

Keep your English up to date 4 Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets with answers

Smirt



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Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

Smirt

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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: Friends, dating and romance

Aims: Listening skills – A short talk

Language – ‘Smirt’ and other vocabulary connected to dating and romance

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/page3.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 'smirt'.

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 verbs connected to romance and relationships.

The final discussion uses some of the language from the lesson, and extends the topic from friendship to relationships.

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AUDIO SCRIPTS

Listening Section 1

Some people still smoke (actually, I'm one of them!) – it's becoming less common since different bans came in in different countries, but it's still something that a lot of people do. Of course, these days in many countries you can't smoke inside office buildings, banks and post offices, so you'll often see smokers standing outside having a quick cigarette. But did you know that we often meet our partners in the workplace? And what better place to break the ice with the partner of your dreams than outside on the pavement while you're both smoking? A short period in which to get to know each other and check your compatibility. In short, a place to flirt with potential partners.

Listening Section 2

And that's where we get the verb 'to smirt' – a portmanteau (a blend) of the words 'smoke' and 'flirt' – a kind of social pastime for smokers. So next time you pass an office building in winter and you see the smokers outside, don't feel too sorry for them standing there in the cold – they're probably having a great time smirting with each other.

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ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY

Exercise 2

- a. **a ban** when something is not allowed or not permitted
- b. **your partner** your wife, husband, boyfriend or girlfriend
- c. **to break the ice** to start a conversation between strangers; to get a party going
- d. **the pavement** the place on a road where people walk
- e. **compatibility** how well two things go together; how well they suit each other
- f. **to flirt** to chat with someone that you are romantically interested in; you try to impress him/her and want to see if he/she likes you

LISTENING: SECTION 1

Exercise 3

- a. There are different bans in different countries – ‘these days in many countries you can’t smoke inside office buildings, banks and post offices.’

Exercise 4

- a. False – ‘it’s still something that a lot of people do.’
- b. True – ‘Did you know that we often meet our partners in the workplace?’
- c. True – ‘A short period in which to get to know each other and check your compatibility.’

LISTENING: SECTION 2

Exercise 5

- a. SMIRT – a combination of smoke and flirt

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Exercise 6

- a. True – ‘a kind of social pastime for smokers’
- b. False – ‘don’t feel too sorry for them standing there in the cold’
- c. False – ‘they’re probably having a great time smirting with each other.’

EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

Exercise 7

- a. period
- b. blend
- c. pastime

LANGUAGE

Exercise 8a

- a. to catch someone’s eye
- b. to fall in love at first sight
- c. to chat someone up
- d. to ask someone out
- e. to go out with someone
- f. to be in love with someone
- g. to fall out of love with someone
- h. to split up with someone

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Exercise 8b

- a. As soon as I saw him, I knew he was the one. I fell in love at first sight.
- b. Do you have a line, something that you always say, when you first try to chat someone up?
- c. I don't know what to do. I think I have fallen out of love with my wife, but I don't want a divorce
- d. Do you remember that girl I was chatting up at the party? Well, I telephoned her and asked her out, and she said yes! So, we're going to the cinema tomorrow.
- e. It's very sad. Sarah split up with Trevor last week. Apparently, he had been seeing someone else, although that might just be gossip.
- f. Happy golden anniversary, darling. 50 years, and I am still in love with you .
Wonderful, isn't it?
- g. David and I have been going out with each other for 7 years now. My parents think it is time we got married.
- h. I really like that girl on the other side of the bar, but I can't even catch her eye. She never looks this way. It's hopeless!

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LISTENING SECTION 1

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

a. What problems do smokers have in many countries?

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

a. According to Gavin, few people smoke these days.

b. People frequently first meet their boyfriend or girlfriend at work.

c. A cigarette break is the ideal chance to see if you like someone's personality

WORKSHEET 2

LISTENING SECTION 2

- 5. In the second part of the talk, Gavin introduces the new word. Listen to Section 2 of the talk and answer this question.**
- a. How do you think the new word is spelt? Which two words is it a combination of?
-
-
-
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-
- 6. Listen again to Section 2. Are the following sentences true or false?**
- a. Gavin suggests that this activity is almost a hobby for smokers.
- b. Gavin thinks we should feel pity for smokers.
- c. Gavin seems to think that smirking is not enjoyable.

WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

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

- a. a general amount of time
- b. a mixture or combination
- c. an activity that you do to fill your free time

LANGUAGE

8a. Smirt and flirt are verbs connected to romance, dating and relationships. Look at the verb phrases below, which are all connected to that same theme. Can you complete them with a word from the box?

Discuss with your partner what you think each one means. They are in the order that they might usually occur during a relationship.

up eye out sight of in up out

- a. to catch someone's _____
- b. to fall in love at first _____
- c. to chat someone _____
- d. to ask someone _____
- e. to go _____ with someone
- f. to be _____ love with someone
- g. to fall out _____ love with someone
- h. to split _____ with someone

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

- a. As soon as I saw him, I knew he was the one. I _____.
- b. Do you have a line, something that you always say, when you first try to _____?
- c. I don't know what to do. I think I _____ my wife, but I don't want a divorce.
- d. Do you remember that girl I was chatting up at the party? Well, I telephoned her and _____, and she said yes! So, we're going to the cinema tomorrow.
- e. It's very sad. Sarah _____ Trevor last week. Apparently, he had been seeing someone else, although that might just be gossip.
- f. Happy golden anniversary, darling. 50 years, and I _____ still _____ you .
Wonderful, isn't it?
- g. David and I _____ each other for 7 years now. My parents think it is time we got married.
- h. I really like that girl on the other side of the bar, but I can't even _____. She never looks this way. It's hopeless!

Discussion

9. Discuss these questions with your partner.

- a. Do you believe in love at first sight? Has it ever happened to you?
- b. Are you going out with anyone at the moment? Can you describe that person?
- c. Do you think you are confident at chatting people up, or are you rather shy?
- d. Have you ever smirted?
- e. What qualities do you/would you look for in a partner? What kind of person do you think would be compatible with you?
- f. What do you think are the secrets of a long-lasting relationship?