

## Lesson: *Not so common experiences!*

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 following questions 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).

#### Percentage game

Play a game with the text. Read out a description, and students have to tell you the corresponding percentage. The first student who does so gets a point for his/her team. For example:

Teacher: The percentage of people who have never been drunk.

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Student: Fourteen!

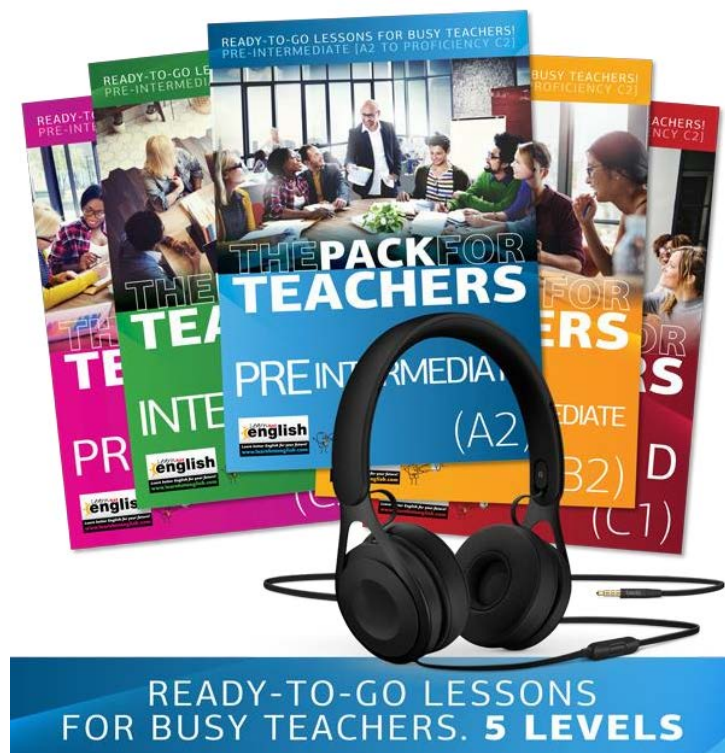
Etc.

### Survey

Students create a survey with 6 “*Have you ever...?*” questions to ask other students. When they’re ready, students ask and answer their survey questions. Finally, they report back to the whole class with any interesting information from the answers.

### Dialogue

In pairs, students write a dialogue between someone carrying out a survey in the street and a member of the public. 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 (from memory or by using notes, not reading it out word-for-word). Other students listen and vote on the best ones.



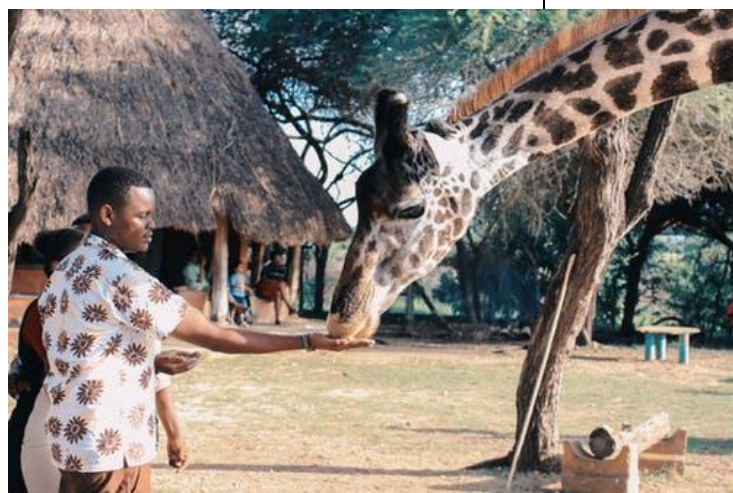
## Resource Sheet – Questions

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

### My experiences!

- Have you ever been in a theatre play?
- Have you ever made any bread?
- Have you ever met a famous person?
- Have you ever given a speech?
- Have you ever been on TV?
- Have you ever been to the theatre?
- Have you ever broken a bone?
- Have you ever fed a wild animal?
- Have you ever cheated in an exam?
- Have you ever driven a sports car, van, lorry or tractor?
- Have you ever fallen asleep on a train or bus and missed your stop?
- Have you ever fallen in love at first sight?
- Have you ever been in a fight?
- Have you ever been skiing, snowboarding or surfing?
- Have you ever fired a gun?
- Have you ever tried any extreme or adventure sports?
- Have you ever been inside a police car?
- Have you ever cooked for more than 10 people?

Other?



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

**Think about it** When was the last time you went to the cinema? When did you last send an e-mail? Have you ever seen a James Bond film?

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



# NOT SO COMMON EXPERIENCES

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

**When was the last time you...**

- ...went skiing?
- ...ordered a takeaway coffee?
- ...bought a car?
- ...ate at a McDonald's restaurant?
- ...sent an e-mail?
- ...saw a James Bond film?
- ...went to the cinema?

## 2 Reading I

**Read the article once. Which fact is the most surprising? Why?**

## 3 Reading II

**Read the article again. Then, answer the questions. What percentage of those questioned had never...**

- ...read a Shakespeare play?
- ...ordered a takeaway coffee?
- ...never flown in a plane?
- ...owned a car?
- ...sent an e-mail?
- ...seen a black and white film?

**H**ave you ever been to McDonald's, sent an e-mail or used a mobile phone? You probably have. But according to a recent **survey** by the internet **search engine** Ask Jeeves, millions of Britons have never done several things that you'd consider normal. Here are some examples.

According to the survey...

...sixty-eight percent of the people questioned have never been skiing.

...thirty-seven percent have never read a Shakespeare play.

...thirty-six percent have never been to a football match.

...thirty percent have never ordered a **takeaway** coffee.

...twenty-three percent have never flown in a plane.

...nineteen percent have never eaten in a

McDonald's restaurant.

...eighteen percent have never **owned** a car.

...seventeen percent have never **wired** a **plug**.

...sixteen percent have never sent an e-mail.

...fourteen percent have never been **drunk**.

...nine percent have never seen a James Bond film.

...seven percent have never seen a black and white film.

...six percent have never made a call with a mobile phone.

...five percent have never used a **public toilet**.

...and four percent have never been to the cinema.

An Ask Jeeves spokesperson said, "It's surprising to find that **significant numbers** of people have never tried

things that others **take for granted** in their everyday lives... it seems some people are managing to **get on** perfectly well without modern day **distractions**." ✦

## GLOSSARY

**a survey** *n*

if a company carries out a "survey", they ask people questions in order to find out information

**a search engine** *n*

a website such as Google or Yahoo! that you can use to find other websites

**a play** *n*

a piece of writing that's performed in a theatre

**takeaway** *adj*

"takeaway" food is food that you buy to eat outside the restaurant

**to own** *vb*

if you "own" something, it's yours

**to wire** *vb*

if you "wire" something (such as a piece of equipment), you put wires (long, thin pieces of metal) inside it so that electricity can pass into it or through it.

**a plug** *n*

a small plastic object with two or three metal pins which is used to connect the equipment to the electricity supply

**drunk** *adj*

if someone is "drunk", they've had too much alcohol. As a result, they can't walk or talk properly

**a public toilet** *n*

a toilet in a street that anyone can use

**significant numbers** *exp*

large numbers

**to take for granted** *exp*

if you "take something for granted", you often use it but don't really appreciate it

**to get on** *phr vb*

if you "get on" well in a situation, you live perfectly in that situation

**a distraction** *n*

an activity which entertains and amuses you, and which has nothing to do with work