television 4 family 6 teachers

c. Do you find these things easy or difficult to do?

i. telling people your opinions

ii. keeping your opinions to yourself

iii. having strong arguments with people about opinions

iv. listening to other people's opinions

v. changing your mind about something

VOCABULARY

2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions

a. **The Sunday Times** to make something negative

b. **headline** successful and with influence (describing a person)

c. **dumb** the 'title' of a newspaper article

d. **high-powered** good or fashionable

e. **to negate something** a good quality newspaper in Britain

f. **cool** the 'title' of a newspaper article

LISTENING SECTION 1

3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about the use of the word ‘not’ in English and answer these questions.

a. When we use ‘not’ in this way, we put ‘not’...

- i. at the beginning of the sentence
- ii. in the middle of the sentence
- iii. at the end of the sentence

b. When we use ‘not’ in this way, we...

- i. ...agree with our last statement
- ii. ...disagree with our last statement

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

- a.** Professor Crystal came across this phrase in written form.
- b.** The newspaper article was about successful women.
- c.** It’s not normal to put ‘not’ at the end of the sentence.

WORKSHEET 2

LISTENING SECTION 2

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

- a. What is important about this use of ‘not’?
 - i. It is an informal structure; it makes something more slang
 - ii. It is an emphatic structure; it makes something stronger
 - iii. It is an efficient structure; it makes something quicker to say

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

- a. The person thought the movie was good.
- b. Another person thought an Internet site was rubbish.
- c. Professor Crystal thinks we’ll definitely use ‘not’ like this in the future.

WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

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

- a. a shortened form of a word
- b. really bad; awful
- c. opinion

LANGUAGE

8a. Complete the expressions connected with opinion in these sentences. Use the words in the box.

favour for against neither doubt sure come ask so

1. 'I'm in ____ of higher taxation on air travel.'
2. 'Are you ____ or ____ the death sentence for murderers?'
3. 'I don't like this film.' '____ do I. Let's go home!'
4. 'I ____ the world will ever be free of nuclear weapons.'
5. 'I think the future will be worse than the present.' 'I'm not so _____. I think we can still change and improve the world.'
6. 'I don't think there should be any prisons.' '____ off it! What would we do with the criminals?'
7. 'If you ____ me, footballers are paid too much money.'
8. 'I'm bored!' '____ am I. Why don't we go out for a walk?'

8b Answer these questions about the key phrases in Exercise 8a.

- i. Which phrase asks for an opinion?
- ii. Which phrases show you disagree with someone's opinion?
- iii. Which phrases show you agree with someone's opinion?
- iv. Which phrase means 'in my own opinion'?
- v. Which phrase shows you have a negative opinion about something?
- vi. Which phrase shows you have a positive opinion about something?

DISCUSSION

9. Complete these sentences with your own personal ideas. Say your sentences to your partner. Does he/she agree with you?

- a. _____ is/was a great actor/actress, not!
- b. _____ is/was a great film, not!
- c. _____ is/was a great leader, not!
- d. _____ is an interesting sport, not!
- e. _____ is/was an excellent singer, not!
- f. _____ are/were an excellent pop/rock band, not!
- g. _____ is/was a great TV programme, not!
- h. _____ is/was a good idea, not!
- i. _____, not!