



Teacher's page

Fun lesson plans from Learn Hot English

Gossip!

Level: Pre-Intermediate (A2) to Upper Intermediate (B2)

Video: Yes

In this fun lesson, your students will focus on the topic of gossip (news or rumours about the private lives of other people). 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 Discussion: gossip – scroll down for the student Resource pages

In pairs or small groups (or as a class), students ask and answer the questions about gossip. Later, they can share any interesting ideas or thoughts with the whole class.

2 Vocabulary

For a fun game, let students read over the vocabulary definitions. Then, students cover the words while you read out a definition. Students have to tell you what the corresponding word or expression is. And they get a point for each correct answer. For example:

Teacher: A metal object that you can use to fry food by cooking it in hot oil.

Student: A frying pan.

Etc.



3 Video

Students watch the video once from start to finish. Then, play the video again and students try to answer the comprehension questions. This time, you can pause or stop the video after each question and replay as many times as necessary.

CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO

VIDEO LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dy wz7-Riufw&feature=youtu.be>

Answers

Video

1. How does Terry keep in touch with Pete? Through social media
2. Where was Pete working before? In a supermarket
3. Where is Pete working now? In a big bank
4. Who is Pete going out with now? Jenny
5. What do Pete and his new girlfriend want to do? Move in together
6. What is Stephanie going to try to do? Find Pete on Facebook

Quiz!

1. tell; 2. with; 3. curious; 4. said; 5. gossip; 6. broke; 7. correct; 8. up; 9. move

Read & listen!

After you've done the comprehension questions, let students read over the script in pairs. Then, play the video while students follow the script. This is great for developing their listening skills.

4 Role play: Gossip!

In pairs, students choose a role. Then, they prepare their questions and answers. When they're ready, they sit facing each other and begin the role play. Make notes while students are speaking. Then, go over any language or pronunciation mistakes with them.





Student's page

Gossip!

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

Video: Yes

1 Discussion: gossip!

In pairs or small groups, ask and answer any of the questions below. Finally, share any interesting ideas or thoughts with the rest of the class.

- How would you define the word "gossip"?
- What do people typically gossip about?
- What news, stories or rumours have you heard about famous people lately?
- Do you ever read gossip magazines? Which one/s? Why? Why not?
- What do you think of the paparazzi? Should privacy laws be stricter?
- Why do you think gossip magazines and TV chat shows are so popular?
- When was the last time someone told you a bit of gossip about a friend, colleague or acquaintance? What did they tell you?
- What do you think about gossip in general?
- What do people typically gossip about at school, college or university?
- What do families usually gossip about?
- What do people often gossip about at work?
- What are the negative consequences of gossiping?
- How can gossiping affect the environment at work?
- Do you know anyone who likes to gossip? Who do they gossip about?



What sort of things do they say?

- Why do you think that some people like gossiping? What are the pros and cons of gossiping?
- Would you rather be gossiped about or never talked about at all? Why?
- What's the latest gossip at work, school or university, or in your city or country?
- How could spreading rumours help someone? Do you think the government ever spreads false rumours? Why? Give examples.
- What examples of malicious gossip can you think of?
- In your country, can someone be sued for spreading false rumours? Under what circumstances?
- What could someone do to counter negative gossip? What do celebrities or public figures typically do when false rumours are spread about them?
- What rumours or fake news stories are being spread on social media right now?
- Has anyone ever spread a rumour at work? What was it? What happened?
- What rumours or stories are being spread at work right now?
- How do you react when someone starts telling you a bit of gossip?
- What are your top tips for preventing gossip at work?



2 Vocabulary

Vocabulary

Here are some words to learn before watching the video. Make sure you understand them as your teacher will test you on them.

Curious

If you're "curious" about something, you really want to know about it. For example, "I'm curious to know who he's going out with now."

To be up to

The things that someone is "up to" are the things they're doing, or they've been doing lately. For example:

"What's she up to these days?" (What is she doing these days?)

Be with

The person you "are with" is the person you're going out with. For example:

"Is she still with Pete?"

Gossip

Information about someone's private life. Also, a verb, to gossip. For example:

"I have a bit of gossip about Jessica."

To tell versus to say

Remember, we use the verb "to tell" with an object (*me, you, them...*). For example:

- I told **her** about Mike and his new girlfriend.
- Don't tell **anyone** what I told you.
- She told **Pete** the secret.

And we "say" something. So, "say" is followed by either a noun or a full sentence. For example:

- I said I was hungry.
- He said it was the correct answer.
- I said the wrong thing.

To move in together

If a couple move in together, they start living together in the same house. For example:

"They want to move in together."

To break up

If a couple "break up", they stop having a relationship. For example:

"They broke up after a six-month relationship."

Never would have imagined

The things you "never would have imagined" are the things you thought could never happen – the things that no one would ever do. For example:

- I never would have imagined they would get married. (I never thought they would get married.)
- I never would have imagined that Pete was going to pass the exam. (I never thought he was going to pass the exam.)



3 Video

Viewing 1

You're going to watch a conversation with Terry and Stephanie who are talking about their friend, Pete. Watch the video and answer the questions. Remember, for the first time, you should watch the video from start to finish without stopping and try to understand as much as possible. After that, you can watch it again, pausing or stopping it wherever you like. [answers below]

Viewing 2

Watch the video again. Then, answer these questions.

1. How does Terry keep in touch with Pete?
2. Where was Pete working before?
3. Where is Pete working now?
4. Who is Pete going out with now?
5. What do Pete and his new girlfriend want to do?
6. What is Stephanie going to try to do?

Quiz!

Try our little language quiz to see how much you can remember. [answers below]

Complete the sentences with the correct words from below.

said tell correct with move up curious gossip broke

1. Don't _____ anyone what I told you.
2. How's Jessica doing? Is she still _____ Pete?
3. I'm _____ to know who he's going out with now.
4. I think I _____ the wrong thing.
5. I have a bit of _____ about Jessica.
6. They _____ up after a four-month relationship.
7. He said it was the _____ answer.
8. What's she _____ to these days?
9. After six months in a relationship, they decided to _____ in together.

IMPORTANT: only read over the script below **after** you've done the Viewing 1 and 2 activities!

Video script

Stephanie: So, I've been meaning to ask you, have you talked with Pete at all recently? I'm just curious to know how he's doing.

Terry: Actually, actually, no I haven't spoken to Pete in ages, but we do keep in touch with social media, like Facebook and Instagram, so I know he's doing well but we haven't actually spoken.

S: OK, so what is he up to? I'm just curious.

T: Well, he left his job in the supermarket and he's changed to a big bank. And, so, he's very happy with his new job because it's more stable; he's travelling abroad a lot for meetings and conferences, so in this aspect he's very happy.

S: My gosh, that's so great, erm and is he still... what was her name? Sarah? Is he still with Sarah?

T: Oh, Sarah, no. I have gossip for you.

S: Oh, oh my gosh.

T: He and Sarah broke up, but now he's with Jenny, who is Mark's ex-girlfriend. [Yes! I remember.] So, don't tell anyone.

S: OK, oh my God I won't; no way!

T: And, as a matter of fact, they're thinking of renting a house together, or buying a house together. They want to move in together. And this fits in with Pete's plan because as you know he is flipping houses. He's buying houses, fixing them up and selling them for more money.

S: Oh my God, Pete! I never would have imagined this; he sounds like he's doing great!

T: Pete's grown up.

S: Oh my gosh, I'm going to try to find him on Facebook and reach out.

T: Good idea.



4 Role play: Gossip

In pairs, choose a role from below. When you're ready, act out the role play. Imagine you work for a large multinational company and you're on your coffee break.

Student A

Pass on any of the following gossip (or invent your own ideas). React to the things the other student tells you and ask follow-up questions. Use the language below.

- A colleague is on social media all day, not working.
 - The boss is thinking about leaving the company.
 - A colleague stole some food from another co-worker.
 - The company is about to be sold to a group of investors.
 - A colleague has had some cosmetic surgery.
 - A colleague arrives late and leaves early every day.
 - There's a party next Friday but only certain people have been invited.
 - A colleague is selling secrets to the competition.
-

Student B

Pass on any of the following gossip (or invent your own ideas). React to the things the other student tells you and ask follow-up questions. Use the language below.

- A colleague is thinking about leaving the company.
- The company is in financial trouble.
- A colleague is taking office stationery home.
- A competitor is about to launch a similar but cheaper product to the one your company produces.
- A colleague is going to get fired.
- The boss took the credit for a colleague's idea.
- A manager was responsible for the loss of an important contract.
- A colleague came into work drunk the other day.

Useful language

Passing on gossip

- Have you heard the latest gossip?
- Did you hear about X?
- Guess what I heard?
- I bet you didn't know that X...
- Just between you and me, I've heard that...
- I'm going to let you in on a little secret...
- No one else knows this yet, but....

Reacting to gossip

- Really? / I don't believe it! / No way!
- Are you sure because I heard that...
- I can't believe that's true.
- There's no way that X would do that.
- Who told you that?
- Where did you hear that?
- When did you hear that?
- How do you know that's true?
- When is it going to happen?