

Words In The News

Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets
with answers

Argentine false
inheritance case –
12 March 2008



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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: A court in Argentina is hearing the case of a woman who invented a new identity to try to inherit a fortune.

Language: Vocabulary of a news report

Aims:

Reading skills	– Understanding a short news report
Language skills	– Grammar – past perfect
Speaking skills	– Yes / No questions

Materials:

Worksheet 1	– Comprehension questions
Worksheet 2	– Vocabulary matching task
Worksheet 3	– Grammar/language focus – grammar

News story – Available online at:

http://www.bbclearningenglish.com/newseenglish/witn/2008/03/080312_false_inherit.shtml

Preparation: Before the lesson, make enough copies of worksheets 1, 2, 3 and 4 for the students. Cut up the vocabulary and explanations to make a matching exercise. Cut up the puzzles on Worksheet 4.

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LESSON STAGES

A Stimulate student interest in text

Ask students to match the famous people with their sons or daughters:

Parent	Child
Paul McCartney	Brooklyn
Kofi Annan	Chelsea
Hilary Clinton	Kojo
David Beckham	Stella

Answers:

Parent	Child
Paul McCartney	Stella
Kofi Annan	Kojo
Hilary Clinton	Chelsea
David Beckham	Brooklyn

B Pre-teach essential vocabulary

Elicit/present key vocabulary that students need either to understand the key points in the text or to understand and/or answer any questions that you'll set them later in the lesson. The vocabulary is from Words in the News (so you can elicit the vocabulary by using the explanations provided online or below).

You could either pre-teach the vocabulary at this stage of the lesson or you could use the vocabulary building activity from further down in this lesson plan. Have students working together in small groups and ask them to try to match the vocabulary with the definitions. Encourage them to work with the other groups to pool their knowledge.

When they have done as much as they can, if they have dictionaries, ask them to look up the words to check their answers and to find out the definitions of any words they are not sure of. If they don't have dictionaries, check their answers and give them help with any words they aren't sure of.

Whichever method you use to elicit/present the vocabulary, you should then model it (say it clearly, highlighting the word stress) and get them to repeat the words after you.

no known children

he might have had children but in public he was never seen with them or ever mentioned them so people presumed or thought he didn't have any

to produce the paperwork to prove her case

to show legal documents which confirmed that what she claimed was true

new-found wealth

large amount of money that she has recently received

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up stepped

came forward (often unexpectedly or surprisingly)

had a brief affair

had a short romantic or sexual relationship

drowned

died under water because she was not able to breathe

disinter the body

dig up a dead body from the ground or from its grave

carry out DNA tests

do tests on someone's deoxyribonucleic acid. This chemical carries genetic information during reproduction (so you can find out if that person is someone's mother or father)

allegedly

say that someone has done something illegal or wrong without giving proof

prosecuted for fraud

officially accused of committing the crime of obtaining money by deceiving or telling lies to people

C Written record of vocabulary

Write the words on the board, eliciting spelling as you write. Elicit and show the word stress of each item and word class, if appropriate.

Give students some time to copy the boardwork into their notebooks.

Boardwork:

no known children

to produce the paperwork to prove her case

new-found wealth

up stepped

had a brief affair

drowned

disinter the body

carry out DNA tests

allegedly

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prosecuted for fraud

D Set a skimming question

Tell the students they are going to read a text about inheriting money after someone's death. Put this question on the board:

Reggiardo was the father of:

- A. no children
- B. a daughter
- C. a son
- D. a daughter and a son

Students read text the first time.

Give them a time limit (1 - 2 minutes) to read the text quickly to find the answer to the question. They do not need to understand the details of the text to answer it.

E Check answers

C. a son. Paragraph 5 says 'They' (the DNA tests) 'proved that he was the child of Jose Antonio Reggiardo. Maria Godoy carried out a similar test which proved that she wasn't'.

F Set specific information questions

Hand out worksheet 1 or use the online quiz. Students complete the worksheet to help them understand the text in more detail. Give them a time limit (5 - 6 minutes) to read the text a second time in more detail and to answer the questions.

G Check answers

Elicit True or False answers. Direct attention to a particular paragraph if an answer is wrong to try to elicit the correct answer (see worksheet 1 and answer key).

H Vocabulary consolidation/building

Students do the vocabulary matching exercise (worksheet 2 that you cut up before the lesson). In small groups they match the correct word with the right definition.

I Check answers

Elicit answers. If an answer is wrong, ask other students to try to elicit the correct answer.

J Language focus: Grammar – the past perfect

Ask students to call out any example they can find in the text of the past perfect.

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Paragraph 2:

who'd been told

had had a brief affair

Elicit some of the rules of form and meaning of the past perfect.

Form:

had + past participle (or verb 3)

had + been

had + had

had + driven

had + bought

Meaning

When we talking about events in the past, we often use the Past Simple. But sometimes our story begins in the past (She **ran** as fast as she could but when she **got** to the station...) but we want to show or emphasise another action that happened before the beginning of our story so we use the Past Perfect (She ran as fast as she could but when she got to the station, the train **had** already **left**).

Hand out Worksheet 3 which focuses on the Past Perfect. Tell students to fill in the blanks to complete each sentence.

K Check answers

If an answer is wrong, ask other students to try to elicit the correct answer (see worksheet 3 and answer key).

L Follow-up activity: Speaking

Elicit or tell students what a lateral thinking problem is. (Although the story doesn't seem to make sense, if they think about it not in the usual, logical way, they can easily find the answer). To find the solution students are allowed to ask only Yes/No questions. The person telling the story can only answer "Yes", "No" or "That's not relevant".

If they're familiar with lateral thinking problems, put them in groups and give one student in each group a copy of Puzzle 1 (and the solution) which s/he should keep secret. The others in the group should try to find the solution. If time allows, choose another student to be the story teller for Puzzle 2 and Puzzle 3.

If they're not familiar with lateral thinking problems, tell them this story (from Puzzle 1):

A man and his son are involved in a car crash. The father dies on the scene and the son is rushed to hospital. When the son is wheeled into the operating room, the surgeon on duty says "I can't operate on this boy, he is my son!"

How is this possible?

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Answer: The surgeon is the boy's mother.

Invite the students to ask you Yes / No questions to see if they can figure out the solution. If they don't get the solution after about 5 minutes, offer them some clues to make it easier.

Then, tell them they are going to work in small groups with one person telling another story and the others asking Yes / No questions, in the same way as they did with you.

Hand out copies of Puzzle 2 (and the solution) to one student in each group. The others in the group should try to find the solution. If time allows, choose another student to be the story teller for Puzzle 3.

While they are speaking, move around the room listening to them unobtrusively. Make notes of any errors you hear.

M Feedback

Ask the students if they found the puzzles easy or difficult. Why /why not? Give praise for correct language, and give feedback on incorrect language. You could write some example phrases or sentences on the board and elicit from students which ones are correct and which ones are wrong and why.

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STUDENT WORKSHEET 1

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Are the following sentences true or false?

1.	Jose Antonio Reggiardo was killed in a boating accident at sea.	T/F
2.	Jose Antonio Reggiardo was often seen with his two children.	T/F
3.	After Maria Angelica Godoy showed documents to prove that she was Reggiardo's daughter, she became very rich..	T/F
4.	Mario Calderon's aunt said that Mario's mother had had a short sexual relationship with Reggiardo.	T/F
5.	Mario was allowed to dig up Reggiardo's body and have scientific tests done on it.	T/F
6.	According to the reporter, Maria Godoy has been found guilty of lying to get money from Reggiardo.	T/F

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STUDENT WORKSHEET 2

VOCABULARY

Match these words and phrases to their definitions.

1.	no known children	A.	do tests on someone's deoxyribonucleic acid. This chemical carries genetic information during reproduction (so you can find out if that person is someone's mother or father)
2.	to produce the paperwork to prove her case	B.	died under water because she was not able to breathe
3.	new-found wealth	C.	say that someone has done something illegal or wrong without giving proof
4.	up stepped	D.	he might have had children but in public he was never seen with them or ever mentioned them so people presumed or thought he didn't have any
5.	had a brief affair	E.	came forward (often unexpectedly or surprisingly)
6.	drowned	F.	officially accused of committing the crime of obtaining money by deceiving or telling lies to people
7.	disinter the body	G.	dig up a dead body from the ground or from its grave
8.	carry out DNA tests	H.	had a short romantic or sexual relationship
9.	allegedly	I.	large amount of money that she has recently received
10.	prosecuted for fraud	J.	to show legal documents which confirmed that what she claimed was true

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STUDENT WORKSHEET 3

GRAMMAR FOCUS – THE PAST PERFECT

Fill the blanks with either the Past Perfect or the Past Simple to complete the sentences below.

1. A: Did you see Sally at the party last night?
B: 'No, she _____ (leave) by the time I arrived.
2. I visited my home town last week. It _____ (change) a lot in the last five years.
3. This guy _____ (come) up to me on the street the other day and _____ (start) chatting to me like we were old friends. But I knew I _____ (never meet) him before in my life.
4. When I _____ (ask) her why she _____ (be) so scared of dogs she _____ (tell) me that a dog _____ (bite) her when she was just a baby.
5. We _____ (have) a lovely time at the weekend. We _____ (go) to the cinema on Saturday night and _____ (see) a great comedy. Oh, and for lunch, we _____ (go) for a gorgeous Japanese meal.
6. She _____ (be) delighted to finally get a new job in an art gallery. She _____ (be) so unhappy working in that office.
7. I _____ (not realise) someone _____ (steal) my purse until I _____ (look) in my handbag and _____ (see) that my purse _____ (be not) there.
8. She _____ (love) the new earrings I _____ (buy) her.

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SPEAKING ACTIVITY – LATERAL THINKING PROBLMES

Puzzle 1

A man and his son are involved in a car crash. The father dies on the scene and the son is rushed to hospital. When the son is wheeled into the operating room, the surgeon on duty says "I can't operate on this boy, he is my son!"

How is this possible?

Answer

The surgeon is the boy's mother.

Puzzle 2

A man lives on the top floor of a very tall building. Everyday he gets the lift down to the ground floor to leave the building to go to work. When he comes back from work though, he can only travel half of the distance up in the lift and has to walk the rest of the way up unless it's raining!

How can this be?

Answer

The man is very, very short and can only reach halfway up the lift buttons. But, if it's raining then he has his umbrella with him which he uses to press the higher buttons.

Puzzle 3

A man stared through the dirty soot-smearred window on the 26th floor of the office block. He felt really sad. He opened the window and jumped through it. Miraculously after he landed he was completely unhurt. There was nothing to cushion his fall or slow his descent.

How could he have survived?

Answer

He was a window cleaner. He was depressed. He was so sad and so sick and tired of washing dirty windows, he opened the window and jumped inside.

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ANSWER KEY

STUDENT WORKSHEET 1

1. **False** – Paragraph 1 says, 'Jose Antonio Reggiardo died following a helicopter crash'.
2. **False** – Paragraph 1 says, 'Jose Antonio Reggiardo ... (had) no known children'.
3. **True** – Paragraph 1 says, '... she went on to produce the paperwork to prove her case - and to enjoy her new-found wealth'.
4. **True** – Paragraph 2 says, 'But then, up stepped Mario Calderon who'd been told by an aunt that he was the son of the landowner - who had had a brief affair with his mother'.
5. **True** – Paragraph 3 says, 'Mr Calderon got a legal order to disinter the body and carry out DNA tests'.
6. **False** – Paragraph 4 says, 'Ms Godoy... (is) ... being prosecuted for fraud.'

STUDENT WORKSHEET 2

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. D | 2. J | 3. I | 4. E | 5. H |
| 6. B | 7. G | 8. A | 9. C | 10. F |

STUDENT WORKSHEET 3

1. had left
2. had changed
3. acme / started / had never met or 'd never met
4. asked / was / told / had bitten or bit
5. had / went / saw / went
6. was / had been or was
7. didn't realise / had stolen / looked / saw / wasn't
8. loved / bought or had bought

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A court in northern Argentina is hearing the case of a woman who invented a new identity in order to falsely inherit a \$35million fortune. Maria Angelica Godoy said she was the illegitimate daughter of a wealthy landowner who died in 1998. However she only enjoyed the inheritance for a short while. This report from Daniel Schweimler:

Jose Antonio Reggiardo died following a helicopter crash in July Nineteen-Ninety-Eight, leaving a thirty-five million dollar fortune and **no known children**. But as he lay dying in hospital, he rushed Maria Angelica Godoy screaming: "That's my father." And she went on **to produce the paperwork to prove her case** - and to enjoy her **new-found wealth**.

But then, **up stepped** Mario Calderon who'd been told by an aunt that he was the son of the landowner - who had **had a brief affair** with his mother, who worked on the estate. The mother **drowned** in a boating accident while Mr Calderon was a baby.

A year after the landowner died, Mr Calderon got a legal order to **disinter the body** and **carry out DNA tests**. They proved that he was the child of Jose Antonio Reggiardo. Maria Godoy carried out a similar test which proved that she wasn't.

While Mr Calderon now enjoys his father's wealth, Ms Godoy and the two lawyers who **allegedly** helped her to produce the false documents, are being **prosecuted for fraud**.

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he might have had children but in public he was never seen with them or ever mentioned them so people presumed or thought he didn't have any

to produce the paperwork to prove her case

to show legal documents which confirmed that what she claimed was true

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large amount of money that she has recently received

up stepped

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had a brief affair

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