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Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets
with answers

Lesson 5
Alcopops



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Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

Lesson 5: Alcopops

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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: Alcoholic drinks

Language: Blend words (Portmanteau words): Alcopops

Aims: Listening skills – A short talk
Language – making and understanding blend words

Materials: Worksheet 1 – Introductory speaking and vocabulary exercises, listening section 1
Worksheet 2 – Listening section 2
Worksheet 3 – Extra work: Vocabulary and writing
Tapescript – Available in teacher's notes
Recording of the talk – Available online at bbclearningenglish.com

This plan was downloaded from:

bbclearningenglish.com/radio/specials/1728_uptodate/page6.shtml

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LESSON STAGES

A

Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a talk by Professor David Crystal about the way the English language changes. This particular talk is about blend words, particularly one connected to a new drink.

B

Hand out **Student Worksheet 1**. Students do **Speaking Exercise 1** in small groups or pairs.

C

Students do the **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 Exercise 3** and then listen to Section 1 of the talk. They answer the questions.

Students listen again and answer **Listening Exercise 4**

E

Hand out **Student Worksheet 2**

Students answer **Listening Exercise 5** and read **Listening Exercise 6**

Students listen to section 2 of the talk and check their answer for **Listening Exercise 5** and answer **Listening exercise 6**

F

Students try to answer **Listening Exercise 7**. They listen again to **Listening 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 tapescript and play the complete talk as they read.

The blend words in these exercises are all being considered for inclusion in the Oxford English Dictionary.

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TAPESCRIPTS

Listening Section 1

One of the big questions always with a language is: “how do new words come into being?” Well, you can borrow them from other languages of course; a lot of English words are like that. But one of the lesser-known ways of making new words is to form a blend – and a blend is when you run two words together to make a third word. And people have done it since the beginning of English actually. To take a recent example: alcopops – carbonated fruit flavoured drinks containing alcohol – a very controversial thing this was when they first came in a few years ago, because it was obviously being aimed at children, and people were very concerned that children would now have some alcohol introduced into them that they weren't expecting.

Listening Section 2

But it's the word I want to talk about today – a very interesting word indeed! Alco-pops. Alco is obviously the first part of the word, shortened version of “alcohol”. And pops is the second part of the word. Pop you might not know so much about. It has quite a long-standing usage. It's basically the word for lemonade once upon a time. Pop bottles – because of the sound that's made when a cork is drawn out of an effervescing drink – that sort of sound! – and pops suddenly became a very quick sound symbolic way of expressing that kind of notion; so the two words have come together: alcohol and pop ...and becomes alco-pops. There are lots of words like this in English. Brunch is another one – for a mixture of breakfast and lunch, and you can actually have quite a fun game making these blends up yourself. For instance, if you decide that you want to invent a cross between a helicopter and a bicycle shall we say? Well, make a blend about it. You could call it a “helicycle” for instance, or maybe a “bicopter”.

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ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY

2.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| a. to come into being | to appear, to start to exist |
| b. lesser-known | not very famous |
| c. controversial | causes disagreement |
| d. lemonade | a sweet cold drink, often enjoyed by children |
| e. effervescing | fizzing or bubbling |
| f. helicopter | a flying machine which can take off and land vertically |

LISTENING SECTION 1

3.

- 'You run two words together to make a third word'. You join two words together.
- Alcopops

4.

- True
- False – people have been doing it since the beginning of English
- True – they were a very controversial thing
- False – They were worried that children might drink alcohol unknowingly

LISTENING SECTION 2

5.

- alcohol and pop

6.

brunch helicycle bicopter

7.

- True
- False – it was called pop because of the sound of the cork being removed
- True
- False

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EXTRA WORK

1.

- a. to be concerned
- b. once upon a time
- c. notion

LANGUAGE

2.

- a. satphone
- b. nanobots
- c. threequel
- d. spyware
- e. Singlish

3.

- a. satellite and telephone
- b. nano and robot
- c. three and sequel
- d. spy and software
- e. Singapore and English

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WORKSHEET 1

You are going to listen to a short talk given by Professor David Crystal University about language change and new developments in English.

SPEAKING

1. **Discuss these questions with other students**
 - a. What drinks are popular in your country?
 - b. Can you name four soft drinks?
 - c. Can you name four alcoholic drinks?
 - d. What do you like to drink at the following times?
 - i. In the morning, at breakfast time
 - ii. At lunchtime
 - iii. On a cold day and on a hot day
 - iv. At a party or wedding

VOCABULARY

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

a. to come into being	not very famous
b. lesser-known	a sweet cold drink, often enjoyed by children
c. controversial	a flying machine which can take off and land vertically
d. lemonade	fizzing or bubbling
e. effervescing	causes disagreement
f. helicopter	to appear, to start to exist

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LISTENING SECTION 1

3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about a particular way to make new words in English. Listen and answer the questions below.

- a. How do you make a blend word?
- b. Which word does he give as an example?

4. Listen again and decide if the following statements are true or false.

- a. Professor Crystal gives two ways in which new words can appear
- b. Making blend words is a new or recent technique
- c. Many people thought alcopops were a bad thing
- d. People were worried that children would not like them

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WORKSHEET 2

LISTENING SECTION 2

5. Alcopops is a blend of two words. What do you think those two words are?

- a. Alcohol and popular
- b. Alcoholic and pop
- c. Alcohol and pop
- d. Alcoholic and popular

Listen to Section 2 of the talk, check your ideas for question 5 and answer question 6.

6. Professor Crystal gives three more examples of blend words. What are they?

7. Are the following sentences true or false?

- a. Pop is an old word for lemonade
- b. Lemonade was called pop because of its sharp taste
- c. Brunch is a type of meal
- d. Helicycle is a real word

Listen again and check your answers

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WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

- 1: : Look at the tape script and find words or phrases that mean the following.**
- to be worried about something
 - a long time ago
 - idea or concept

LANGUAGE

- 2: Put these blend words in the correct sentences below.**

Singlish satphone spyware threequel nanobots

- A journalist uses a _____ when they are working in a remote place. The journalist can communicate with his office or the TV station with this machine.
- In the future we will use _____ more and more. They are very small machines, so small you cannot see them, and they will do jobs for us, perhaps in medical procedures.
- A _____ is the third film or book in a sequence. The characters are the same as the earlier films, but they are in a different story.
- A computer hacker might use _____ to get information from someone else's computer a system, illegally. It is a type of computer programme.
- _____ is spoken in Singapore. It is a type of English which includes many local words.

- 3: Which words are blended to make these words? What do the original words mean?**

You might need to use a dictionary.

- satphone is a blend of _____ and _____
- nanobot is a blend of **nano** and _____
- threequel is a blend of _____ and _____
- spyware is a blend of _____ and _____
- Singlish is a blend of _____ and _____

- 4: Can you think of some new blend words?**