Keep your English up to date

Teacher’s pack
Lesson plan and student worksheets with answers

Lesson 1: Make my day!
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1. Level, topic, language, aims, materials
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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: The influence of films on language development

Language: A catchphrase: Make my day
Using present simple to tell a story

Aims: Listening skills – A short talk
Writing and speaking – describing a film

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/page2.shtml
Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

Lesson 1: Make my day!

LESSON STAGES

A
Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a talk by Professor David Crystal and that the talk is about the way the English language changes. This particular talk is about language that has come from films.

B
Hand out Student Worksheet 1. Students do Speaking Exercise 1 in small groups or pairs. There is some information about Clint Eastwood in the answers below.

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 Exercises 6 and 7. They listen again to Listening Section 2 to check/completely 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.

For the writing, give students as much support as possible, some may find it hard to choose a scene or film. If they can't remember a scene, perhaps they could write a short description or review of the film/programme.

Note: The present simple can be used to tell stories, jokes or commentaries e.g. a football match commentary.
Listening Section 1

Of all the mediums that influence language, I think film is the one that has the most effect. Not so much from the point of view of pronunciation and grammar: I don’t think we pick up very many sounds and grammatical instructions from the films that we see – but the catchphrases, right from the earliest days of film, catchphrases have been extracted from the film medium and “make my day” I think is one of the most famous. Anyway, you may remember it’s Clint Eastwood, isn’t it, playing Dirty Harry in the Film SUDDEN IMPACT. He invites an armed thug to take him on and Clint Eastwood is holding a very big gun – so he’s just waiting for the thug to do something horrible, and he says “go ahead, make my day!”.

Listening Section 2

Well it just caught on, it spread in meaning – people started using it, not with guns in their hands, they started using it in a sort of ironic circumstance, to say “make my day” means “do something that’ll really please me”. It implies a really big deal or something like that. In fact Clint Eastwood himself, when he was being elected mayor of Carmel, went round the whole of his little town, his little city, with a T-shirt on “elect me mayor – make my day!”
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ANSWER KEY

SPEAKING
1.

d. Clint Eastwood is an American actor and Director. His films ‘Unforgiven’ and ‘Million Dollar Baby’ won Oscars. He started his career as an actor, and was famous for playing roles as a cowboy in films such as ‘The good, the bad and the ugly’. He is also famous for playing a tough policeman known as Dirty Harry.

VOCABULARY
2.

a. to influence something  
   to change how something develops

b. a catchphrase  
   an expression connected to a famous person or organisation

c. to take someone on  
   to compete against or fight someone

d. a thug  
   a rough violent person

e. to imply something  
   to suggest something is true, without directly saying so.

f. a mayor  
   the head of the local government of a town or city

LISTENING SECTION 1
3.

a. Make My Day
b. Sudden Impact (Clint Eastwood plays the character called DIRTY HARRY)

4.

a. True
b. False – we learn new catchphrases (vocabulary and expressions)
c. True
d. False – Dirty Harry says it

LISTENING SECTION 2
5.

b. Do something that will make me happy

6.

a. False
b. False

6. True

7.

“Elect me mayor – make my day”
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EXTRA WORK
1. a. to pick something up
   b. to extract something from something
   c. to catch on

WRITING/SPEAKING
The example is a description of the key scene from Sudden Impact. You could use your own about any film, perhaps one you think your students might be familiar with.

The present simple is used to describe a scene from a film.
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. Do you often go to the cinema or watch films on DVD?
   b. What kind of films do you like?
   c. Who are your favourite actors or directors?
   d. Have you heard of Clint Eastwood? What do you know about him?
   e. Do you ever watch films in English?
   f. If you do, do you think you can learn English from these films?

VOCABULARY

2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions

<table>
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LISTENING SECTION 1

3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about how films affect the development of the English language. Answer these questions.

a. What is the phrase he uses as an example of language from films?
b. What film does it come from? Have you seen this film?

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

a. Film affects the language more than any other entertainment medium
b. We often learn new grammar from films
c. Clint Eastwood and the thug both have guns
d. The thug says, ‘Go ahead, make my day’
LISTENING SECTION 2

5. Many people started using the phrase ‘make my day’. What do you think it means, in general use?

   a. Let me do something horrible
   b. Do something that will make me happy
   c. Do something that will make you happy
   d. Let me do something lovely

Listen to Section 2 of the talk and check your ideas. Were you correct?

6. Are the following sentences true or false?

   a. People who had guns started using the phrase first
   b. Carmel is a large city
   c. Clint Eastwood wanted to become Mayor of Carmel

7. What did Clint Eastwood put on his t-shirt? Fill the gaps.

   “_________ me _________ - _________ my _________!”

Listen again to check your answers.
VOCABULARY
1. Look at the tape script and find words or phrases that mean the following.
   a. to learn something by listening to or watching people
   b. to remove something from a place or situation
   c. to become popular or fashionable

WRITING/SPEAKING
2. Think of a film or TV programme that you really like. Make some notes about it below.
   Use the questions below to help you.
   • What is it called?
   • Who are the main characters?
   • What is the basic story?
   • Why do you like it?

3. Can you remember an important or powerful moment from the film or programme?
   • Was there a fight between two characters?
   • Was there a romantic scene?
   • Was there a moment when something important was discovered by a character?

Make notes first and then write a short description of this scene or moment.
Here is an example. What verb tense is used?
"Clint Eastwood is Dirty Harry, a tough policeman. In one scene, he chases some thugs through an empty industrial area. He has a large gun, and he shoots at the criminals. He catches one of the criminals and, after a fight, he stands above the thug, who is on the floor. Harry points his gun at the thug. The thug does not know if Harry’s gun has got any bullets left. The thug tries to decide if he should try to pick up his own gun. Harry smiles and dares the thug to try to get his gun. He says, ‘Go ahead. Make my day’"

4. Tell your partner about the film you have chosen? Have they seen it? Do they remember the scene you have described?