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## Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets  
with answers

Lesson 15

Toy boy



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# BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

## Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

### Lesson 15: Toy boy

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

**Topic:** Relationships

**Language:** Reduplicated words: Toy boy

**Aims:** Listening skills – A short talk  
Language – guessing meanings of reduplicated words

**Materials:** Worksheet 1 – Introductory speaking and vocabulary exercises,  
listening section 1  
Worksheet 2 – Listening section 2  
Worksheet 3 – Extra work: Vocabulary and language  
Tapescript – Available in teacher's notes  
Recording of the talk – Available online at [bbclearningenglish.com](http://bbclearningenglish.com)

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#### LESSON STAGES

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##### A

Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a talk by Professor Crystal about the way the English language changes. This particular talk is about words that use sound in an interesting way.

##### 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**

If you do worksheet 3, Extra Work with your class, the students will look at the meanings of the reduplicated words in Exercise 4, question i. If the students want to know the meanings now, tell them they will look at them later.

However, if you do not plan to do the extra work, you may wish to give them the definitions. (See the answers below)

##### 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**. 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.

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### **Lesson 15: Toy boy**

For the language work, the three groups are simple repetition, vowel change and initial sound change.

Make sure you drill (practise saying aloud) these words, as the sound of these words is particularly there to be enjoyed.

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### **Lesson 15: Toy boy**

#### **TAPESCRIPPTS**

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##### **Listening Section 1**

There's a class of very unusual words in English, they're called "reduplications" or "reduplicated forms": "bow wow, says the dog". Well, you can hear the reduplication, the two words are almost the same, it's just the first part changes: "helter-skelter", "namby-pamby". Words like this are reduplicated forms, and new ones are really rather unusual. But "toy boy" has come along in the last 10 or 15 years.

##### **Listening section 2**

It's British slang, from the 1980s. It refers to an attractive young man being kept as a lover by another person, by an older person, that's the crucial thing: the older person is keeping the younger man as that person's "toy boy". It's the rhyme that made it popular. "Toy girl" seems rather boring by comparison.

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### Lesson 15: Toy boy

#### ANSWER KEY

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#### VOCABULARY

2.

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| a. <b>a duplication</b> | a copy of something                                 |
| b. <b>a form</b>        | a version or shape of something                     |
| c. <b>slang</b>         | colloquial or informal language                     |
| d. <b>a lover</b>       | a sexual partner                                    |
| e. <b>crucial</b>       | very important, essential                           |
| f. <b>rhyme</b>         | two words ending in the same sound e.g. cat and hat |

#### LISTENING SECTION 1

3.

- a. You repeat a word, but change the first sound
- b. Toy boy

4.

- a.
  - i. Bow wow
  - ii. Helter-skelter
  - iii. Namby-pamby
- b. False – they are a class of very unusual words

#### LISTENING SECTION 2

5.

- iii. A man who is the lover of a much older person

6.

- a. False – it appeared in the 1980s
- b. True – It's the rhyme that made it popular
- c. False – it seems rather boring by comparison

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### Lesson 15: Toy boy

#### EXTRA WORK

1.

- a. to come along
- b. attractive
- c. to refer to something

#### LANGUAGE

2.

- a. ii. bow wow is the sound a dog makes when it barks
- b. iii. helter-skelter means very hurried, or without organisation
- c. i. namby pamby means weak, foolish or silly

3.

The three groups in any order are:

- A chit chat, clip-clop, ding dong, flip-flop (Vowel change reduplications)
- B roly-poly, lovey-dovey, super-duper, big wig (Initial sound change reduplications)
- C hee-hee, nana, tut-tut, goody goody (Simple repetition reduplications)

- |                |                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| a. super-duper | b. clip-clop                |
| c. big wig     | d. the sound of a door bell |
| e. nana        | f. chit chat                |
| g. flip-flop   | h. tut-tut                  |
| i. roly-poly   | j. lovey-dovey              |
| k. hee-hee     | l. goody goody              |

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## 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.

### SPEAKING

#### 1. Discuss these questions with other students

- a. At what age is it common to have a first girl or boyfriend in your country?
- b. At what age do people often get married? Is there a difference between men and women?
- c. In relationships, which do you think is more unusual: a younger woman with an older man or a younger man with an older woman?
- d. What problems do you think a couple might have if there is a big age difference between them, for example 20 years?

### VOCABULARY

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

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| a. <b>a duplication</b> | very important, essential                           |
| b. <b>a form</b>        | colloquial or informal language                     |
| c. <b>slang</b>         | a sexual partner                                    |
| d. <b>a lover</b>       | two words ending in the same sound e.g. cat and hat |
| e. <b>crucial</b>       | a version or shape of something                     |
| f. <b>rhyme</b>         | a copy of something                                 |

**LISTENING SECTION 1**

**3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about a special type of word known as a reduplication.**

- a. How do you make a reduplication?
- b. Which reduplication is a fairly recent creation?

**4. Listen again and answer these questions.**

a. Complete these reduplications.

- i. Bow \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. Helter- \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. Namby- \_\_\_\_\_

b. True or false, new reduplications are fairly common.

**WORKSHEET 2**

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**LISTENING SECTION 2**

**5. Professor Crystal goes on to give the meaning of toy boy**

**Try to answer this question before listening.**

- a. What do you think a toy boy is?
  - i. A man who behaves like a boy
  - ii. A man who collects toys, especially toy soldiers
  - iii. A man who is the lover of a much older person
  - iv. A man who is not serious about love relationships

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

**6. Are the following sentences true or false? Listen and check.**

- a. The word toy boy appeared in 1918
- b. The word became popular because of the way it sounds
- c. Toy girl is another successful word

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## WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

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### VOCABULARY

1. Look at the tape script and find words or phrases that mean the following.

- a. to appear, to turn up
- b. handsome or good looking
- c. to describe or to be about

### LANGUAGE

2. Match the other reduplicated words from the talk with their definitions.

- a. bow wow
- b. helter-skelter
- c. namby pamby
- i. weak, foolish or silly
- ii. the sound a dog makes when it barks
- iii. very hurried, or without organisation

3. There are in fact three different types of reduplication. Can you sort these words into three groups? Think about how the reduplication is made. One example has been given for each group.

~~Chit chat~~    ~~roly poly~~    lovey-dovey    hee-hee    clip-clop    ding dong  
~~nana~~    super-duper    flip-flop    big wig    tut-tut    goody goody

A Chit chat                                  B roly poly                                  C nana

\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

4. Try to match the words to the definitions below.

- a. excellent, wonderful
- b. the sound of a horse's feet
- c. a very important or powerful person
- d. the sound of a door bell
- e. grandmother
- f. unimportant conversation
- g. a simple shoe, often worn at the beach
- h. a sound of disapproval
- i. rather large or fat
- j. very affectionate
- k. the sound of laughter
- l. someone who is too well-behaved