

FILM ENGLISH

My Earliest Childhood Memory

Language level: Pre-intermediate (A2) - Intermediate (B1)

Learner type: Teens and adults

Time: 60 minutes

Activity: Watching a short film, reconstructing a narration, speaking and writing

Topic: Childhood memories

Language: Vocabulary related to childhood and past simple tense

Materials: Short film



Overview

This ELT lesson plan is designed around a short film by 19-year old filmmaker Bethany titled *My earliest Childhood Memory*, and, the theme of childhood memories. Students describe their earliest childhood memory and listen to other students describe theirs, watch a short film and reconstruct the narration, and talk about other childhood memories.

Step 1

Write 'my earliest childhood memory' on the board. Tell your students one of your earliest childhood memories. For example, I tell my students the following memory:

"I remember being on the beach in Weston-super-Mare, England with my mother, father, and older sister and brother. It was a beautiful sunny day. I remember walking into the sea and trying to swim."

Encourage your students to ask you questions about your memory.

Step 2

Ask your students to tell their partner one of their earliest childhood memories. Their partner asks them questions about their memory.

Step 3

Ask students who feel comfortable to tell the rest of the class about their memories and invite questions.

Step 4

Tell your students they are going to watch a short film titled *My Earliest Childhood Memory* in which 3 people describe their earliest childhood memories. Tell them they are going to watch but not hear the first memory. As they watch they should imagine what the narrator is saying.

Show the film until 00:20.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/165140123>

Step 5

Pair your students and ask them to discuss what they think the narrator is saying.

Step 6

Ask the whole class what they think the narrator is saying.

Step 7

Show the film with sound and ask students to compare their narration with what the narrators says.

Step 8

Repeat the same procedure for the second memory.
Pause at 00:33.

Step 9

Repeat the same procedure for the third memory.
Pause at 01:20.

Step 10

Ask your students if they think the 3 memories are typical of childhood memories.

Step 11

Dictate the following questions:

1. What is your most vivid childhood memory?
2. What is your happiest childhood memory?
3. What is your funniest childhood memory?
4. Do you remember your first day at school?
5. Do you have a good memory about a school friend?
6. Do you have a good memory about a school teacher?
7. Do you remember when a brother or sister was born?
8. Are there any smells that bring back a childhood memory strongly?

9. Are there any songs that bring back a childhood memory strongly?

10. Do you have any photos which bring back good childhood memories?

Step 12

Students compare their questions. Check that students have written down the correct questions.

Step 13

Pair your students. Ask them to choose 6 of the questions to discuss. Students discuss the questions.

Step 14

Hold a plenary discussion based on the questions.

Homework

Ask students to describe their earliest/most vivid/happiest/funniest childhood memory. Encourage them to use adjectives and adverbs to bring the description to life.

I hope you enjoy the lesson.

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