



Teacher's page

Fun lesson plans from Learn Hot English

Who is the bison man from the US riots?

Level: Advanced (C1) to Proficiency (C2)

Video: Yes

In this fun lesson, your students will use 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

Students ask and answer any of the questions on protests and protesting. If they do it in pairs, get them to report back with any interesting comments or information.



2 Article

If you have up to 6 students, give them a paragraph each to read out loud. Help them with the meanings of any words and pronunciation. Or, students read over their paragraph and then report back to each other to create the whole article. Afterwards, give them a quick test on the meanings of the words and the pronunciation. If you have a larger class, simply form more groups to hold the trial.

3 Video

Read over the questions. Then, play the video with the questions showing so students can answer them. Remind students to focus on capturing the general meaning. Once they've done this, play the video again but this time with the subtitles on so they can understand it more thoroughly.

Answers

1. Why did Jake speak telephonically?

Because he's in quarantine.

2. How long is it since he hasn't eaten?

He hasn't eaten since Friday.

3. When does he get sick?

He gets sick if he doesn't eat organic food.

4. What do they say about him? He's a local activist and Q Anon conspiracy theorist.

5. What charges is he facing? Misdemeanour charges for being inside the capitol with a spear.

6. Who died during the riot? Five people: one police officer and 4 demonstrators. A second police officer later committed suicide.

7. What will they decide in the hearing?

Whether Jake goes into custody and is taken to DC, or whether he's released so he can appear on his own.

Speaking

Hold a trial for Jake. Each student takes on a different role. They prepare their information. Let them see the main article text while they do this so they can get some of the language. Tell them to use as many of the words and expressions from the article as they can. When they're ready, hold the trial. Introduce it, presenting each character, then let students present their information. While they're speaking, try to avoid interrupting them, and make a note of any errors or pronunciation difficulties and go over these at the end. Praise students for making an effort and participating in the role play in the right spirit.



Student's page

Who is the bison man from the US riots?

Level: Advanced (C1) to Proficiency (C2)

Video: Yes

Discussion: protests!

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

- When was the last time you got angry about something? What was it? What happened?
- What makes you angry in life?
- Have you ever felt passionate about an issue? What was it?
- Have you ever felt the need to speak up for someone? Who? Why? What happened?
- Have you ever tried to defend someone? Who? Why? What happened?
- Have you ever spoken out about something? What was it? What happened?
- Have you ever felt that something was grossly unfair? What did you do about it?
- Have you ever felt that something unjust had happened?
- Have you ever protested about something at work? What was it?
- Have you ever taken matters into your own hands? What did you do? What happened?
- If you could change anything in the world, what would it be? Why?
- Have you ever complained about something? What was it? What did you do? What happened as a result?
- Have you ever taken part in a protest? Which one? Why? What happened?
- Which protest would you like to have taken part in? Why?
- What would you like to organise a protest about? Why?
- What do you think about when you hear the word "protests"?
- What's the purpose of protesting? Does it achieve anything? Is it good or bad to protest? Why?
- What protests are going on in the world right now? Which ones do you agree with them?
- Why did the protesters storm the US capitol building on 6th January? What do you think they were hoping to achieve?
- How should police deal with protestors?
- How have protests changed the history of different countries?
- What would you take with you on a protest? Why?
- What different ways are there of protesting? Which ones are the most effective? Why?
- How do social media and sites like Twitter and Facebook help protests?
- What are the dangers involved in protesting? What are the dangers of not protesting?



What do we know about the bison man?

At 11am on January 6th, Trump's "Save America Rally" began in DC with the president's sons Eric and Donald Trump Jr., then his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani. Trump started speaking at about 11:50 a.m. and said, "And after this, we're going to walk down there, and I'll be there with you, we're going to walk down... to the Capitol and we are going to cheer on our brave senators and congressmen and women." Trump spoke for more than an hour. At the conclusion, thousands walked to the Capitol.



At about half past one, rioters began grappling with police on the Capitol steps. Capitol police ordered the evacuation of many of the buildings. At around 2pm, the rioters breached police lines on the west side of the Capitol. Moments later, they scaled the walls. Vice President Mike Pence was escorted out of the Senate chamber (luckily as some protesters were heard shouting, "Hang Mike Pence!"). Around this time, Trump tweeted, "Mike Pence didn't have the courage to do what should have been done to protect our Country and our Constitution, giving States a chance to certify a corrected set of facts, not the fraudulent or inaccurate ones which they were asked to previously certify. USA demands the truth!"

At around 4pm, after a couple of hours of rioting, Trump tweeted, "I know your pain. I know you're hurt. We had an election that was stolen from us. It was a landslide election and everyone knows it, especially the other side. But you have to go home now. We have to have peace. We have to have law and order. So, go home. We love you, you're very special. I know how you feel. But go home and go home in peace."

One of the most visible members of the mob was a man with a bison headdress. He has been identified as Jake Angeli, 33, of Arizona, real name Jacob Anthony Chansley. He was arrested days later. Angeli is a known supporter of the QAnon conspiracy theory and was one of the most prominent people seen inside Congress during the suspected insurrection attempt as a result of his fur hat and horns and face paint. He was charged with knowingly entering a restricted building without lawful authority, and with violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds.

During his first hearing at a federal courtroom in Phoenix, Angeli's public defender Gerald Williams told the judge that his client hadn't eaten since he was taken into custody. This is because he's on an extremely restrictive diet consisting solely of organic food, believed to be for religious reasons. It was later confirmed that Angeli will be provided food to meet his organic diet. The suspect's mother, Martha Chansley, told ABC 15: "He gets very sick if he doesn't eat organic food – literally, he will get physically sick,"

Angeli has frequently appeared at right-wing rallies, showing support for Donald Trump's lies about the election result. He's also a supporter of the QAnon movement. QAnon are conspiracy theorists and activists who believe that President Trump is waging a secret war against Satan-worshipping paedophiles in government, business and the media. QAnon believers think that this fight will lead to a day of reckoning (Judgment Day!) where prominent people such as former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton will be arrested and executed. QAnon started in October 2017 when an anonymous user put a series of posts on the message board 4chan. The user signed off as "Q" and claimed to have a level of US security approval known as "Q clearance". These messages became known as "Q drops" and were often written in cryptic language, with a sprinkling of pro-Trump slogans.

Video: The Bison Man in court!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2inKrS_NLmI

Watch the video and answer these questions. Make sure you understand the words below first.

1. Why did he speak telephonically?
2. How long is it since he hasn't eaten?
3. When does he get sick?
4. What do they say about him and who he is?
5. What charges is he facing?
6. Who died during the riot?
7. What will they decide in the hearing?



Felony vs. misdemeanor: a “misdemeanour” is a crime that is punishable by up to a year in jail (it’s more serious than an infraction like tickets and fines); “felonies” are the most serious types of crimes, typically punishable by prison sentences greater than one year.

PUN: What did Jake’s mum say to him as he was taken away to prison? Bison!

Speaking: the court case!

You’re going to attend a trial of the Bison Man. Prepare your roles, then speak in court, taking turns to explain your ideas. Then, ask each other questions, or challenge the other viewpoints. Finally, decide whether to convict him or not. Jake is facing 10 years in prison as a result of his actions.

- 1 = you’re a lawyer defending the actions of Jake, the Bison Man. Think of reasons for defending him.
- 2 = you’re a lawyer who is prosecuting the bison man. Think of reasons to convict him.
- 3 = you’re a police officer who witnessed the events and who was attacked by the mob.
- 4 = you’re a journalist who was reporting on the events and who saw many things later reported in the news.
- 5 = you’re Jake – the man at the centre of the accusation. You’re a QAnon activist.
- 6 = you’re Jake’s mother – you obviously want to defend him and prevent him from going to prison.
- 7 = you’re the judge presiding over the case. You can sum up at the end, or ask any questions whenever you want.

Legal expressions

- It’s clear that...
- It’s obvious that...
- It has been shown that...
- There’s some evidence to suggest that...
- There’s no doubt in my mind that...
- A lot of witnesses have claimed that...
- My client has been seen...
- My client was under the impression that...
- My client is without a doubt,...
- Reports that my client... are just fake news
- My client wasn’t aware that...
- May I remind you that you’re under oath?
- I rest my case.
- I’d like to call in a new witness.
- No further questions, Your Honor.
- Objection! / Objection sustained / Objection overruled.
- Perhaps this will refresh your memory.