

Keep your English  
up to date 4

## Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets with answers

D'oh!



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# BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

## Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

### D'oh!

#### CONTENTS

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1. Level, topic, language, aims, materials
2. Lesson stages
3. Answers
4. Audio script
5. Student worksheets 1, 2, 3

**Level:** Intermediate and above

**Topic:** Making mistakes

**Aims:** Listening skills – A short talk

Language – 'D'oh!' and other exclamatory words/expressions

**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](http://bbclearningenglish.com)

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## BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

### Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

### D'oh!

#### LESSON STAGES

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##### A

Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a talk by Gavin Dudeney, an expert on the English language, and that the talk is about the way English is changing. This particular talk is about the word, or expression, 'd'oh!'.

##### 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 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 exclamations, such as 'eurgh!'.

The final discussion uses some of the language from the lesson.

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### **Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes**

#### **D'oh!**

#### **AUDIO SCRIPTS**

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##### **Listening Section 1**

D'oh! Let me just say that again... ready? D'oh! If you're under 30, you're probably picturing a yellow cartoon character called Homer Simpson, right? If you don't know who Homer Simpson is, he's the father of the family. Now imagine him saying 'D'oh!' and picture this situation: Homer has probably injured himself, done something stupid, been caught out doing something stupid or lost out on a good opportunity. D'oh! is an expression that says 'Damn! I'm stupid', or 'Oh, not again!' - the kind of thing you might say when you realise you've done something silly.

##### **Listening Section 2**

D'oh! first appeared in the Oxford English Dictionary in 2002, but it was first heard on a 1988 episode of the Tracey Ullman TV show featuring an early version of the Simpsons, with Homer being knocked out by a punching bag. Since then it has become a regular expression used to express frustration, or a sense of inevitable doom. D'oh!

You should be careful not to mix this up with 'duh!', which is valley girl speak (as heard in southern California) for 'everyone knows that' or 'obviously'. You may have seen television characters rolling their eyes in exasperation and exclaiming 'Duh!' when they think someone is being stupid.

So, you might say 'D'oh!' when you've been stupid, and 'Duh!' when you think someone else is being stupid, but then duh!, everyone knows that, right?

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**D'oh!**

**ANSWER KEY**

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**VOCABULARY**

**Exercise 2**

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>a. a cartoon character</b> | something from an animated film or TV show             |
| <b>b. to injure yourself</b>  | to hurt yourself                                       |
| <b>c. frustration</b>         | a sense of annoyance and growing impatience            |
| <b>d. episode</b>             | one TV programme from a series of connected programmes |
| <b>e. doom</b>                | a sense of hopelessness                                |
| <b>f. exasperation</b>        | a sense of annoyance and growing impatience            |

**LISTENING: SECTION 1**

**Exercise 3**

- a. ii.** D'oh!
- b. iii.** made a mistake

**Exercise 4**

- a.** True – 'you're probably picturing a yellow cartoon character called Homer Simpson.'
- b.** False – he gives four examples: 'Homer has probably injured himself, done something stupid, been caught out doing something stupid or lost out on a good opportunity.'
- c.** True – 'D'oh! is an expression that says 'Damn! I'm stupid', or 'Oh, not again!'

**LISTENING: SECTION 2**

**Exercise 5**

- a. i.** duh!

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#### **D'oh!**

##### **Exercise 6**

- a. True – ‘D’oh! first appeared in the Oxford English Dictionary in 2002, but it was first heard on a 1988 episode of the Tracey Ullman TV show’
- b. True – ‘valley girl speak (as heard in southern California)’
- c. False – ‘you might say ‘D’oh!’ when you’ve been stupid, and ‘Duh!’ when you think someone else is being stupid.’

#### **EXTRA WORK**

#### **VOCABULARY**

##### **Exercise 7**

- a. to picture something
- b. to be caught out doing something (been caught out doing something)
- c. valley girl speak

#### **LANGUAGE**

##### **Exercise 8a**

- a. Eurgh!
- b. Mmm!
- c. Wow!
- d. Erm
- e. Uhuh
- f. Phew!
- g. Oh!
- h. Phew!
- i. Hey!

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**Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes**  
**D'oh!**

**Exercise 8b**

- a. Mmm! That meal was delicious.
- b. Wow! Look at that waterfall. That's really impressive.
- c. Phew! That was lucky, we nearly hit that other car.
- d. Well, erm, I don't know what to say, let me think...
- e. Hey! Come back! You've left your wallet.
- f. Oh! You're married. I didn't realise. But you're not wearing a ring.
- g. Uhuh, I see what you're saying. Go on.
- h. Eurgh! I can't believe I just ate that. Dog toenail soup. Horrible.
- i. Phew! Can we put the air conditioning on? It's boiling in here.

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## WORKSHEET 1

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### SPEAKING

**1. Discuss these questions with your partner.**

a. Which of these things do you never, sometimes or often do?

- Forget to do your homework
- Leave your keys at home
- Lose your wallet or purse
- Forget a meeting or appointment
- Forget to set your alarm clock
- Hit your toe on the corner of your bed
- Drop plates or cups

b. Do you think you are generally a careful person, or do you tend to make silly mistakes?

c. What is the most embarrassing or stupid mistake that you have made?

d. How can you stop making mistakes?

### VOCABULARY

**2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions.**

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| a. <b>a cartoon character</b> | a sense of annoyance and growing impatience            |
| b. <b>to injure yourself</b>  | a sense of hopelessness                                |
| c. <b>frustration</b>         | something from an animated film or TV show             |
| d. <b>episode</b>             | a sense of annoyance and growing impatience            |
| e. <b>doom</b>                | to hurt yourself                                       |
| f. <b>exasperation</b>        | one TV programme from a series of connected programmes |

**LISTENING SECTION 1**

**3. Now, listen to Gavin Dudeney talking about the use of a new word in English and answer these questions.**

**a.** What do you think is the spelling of the word that is being discussed?

**i.** D'ay!

**ii.** D'oh!

**iii.** D'ar!

**b.** When do we say this word? When we have...

**i.** had a good idea

**ii.** done something clever

**iii.** made a mistake

**iv.** remembered to do something

**4. Listen to Section 1 again and decide if the following statements are true or false, according to Gavin Dudeney.**

**a.** The word is strongly associated with a character from an animated TV series.

**b.** Gavin gives three examples when Homer Simpson might use this word.

**c.** 'Oh no, not again!' is similar in meaning to this word.

**WORKSHEET 2**

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**LISTENING SECTION 2**

- 5. Listen to Section 2 of the talk and answer these questions.**
- a.** Gavin describes another similar word. How do you think it is spelt?
- i.** duh!
  - ii.** doh!
  - iii.** dee!
  - iv.** dah!
- 6. Listen again to Section 2. Are the following sentences true or false?**
- a.** ‘D’oh!’ existed for 14 years before it appeared in the Oxford English Dictionary.
  - b.** Valley girls are young women who come from a certain part of the U.S..
  - c.** You can use ‘d’oh!’ and ‘duh!’ in the same way.

## WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

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### VOCABULARY

7. Find the phrases in the text that have the following meanings.
- imagine something so that you can see it in your head
  - when someone discovers that you have done something naughty or stupid
  - a slang language spoken by young women in part of the U.S.

### LANGUAGE

- 8a. 'D'oh!' and 'duh!' are exclamations that carry a particular meaning. Match the following exclamations to the situations in which we use them, given below.

Oh!      Erm      Wow!      Eurgh!  
Mmm!      Phew! (x2)      Hey!      Uhuh

- We say this when we eat, touch or see something disgusting
- We say this when we eat something tasty
- We say this when we see something incredible or amazing
- We say this when we are thinking about something, when we are not sure what to say
- We say this when we agree with what someone is saying
- We say this when we find something very hot, perhaps when we walk into a hot room
- We say this when we think something is surprising.
- We say this when we have a narrow escape; when we just manage to avoid an accident
- We say this when we want to get someone's attention

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### 8b Put the correct exclamation in the sentences and short dialogues below.

- j. \_\_\_\_\_ That meal was delicious.
- k. \_\_\_\_\_ Look at that waterfall. That's really impressive.
- l. \_\_\_\_\_ That was lucky, we nearly hit that other car.
- m. Well, \_\_\_\_\_, I don't know what to say, let me think...
- n. \_\_\_\_\_ Come back! You've left your wallet.
- o. \_\_\_\_\_ You're married. I didn't realise. But you're not wearing a ring.
- p. \_\_\_\_\_, I see what you're saying. Go on.
- q. \_\_\_\_\_ I can't believe I just ate that. Dog toenail soup. Horrible.
- r. \_\_\_\_\_ Can we put the air conditioning on? It's boiling in here.

### Discussion

#### 9. Discuss these questions with your partner.

- a. When was the last time that you could have said 'd'oh!'? What happened?
- b. When was the last time that you could have said 'eurgh!'? Why?
- c. When was the last time that you could have said 'pew!'? How hot was it? Or, what was the near accident?
- d. When was the last time that you could have said 'wow!'? What did you see?
- e. When was the last time that you could have said 'oh!'? Why were you surprised?
- f. When was the last time that you could have said 'duh!'? Who to?
- g. When was the last time that you could have said 'mmm!'? What were you eating?