

Keep your English  
up to date 4

## Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets with answers

Pre-owned



**BBC WORLD SERVICE**  
LEARNING ENGLISH



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

© British Broadcasting Corporation 2008

# BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

## Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

### Pre-owned

#### CONTENTS

---

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:** Shopping and second-hand goods

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

Language – ‘pre-owned’; vocabulary using the prefix ‘pre’

**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)

**This plan was downloaded from:**

**[bbclearningenglish.com/radio/specials/1720\\_uptodate4/page10.shtml](http://bbclearningenglish.com/radio/specials/1720_uptodate4/page10.shtml)**

# BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

## Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

### Pre-owned

#### 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 'pre-owned'.

##### 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', 'b' and 'c'.

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 using the prefix 'pre'.

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

**BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date**  
**Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes**  
**Pre-owned**

**AUDIO SCRIPTS**

---

**Listening Section 1**

Elsewhere in this series we considered euphemisms and how sometimes people use words to soften the blow of something bad, or to make something sound better than it actually is. And this is certainly the case with 'pre-owned'.

Do you buy everything new, or do you sometimes shop in second-hand shops, or one of the charity shops which are in every UK high street? If you really want to save money you might go 'dumpster diving' – fishing around in containers in streets for handy pieces of furniture or similar which have been left out by their previous owners to be taken away by the local council.

Or perhaps you buy things on an online auction site such as eBay? In the week following Christmas day in 2007, over one million unwanted Christmas presents were put up for sale on eBay and all of these things had already had at least one owner.

**Listening Section 2**

Some years ago, you would have thought of these items as 'second hand', but these days you're more likely to consider them 'pre-owned'. It has a much nicer sound to it, doesn't it? Nobody wants to have a 'second' anything, but 'pre-owned' has a warm feeling to it, almost like you're looking after it for someone else.

'Pre-owned' appears to have originated with the automobile industry in the sixties, where dealers realised that people were more likely to buy a car marked like this, than one marked as 'second hand'. It just sounds better. And you can take this even further, make the process even more acceptable with the ultra-modern version - 'pre-loved'!

**BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date**  
**Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes**  
**Pre-owned**

**ANSWER KEY**

---

**VOCABULARY**

**Exercise 2**

- a. euphemism**            an indirect way of saying something;
- b. charity shop**        a place which sells second-hand goods in order to raise money for good causes
- c. dumpster**            a large container for rubbish and unwanted goods
- d. auction**             a way of buying and selling things through a process of bidding
- e. automobile**         a car
- f. dealer**                someone who sells something

**LISTENING: SECTION 1**

**Exercise 3**

- a. ii.** pre-owned.
- b.** shopping

**Exercise 4**

- a.** True – ‘people use words ... to make something sound better than it actually is. And this is certainly the case with ‘pre-owned’.’
- b.** False – ‘fishing around in containers in streets for handy pieces of furniture or similar which have been left out by their previous owners.’
- c.** True – ‘over one million unwanted Christmas presents were put up for sale on eBay.’

**LISTENING: SECTION 2**

**Exercise 5**

- a. ii.** something has belonged to someone else before you buy it.

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

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

#### **Pre-owned**

##### **Exercise 6**

- a. False – ‘It, [pre-owned], has a much nicer sound to it.’
- b. True – ‘‘Pre-owned’ appears to have originated with the automobile industry in the sixties’
- c. False – ‘you can take this even further, make the process even more acceptable with the ultra-modern version - ‘pre-loved’!’

#### **EXTRA WORK**

##### **VOCABULARY**

##### **Exercise 7**

- a. fishing around
- b. handy
- c. ultra-modern

##### **LANGUAGE**

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

- a. Pre-1960s fashion
- b. Precooked meals
- c. Prehistoric
- d. To prejudge someone
- e. Premeditated crime
- f. A prenuptial agreement
- g. Prepay
- h. Pre-school
- i. Pre-teen

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

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

#### **Pre-owned**

#### **Exercise 8b**

- a. prehistoric
- b. prepay
- c. prenuptial agreement
- d. pre-teen
- e. preschool
- f. prejudge
- g. premeditated
- h. pre-1960s
- i. precooked

# BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

## WORKSHEET 1

---

### SPEAKING

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

**a.** When and where did you last buy any of the things below?

a jacket      a car      a bicycle      a piece of furniture  
a CD      a DVD      a pair of shoes      an item of crockery (plate, cup etc.)  
a picture      an item of electrical equipment

**b.** Have you ever bought, or would you ever buy, any of those things second-hand?

**c.** In your country, what ways are there to buy things second-hand?

At markets    In special shops    Through a local newspaper  
On the Internet    From personal adverts in small shops

**c.** Have you ever sold anything that you owned?

### VOCABULARY

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

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| a. <b>euphemism</b>    | a way of buying or selling things through a process of bidding               |
| b. <b>charity shop</b> | a car or motor vehicle   |
| c. <b>dumpster</b>     | an indirect way of saying something  |
| d. <b>auction</b>      | someone who sells something  |
| e. <b>automobile</b>   | a large container for rubbish and unwanted goods                             |
| f. <b>dealer</b>       | a place which sell second-hand goods in order to raise money for good causes |

**LISTENING SECTION 1**

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

- a. How do you spell the word that is being discussed?
- i. pre-owed
  - ii. pre-owned
  - iii. pre-honed
- b. What is the general topic of this section of the talk?
- c. What do you think the new word means?  
(You will find out in the second part of the listening)

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

- a. The word is used to make something sound more attractive than it actually is.
- b. You pay for things in a shop when you go ‘dumpster diving’.
- c. Many people sell their Christmas presents on the Internet.

**WORKSHEET 2**

---

**LISTENING SECTION 2**

- 5. Listen to Section 2 of the talk and answer these questions.**
- a.** Pre-owned means that...
- i.** something needs repairing before you buy it.
  - ii.** something has belonged to someone else before you buy it.
  - iii.** something was stolen before you bought it.
- 6. Listen again to Section 2. Are the following sentences true or false?**
- a.** 'Second-hand' has a more positive sound than 'pre-owned'.
  - b.** Second-hand car sellers were the first to use the term 'pre-owned'.
  - c.** 'Pre-owned' may have developed from the word 'pre-loved'.

## WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

---

### VOCABULARY

7. Find the phrases in the text that have the following meanings.
- searching or looking for something; perhaps hoping to find something by chance
  - useful or convenient
  - very new or contemporary

### LANGUAGE

- 8a. There are many words and phrases that use 'Pre' as a prefix that means 'before'. Complete the words or phrases below with the words in the box.

teen pay judge nuptial cooked historic 1960s school meditated
---

- Pre-\_\_\_\_\_ fashion : this is clothing that people wore before this important date
- Pre\_\_\_\_\_ meals: this is food that you can buy and you only need to heat up
- Pre\_\_\_\_\_ : relating to the time before history was first written down
- To pre\_\_\_\_\_ someone: to decide what someone is like before you have know a lot about them
- Pre\_\_\_\_\_ crime: an offence that was carefully planned beforehand; often a murder
- A pre\_\_\_\_\_ agreement: a special contract made between two people before they get married, which usually covers financial matters in their relationship
- Pre\_\_\_\_\_ : using a system in which you spend the money on a service before you use it.
- Pre-\_\_\_\_\_ – a place for very young children before they begin proper education
- Pre-\_\_\_\_\_ – relating to children aged between 9 and 12

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

**8b. Use the words and phrases from Exercise 8a to complete the sentences below.**

- a. I'm really interested in dinosaurs and other \_\_\_\_\_ animals.
- b. When I make international calls, I buy a \_\_\_\_\_ phone card.
- c. I think the singer Sir Paul McCartney should have made a \_\_\_\_\_ with his new wife. When they got divorced it was very expensive for him.
- d. More and more companies are targeting advertising towards the \_\_\_\_\_ age group, but I think children should not be so pressured into buying things.
- e. My sister sends her three year old girl to \_\_\_\_\_ so that she can learn to socialise with other children.
- f. People often \_\_\_\_\_ me because of my punk haircut and scruffy clothes, but I'm actually a very polite person.
- g. The punishment for \_\_\_\_\_ murder should be worse than for a murder which is committed in a moment of anger or passion.
- h. \_\_\_\_\_ was really different, especially for women. After the early 1960s, mini skirts became common, but you would never have seen anything like that before.
- i. I never use \_\_\_\_\_ meals, I think they are unhealthy. I always buy fresh ingredients and make my own food.

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

### Discussion

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

- a. What do you know about your country in prehistoric times?
- b. Are there many different types of prepay systems in your country?
- c. Do you think that pre-teen children are too grown up these days? Do you think they should be interested in fashion?
- d. Do many children go to preschool in your country? Did you? Why do you think parents send children to preschool?
- e. Have you ever prejudged someone, only to then discover they are very different?
- f. What's your opinion of precooked meals? Are they popular in your country?
- g. Have you ever heard of anyone having a prenuptial agreement?
- h. What was pre-1960s fashion like in your country?
- i. Does your country distinguish between premeditated murder and murder of passion?