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Teacher’s pack
Lesson plan and student worksheets with answers

Lesson 14
Showbiz

BBC WORLD SERVICE
LEARNING ENGLISH
Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

Lesson 14: Showbiz

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1. Level, topic, language, aims, materials
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Level: Intermediate and above
Topic: Fame and show business
Language: Abbreviations: shortened forms - showbiz

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
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/page15.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 a type of abbreviation known as clipping. Clippings are shortened versions of words.

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 read Listening Exercise 6 and Listening Exercise 7. They listen again to Listening Section 2 to answer the questions.

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 shortened forms.
Listening Section 1

Showbiz. This is probably one of the most popular abbreviations of a word that took place in the 20th century in the United States. It's an abbreviation - showbiz - of show business. And, to begin with, it was written as two separate words: show space/biz; still is, to some extent, but increasingly these days, you'll see it written as a single word, showbiz, and pronounced like that. It’s actually been around since the 1940s, very wide use indeed as a noun.

Listening section 2

“That’s show biz!” they used to say in all kinds of circumstances, where something was happening that was unexpected, or something was going off the rails, or somebody lost their job, or some special circumstance came up: “that’s show biz!” And it was used as an adjective too. “We’re going to have a show biz treatment tonight” or “…a show biz tribute”…or something of that kind. It hasn’t actually developed very many other uses as yet (these shortened forms often don’t, you know), but it’s actually something that I think is going to come in the near future. I’ve heard for instance an adjective form “going show-bizzy” – that’s b-I-z-z-y, not b-u-s-y – meaning ‘typical of show biz’, in the last 5-10 years.
### ANSWER KEY

#### SPEAKING

1.b Here are some ideas: (NB: the films, directors and actors are not connected)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Era</th>
<th>Films</th>
<th>Directors</th>
<th>Actors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1920s, 30s, 40s</td>
<td>Modern Times</td>
<td>Charlie Chaplin</td>
<td>Carole Lombard</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Casablanca</td>
<td>Howard Hawks</td>
<td>Humphrey Bogart</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Wizard of Oz</td>
<td>Billy Wilder</td>
<td>Mae West</td>
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<td>The 1950s</td>
<td>Ben Hur</td>
<td>Alfred Hitchcock</td>
<td>Doris Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>From here to Eternity</td>
<td>Douglas Sirk</td>
<td>Marilyn Monroe</td>
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<td></td>
<td>On the Waterfront</td>
<td>John Ford</td>
<td>Rock Hudson</td>
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<td>James Dean</td>
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<tr>
<td>The 1960s</td>
<td>The James Bond films</td>
<td>George Cukor</td>
<td>Sean Connery</td>
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<td></td>
<td>West Side Story</td>
<td>Robert Wise</td>
<td>Steve McQueen</td>
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<tr>
<td>The 1970s</td>
<td>Jaws</td>
<td>George Lucas</td>
<td>Dustin Hoffman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Star Wars</td>
<td>Martin Scorcese</td>
<td>Dennis Hopper</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Godfather</td>
<td>Woody Allen</td>
<td>Mia Farrow</td>
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<tr>
<td>The 1980s, 90s</td>
<td>E.T.</td>
<td>Steven Spielberg</td>
<td>Tom Cruise</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Titanic</td>
<td>James Cameron</td>
<td>A. Schwarzenegger</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Terminator</td>
<td>Oliver Stone</td>
<td>Leonardo di Caprio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Since 2000</td>
<td>A Beautiful Mind</td>
<td>Ron Howard</td>
<td>Nicole Kidman</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gangs of New York</td>
<td>Sofia Coppola</td>
<td>Russell Crowe</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Denzel Washington</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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VOCABULARY

2.
   a. an abbreviation  a shortened version of a word
   b. circumstances    situation or context
   c. to lose your job  to become unemployed
   d. to go off the rails to fail to follow the plan
   e. a tribute        an event or action which shows respect or appreciation for
                       something or someone
   f. as yet           Up to this point in time, so far

LISTENING SECTION 1

3.
   a. show biz and/or showbiz
   b. show business

4.
   a. True – “of a word that took place in the 20th century in the United States”
   b. False – “And, to begin with, it was written as two separate words”
   c. False – “It’s actually been around since the 1940s”

LISTENING SECTION 2

5.
   b. When things happened that were surprising, or something happened that was not
      planned

6.
   a. False – “And it was used as an adjective too”
   b. False – “It hasn’t actually developed very many other uses as yet (these shortened
      forms often don’t, you know)”
   c. True – “but it’s actually something that I think is going to come in the near future”

7.
   a. showbizzy
   b. typical of show business
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EXTRA WORK

1.
   a. popular
   b. unexpected
   c. to come up

LANGUAGE

2.
   a. plane
   b. phone
   c. paper
   d. blog
   e. ad
   f. limo
   g. bra
   h. photo

3.
   a. phone
   b. blog
   c. bra
   d. ad
   e. limo
   f. photo
   g. plane
   h. paper
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. Are you or would you like to be involved in the performing arts?
      Film       Theatre       Music       Dance       Television
   b. What Hollywood films, actors or directors do you associate with these different periods?
      The 1920s, 30s, 40s       The 1950s            The 1960s
      The 1970s                    The 1980s and 1990s   Since the year 2000
   c. Would you like to be famous? Why/why not?
   d. Does your country have a strong arts industry?

VOCABULARY

2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions
   a. an abbreviation          situation or context
   b. circumstances            to fail to follow the plan
   c. to lose your job          a shortened version of a word
   d. to go off the rails       up to this point in time, so far
   e. a tribute                to become unemployed
   f. as yet                   an event or action which shows respect or appreciation for something or someone
LISTENING SECTION 1

3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about an abbreviation which is connected to the performing arts. Answer these questions.

   a. What is the abbreviation?
   b. What is it short for?

4. Listen again. Are these sentences true or false?

   a. The abbreviation comes from North America
   b. Originally, it was written as a single word
   c. The word has existed since 1914
LISTENING SECTION 2

5. The abbreviation was commonly used in the expression ‘that’s showbiz!’
   When do you think people said this?
   a. When an unknown actress suddenly became famous
   b. When things happened that were surprising, or something happened that was not planned
   c. When people made a lot of money through very little work, or through knowing someone important in the world of show business

Listen again to section 2 and answer these questions.

6. Are the following sentences true or false?
   a. The word is only used as a noun
   b. Abbreviations often develop many other uses
   c. Professor Crystal thinks new uses will appear soon

7.
   a. What is the new adjective that Professor Crystal has heard?
   b. What does it mean?
VOCABULARY
1. Look at the tape script and find words or phrases that mean the following.
   a. Well-liked or common
   b. Not planned, a surprise
   c. appeared unexpectedly, happened by surprise

Language
2. What do you think are the shortened versions of these words?
   a. aeroplane -
   b. telephone -
   c. newspaper -
   d. web log -
   e. advertisement -
   f. limousine -
   g. brassiere -
   h. photograph -

3. Put the correct abbreviation in the sentences below

   a. Can I use your mobile ____? I need to call my mother.
   b. I write my ____ every day – do you want the address?
   c. Women can buy a special sports ____ for when they play football
   d. I bought this car because I liked the ____ on TV
   e. The actor arrived in a white ____ and then walked up the red carpet
   f. Could you take a ____ of me please?
   g. Look at that ____. It’s flying very low
   h. I read a ____ every day, usually when I’m on the train