Keep your English up to date 3

Teacher’s pack
Lesson plan and student worksheets with answers

Diamond geezer

BBC WORLD SERVICE
LEARNING ENGLISH
BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date
Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes
Diamond geezer

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Level: Intermediate and above
Topic: Friends and friendship
Aims: Listening skills – A short talk
Language – ‘Diamond geezer’ and other words for types of people

Materials: Worksheet 1 – Introductory speaking and vocabulary exercises, Listening section 1
Worksheet 2 – Listening section 2
Worksheet 3 – Extra work: Vocabulary, language and role-play
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
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 ‘Diamond geezer’.

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 idiomatic phrases to describe people.

The final discussion continues to explore the theme of friendship, with a little extra practice of the language from the lesson.
Diamond geezer. London slang. Cockney accent usually, I suppose - ‘diamond geezer!’ ‘Geezer!’ It’s dialect pronunciation in London for a ‘guiser’ - that’s G-U-I-S-E-R - in other words, somebody who puts on a guise, a kind of mummer, if you like, a kind of travelling player. So that’s where the word comes from.

But the modern usage in London and further afield – a geezer is, well, it means ‘he’s one of us’. An older person tends to be a geezer. You wouldn’t usually call a child or a young man a geezer. It tends to be an older person. A geezer is your mate. It’s somebody reliable, solid, a trustworthy person.

And ‘diamond’ in front of it is, well, diamonds of course are wonderful things, they’re special things, they’re valuable things, so a diamond something, is a very special something. So, a diamond geezer is a reliable person who’s really a very special person. So you add all that up, and you get an equivalent in ‘he’s a good sort’, ‘he’s an OK chap’, ‘he’s a great bloke’, ‘he’s a good feller’, ‘he’s a hero’ – these are the glosses for diamond geezer.

But because it starred in a 2005 film staring David Jason, Diamond Geezer, there is a touch of the eccentric and the maverick about it. Here, we're talking about a thief who’s charming and cheeky and everybody loves him really, he’s got a heart of gold, he’s a good sort, he’s not really a bad guy – he’s a diamond geezer.
VOCABULARY

Exercise 2
a. Cockney someone from the East of London, usually working-class
b. a guise the appearance or look of something
c. a travelling player a performer, or actor, who performs around the country
d. a mate a friend
e. a maverick someone who does things in their own individual way that is different to the normal way of doing things
f. cheeky mischievous or slightly naughty, perhaps lacking in respect for others

LISTENING: SECTION 1

Exercise 3
a. You like him/her – ‘A geezer is your mate. It’s somebody reliable, solid, a trustworthy person.’

Exercise 4
a. True – ‘somebody who puts on a guise, a kind of mummer, if you like, a kind of travelling player.’
b. False – ‘But the modern usage in London and further afield.’
c. True – ‘You wouldn’t usually call a child or a young man a geezer. It tends to be an older person.’

LISTENING: SECTION 2

Exercise 5
a. It makes the person even more special, not just reliable.
**Exercise 6**

a. False – ‘you get an equivalent in ‘he’s a good sort’.’


c. True – ‘we’re talking about a thief who’s charming and cheeky and everybody loves him really’

**EXTRA WORK**

**VOCABULARY**

**Exercise 7**

a. dialect pronunciation

b. reliable

c. eccentric

**LANGUAGE**

**Exercise 8a**

a. a wet blanket 4. someone whose attitude stops people having fun

b. a daredevil 6. someone who takes a lot of risks

c. a wall flower 5. someone who is rather shy, especially at parties

d. a big head 1. someone who is boastful and thinks they are the best

e. a cry baby 2. someone is rather weak and too sensitive

f. a pain in the neck 7. someone who is very irritating and annoying

g. a chatterbox 8. someone who talks a lot and non-stop

h. a dark horse 3. someone who is mysterious or has hidden talents

**8b.**

1. wet blanket

2. cry baby

3. dark horse

4. daredevil
Diamond geezer
5. big head
6. chatterbox
7. pain in the neck
8. wall flower
WORKSHEET 1

SPEAKING

1. Discuss these questions with your partner.
   a. What makes a good friend for you? Put these personal qualities in order of importance. Can you think of other characteristics that are important?
      - a similar taste in music and clothes
      - similar sporting interests
      - a similar sense of humour
      - a similar family background
      - kindness
      - being able to trust him/her
      - similar political views
      - similar religious views

   b. Describe a good friend of yours. How and when did you meet? What is he/she like? What kind of things do they like? Why do you think you are friends?

VOCABULARY

2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions.
   a. a Cockney  
      a performer, or actor, who performs around the country
   b. a guise  
      someone from the East of London, usually working-class
   c. a travelling player  
      someone who does things in their own individual way that is different to the normal way of doing things
   d. a mate  
      mischievous or slightly naughty, perhaps lacking in respect for others
   e. a maverick  
      the appearance or look of something
   f. cheeky  
      a friend
LISTENING SECTION 1

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

a. If you say someone is a geezer, do you like him/her?

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

a. An actor could be described as a guiser.

b. The word ‘geezer’ is only used in London.

c. You wouldn’t call a teenager a geezer.
LISTENING SECTION 2

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

a. What is the effect of putting the word ‘diamond’ in front of ‘geezer’?

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

a. ‘He’s a good sort’ is different in meaning to ‘he’s a diamond geezer’.
b. A film called Diamond Geezer was produced in 2004.
c. In the film, the lead character is a criminal, but we like him because he is not so bad.
WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

7. Find the phrases in the text that have the following meanings.
   a. the regional sound of a language
   b. dependable and trustworthy
   c. strange and unusual

LANGUAGE

8a. There are many other idiomatic phrases that are used to describe types of people. Match the phrases with the definitions.

   a. a wet blanket  1. someone who is boastful and thinks they are the best
   b. a daredevil  2. someone is rather weak and too sensitive
   c. a wall flower  3. someone who is mysterious or has hidden talents
   d. a big head  4. someone whose attitude stops people having fun
   e. a cry baby  5. someone who is rather shy, especially at parties
   f. a pain in the neck  6. someone who takes a lot of risks
   g. a chatterbox  7. someone who is very irritating and annoying
   h. a dark horse  8. someone who talks a lot and non-stop

8b. Choose an idiom from Exercise 8a to complete these sentences.

   1. Don’t invite David to the dinner. He’s such a ________ that he’ll ruin the atmosphere. He’ll just complain and moan.
   2. I can’t believe that Sarah is such a ________. She gets upset so easily.
   3. I didn’t know you were in a rock band. You’re quite a ________, aren’t you?
   4. I’m not enough of a ________ to go bunjee-jumping or rock climbing.
   5. He won’t stop going on about coming first in the exam. He’s such a ________.
   6. My mum won’t let me use the phone at home, she says I’m too much of a ________.
   7. I can’t stand Bob. I find him a ________, he gets on my nerves.
   8. If she really wants to meet people, she needs to be less of a ________. 
DISCUSSION

9a. Discuss these questions with your partner.

a. Do you know anyone who is a ...?
   diamond geezer  a dark horse  a chatterbox  a daredevil  a big head

b. What advice would you give to a foreigner who has just moved to your country and they want to make some friends?

c. Have you ever moved somewhere new and had to make new friends, what did you do?

d. Are you someone who has lots of different friends, or someone who has a few close friends?

e. Are you someone who makes friends quickly and easily, or does it take time for you to make friends?

f. Who do you think knows you better – your friends or your family? Why?