



Teacher's page

Fun lesson plans from Learn Hot English

The things we find really annoying!

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

Audio: Yes

In this fun lesson, your students will discuss the topic of annoying things. This practical class will get your students using lots of useful language and all the essential skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Here are some ideas for doing it in class. Good luck!

1 Warm-up

Discussion

Print off the questions on the **Resource Sheet** (see the end of this pack) for students to ask and answer in pairs; or display the questions 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 and what annoys them.



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.

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 as much of the text as possible. 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).

Dialogue

In pairs, students write a dialogue between two people, with one of the speakers being angry or annoyed about something. The two speakers could be from a variety of scenarios: a bus driver and a passenger; a hotel manager and a guest; a flight attendant and a passenger... 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.

Mime something annoying

Individually or in pairs, students mime something they find annoying – no speaking allowed. Other students have to guess what this thing is, or why one of the actors is annoyed.

Mini-guide

In pairs or individually, students write up a mini-guide on how to avoid getting annoyed in a variety of situations. Or, they could write up a mini-guide on how *not* to annoy people in a specific situation (such as on the underground, etc.). When they're ready, students present their ideas to the rest of the class, who ask questions or vote on the best one.

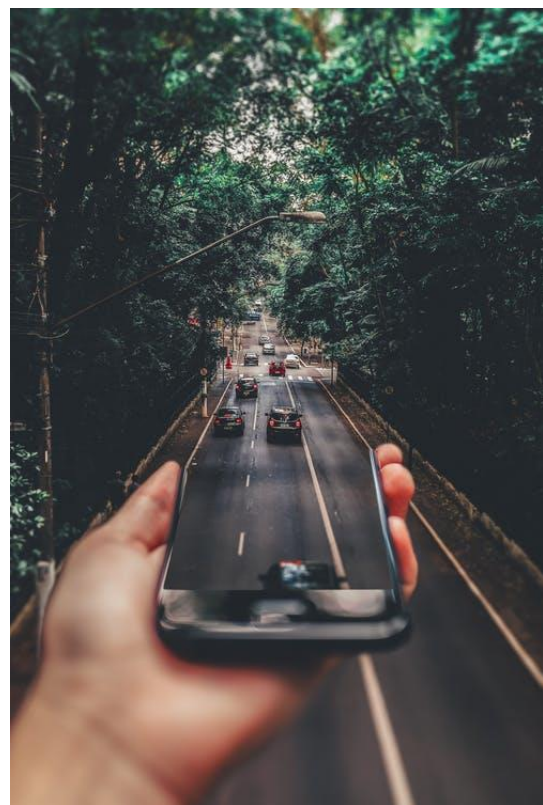


Resource Sheet – Questions

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.

Discussion: annoying things

- What annoys you about the bus?
- Have you ever run to catch a bus then missed it? What did you do? How important was the bus for you?
- Have you ever got on a bus without any change? What happened?
- What makes annoys you about airports?
- Have you ever been stuck in a queue while you were late for a flight? What did you do?
- Have you ever had any problems checking in your luggage? What happened?
- Have you ever missed a flight? Why? What happened?
- What annoys you about trains?
- Have you ever got onto the wrong train? What happened?
- Has a train you were on ever broken down? What happened?
- What annoys you about the bank?
- Have you ever been charged for something you thought was unfair? What was it?
- What habits annoy you?
- Do you think you have any habits that are annoying for other people? What are they?
- What annoys you about driving?
- Have you ever experienced road rage (extreme anger while driving)? What happened? What annoys you about restaurants?
- Have you ever made a complaint in a restaurant? What was it about?
- What annoys you at work?
- Does anyone at work annoy you? Who? Why?
- What annoys you about the underground? Why?





Watch & Learn!
Listen to two people discussing
this topic in a mini-video at
www.hotenglishmagazine.com



READING

Awfully Annoyed

A recent report on the things that really annoy us.

AWFULLY ANNOYED

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

Look at the words below. Think of one "annoying" thing related to each of the words? Use the language provided (see below).

Trains Buses Airports

Mobiles Banks

I hate it when...

I can't stand it when...

What really annoys me is when (people)...

What really makes me angry is people who...

2 Reading I

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

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the following words next to each idea:

Buses Airports Trains

Mobiles Banks

- Ridiculous excuses for delays.
Train
- Cancelled cheques.
- Being in a slow-moving queue.
- Forgetting numbers.
- Drivers with no change.
- No coverage.
- Blocked toilets.

4 Language focus Verbs + Prepositions

Look at this extract from the article, "We apologise for the delays,..." The speaker has used a verb ("to apologise") and a preposition ("for"). Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions.

- I'm thinking _____ leaving soon.
- I'm waiting _____ the train.
- I'll pay _____ these drinks.
- He looked _____ the children last night.

5 Discussion

- What annoys you most in life?
- Do you agree with any of the ideas/complaints in the article? Which ones?
- Which things mentioned don't annoy you at all?



What annoys you most in life? A new survey on annoying things had some interesting findings.

The report was divided into a number of categories. "Transport" came fairly high up in the list, with buses, trains and planes all capable of **driving us up the wall**. Some of the things we find most annoying about buses include **missing** a bus, especially after running to the bus stop, bus drivers with no change, and people in buses who crowd near the entrance, refusing to move down to the end of the bus.

The airport is another place that can really **wind us up**. Being hit by out-of-control **luggage trolleys**, or caught on the ankles by someone who can't **steer** them properly is enough to make us **see red**. Getting in a slow-moving queue to check in our baggage when our

flight's about to leave is also enough to make our blood pressure **soar**. Delayed flights are obviously another annoyance, but airlines who refuse to keep us up-to-date with the latest travel information really **rub us up the wrong way**.

The train is also another source of annoyance. Blocked toilets, buffet cars with no sandwiches and irritating passengers who make loud mobile phone calls all appeared on the list, as did ridiculous excuses for delayed or cancelled trains, including classics such as, "We apologise for the delays, but the presence of **leaves** on the **tracks** is affecting normal service."

The mobile phone is one **gadget** that's guaranteed to irritate us at some point or another. **Dead batteries**, no **coverage** or **getting cut off** in the middle of an important call are all capable of driving us to the edge. But what really **gets to us** are those automated customer service calls that keep us waiting with irritating music.

The bank is yet another source of irritation. Excessive charges for accidentally overdrawing, cancelled cheques due to a lack of funds (despite having been a loyal customer for many years) and rude staff are all sure to make us **hot under the collar**, as is forgetting our PIN number when trying to take out money, or **getting to grips with** a bank machine that has just **swallowed** our bank card.

When it comes to words and expressions, we all seem to have our **pet hates**. People commenting on things that are blatantly obvious is one way to really **drive us to distraction**, with comments such as, "Did you know you've got a **spot**?" or "You look tired". Other phrases such as, "Don't worry, there are plenty more fish in the sea", "It wouldn't have happened in my day", and "I told you" can also make our blood boil, as can people asking, "Do you have a minute for a chat?" then taking up more than 20 minutes of our time.

So, what really annoys you in life? 🍀

GLOSSARY

- to drive you up the wall** *exp*
to make you extremely angry/irritated
- to miss** *vb*
if you "miss" a bus, you don't catch it
- to wind someone up** *exp*
to make someone angry; to irritate
- a luggage trolley** *n*
a type of small cart with wheels. It is used for carrying bags
- to steer** *vb*
if you "steer" a vehicle, you control which direction it goes in
- to see red** *exp*
to become very angry
- to soar** *vb*
to increase rapidly
- to rub someone up the wrong way** *exp*
to annoy someone
- a leaf / leaves** *n*
a green object that grows on a tree. It becomes brown in autumn
- a track** *n*
the "tracks" are the metal lines that a train travels on
- a gadget** *n*
a device for doing a job
- a dead battery** *n*
a battery that has no power
- coverage** *n*
if you have "coverage", your mobile phone can locate a network
- to get cut off** *exp*
if you "get cut off", your phone suddenly stops working
- to get to you** *exp*
to annoy you / to make you angry
- hot under the collar** *exp*
angry
- to get to grips with something** *exp*
if you "get to grips with something", you start to understand how it works
- to swallow** *vb*
if a machine "swallows" your bank card, it doesn't give it back to you
- a pet hate** *n*
a minor thing that you find particularly annoying
- to drive someone to distraction** *exp*
to make someone angry
- a spot** *n*
a mark on the face often caused by an accumulation of grease