

FILM ENGLISH

Buster the Boxer

Language level: Pre-intermediate (A2) - Upper Intermediate (B2)

Learner type: All ages

Time: 90 minutes

Activity: Watching a short film, speaking and writing

Topic: Animals and Christmas

Language: Vocabulary related to animals and Christmas

Materials: Short film and video



Overview

This ELT lesson plan is designed around a short advert commissioned by John Lewis, and the theme of animals and Christmas. In the lesson students revise animal vocabulary, watch a short film, predict the end of a story and speak about Christmas and Christmas traditions.

Step 1

As a warmer write A-Z on the board and ask your students to come up with an animal alphabet. Elicit an animal which begins with the letter "A", such as "alligator". Tell them to try to do the same for all the letters of the alphabet with a partner in 5 minutes.

Step 2

After 5 minutes go through their animal alphabets.

Step 3

Tell your students they are going to watch the start of a short film about Christmas. Before they watch the film dictate or write on the board the following questions:

- What typical Christmas traditions do they know of?
- If they celebrate Christmas in their country, what are the Christmas traditions there?
- How do children normally feel on Christmas Eve?

Ask them to discuss the questions with their partner.

Step 4

Hold a plenary discussion session based on the questions from the previous stage.

Step 5

Tell them that as they watch the first part of the short film they should answer the following questions:

- How does the young girl feel?
- What is the father making?
- What animals do they see?

Show the film until 01:25

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sr6lr_VRsEo

Step 6

Go through the students' answers to the questions. They may need help with the names of the following animals: fox; badger; squirrel; hedgehog.

Step 7

Ask your students if they like the film so far. Put them into small groups and ask them to predict what is going to happen on Christmas morning when the girl wakes up. Tell them the ending is surprising and that they cannot just say something obvious like "the girl goes into the garden and

jumps on the trampoline.” Give them 5 minutes to come up with an interesting and original ending.

Step 8

Get a student from each group to explain what they think is going to happen.

Step 9

Tell your students they are going to watch the rest of the short film. As they watch they should compare their endings with the one shown in the film. Show the film until 02:10.

Step 10

Ask your students what they think of the ending, and what adjectives they would use to describe the reaction of the girl and her parents.

Step 11

Now show the last part of the film pausing at the caption “John Lewis #BusterTheBoxer”.

Explain that the short film is an advert for the British department store John Lewis, and that the hashtag refers to the name of the dog, Buster, and its breed, a boxer.

Step 12

Ask your students if they still feel the same about the short film after finding out that it is

an advert. Ask them to discuss the following questions:

- How do they feel about this type of Christmas advert?
- Do they feel manipulated by these types of adverts?
- Do these types of adverts spoil the true spirit of Christmas?

Step 13

Hold a plenary session based on the questions from the previous stage.

Step 14

Ask your students to imagine how a Boxer dog watching the advert would feel.

Show them this video of a Boxer dog watching the advert.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PLPMgpGWmc>

Step 15

Ask your student how the video makes them feel.

I hope you enjoy the lesson.

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