

# FILM ENGLISH

## Gratitude

**Language level:** Intermediate (B1) -  
Advanced (C1)

**Learner type:** Teens and adults

**Time:** 90 minutes

**Activity:** Writing, speaking, dictation,  
watching a video, speaking and writing a  
composition

**Topic:** Gratitude and nature

**Language:** *grateful for* and vocabulary  
related to nature

**Materials:** Video



**Overview**

This EFL lesson plan is designed around a beautiful and moving video by Louis Schwartzberg and the themes of gratitude, beauty and nature. Students write sentences about gratitude, speak about what they are grateful for, write dictated sentences, watch a video, and write a composition.

**Step 1**

Write *grateful* on the board. Ask students if they know what the word means. Write an example sentence such as:

*I'm really grateful for having a loving family.*

Try to elicit the meaning (feeling or showing thanks).

**Step 2**

Ask students to think about what they have to be grateful for and to write 10 sentences. Give examples such as:

I'm grateful for the friends I have.

I'm grateful for my health.

I'm grateful for being able to study.

I'm grateful for having a job I like.

**Step 3**

When students are ready ask them to explain their sentences to their partner and to compare the things they are grateful for.

**Step 4**

Hold a plenary discussion on what students are grateful for and write up any common themes. Ask them if the things they are grateful for are generally big or small.

**Step 5**

Tell students they are going to watch a video which is titled *Gratitude*. Explain that gratitude is the abstract noun from grateful. Tell them that the person who presents the video is a film-maker called Louis Schwartzberg. Dictate the following questions to students:

How does Louis describe his films?

What is time-lapse photography?

What does Louis say we can learn from nature?

What does Louis say we should be grateful for

As they watch the first part of the video they should try to answer the questions. The first time you show the video show without subtitles and pause at 03:32.

Link:

[http://www.ted.com/talks/louie\\_schwartzberg\\_nature\\_beauty\\_gratitude.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/louie_schwartzberg_nature_beauty_gratitude.html)

**Step 6**

After students have finished watching the video, put them in pairs and ask them to compare their answers.

## Step 7

Show the video again; this time with subtitles. When students are ready go through the questions with the whole class.

## Step 8

Dictate the following quotation from Louis:

*"When we see ourselves in nature, it connects us to every one of us, because it's clear it's all connected in one."*

Put students into pairs and ask them to check if they've got the same words. Read the quotation again and check they've got it right.

Alternatively show students the quotation.

*"When we see ourselves in nature, it connects us to every one of us, because it's clear it's all connected in one."*

*Louis Schwartzberg*

**Step 9**

Put students into small groups and ask them to discuss the quotation for 5 minutes. Hold a plenary discussion.

**Step 10**

Louis says that he is going to show the perspective of this world from the point of view of a young girl; ask students what they think a young girl's perspective of nature and beauty would be.

**Step 11**

Show the second part of the video from 03:34 to 04:11 without subtitles and ask students to answer the following question:

What's the girl's perspective of nature?

**Step 12**

Ask students what the girl's perspective is. Show the video a second time; this time with subtitles.

**Step 13**

Ask students if they like the young girl's perspective and if they think it is typical of a young child.

**Step 14**

Louis says that he is going to show the perspective of this world from the point of view of an elderly man; ask students what they think an elderly man's perspective of nature and beauty would be and how it might be different from a young girl's perspective.

**Step 15**

Dictate the following questions to students:

What does the elderly man say we should be grateful for?

What does the elderly man say we should open our hearts to?

Put students in pairs and ask them to compare their questions. Tell students they are going to watch the rest of the video and that they should answer the questions:

Now show the video from 04:13 until the end without subtitles.

**Step 16**

Get students to compare their answers. Show the video with subtitles and hold a plenary discussion on the answers to the questions.

**Step 17**

Dictate the following quotation from the elderly man.

## FILM ENGLISH

*"You think it's just another day. It's not just another day. It's the one day that's given to you today. It's given to you; it's a gift."*

Check that students have the correct quotation and then put them into small groups to discuss the quotation. Hold a plenary discussion.

Alternatively show students the quotation.

*"You think it's just another day.  
It's not just another day. It's the  
one day that's given to you today.  
It's given to you; it's a gift."*

Louis Schwartzberg Gratitude

### Homework

Ask students to write a composition titled:

*What I'm grateful for.*

**I hope you enjoy this EFL lesson.**