

FILM ENGLISH

The Great Dictator

Language level: Upper Intermediate (B2.1) - Advanced (C1)

Learner type: Teens and adults

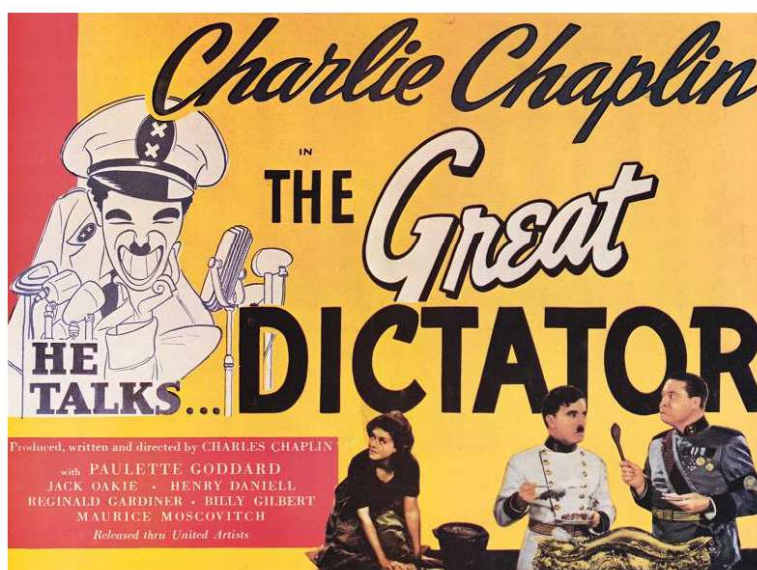
Time: 90 minutes

Activity: Watching short film clip, identifying and classifying abstract nouns and speaking about politics

Topic: Films and politics

Language: Abstract nouns

Materials: Short film clip, film stills and posters, speech transcript and discussion questions



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This lesson is based around a clip from *The Great Dictator*. Students watch a short film clip, identify and classify abstract nouns and speak about politics

Step 1

Show students the PowerPoint below, there are 10 slides with stills from films which all have an abstract noun in their title. The students should try to name the film; then show them the film poster which has the title of the film. When the students have named all the films, ask them what all the titles have in common. Hopefully, they will recognise that there is an abstract noun in all the titles.

Ask students if they can define what an abstract noun is. If they can't, give them a definition such as:

"An abstract noun is a noun you can't see, hear, touch, taste, or smell."

Step 2

Show the students this Wordle of common abstract nouns and check that they know their meanings.

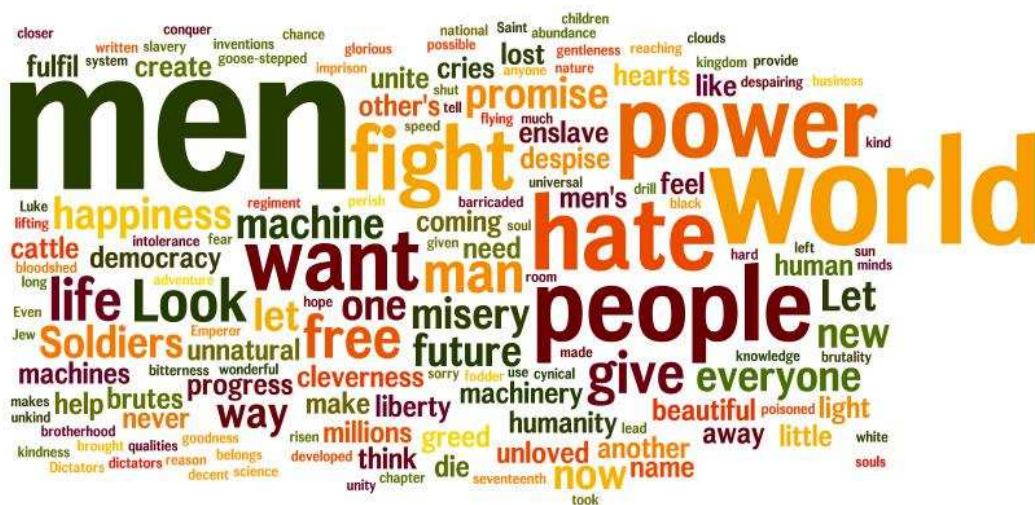


Step 3

Show the students the abstract noun document and go through the definition of an abstract noun and the most common endings. Then ask students to put the abstract nouns in the Wordle into the correct category: emotions, states or ideals.

Step 4

Tell students they're going to watch a speech from a film in which a lot of abstract nouns are used. Show them this Wordle of the speech and in pairs they should predict what the speech will be about.



Step 5

Show students the video of the speech at the end of The Great Dictator which is a rousing call for humanity to break free from dictatorships and use science and progress to make the world a better place.

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IvPIWzQcUY>

Step 6

Get feedback from students on whether their predictions were correct and what they understand. Ask what abstract nouns they understood. Then get students to read the speech in the document and to underline all the examples of abstract nouns. Get feedback. Then watch the speech again.

Step 7

Put students into pairs and get them to discuss the questions about politics.

I hope you enjoy the lesson.

Overview

This lesson is designed around a short film

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4

Step 5

step 6