

E-lesson inspirations

These are not lesson plans; there is no prescribed sequence of steps. Instead, you can pick and mix activities depending on your specific teaching situation and your lesson aims. The activities are built around a video clip and they all focus on global issues. Decide if your students should watch out of class or in class, and if you want them to watch the whole video, or just a section. You can of course listen/watch first and be inspired to come up with your own ideas!

Title: The Lost Generation

Internet source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUqAID4Vd14>

Overview: This is a *reverse poem* written by Jonathan Reed – read backwards the message is the opposite than if read ‘the normal’ way.

Topic: generation y, change, identity, social responsibility, activism

Level / context: upper-intermediate to advanced

Duration: 2.20 min

Extras: youtube has many variations of the original poem read in different voices

PRE-VIEWING ACTIVITIES

‘Reverse Words’ Put the following words on the board: *kayak, level, madam* and ask your students what they have in common. See if they can come up with any more examples of words that can be read both ways (in English or in their own language).

‘Sentence Completion’ Ask them to complete the sentence below:

‘30 years from now, I’ll be celebrating the 10th anniversary of ...’. Then listen to their ideas, help with language if needed, and appreciate the variations they come up with.

‘True AND False’ Put the following on the board: *‘Happiness comes from within.’* Ask half of the class (Team A) to come up with reasons that back up the statement, and the other half (Team B) to come up with reasons to show that the statement is not true. Then listen to the ideas ping-pong style: each group taking turns giving a reason, as in a ping-pong match.

‘Key lexis’ Check understanding of key vocabulary, language chunks. E.g. *priority, have my priorities straight, apathetic, lethargic, quick-fix society, concede, a country of my own making, celebrate your X anniversary, expert*

POST-VIEWING ACTIVITIES

‘Alternative title’ After the first viewing, ask your students to come up with an alternative title individually or in pairs. Listen and appreciate their ideas.

'Key lexis' Check understanding of key vocabulary, language chunks. E.g. *priority, have my priorities straight, apathetic, lethargic, quick-fix society, concede, a country of my own making, celebrate your X anniversary, expert.*

'Watch and listen' There are many variations on youtube of the original poem. Ask your students if they'd like to 'listen & watch', and reflect on how the voice and the image changes the effect.

Note: listening/reading the poem several times, will help learners to pick up the language. One person reading + image: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynzPgcQ7CAU>

Several people chain-reading: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWSYDPd7O5Q>

'In my own voice' Ask your students to make the poem their own, by making one or two changes to it while keeping its reversibility. They then make a recording and listen to one another's in groups, or just read out their poem while the others in the group have to spot the changes.

Note: It is important to appreciate everyone's effort. 'Voting on the best one', for example, can undermine people's confidence.

'Write your own' Ask your students to come up with their own 'reverse poems.' Invite them to make a recording with their chosen image/images and present it in the following class, or put it up on the group's e-learning platform.