



Teacher's page

Fun lesson plans from Learn Hot English

Eight actors with distinctive voices!

Level: Intermediate (B1) to Upper Intermediate (B2)

Audio: Yes

In this fun lesson, your students will discuss the topic of cinema and actors. 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

Actor descriptions – scroll down for the student pages

Individually, or in pairs, students look at the list of actors and actresses on the Resource Page and choose 3 of them. Then, they select 1 or 2 adjectives to describe each actor or actress. Once they've done this, they get together with another student or pair and compare ideas. Did they think of the same adjectives?

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.

Remember, for the first listening you should play the recording once without stopping so students get the gist of it.

For the second listening, 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 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.

Film descriptions

Students choose a film starring one of the actors or actresses from this lesson. Then, they write a short description of the movie without naming it. When they're ready, students take turns reading out their film descriptions. Other students have to guess the name of the film.

Mimicking

As a class, choose a famous line by one of the actors that you can find on YouTube. For example, the Liam Neeson "I will find you" scene (search YouTube for *Taken Phone Speech*.) Then, students practise saying it for a couple of minutes. When they're ready, have a competition to see who can say it the best.

Dialogue

In pairs, students write up notes for a dialogue between a reporter and an actor from this lesson. Tell your students to make the dialogue as funny, silly or serious as they like. When they're ready, ask for volunteers to read or 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 ask and answer questions.





Student's page

Eight actors with distinctive voices!

Level: Intermediate (B1) to Upper Intermediate (B2)

1 Warm-up

Actor descriptions

Look at the list of actors and actresses below and choose 3 of them you like. Then, select 1 or 2 adjectives from below to describe each actor or actress. Once you've done this, get together with another student or pair and compare ideas. Did you think of the same adjectives?

Lauren Bacall, Tom Hanks, Clint Eastwood, Robert Downey, Jr., Marilyn Monroe, Johnny Depp, Tom Cruise, Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro, Jack Nicholson, Audrey Tautou, Matt Damon, Will Smith, Jennifer Lawrence, Sean Connery, Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson, Charlize Theron, Kate Winslet, Emma Stone, Meryl Streep, Angelina Jolie, Jennifer Aniston, Liam Neeson, Demi Moore



Adjectives to describe someone

Funny, angry, attractive, beautiful, rough, interesting, clever, charming, confident, aggressive, violent, smooth, cool, crazy, sultry, sexy, bossy, commanding, silly, stupid, tall, short, creative, cruel, cute, dangerous, easy-going, famous, friendly, good-looking, helpful, lucky, outgoing, popular, responsible, romantic, selfish, talkative, young, old...

Other?



Think about it!

Who are some of your favourite actors? Why do you like them? Is an actor's voice important? In what ways? Which foreign actors do you find easy / difficult to understand?

Answers on page 44

1 Pre-reading

Match the actors (1 to 8) to the photos (a-h).

1. Clint Eastwood ☐
2. Marilyn Monroe ☐
3. Jack Nicholson ☐
4. Audrey Tautou ☐
5. Liam Neeson ☐
6. Demi Moore ☐
7. Sean Connery ☐
8. Lauren Bacall ☐



2 Reading I

Which adjectives would you use to describe any of these actors or their voices? Think of at least three. Then, read the article once to compare your ideas.

3 Reading II

Write the name of an actor next to the descriptions of their voices (1 to 8).

1. A sultry, sweet voice =
2. A smooth Scottish accent =
3. A voice like cotton candy =
4. A low dusky voice =
5. A smooth, husky voice =
6. A raspy voice =
7. A warm, commanding voice =
8. A throaty, coarse voice =

by Laura Hockett

A recent survey lists the actors with the most **recognisable** voices. Here are some of them. Who else would you add to the list?

Clint Eastwood

American actor Clint Eastwood (1930) has directed and starred in numerous films, including *Million Dollar Baby*, *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* and *Dirty Harry*. His calm, **raspy** voice **commands authority** and is instantly recognisable. This sound clip is from *Dirty Harry*: "You've got to ask yourself one question: 'Do I feel lucky?' Well, do you, **punk**?"

Marilyn Monroe

Born Norma Jeane Mortenson in 1926, Marilyn Monroe is famous for films such as *Some Like it Hot*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and *How to Marry a Millionaire*. Her voice has been described as "**cotton candy**, smoke, wind, **lollipops** and **velvet**". This sound clip is from *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*: "Sometimes, Mr Esmond finds it very difficult to say 'no' to me."

Jack Nicholson

Jack Nicholson (1937) is an American actor, producer, screenwriter and director. He's starred in films such as *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Shining* and *The Departed*. His low, smooth, **husky** voice is perfect for his **menacing sarcasm**. This sound clip is from *Anger Management*: "Dave, you have a disease. Would you **apologise** if you were a **diabetic**? Of course not."

Audrey Tautou

Frenchwoman Audrey Tautou (1976) is famous for her **sultry**, sweet voice. She's appeared in numerous films, including *Coco Before Chanel*, *Amélie* and *The Da Vinci Code*. This sound clip is from *The Da Vinci Code*: "Professor Langdon, you are in grave danger."

Liam Neeson

Irishman Liam Neeson (1952) has starred in films such as *Michael Collins*, *Gangs of New York*, and *Batman Begins*. His warm, commanding voice has seen him in a wide variety of roles, including a **voiceover** as Aslan, the lion from *The Chronicles of Narnia*. This sound clip is from *Taken*: "I will look for you. I will find you. And I will kill you!"

Demi Moore

American actress Demi Moore (1962) has a **throaty**, **coarse** voice that many find seductive. She's famous for her roles in films such as *A Few Good Men*, *Ghost* and *Indecent Proposal*. This sound clip is from *A Few Good Men*: "Because they stand on a wall, and they say, 'Nothing's going to hurt you tonight, not on my watch.'"

Sean Connery

This Scottish actor is famous for his role as agent 007 – James Bond. Born in 1930, Sean has starred in films such as *Dr No*, *Gold Finger* and *The Hunt for Red October*. This sound clip is from the James Bond film, *From Russia with Love*: "Er... just a drink. A martini, shaken, not stirred."

Lauren Bacall

Lauren Bacall was born Betty Joan Perske in September 1924. She's starred in several classic films, including *The Big Sleep*, *How to Marry a Millionaire* and *To Have and Have Not*. She's well known for her low, **dusky** voice. This sound clip is from *To Have and Have Not*: "You know how to **whistle**, don't you, Steve?" ☆

GLOSSARY

recognisable *adj*
if something is "recognisable", you can identify / see / notice it easily
raspy *adj*
if someone has a "raspy" voice, they make rough (not smooth) sounds as if they have a sore throat
to command authority *exp*
if A "commands authority", other people do what A says
punk *excl inform*
a word used to refer to a man in a bad way. It means "young man" more or less
cotton candy *n*
a type of light, sweet food made of coloured sugar that is in a circle on a stick
a lollipop *n*
a type of sweet that is in the shape of a circle or ball on the end of a stick
velvet *n*
soft material made from cotton, silk, or nylon
husky *adj*
if someone has a "husky" voice, their voice is low and rough (not smooth)
menacing *adj*
if something is "menacing", it seems to be dangerous
sarcasm *n*
saying the opposite to what you mean. It's often used to make fun of someone or to make them feel bad
to apologise *vb*
to say sorry
a diabetic *n*
someone with diabetes – a disease that is characterised by high glucose levels in the blood
sultry *adj*
erotic / passionate / provocative in a quiet way
a voiceover *n*
the voice of an actor who you cannot see, often because they're doing the voice of a cartoon character
throaty *adj*
a "throaty" voice is low and rough
coarse *adj*
a "coarse" voice is rough (not smooth)
dusky *adj*
low (not high)
to whistle *vb*
to make a series of musical notes by forcing air out between your lips