Father and Son

Language level: Intermediate (B1) – Upper Intermediate (B2)
Learner type: Teens and adults
Time: 90 minutes
Activity: Using binomials, listening to a short film and writing down the transcript, predicting and writing a narrative, watching a film and talking about different relationships.
Topic: Fathers and sons, and relationships
Language: Binomials, vocabulary related to relationships and family
Materials: Short film
Overview

This EFL lesson is designed around a beautiful short film titled Jordan and Norvin directed by Matt Bieler which documents the true story of the relationship between a father and son. Students practise using binomials, listen to the short film and write down the transcript, predict and write a narrative, watch the film and talk about different relationships.

Step 1

Write hot and on the board and ask students what comes after and. They will probably be able to tell you that cold comes after and. Tell students that hot and cold is an example of a binomial. Explain that a binomial is a pair of words (for example, hot and cold) which are conventionally linked with a conjunction (usually and) or a preposition.

Step 2

Dictate the following words to students:

1. Fish
2. Hamburgers
3. Salt
4. Cat
5. Black
6. Knife
7. Cup
8. Peace
9. Pros
10. Pots
Step 3

Tell students that you would like them to come up with binomials using the first word, and, and another word which conventionally goes with it. Pair students and give them a few minutes to complete the binomials.

When students are ready elicit the answers:

1. Fish and chips
2. Hamburgers and French fries
3. Salt and pepper or vinegar in the UK
4. Cat and dog
5. Black and white
6. Knife and fork
7. Cup and saucer
8. Peace and quiet
9. Pros and cons
10. Pots and pans

Step 4

Now ask students to write a short narrative in which they try to use at least 5 of the binomials. Give them 5 minutes to write their stories and then ask them to read their stories to a partner. Ask for volunteers to read out their stories and ask students to comment on them.

Step 5

Dictate the following words:

1. Husband
2. Mother
3. Teacher
4. Doctor
5. Brother
Step 6

Tell students that you would like them to come up with binomials using the first word, and, and another word which conventionally goes with it. Pair students and give them a few minutes to complete the binomials.

Step 7

When students are ready elicit the answers:

1. Husband and wife
2. Mother and child/daughter/son
3. Teacher and student/pupil
4. Doctor and patient
5. Brother and sister

Step 8

Write father on the board and ask students what words most typically go with it. Students will probably say son, daughter and child. Tell students that the most common pair is father and son.

Step 9

Dictate the following question:

What words would you use to describe the relationship between a father and son?

Put students into small groups and ask them to discuss the question.
Step 10

Tell students that they are going to listen to, but not watch a short film which about the relationship between a father and son. As they listen they should try to understand the words which the father and son use to describe their relationship. It will probably be necessary to play the film 2 or 3 times.


Step 11

Elicit the transcript from students.

To my Dad. To my son.

My inspiration. My teacher.

My student. My coach.

My father. My life.

My game. Our game.

My world. Our world.

My teacher. My student.

My dream. Our dream.

My heart. My heart.

My love. My love.

My star. My moon.

My hero. My hero.

I love you, son.

I love you, Dad.
Step 12

Put students into pairs and ask them what images they are going to see when they see the film. Ask them to read through the transcript and to visualise the images they are going to see. When students are ready get feedback from the whole class.

Step 13

Now show the film and ask students to notice if the images they visualised are similar to those they see in the film. After watching get feedback from the whole class.

Step 14

Tell students they are going to watch the film again; this time they should write down words which spring to mind to describe the relationship between the father and son. After watching elicit words and write them on the board.

Step 15

Dictate the following questions:

1. What’s the difference between the relationship of father and son, and mother and son?
2. What’s the difference between the relationship of father and daughter, and mother and daughter?
3. What’s the difference between the relationship of parents and children, and grandparents and grandchildren?
Step 16

Put students into small groups and ask them to discuss the questions.

Step 17

When students are ready hold a plenary discussion based on the questions.

Homework

Ask students to write a composition about the relationship between 2 members of their family.

I hope you enjoy the lesson.

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