

Keep your English up to date 4 Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets with answers

Newbie



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BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date
Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes
Newbie

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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: The first time you did something

Aims: Listening skills – A short talk

Language – ‘Newbie’ and other phrases/words with ‘new’ and ‘first’

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/1720_uptodate4/page7.shtml

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LESSON STAGES

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 'newbie'.

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 words/phrases made with 'new' and 'first'.

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

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AUDIO SCRIPTS

Listening Section 1

You might remember seeing two zeros in another word in this series (w00t!) and that there we saw how online gamers and chatters often use their own language and spellings for common words. Newbie (or n00b) is another word that was made popular by these groups of people.

A newbie is a new member of any community, online game or web-based activity. It's a difficult word in that it's often hard to tell the sentiment behind its use. In a purely descriptive way, it simply refers to new members, and doesn't entail any kind of judgement on the part of the user – 'there will be a meeting for newbies on Thursday to go over the basics'. However, it is often used in a derogatory context, with older more experienced members looking down on new members and finding them a distraction or an irritation – 'just ignore the newbies, they're not worth the trouble'.

In the derogatory context you might find 'n00b' to be more common.

Listening Section 2

Newbie certainly has more history than this - in Vietnam, new arrivals were often referred to as newbies, and 'non-useful bodies' was the term given to new sailors on submarines until they had learnt the necessary skills to contribute to the running of the craft (they were often referred to as N.U.B.s, or 'nubes') – but it is the modern, technology usage which is most common and most widely-recognised.

A word from the wise – if you're a n00b, the best thing you can do is keep your head down and listen for a while. In that respect, online communities are no different from face-to-face ones. Learning the ropes is part of becoming a respected member.

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ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY

Exercise 2

- a. **community** a group of people who have a shared interest
- b. **the sentiment behind something** the feeling that a word or action carries
- c. **derogatory** negative and critical
- d. **Vietnam** a country in South-East Asia which experienced a long war in the 1960s and 1970s, which involved the U.S.
- e. **submarine** a sailing craft that travels underwater
- f. **learning the ropes** finding out the skills and ways of behaviour that are connected to a job or other task

LISTENING: SECTION 1

Exercise 3

- a. NEWBIE
- b. **ii.** that someone recently joined a group or society for the first time?

Exercise 4

- a. True – ‘Newbie (or n00b) is another word that was made popular by these groups of people.’
- b. False – ‘It’s a difficult word in that it’s often hard to tell the sentiment behind its use.’
- c. False – ‘In the derogatory context you might find ‘n00b’ to be more common.’

LISTENING: SECTION 2

Exercise 5

- a. In Vietnam during the war and in the navy on submarines

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Exercise 6

- a. False – ‘non-useful bodies’
- b. False – ‘the best thing you can do is keep your head down and listen for a while.’
- c. True – ‘but it is the modern, technology usage which is most common and most widely-recognised.’

EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

Exercise 7

- a. entail
- b. a distraction
- c. to contribute

LANGUAGE

Exercise 8a

- a. first time buyer: someone buying a house who has never bought one before
- b. firstborn: a baby that has just been born
- c. newborn: the oldest child in a family
- d. new media: modern digital technology, such as the Internet
- e. a first: the highest level of attainment at a British university, a Grade A degree
- f. new town: a specially planned and built town in an area where there wasn't a town before
- g. first class: the most expensive and luxurious form of travel
- h. first aid: medical help that is immediately given in an emergency, before you get to a hospital.
- i. brand new: an adjective that emphasises that you have just bought something; the opposite of second-hand.

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Exercise 8b

- a.** first
- b.** first time buyers
- c.** new town
- d.** brand new
- e.** first aid
- f.** first class
- g.** new born
- h.** firstborn
- i.** new media

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WORKSHEET 1

SPEAKING

1. Discuss these questions with your partner.

- a.** Can you remember any of these times and events? How did you feel and what can you remember about how things went?

The first time you started at a new school

The first time you joined a new sports team or club

The first time you started a job, full or part-time

The first time you went on a date with someone

The first time you had to give a public speech or performance

The first time you drove a car or rode a motorbike

The first time you went dancing at a disco or nightclub

- b.** In general, do you feel very, quite or only slightly nervous the first time that you have to do something?

VOCABULARY

2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions.

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. community | negative and critical |
| b. the sentiment behind something | a country in South-East Asia which experienced a long war, in the 1960s and 1970s, which involved the U.S. |
| c. derogatory | the feeling that a word or action carries |
| d. Vietnam | finding out the skills and ways of behaviour that are connected to a job or other task |
| e. submarine | a group of people who have a shared interest |
| f. learning the ropes | a sailing craft that travels underwater |

LISTENING SECTION 1

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

- a. How do you think the new word is spelt?

- b. Does the word mean...
 - i. that someone recently bought something for the first time?
 - ii. that someone recently joined a group or society for the first time?
 - iii. that someone recently met someone for the first time?

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

- a. You can also write the word using some numbers instead of letters.
- b. It is easy to realise when the word is being used in a negative way.
- c. It is more usual to use 'newbie' in a negative way than to use the other similar word.

WORKSHEET 2

LISTENING SECTION 2

- 5. In the second part of the talk, Gavin explains more about the new word. Listen to Section 2 of the talk and answer these questions.**
- a. In which two contexts does Gavin say the word was first used, before it was used by online communities?
- 6. Listen again to Section 2. Are the following sentences true or false?**
- a. On submarines, the acronym that is used for new crew members comes from the phrase **Not Useful Bodies** (N.U.B.s or nubes).
- b. If you are a new community member, you should be a very active member immediately.
- c. The use of the word 'newbie' in an Internet context is the most frequent and well-known one.

WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

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

- a. involve or require; need
- b. something that stops you concentrating
- c. to help a group achieve a task successfully and positively

LANGUAGE

8a. There are many phrases and words that include the word ‘new’ or the word ‘first’. A newbie could also be described as a ‘first timer’. Look at the following definitions and decide if the word or phrase needs ‘new’ or ‘first’.

- a. _____ time buyer: someone buying a house who has never bought one before
- b. _____ born: a baby that has just been born
- c. _____ born: the oldest child in a family
- d. _____ media: modern digital technology, such as the Internet
- e. a _____: the highest level of attainment at a British university, a Grade A degree
- f. _____ town: a specially planned and built town in an area where there wasn't a town before
- g. _____ class: the most expensive and luxurious form of travel
- h. _____ aid: medical help that is immediately given in an emergency, before you get to a hospital.
- i. brand _____: an adjective that emphasises that you have just bought something; the opposite of second-hand.

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8b Use the words from exercise 8a to complete the sentences below. You may need to be careful with your grammar.

- a. David did so well at university; he got a _____.
- b. It's very difficult for _____ these days because houses are so expensive.
- c. I don't want to live in a _____. They have good facilities, but no character.
- d. Has Sarah just won the lottery? I saw her driving a _____ car today.
- e. Do you know any _____. Sam's broken his arm!
- f. When I'm rich I'm going to fly _____, no more cramped seats and bad food for me!
- g. I'm not that interested in _____ babies. I like them when they are a little older and play more.
- h. In some countries, it is common for the _____ child to take over the family business, when they are older of course!
- i. It's funny really, but what we call _____ these days, you know, things like the Internet, we will have to call something else in the future. I wonder what?

Discussion

9. Discuss these questions with your partner.

- a. Are you the firstborn in your family? What responsibilities do firstborn children often face?
- b. Have you ever travelled first class?
- c. Are there any new towns in your country? What reputation do they have?
- d. Do you use new media more than traditional media, such as newspapers and TV?
- e. Do you know anyone who has got the equivalent of a first at university? How hard did they study?
- f. What's the most expensive brand new thing you have ever bought?
- g. Do you know any first aid? What should you do if someone has stopped breathing?
- h. What's the situation like for first time buyers in your country?
- i. Have you ever been a newbie, particularly with regard to an Internet community?