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## Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets  
with answers

Lesson 21

Luvvy



**BBC WORLD SERVICE**  
LEARNING ENGLISH



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# BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

## Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

### Lesson 21: Luvvy

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1. Level, topic, language, aims, materials
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**Level:** Intermediate and above

**Topic:** Suffixes: familiarity markers

**Aims:** Listening skills – A short talk  
Language – suffixes used to show familiarity

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

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### Lesson 21: Luvvy

#### LESSON STAGES

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##### 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 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**

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.

## **Lesson 21: Luvvy**

### **TAPESCRIPTS**

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#### **Listening Section 1**

Have you noticed how common the ‘y’(‘ie’) ending is in English as a sort of colloquial suffix? A familiarity marker perhaps is a better way of talking about it. You talk about the telly – it’s a television. You talk about your auntie – instead of your aunt. Of course, there’s mummy and daddy as well. People from Australia are Aussies as well as Australians, and of course in proper names you talk about Charles and Charlie, or Susan and Susie. Very very common suffix. Not surprising then to find that new words every now and then come into the language which use it, and the one that has attracted a lot of interest recently is ‘luvvy’ and ‘luvvies’ - l-u-v-v-y and l-u-v-v-i-e-s.

#### **Listening section 2**

Especially in Britain, it’s a kind of mockery for actors and actresses, considered to be rather affected – actors, you know, who turn up and call each other ‘darling’ all the time and go ‘mwah’ at each other, when they’re kissing each other, and people say “oh, listen to those luvvies talking, those poor luvvies – there’s lots of luvvy talk going on” - l-u-v-v-y. Now what’s interesting is it’s the spelling that’s made this word so new, because there already was a word ‘lovey’ in the language, going back right to the 1960s, spelt l-o-v-e-y. It’s a much older term of endearment. I might say “oh, come on, lovey!” meaning....you might hear from a bus conductor for instance, and it refers simply to you know, ‘my dear’, and it could be to a man or a woman, although more usually to a woman. So, what we’ve got is a new word ‘luvvy’ with a different spelling from the old word ‘lovey’ – now that doesn’t happen very often in language change.

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### Lesson 21: Luvvy

#### ANSWER KEY

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#### SPEAKING

d.

Formal: Sir Madam My lady

Informal: Mate Love My dear

#### VOCABULARY

2.

- a. **a suffix** a small word added to the end of other words to change the meaning
- b. **familiarity** closeness or intimacy
- c. **mockery** laughing at someone in an unkind way
- d. **affected behaviour** a way of doing things that is insincere
- e. **a term of endearment** a word that shows your affection for someone
- f. **a bus conductor** a person who checks tickets on a bus

#### LISTENING SECTION 1

3.

- a. -y and -ie
- b. ii – It makes the object seem emotionally closer to you
- c. luvvy

4.

- a. False – “the ‘y’(‘ie’) ending is in English as a sort of colloquial suffix”
- b. True – “Very very common suffix.”
- c. False – “Not surprising then to find that new words every now and then come into the language which use it”

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#### **Lesson 21: Luvvy**

**5.**

telly – television      auntie – aunt      mummy – mum (mother)  
daddy – dad (father)      Aussies – Australians      Charlie – Charles  
Susie - Susan

#### **LISTENING SECTION 2**

**6.**

b. A luvvy is an actor who behaves in a theatrical way in public

**7.**

a. negative

b. spelling    meaning    feeling (positive)

c. i. – True – “It’s a much older term of endearment.”

ii. – False – “it could be to a man or a woman”

iii. - False – “now that doesn’t happen very often in language change.”

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

### **Lesson 21: Luvvy**

#### **EXTRA WORK**

**1.**

- a. a marker
- b. mwah
- c. to turn up

#### **LANGUAGE**

**2.**

Billy – Bill (William)

Johnny – John (Johnathon)

Chrissie – Chris (Christine)

Doggy – dog

Drinkie – drink

Dolly – doll

Tummy – stomach

Brickie – brick layer

Postie – postman or postwoman

Bookie – book maker (person who takes bets)

Veggie – vegetarian

Wellies – Wellington boots (rubber boots)

Brolly – umbrella

Footie – football

Undies - underwear

## WORKSHEET 1

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

### 1. Discuss these questions with other students

- a. In your country are there formal and informal versions of names e.g. Thomas, Tom, Tommy?
- b. Does anyone in your family call you by a pet name, a name that is not your real name?
- c. Do you use nicknames at school or in the workplace?
- d. Which of the following ways to address a stranger are formal or informal?

Sir    Mate    Madam    Love    My lady    My dear

## VOCABULARY

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

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| a. <b>a suffix</b>             | closeness or intimacy  |
| b. <b>familiarity</b>          | a person who checks tickets on a bus                               |
| c. <b>mockery</b>              | a word that shows your affection for someone                       |
| d. <b>affected behaviour</b>   | laughing at someone in an unkind way                               |
| e. <b>a term of endearment</b> | a small word added to the end of other words to change the meaning |
| f. <b>a bus conductor</b>      | a way of doing things that is insincere                            |

## LISTENING SECTION 1

**3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about a suffix. Answer these questions.**

- a. What is the suffix? (there are two possibilities)
- b. What does the suffix do?
  - i. It makes the object seem less important in your life
  - ii. It makes the object seem emotionally closer to you
  - iii. It makes the object seem to be a problem for you
- c. What is the new word that uses this suffix?

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

- a. This is a formal suffix
- b. Words with this suffix are frequently used
- c. It is unusual for new words that use this suffix to appear

**5. What examples does he give?**

## WORKSHEET 2

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### LISTENING SECTION 2

**6. Professor Crystal now talks about what the word ‘luvvy’ means. What do you think it means?**

- a. A luvvy is a person who is deeply in love with someone
- b. A luvvy is an actor who behaves in a theatrical way in public
- c. A luvvy is someone who cleans toilets for a living
- d. A luvvy is a young pet (cat or dog) that is very cute

Listen and check your ideas.

**7. Listen again to section 2. Answer these questions.**

- a. Is ‘luvvy’ used in a positive or negative way?
- b. There was a similar word to ‘luvvy’ that existed before. In what way was that word different? Choose from below.

Spelling	Pronunciation	Meaning
Grammar (Noun, verb or adjective)		Feeling (positive or negative)

- c. Are the following sentences true or false?
  - i. The older word showed friendliness or affection
  - ii. The older word was only said to women
  - iii. It is common for a word to change spelling to make a new word

## WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

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### VOCABULARY

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

- a. an indicator
- b. the sound people make when kissing
- c. to arrive

### LANGUAGE

**2. Here are some common words which have the y/ie suffix. What do you think are the formal versions of these words?**

Billy      veggie      Johnny      doggy      drinkie      tummy      postie      wellies  
brickie      dolly      bookie      broly      footie      Chrissie      undies