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Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets
with answers

Lesson 22
Saddo



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Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

Lesson 22: Saddo

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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: Suffixes: familiarity markers

Aims: Listening skills – A short talk

Language – suffixes used to show familiarity - o - and Australian slang

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

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bbclearningenglish.com/radio/specials/1728_uptodate/page23.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 suffix that is common in informal language.

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.

The language work goes through some Australian slang that uses 'o' as a familiarity marker

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TAPESCRIPTS

Listening Section 1

There are quite a few familiarity markers in English – words which take on an ending to make the word sound much more familiar, or everyday, or down to earth. Ammunition becomes 'ammo'; a weird person becomes 'weirdo'; aggravation becomes 'aggro'. They like it in Australia a lot – "good afternoon", they don't say that so often, but 'arvo', 'arvo' is the abbreviation for afternoon in Australia. And in the 1990s you had this rather interesting word 'saddo' – that's the adjective sad with this 'o' ending, spelt with two ds: s-a-d-d-o.

Listening section 2

It came in as a kind of a rude word really, a mocking word for somebody seen as socially inadequate, or somehow rather unfashionable, or contemptible in some way. You might hear somebody say, "oh, he's a real saddo" or "she's a real saddo" – it can be for male or for females. It's from the word 'sad' of course, from oh, way back in the 1930s, where 'sad' here doesn't mean miserable, it means pathetic, and that was a use of sad that came in at that time. It's a sense in other words that's been developing for quite a long time. In actual fact, you can take that sense of sad and trace it all the way back to Shakespeare, although he never said 'saddo'.

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ANSWER KEY

SPEAKING

d.

Formal: Excuse me, may I help you with that?

Do visit me soon

May I have a little more time, please?

Informal: Can I give you a hand with that, mate?

Pop round and see me sometime

Give us a mo!

VOCABULARY

2.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| a. familiarity | closeness or intimacy |
| b. an abbreviation | a shortened version of a word |
| c. socially inadequate | unable to cope with groups of people |
| d. contemptible | easy to dislike or to have no respect for |
| e. miserable | unhappy |
| f. pathetic | useless, weak or not very good |

LISTENING SECTION 1

3.

- the letter 'o'
- ii – It makes the object seem part of your normal life
- saddo

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4.

a.

- i. ammo – ammunition
- ii. weirdo – a weird person
- iii. aggro – aggravation
- iv. arvo – afternoon
- v. saddo – sad

b.

- i. False – “There are quite a few familiarity markers in English ...”
- ii. True – “They like it in Australia a lot...”
- iii. False – “And in the 1990s you had this rather interesting word ‘saddo’...”

LISTENING SECTION 2

5.

- c. A saddo is someone who is not fashionable or interesting and has few friends

6.

- a. False – “It came in as a kind of a rude word really, a mocking word ...”
- b. True – “it can be for male or for females ...”
- c. True – “where ‘sad’ here doesn’t mean miserable, it means pathetic ...”
- d. False – “It’s from the word sad of course, from oh, way back in the 1930s, where ‘sad’ here doesn’t mean miserable, it means pathetic ...”
- e. True – “you can take that sense of sad and trace it all the way back to Shakespeare...”

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EXTRA WORK

1.

- a. down to earth
- b. aggravation
- c. to trace something back

LANGUAGE

2.

Ambo - ambulance

Milko - milkman

Reffo - refugee

Yobbo - a rude/violent person

Fisho - fishmonger

Avo - avocado

Rego - vehicle registration

Vejjo - vegetarian

Bizzo - business

Smoko - a short cigarette break

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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 have formal and informal language?

b Do you speak in different ways to these people? In what ways and why?

Friends of your age Family members Teachers Shopkeepers

Friends who are much older Fashionable people Hairdressers Police Officers

Unfashionable people Colleagues or classmates

c Do you use a lot of slang in your everyday life?

d Which of the following words or phrases are formal or informal?

Excuse me, may I help you with that?

Can I give you a hand with that, mate?

Pop round and see me sometime.

Do visit me soon.

Give us a mo!

May I have a little more time, please?

VOCABULARY

2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions

a. **familiarity** unable to cope with groups of people

b. **an abbreviation** useless, weak or not very good

c. **socially inadequate** easy to dislike or to have no respect for

d. **contemptible** closeness or intimacy

e. **miserable** a shortened version of a word

f. **pathetic** unhappy

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LISTENING SECTION 1

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

- a. What letter is used as the suffix?

- b. What does the suffix do?
 - i. It makes the object seem less important in your life
 - ii. It makes the object seem part of your normal life
 - 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 answer these questions

- a. What words/phrases do these versions represent or come from?
 - i. ammo –
 - ii. weirdo –
 - iii. aggro –
 - iv. arvo –
 - v. saddo –

- b. Are the following sentences true or false, according to Professor Crystal?
 - i. There are hardly any suffixes that are used in this way in English
 - ii. This type of language is popular in Australia
 - iii. Saddo entered the language in 1919

WORKSHEET 2

LISTENING SECTION 2

5. **Professor Crystal now talks about what the word ‘saddo’ means. What do you think it means?**
- a. Saddo means something makes you feel very unhappy
 - b. A saddo is someone who feels very depressed and may feel suicidal
 - c. A saddo is someone who is not fashionable or interesting and has few friends
 - d. Saddo means something is not very good or useful

Listen and check your ideas.

6. **Listen again to section 2. Are these sentences true or false, according to Professor Crystal**
- a. Saddo is a polite and kind word
 - b. It can refer to man and women
 - c. The word sad has two possible meanings
 - d. Saddo uses the unhappy or miserable meaning of sad
 - e. The meaning of sad that is used by saddo is very old

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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. normal or everyday
- b. trouble, annoyance or irritation
- c. to follow or find something's historical development

LANGUAGE

2. Australian slang often uses this familiarity marker. What do you think these words mean?

Ambo- ambulance or ambitious

Milko – bottle of milk or milkman

Reffo – referee or refugee

Yobbo – a farm worker or a rude/violent person

Fisho – fishmonger or fish pie

Avo – avocado or a promise

Rego – vehicle registration or reggae music

Vejjo – vegetable or vegetarian

Bizzo – biscuits or business

Smoko – a short cigarette break or a fire

Use the example sentences to help you

- a. Quick, call an ambo! There's been an accident!
- b. Has the milko been yet? I need some milk.
- c. We've got more reffos coming because of the war.
- d. I'm not surprised the police arrested him, he's such a yobbo!
- e. The fisho didn't have much in today. I'll try tomorrow.
- f. Don't the avos look lovely? I'll get a few of them.
- g. And did you see the rego? And what make was it?
- h. I hope no vejjos come to the barbie, we've only got meat.
- i. Stop asking questions. I told you to mind your own bizzo!
- j. He'll be back in a mo, he's just having a smoko.