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Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets
with answers

Lesson 10

Mwah!



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Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

Lesson 10: Mwah!

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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: greetings and farewells

Language: Sound symbolic words: mwah

Aims: Listening skills – A short talk

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/page11.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 interjections: in this case words that represent a sound.

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 answers 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 focuses on other sound symbolic words. Encourage the students to try to say the words when they are trying to work out when they are used.

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TAPESCRIPTS

Listening Section 1

You've seen it on television, or in the street, hundreds of times, thousands of times. Two people come towards each other, they obviously know each other very well, and they start to kiss each other - but it's not a full frontal kiss. No, what happens, one person puts the cheek against the other person's cheek and they have what is often called an 'air' kiss. They make a kissing noise, which shows that they're coming together, as great intimates, but it's not a real kiss at all. And many people then give this air kiss a noise, a word, and it's usually 'mwah', 'mwah' - something like that. Now, how do you write it? Well nobody knows quite how to write it, but it's really m-w-a-h.

Listening section 2

I saw it written in about the mid-nineties for the first time. And, there's a plural too: "there's lots of mwahs about these days" I remember reading in somebody's journal at one point. It's an affectation, it's associated with a social elite - probably everybody does it to a degree or another. What's unusual is to get the effect coming out as a word. It's a sort of 'sound symbolic' word - mwah - it's a lovely way of expressing the actual noise that takes place when you do a phoney kiss of this kind. And I've never done it myself - I'm not a 'mwah' type person - but I think an awful lot of people are. I certainly don't think I've ever heard it on the radio and certainly not as a way of saying goodbye to listeners - but I'll try it out and see what happens, so 'mwah'!!

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ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY

2.

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| a. | a cheek | A part of the body, part of the face |
| b. | an intimate | A very close friend |
| c. | a journal | A type of book, like diary |
| d. | to be associated with something | To be connected to something |
| e. | a social elite | A group of people of high status in society, probably rich and powerful |
| f. | phoney | Not real or not genuine |

LISTENING SECTION 1

3.

- a. ii. MWAH
b. a kiss between good friends

4.

- a. False – the two people touch cheek to cheek. The lips touch nothing
b. True – to show they are coming together as great intimates
c. True – it's not a real kiss at all
d. False – nobody knows quite how to write it

LISTENING SECTION 2

5.

- a. Yes, there is. MWAHS
b. No, it isn't. It is associated with a social elite

6.

- a. True – the mid nineties
b. False -
c. False – he is not a mwah type of person

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EXTRA WORK

1.

- a. affectation
- b. to a degree or another
- c. symbolic

LANGUAGE

2.

- a. ow
- b. oh
- c. eurgh
- d. er
- e. mmm
- f. hmm
- g. argh
- h. shh
- i. aah
- j. atchoo
- k. brrr

3.

- a. oh
- b. hmm
- c. aah
- d. brr
- e. shh
- f. mmm
- g. er
- h. eurgh
- i. argh
- j. atchoo
- k. ow

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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. In your country do you greet different people in different ways?

Ways to greet

Shake hands	Bow	Hug/embrace	Kiss on the cheek
Kiss on the lips	Nod	Rub noses	Smile
Give a high five (slap hands together)			Just say 'hello'

Types of people

parents	brothers and sisters	friends	boyfriend/girlfriend
husband/wife	work colleagues	strangers	shop assistants
boss	teacher	important official people (President etc.)	

- b. How do you say goodbye to different people?
c. With which countries or cultures do you associate these ways of greeting people?

VOCABULARY

2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| a. a cheek | To be connected to something |
| b. an intimate | A part of the body, part of the face |
| c. a journal | Not real or not genuine |
| d. to be associated with something | A group of people of high status in society, probably rich and powerful |
| e. a social elite | A type of book, like a diary |
| f. phoney | A very close friend |

LISTENING SECTION 1

3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about a word that is connected to the way we greet people. Answer these questions.

a. What is the word?

- i. Mwaa
- ii. Mwah
- iii. Mwar

b. What type of greeting is it connected to?

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

- a. The sound is made when someone kisses someone on the cheek with their lips
- b. People say this word to show they are close friends
- c. The sound is not the noise of the kiss itself, it is an extra sound
- d. The spelling of the word is fixed

WORKSHEET 2

LISTENING SECTION 2

5. Read these questions and listen to section 2 to check your ideas.

- a. Do you think there is a plural form of this word?
- b. Do you think the word is associated with poor/working class people?

Listen again to section 2 and answer these questions.

6. Are the following sentences true or false?

- a. Professor Crystal first saw the word written down in about 1995
- b. It is common to have a sound effect becoming a word
- c. Professor Crystal often uses this word

Listen again to 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.

- a. Artificial or insincere behaviour
- b. To a certain extent/amount/quantity
- c. Representing something else

LANGUAGE

2. Here are some more sound symbolic words. When do you think they are used?

brrr eurgh argh ow aah atchoo er hmm oh mmm shh

- a. When you hurt yourself, when you feel pain
- b. When you are surprised
- c. When you find something disgusting
- d. When you are pausing for thought
- e. When you really like something, particularly its taste
- f. When you are considering what someone has said
- g. When you are frustrated and need to scream
- h. When you want someone to be quiet
- i. When you find something cute or sweet
- j. When you sneeze
- k. When you feel cold

3. Complete the sentences with the correct sound symbolic word

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| a. '____, I didn't know they were married.' | g. '____, let me see, well...' |
| b. '____, I'm not so sure I agree with you' | h. '____, that's horrible' |
| c. '____, look at the lovely lambs' | i. '____, the train's late AGAIN!' |
| d. '____, it's chilly today, isn't it?' | j. '____, excuse me.' 'Bless you' |
| e. '____, I'm trying to watch the film' | k. '____, that hurt!' |
| f. '____, my pasta's great' | |