Lesson: *When things go wrong: 3 stories!*

This is a quick, easy, ready-to-go lesson that will inspire your students. It'll also give them opportunities to improve their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. This lesson comes with Teacher's Notes, a Resource Sheet, a PDF of the lesson, and an audio file. Simply follow the lesson ideas for a fantastic class that'll really motivate your students.

1 Warm-up

Discussion: Mistakes quotes
Print off or write up the following "mistakes" quotes. Give your students a few minutes to read over them and discuss them. Ask them to choose their favourite one and explain why. Then, remove the quotes. Read them out or write them up with gaps. Students have to remember the missing words. For example:
Teacher: "We learn from failure, not from _____."
Student: "Success!"
Etc.

2 Lesson activities

Go through the activities for the lesson on the sheet **at the end of this document**: the Pre-reading, Reading I and Reading II activities.

Remember, as part of the Learn Hot English method, we recommend three rounds of reading:
1. Read the text once without stopping for a general understanding (reading for gist).
2. Then, read the text again to answer comprehension questions.
3. Finally, read the text again but this time look up the meanings of any words you couldn't guess.

3 Follow-up activities

Retell it!
Assign a story (or two, etc.) to each student. Students have a minute or two to try to remember the text. When they're ready, students try to recount the information, using as much of the language as possible.

News report
Students write a news report based on one of the stories from the article in this lesson (or another similar story that they know about). The news report should include information that answers the following questions: *who, what, when, where, why, how*. When they're ready, ask for volunteers to present their news stories. They should do

this by using notes, not reading it word-for-word. They should also present it as if they were two reporters in a news studio, sitting at a desk looking into the camera. Other students listen then ask questions, or the person presenting the news could ask them questions. Alternatively, students could film their news report on a smartphone then show it to the class.

Dialogue
In pairs, students write up notes for an interview between a reporter and someone involved in one of these stories. The reporter should ask questions using who, what, where, why, when, how to get as much information as possible. Tell your students to make the interview as funny, silly or serious as they like. When they're ready, ask for volunteers to act out their interviews (using notes, not reading it out word-for-word). Other students listen and vote on the best ones.
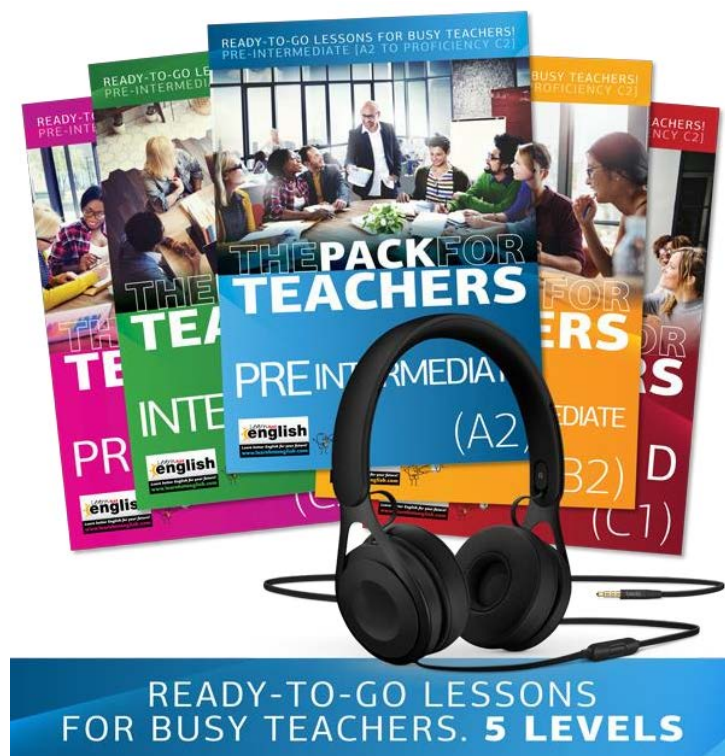
Resource Sheet

MISTAKES quotes
Read over the quotes and discuss them. Choose your favourite one and explain why you like it. Then, you're going to play a game with the quotes. Take turns reading them out but with gaps in them. Your partner has to guess the missing words. For example:
Student 1: "We learn from failure, not from _____."
Student 2: "Success!"
Etc.

• "Have no fear of perfection – you'll never reach it." Salvador Dali

• "We learn from failure, not from success!" Bram Stoker

• "Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new." Albert Einstein

• "Isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?" L.M. Montgomery

• "Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes." Mahatma Gandhi

• "Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake." Napoleon Bonaparte

• "To err is human, to forgive, divine." Alexander Pope

• "Smart people learn from their mistakes. But the real sharp ones learn from the mistakes of others." Brandon Mull

• "Good judgment comes from experience, and experience comes from bad judgment." Rita Mae Brown

• "At an early age I learned that people make mistakes, and you have to decide if their mistakes are bigger than your love for them." Angie Thomas

• "Success does not consist in never making mistakes but in never making the same one a second time." George Bernard Shaw

Objective	To improve your reading skills.
Think about it	Have you seen any funny videos or photos online recently? Have you heard about any other stories of someone trying to censor something? What happened?
Exams	This reading activity will help prepare you for English exams such as FCE, IELTS and TOEFL.

SKILLS
BOOKLET READING
UNIT 15 PAGE 94 **DISASTER TIME!**

by JohnMichael Mulderig

When things go wrong: 3 stories

1 Pre-reading

You're going to read three stories about things that went wrong for a famous singer, a well-known basketball player and a council. What do you think could have happened? Make notes.

2 Reading I

Read the article once and compare your ideas from the Pre-reading task.

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write *Beyoncé*, *Argyll* or *James* next to each statement.

1. A young girl took some photos of food.
2. Some of the photos were turned into memes.
3. It happened during a basketball camp for young players.
4. Photos from a concert were at the centre of this controversy.
5. Someone filmed part of a sports game.
6. Some photos taken by a nine-year-old girl caused concern.

4 Language focus
To get

Look at the extract from the article on this page, "…But when web users got news of this…" The writer has used an expression with the verb "to get" ("get news of something"), which means "to find out about something". What do the expressions with get mean (more or less) in the following sentences?

1. The news soon **got out**. =
2. She **got lucky**! =
3. It **got** the event even more publicity. =

Trying to censor something can often backfire, as singer Beyoncé Knowles, basketball player LeBron James, and the council of Argyll and Bute in Scotland all found out.

DON'T LOOK!
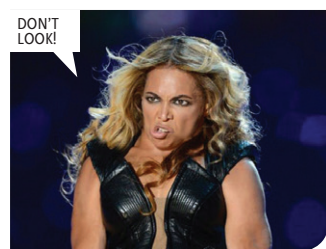
Beyoncé Knowles

When pop star Beyoncé performed at the Super Bowl XLVII half-time show in February 2013, she received rave reviews. Within hours, the website BuzzFeed.com had posted photos of the singer in action. However, Beyoncé's publicist thought the pictures were unflattering and demanded their removal. But when web users got news of this, the photos went viral. Some were turned into **memes***, with Beyoncé photo-shopped green to look like the Incredible Hulk, and her face superimposed onto just about every cartoon and movie character imaginable. Now if only they'd just ignored it!

CENSOR HER!
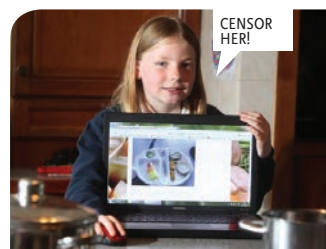
Argyll and Bute council

In 2012, nine-year-old Martha Payne started posting photos of her **school dinners*** on her blog, NeverSeconds, as part of a school writing project. Every day, she asked the small number of visitors to rate the nutritional value of the food. However, the Scottish council of Argyll and Bute (who are responsible for the school) took offence. They were concerned about the possible negative effect that this could have on the catering staff. So, they told Martha to stop publishing the photos. But their attempts to bully a young girl backfired spectacularly and ended up generating attention from news stations, famous people (including celebrity chef Jamie Oliver) and millions of web users from around the world. Martha's blog now has over eight million followers, and has collected more than £115,000, which has been given to Mary's Meals, a charity that helps impoverished children.

LeBron James

In the summer of 2009, Nike and National Basketball Association (NBA) superstar LeBron James co-sponsored a basketball camp for young players. During one of the games, college sophomore, Jordan Crawford, out-manoeuvred, then **dunked*** on LeBron James. Immediately, there were attempts to confiscate video footage taken of this. Officials wanted to prevent it getting out and harming James' reputation. But as website **www.rivals.com** noted, "By censoring the tape, LeBron turn(ed) the dunk into a legend." Eventually, the video was leaked and appeared all over the internet. Most saw the dunk as a young kid who got lucky against a basketball star who probably wasn't even trying that hard. However, the attempts to suppress it got the event more publicity than it would have received otherwise. Jordan Crawford currently plays for the NBA.

There are always some things that we'd like to keep private, but once they appear online, the best course of action seems to be to turn a blind eye… if you don't want a small problem to turn into a big deal. ◆

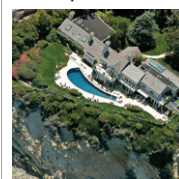
***Meme** = an adapted video or photo that becomes popular online.

***School dinner** = the food that children eat at lunchtime – around 1pm.

***Dunk** = if a basketball player "dunks", he/she jumps into the air and pushes the ball into the basket from above.

THE STREISAND EFFECT

The "Streisand effect" describes what happens when someone tries to suppress information and this ends up creating even more publicity for it. The term refers to an incident involving singer and actress Barbra Streisand. In 2003, photos of her beachfront property appeared on a website. Streisand sued the owners of the site, but wasn't successful. And as a result, public knowledge of the picture increased substantially, with more than 400,000 people visiting the site to see the photo of Barbra's house.