

# Student's page



## 1 Warm-up

Ask and answer these questions. Then, report back to the class with any answers or information.

### Losing things!

- When was the last time you lost something? What was it?
- Have you misplaced anything lately? What was it? Did you ever find it again?
- Have you ever accused someone of having taken something of yours? What was it?
- Why did you accuse them? What happened in the end?
- Has anyone ever accused you of having taken something of theirs? What was it? Why did they accuse you? What happened in the end?
- How careful are you about putting away your things? How easy is it to find something if you need it? What are your top tips for not losing things?
- Have you ever lost any socks? Have any of your socks ever gone missing mysteriously?
- Where do you think all the missing socks go?

## 2 First viewing

You're going to watch a clip from the British comedy series *Blackadder the Third*, which aired during the 1980s. The series is set in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, a period known as the Regency. For much of this time, King George III was incapacitated due to poor mental health, and his son George, the Prince of Wales, acted as regent, becoming known as "the Prince Regent". The TV series features Prince George and his fictional butler, Edmund Blackadder. Watch the clip once. How would you describe the relationship between the butler and the prince? Who seems to be in charge?



## 3 Second viewing

Watch the video again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Who are the three enemies of the state, according to the new prime minister?
2. What does the prime minister list as the prince's three major expenses this year?
3. What are the prime minister's three main policy priorities?
4. What is the Prince of Wales' major crisis?
5. What does the prince think has been happening to his socks? And according to the prince, in what way are socks like sex?
6. What does the prince think the fearful news from today's paper is?
7. What will it mean if the bill to get the prince struck off the civil list goes through?
8. What did the prince think the public were shouting at him in the street? What were they really shouting?



# Teacher's page

## Fun lesson plans from Learn Hot English

### *Where are my socks?*

**Level:** Upper Intermediate (B2) to Advanced (C1)

**Video:** Yes

In this fun lesson, your students will watch a video clip about some missing socks, and discuss the topic of losing things – which is something that affects us all. This practical lesson will get your students using lots of useful language and all the essential skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing.



### 1 Warm-up

#### Questions

Get your students talking about the topic of losing things. Put them in pairs to answer these questions, or do it with your students. If they've done it in pairs, ask them to report back with any interesting information.

#### Losing things!

- When was the last time you lost something? What was it?
- Have you misplaced anything lately? What was it? Did you ever find it again?
- Have you ever accused someone of having taken something of yours? What was it?
- Why did you accuse them? What happened in the end?
- Has anyone ever accused you of having taken something of theirs? What was it? Why did they accuse you? What happened in the end?
- How careful are you about putting away your things? How easy is it to find something if you need it? What are your top tips for not losing things?
- Have you ever lost any socks? Have any of your socks ever gone missing mysteriously?
- Where do you think all the missing socks go?



### 2 First viewing

Ask your students to read over the information below. Check that they understand what to do. [answers below]

You're going to watch a clip from the British comedy series *Blackadder the Third*, which aired during the 1980s. The series is set in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, a period known as the Regency. For much of this time, King George III was

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incapacitated due to poor mental health, and his son George, the Prince of Wales, acted as regent, becoming known as “the Prince Regent”. The TV series features Prince George and his fictional butler, Edmund Blackadder. Watch the clip once. How would you describe the relationship between the butler and the prince? Who seems to be in charge?

### 3 Second viewing

Now students answer these questions.

1. Who are the three enemies of the state, according to the new prime minister?
2. What does the prime minister list as the prince’s three major expenses this year?
3. What are the prime minister’s three main policy priorities?
4. What is the Prince of Wales’ major crisis?
5. What does the prince think has been happening to his socks? And according to the prince, in what way are socks like sex?
6. What does the prince think the fearful news from today’s paper is?
7. What will it mean if the bill to get the prince struck off the civil list goes through?
8. What did the prince think the public were shouting at him in the street? What were they really shouting?



### 3 Follow-up activities

#### Retell it!

In pairs, students re-enact the dialogue between the Prince and the butler, using as much of the language as they can. Give them just 5 minutes to make notes and practise – no more! Or, individually, students explain what happened. Tell them they have to use at least 10 of the key words from the original dialogue. Check this as they’re giving you a summary of the dialogue.

#### Dialogue

In pairs, students write a dialogue between two people, with one person accusing the other of having taken something of theirs, or asking about a missing object. 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.

Or, students write a dialogue between a prince and his butler. Base it on the one from this video clip or invent one of your own. Make it as funny, silly or serious as you like. Try to include an incident or piece of action within the dialogue: an argument over money, an accusation of theft, the loss of something, a lover, etc. When you’re ready, read or act out your dialogue.

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## Answers

### 2 First viewing

The butler seems to be in charge as the prince is a bit stupid.

### 3 Second viewing

1. The evil dictator Napoleon Bonaparte, his old geography master (“Banana-Breath” Scrigshanks) and the Prince of Wales.
2. He’s spent L15,000 on banqueting, L20,000 on perfume and L59,000 on socks.
3. War on France, tougher sentences for geography teachers, and a right royal kick up the prince’s backside.
4. He’s run out of socks again.
5. That someone is coming in, stealing them and selling them off. His comparison with sex is that there’s a lot of it about but he never seems to get any.
6. That another cat is caught up in a tree.
7. If he gets struck off the civil list, he won’t have any socks, trousers, shirts, waistcoats or pantaloons – he’ll be bankrupted.
8. He thought they were shouting, “We hail prince George! We hail Prince George!” But they were really shouting, “We hate prince George! We hate Prince George!”