



Teacher's page

Fun lesson plans from Learn Hot English

Clever celebrities – famous people who went to university!

Level: Pre-Intermediate (A2) to Intermediate (B1)

Audio: Yes

In this fun lesson, your students will talk about celebrities who went to university. They will also discuss the topic of studying in general. 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: studying **scroll down for the student pages**

Write up or print off the list of university degrees. In pairs or small groups, students say what each course might involve, and what students could learn from the degrees. They also think about which ones are most popular in their countries.

Celebrities

Students think of a celebrity and write a short description of him or her. Then, they read it out for others to guess. For example:

Student 1: He sings in the band Coldplay.

Student 2: Chris Martin!

Etc.

2 Lesson activities

Go through the activities for the lesson on the sheet: 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. For the first listening, play it once through without stopping. 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. If you do this as a reading activity, you could assign a paragraph to different students. Then, in pairs or small groups, get them to explain what their assigned food item consists of.

3 Follow-up activities

Retell it!

Assign a paragraph (or paragraphs) 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. This works well in pairs, with you monitoring the language.

Quiz

Students use the internet to write up three quiz questions based on any famous people. They should include three possible answers (including the correct one) for the quiz. When they're ready, students take turns reading out their quiz questions, and other students have to guess the answers. This could be played as a game. For example:

Student 1: Which famous actress grew up living in Greece and New York City?

a) Angelina Jolie b) Jennifer Aniston c) Michelle Pfeifer

Student: b

Student 1: Correct!

Etc.

Sales presentation

Students write notes for a one-minute presentation on a degree course at a university of their choice. They should try to convince other students to do this course at university. Students should answer the following questions: *why the degree course is so good, what it involves, who it's aimed at, the syllabus, the professors-lecturers, how it can help you get a job, who else has studied it, what you'll learn, etc.* When they're ready, ask for volunteers to give their presentations (using notes, not reading it out word-for-word). Other students listen and then ask questions, or vote on the most interesting or persuasive ones.





Student's page

Clever celebrities – famous people who went to university!

Level: Pre-Intermediate (A2) to Intermediate (B1)

Audio: Yes

1 Discussion: University courses & degrees

Look at the list of university courses or degrees below. First, think about what each course or degree might involve, and what you could learn. Then, play a game. Describe one for other people to identify. For example:

A: As part of this course, you learn how to draw

B: Art. Etc.



Business Studies, Natural Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Medicine, Law, Social Sciences, Anthropology, Foreign Languages (English, French, Arabic, Russian, Chinese...), Ancient World Studies, Sports Science, Media and Communication, History of Art, History, Geography, Art, Teaching, Geology, Physics, Hospitality and Tourism, Economics, Finance, Electrical Engineering, Maths, Computer science, Mechanical engineering, Marketing, Accounting, Architecture, Artificial intelligence and robotics, Chemical engineering, Biology... Other?

Questions

Now, answer these questions on studies and studying!

- What are your top tips for studying for exams?
- When was the last time you had to study for an exam? How did you organise your time?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word “studying”?
- What do you like or dislike about studying?
- What type of classes do you like: lectures, discussions, tutorials, master classes...?
- What would you like to study next? Why?
- How has studying changed with the internet?
- Have you ever had an online class? What was it? What was it like?
- Have you ever done an online course? What was it? What did you like or dislike about it?
- What’s the most fun you’ve had while studying? Why was it so much fun?
- Have you ever studied in another country? What was it like? How was it different from your country?
- What advice would you give someone on how to study?
- What are the best and worst things about studying?
- What fun things are there to do at university or college apart from studying?



Think about it!

What did you study at college or university? Do you know about any famous people who went to college or university? How important is it to go to university or college? Are there any famous actors / musicians, etc. in your country who studied at college or university?

Answers on page 45

1 Pre-reading

Match the names (1 to 8) to the pictures (a-h).

1. Gerard Butler
2. Rowan Atkinson
3. Sacha Baron Cohen
4. Chris Martin
5. Sting
6. Eric Clapton
7. John Cleese
8. Kate Beckinsale



Famous people who studied at university.

CELEBRITY GRADUATES

As well as being artistically talented, some celebrities have an academic background. Here are a few examples of celebrities who have studied at college or university.

Actor Gerard Butler studied **law** at Glasgow University. He was also president of the school's law society.

Comedian and actor Rowan Atkinson (who's famous for his Mr Bean character), studied **electrical engineering** at Queen's College, Oxford.

Comedian Sacha Baron Cohen (who stars as Ali G and Borat in several films and TV shows) was a history student at Cambridge University. His **thesis** was on the role of Jewish people in the US **civil rights movement**.

The lead singer of Coldplay, Chris Martin, studied Ancient World Studies at University College London. It was there where he met future band-mates Will Champion (who studied **anthropology**), Jonny Buckland (mathematics) and Guy Berryman (engineering).

Gordon Matthew Sumner, otherwise known as Sting,

attended Northern Counties College of Education, (which later became part of Northumbria University) from 1971 to 1974 and **qualified as** a teacher. He then worked as a schoolteacher at St. Paul's First School in Cramlington for two years.

One of the world's greatest guitarists, Eric Clapton, studied at Kingston College of Art (now Kingston University). He was **dismissed** at the end of his first academic year because "his focus was on music and not art."

Monty Python star John Cleese got a **2:1** in law from Cambridge University. However, his knowledge of law didn't seem to have helped him when it came to **alimony payments**. After a **bitter divorce**, the **courts** ordered him to pay £12 million to his American ex-wife Alyce Faye Eichelberger.

Aviator star Kate Beckinsale studied French and Russian literature at New College, Oxford. While she was there, she starred in Kenneth Branagh's film adaptation of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. After spending her third year in

Paris, she decided not to return to university and to focus on her acting **career**. She added, "It was getting to the **point** where I wasn't enjoying either thing enough because both were very **high pressure**. I was **burning out** and I knew I had to make a decision." ✪

GLOSSARY

- law** ⁿ the study of systems of law (rules in society)
- electrical engineering** ⁿ the design, construction and maintenance of electrical devices
- a thesis** ⁿ a long piece of writing based on the investigation of a particular topic. It is often part of a qualification such as a PhD (a doctorate)
- the civil rights movement** ⁿ a popular movement for equal rights for African Americans in the US
- anthropology** ⁿ the study of people, society, and culture
- to qualify as** ^{exp} if you "qualify as" a teacher (for example), you pass the exams so you can work in that particular profession
- to dismiss** ^{vb} if someone is "dismissed" from a place, they are told to leave that place formally
- a 2:1** ⁿ the second-highest grade at university
- alimony payment** ⁿ money that must be paid regularly to a former wife or husband after a divorce
- bitter** ^{adj} if an argument is "bitter", both people are very angry
- a divorce** ⁿ a legal separation of married people
- the courts** ⁿ this refers to the place where legal matters are decided by a judge and jury (a group of 12 people)
- a career** ⁿ the job / profession you choose to do for the majority of your life
- the point** ⁿ the time
- high pressure** ^{exp} if a job is "high pressure", it is very stressful
- to burn out** ^{phr vb} if someone is "burnt out", they don't have any energy (because they've worked a lot)

2 Reading I

Who are these people? What are they famous for? Think! Then, read the article once to compare your answers.

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the name of the correct person next to each subject.

1. Ancient World Studies _____
2. Law (Cambridge University) _____
3. Electrical engineering _____
4. French and Russian literature _____
5. Teaching _____
6. Art _____
7. History _____
8. Law (Glasgow University) _____