

## Racism Is Real

**Language level:** Intermediate (B1) -  
Upper Intermediate (B2)

**Learner type:** Teens and adults

**Time:** 90 minutes

**Activity:** Watching a short film,  
identifying examples of racism, reading,  
writing and speaking

**Topic:** Racism

**Language:** Comparatives

**Materials:** Short video, written pledge  
and discussion questions



**Overview**

This EFL lesson is designed around a short video about racism by [Brave New Films](#). In the lesson students watch the video, identify 8 differences between the treatment of black versus white people, read a pledge, write their own pledge, and discuss racism.

**Step 1**

Tell students they are going to watch a short video and their task is identify the theme of the video.

Show the video.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/136101511>

**Step 2**

Your students will be able to tell you that the film is about racism. Elicit as many of examples of racism shown in the film.

**Step 3**

Tell your students that they are going to watch the video again, and their task is to identify and make notes on the 8 examples of racism shown in the video.

**Step 4**

Give your students time to complete their notes and then compare them with a partner.

**Step 5**

Go through the 8 examples of how black people are treated differently from white people in the USA:

1. Thousands of resumes were sent out which were identical except for the names. Black-sounding names were 50% less likely to be called back for an interview.
2. Black people are charged \$700 more than white people when buying cars.
3. Black people are twice as likely to be pulled over by the police.
4. Black clients are shown 17.7% fewer houses than white people.
5. Black people are 4 times more likely to be arrested for using marijuana.
6. Black people are incarcerated 6 times the rate of white people.
7. Doctors did not inform black patients as often as white ones about an important heart procedure.
8. White legislators did not respond as frequently to constituents with black-sounding names.

**Step 6**

Ask your students to look at the sentences and identify different ways of making comparisons.

Elicit: less likely, more than, twice as, 4/6 times more, fewer, as often as, and as frequently.

**Step 7**

Ask your students if there is any racial, ethnic, religious or minority group which is discriminated against in their country. Ask them if these groups are likely to be discriminated in the 8 ways illustrated in the video.

### **Step 8**

Explain to your students that the producers of the video, Brave New Films, started an anti-racism campaign in which they invited viewers of the video to sign a pledge acknowledging the realities of racism and committing to fighting for the equality of all races. Show the pledge online

<http://www.bravenewfilms.org/racism>

or give students the document with the pledge. Ask them to read it and then discuss it.

### **Step 9**

Put your students into small groups and ask them to write their own pledge acknowledging the discrimination of a minority group and a commitment to fighting this discrimination. Help them with language as necessary.

### **Step 10**

When they have finished writing ask a member of each group to read out their pledge and discuss each one.

### **Step 11**

Give your students and ask them to talk about them in small groups.

## Step 12

Hold a plenary session on the questions.

**I hope you enjoy the lesson.**

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