

## Lesson: 7 crazy internet fads!

This is a quick, easy, English lesson plan that will inspire your students. It'll also give them opportunities to improve their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. This lesson comes with 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

#### Questions

Print off the questions in the **RESOURCE SECTION (at the end of this document)** for students to ask and answer in pairs, or write them up on the board. When they've finished, ask students to report back with any interesting information they found out about other students.



### 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. You could do this lesson as a *listening* activity. In order to do this, tell your students to turn over the sheet so they can't see the text as they do the exercises.

If your students' listening level is low, stop the recording after each paragraph and check their understanding.

After finishing that, and if you've done this as a listening activity (not a reading), let your students read the text as you play the recording again. This is good for developing their listening skills as they can see the connection between the written and spoken language.

### 3 Follow-up activities

#### Retell it!

Assign a paragraph (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. Or, ask for volunteers to retell the, using as much of the original language as possible (or even by heart if they can).

#### Internet fad invention

In pairs or small groups, or individually, students invent a new internet fad. Then, they prepare a short presentation on it, giving as much information on it as possible. This should include its name, why people should do it, what it involves, how to do it, when

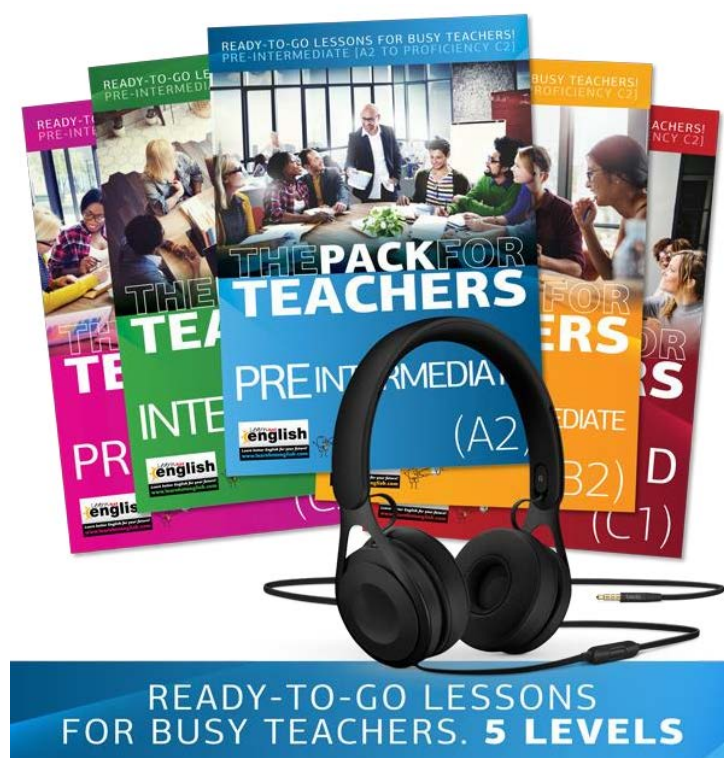
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to do it, etc. When they're ready, ask for volunteers to give their presentations, explaining everything about the internet fad. Other students listen then ask or answer questions.

### Dialogue

In pairs, students write up notes for a dialogue between a reporter and someone involved in one of the internet fads from this lesson. Tell your students to make the dialogue as funny, silly or serious as they like. When they're ready, ask for volunteers to act out their dialogues (using notes, not reading it out word-for-word). Other students listen and vote on the best ones.



## Resource Sheet – Questions

Ask and answer the questions in pairs. When you've finished, report back to the class with any interesting information you found out about other students.

### “Crazy” questions

- What is the funniest name you've heard?
  - What sport would be the funniest if the participants had to be drunk first?
  - What movie would be improved if it was made into a musical?
  - What is something that everyone looks stupid doing?
  - What is something that is really popular now, but in 5 years everyone will be embarrassed by?
  - If animals could talk, which would be the rudest, funniest, silliest...?
  - What is the weirdest thing you've seen in someone else's home?
  - What is the most embarrassing thing you have ever worn?
  - What's the most ridiculous fact you know?
  - What is the funniest joke you know by heart?
  - What are the “unwritten rules” where you work?
  - What's the best type of cheese? Why?
  - What kind of cult would you like to start?
  - What are some of the nicknames you have for friends, work colleagues, family members, customers, etc.?
  - What's the weirdest thing a guest has done at your house?
- Other?





**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you ever shared a photo or video of yourself online? What was it of? Who did you share it with? Why do you think people like sharing photos and videos of themselves online?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.

## READ & LISTEN II

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I'M A BIT OF A PLANKER!



# 7 CRAZY INTERNET FADS!

Ever heard of milking, planking or Lion Kinging? They're just three of the many internet **fads** that have been **taking the web by storm**. Each fad involves being filmed or photographed doing a specific act, then uploading the video to YouTube or the photo to Facebook (or another social network). Other internet users share the video or photo and the best ones **go viral**. Here are six of the most popular (and most ridiculous) online fads.

### Planking

"Planking" first appeared in 2011. It involves being filmed or photographed while you're lying on top of an object (such as a car) or between two objects (such as two chairs). Famous planking shots include a picture of two Wisconsin teens who planked on top of a police car (they were arrested), and a 14-year-old Norwegian boy who planked on top of a dead shark (his father is a fisherman).

### Milking

"Milking" was created in 2012 by students at Newcastle University in the UK. It involves standing in a public place and **pouring** an entire container of milk over your head. The students created a viral video of themselves "milking" in several public places, including a train station and the middle of a busy road.

### Porting

"Porting" is just like "milking", but instead of milk you pour a bottle of **port** over

your head. It was invented by a group of students at Durham University (also in the UK) in December 2012. "What could be better than pouring fortified wine over **crisp**, white shirts?" one of the students said. They uploaded a video of themselves porting in several places in Durham and it quickly went viral.

### Frosting

In November 2012, Colin Hickey from Montana (USA) created "frosting". This involves photographing yourself doing a summertime activity in the middle of winter. In one "frosting" photo that went viral, a mother and son are wearing their bathing suits while sitting on a beach towel in the snow. In another picture a man is lying on a **lilo** in the middle of a frozen lake.

### Gallon Smashing

"Gallon smashing" is another milk fad. Gallon smashers go into a supermarket and **pick up** a container of milk. Then, when nobody is watching, they **smash** the milk carton on the ground and collapse into the **puddle** of milk. Of course, an accomplice films the whole **stunt**. It's called "gallon smashing" because milk is sold in one-gallon containers in the United States.

### Lion Kinging

Remember the animated film *The Lion King*? There's a scene at the beginning when the lion Mufasa holds his new-born son Simba up in the air in order to present

him to the other animals. Well, this fad is all about being filmed while lifting your cat or dog into the air, just like Mufasa does in the movie.

### Plumbking

This fad is rather disgusting. To do it, you need to be filmed putting your head down a **toilet bowl** and then **flushing** it. Fun, eh?

So, what do you think the next internet fad will be? Maybe you should invent one yourself! ✨

### VIDEO

YouTube

Watch cat and dog owners re-enact the famous scene from *The Lion King*. Search YouTube for "lion kinging"

### GLOSSARY

**a fad** *n*  
an activity that's very popular for a short period of time  
**to take by storm** *exp*  
if something "takes the world by storm", it becomes very popular very quickly  
**to go viral** *exp*  
if a video (for example) "goes viral", it becomes popular on the internet because people share it or tell their friends about it  
**to pour** *vb*  
if you "pour" liquid out of a container, you let the liquid come out of the container, often by holding the container at an angle  
**port** *n*  
a type of strong, sweet red wine  
**crisp** *adj*  
"crisp" cloth, material or paper is clean and has no creases (lines) in it  
**a lilo** *n*  
a type of plastic bed that's filled with air. You can lie on it in the water  
**to pick up** *phr vb*  
if you "pick something up", you take it in your hands  
**to smash** *vb*  
to break into small pieces  
**a puddle** *n*  
a "puddle" of water (for example) is an area of it on the ground. "Puddles" often appear after it rains  
**a stunt** *n*  
an action that is designed to attract attention or publicity  
**a toilet bowl** *n*  
the part of the toilet that has water in it at the bottom  
**to flush** *vb*  
to press a button on a toilet so it fills with water and cleans the toilet

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

Look at the titles of the internet fads. What do you think they involve? Make notes.

### 2 Reading I

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

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the name of an internet fad next to each statement.

1. In one photo, a man is in the middle of a frozen lake.
2. It was created by students at Newcastle University.
3. It was inspired by a Disney film.
4. It's similar to "milking".
5. It involves lying between two objects.
6. It's pretty revolting.
7. It takes place in a supermarket.