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Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets
with answers

Lesson 19
Estuary



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Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

Lesson 19: Estuary

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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: Accents, rivers and water

Language: Words that change their meaning or use - estuary

Aims: Listening skills – a short talk
Language – words connected to water

Materials: Worksheet 1 – Introductory speaking and vocabulary exercises,
Listening section 1
Worksheet 2 – Listening section 2
Worksheet 3 – Extra work: Vocabulary
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/page20.shtml

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LESSON STAGES

A

Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a talk by Professor Crystal and that the talk is about the way the English language changes. This particular talk is about a word that now refers to something very different to its original meaning.

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 it is heard 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**

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

F

Students try to answer **Listening Exercise 6**. 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 language work goes through some words connected to water and their figurative meanings.

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TAPESCRIPTS

Listening Section 1

Words based on locations don't become part of the general language very often. You do get a few – I mean people talk about "Whitehall" meaning the government, or "the White House" in America, meaning the American government, but not very often, and certainly part of a river – 'estuary'! I think that's a first; I don't remember hearing that before ever.

Listening section 2

Now the estuary in question is the River Thames, and during the 1980s the word estuary came into the language referring to the kind of speech that people are using around the estuary of the River Thames, in places like Essex, in the north of Kent, and it was a new kind of accent: a sort of cross between Cockney and Received Pronunciation.

And if somebody said he speaks estuary, it would mean he speaks this kind of mixed accent. In RP, in Received Pronunciation, you'd say that the word was 'wall' – the thing that holds a house up – a wall; in Cockney of course it's a 'wall', a 'wall' and in estuary English of course it's a sort of mixture of the two: a 'wall', a 'wall', with a 'l' sort of sound. It's one of the fastest moving accents of modern times.

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ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY

2.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| a. a location | a place |
| b. Essex | a county (region) of England, near London |
| c. a cross between two things | a mixture of two things |
| d. Cockney | a person or the dialect from the East End of London, traditionally working class |
| e. a wall | a structure in a building that supports the roof. The sides of a room |

LISTENING SECTION 1

3.

- a. iii - estuary
- b. It is a part of a river (it is the mouth of a large river, where the river enters the sea)

4.

- a. False – “Words based on locations don’t become part of the general language very often.”
- b. True – They can both refer to the government, Whitehall can mean the British government, The White House can mean the US government
- c. False – “I think that’s a first; I don’t remember hearing that before ever”

LISTENING SECTION 2

5.

- a. The accent of the people who live near the estuary of a river

6.

- a. The River Thames, in England
- b. i. - False – “and during the 1980s the word estuary came into the language.”
ii - True – “a sort of cross between Cockney and Received Pronunciation”
iii - False – “It’s one of the fastest moving accents of modern times.”

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EXTRA WORK

1.

- a. government
- b. a first
- c. in question

LANGUAGE

2.

- a. wave
- b. tide
- c. ripple
- d. flood
- e. splash
- f. drip
- g. leak

3.

- a. wave
- b. ripple
- c. tide
- d. splash
- e. drip
- f. flood
- g. leak

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WORKSHEET 1

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

SPEAKING

1. Discuss these questions with other students

- a. What are the main rivers in your country?
- b. Are there any main population centres situated on these rivers?
- d. Why are rivers so important to humans?
- e. In your country, do people from different regions speak with different accents?
Can you demonstrate the different accents?
- f. Are the different accents associated with different aspects of character, behaviour or society e.g. educated, not so intelligent, middle class?

VOCABULARY

2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| a. a location | a county (region) of England, near London |
| b. Essex | a place |
| c. a cross between two things | a person or the dialect from the East End of London, traditionally working class |
| d. Cockney | a structure in a building that supports the roof. The sides of a room. |
| e. a wall | a mixture of two things |

LISTENING SECTION 1

3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about a word that has changed its use recently. Answer these questions.

a. What is the word?

i. eternity

ii. bestiary

iii. estuary

b. Originally, what did this word refer to, what is it part of?

4. Listen again and decide if the following statements are true or false, according to Professor Crystal.

a. Words from locations frequently enter the general language

b. Whitehall and White House can mean similar things

c. There are other words in the general language that have come from parts of a river

WORKSHEET 2

LISTENING SECTION 2

- 5. Professor Crystal now talks about what the word has come to refer to. Originally, it meant the mouth of a large river. What do you think it also refers to now?**
- a. The accent of the people who live near the estuary of a river
 - b. The way of life of people who live near the estuary of a river
 - c. The vocabulary used by people who live near the estuary of a river

Listen and check your ideas.

- 6. Listen again to section 2. Answer these questions.**
- a. Which river does it refer to in particular?

 - b. Are the following sentences true or false?
 - i. The word appeared with this meaning in 1918
 - ii. Estuary is a mixture of two types of accent
 - iii. The accent has spread slowly across the country

 - c. Can you say 'wall' in the different accents?
 - i. Cockney
 - ii. RP – Received Pronunciation
 - iii. Estuary

Listen again to check your answers.

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WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

1. Look at the tapescript and find words or phrases that mean the following.

- a. the rulers of a country
- b. something that has not happened before
- c. being referred to

LANGUAGE

2. These nouns are all connected to water (and liquids in general). Match them to the definitions.

tide wave splash drip leak ripple flood

- a. A movement of water, usually on the surface of the sea
- b. The regular twice daily movement of the sea, caused by the moon
- c. A small movement on the surface of a body of water, e.g. a pond
- d. A large amount of water that covers normally dry land
- e. The sound that something makes when it hits water
- f. A small amount of water that falls from something
- g. You have one of these when a small amount of water comes through a hole e.g. in the roof

3. Put the correct word from exercise 2 in the sentences below. These use the words in a more figurative way.

- a. The current crime ____ has been caused by high unemployment and increased drug use
- b. The closing of the car factory has had a ____ effect on the whole community. Shops have closed and people are moving away
- c. Don't expect him to do anything different to the others, he just goes with the ____
- d. She's really famous now, she made quite a ____ with her last movie
- e. He's such a _____. He never has anything to say, he never uses his initiative, he never says what he wants. I'll never marry him!
- f. The TV show was very unpopular and controversial. There has been a ____ of complaints.
- g. There has been a ____ of important secret documents to the newspapers. I want to know who is responsible.