

# A Teaching House April Fools' Day – Teacher's notes

April Fools' Day	
<p>Learners will develop listening skills and learn about April Fools' Day. Students will also develop their speaking skills.</p>	<p>Suitable for Intermediate (B1)/ Upper Intermediate (B2) and Advanced (C1-C2) students.</p>
<p><u>Note to the teacher:</u> This is a lesson of two halves: one in which you play an April Fools' trick on your learners, and the other where they learn about and discuss April Fools' day and design a trick or joke that could be played on someone - either in real life or via social media</p>	
<p>Video:  <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dfWzp7rYR4">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dfWzp7rYR4</a>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzhDsojoqk8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzhDsojoqk8</a></p> <p>Other:  <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_Fools'_Day">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_Fools'_Day</a></p>	

## 1) Lead In:

Give the students the worksheet with the animals and elicit the animal names (polar bear, penguin, seal, whale). In pairs students brainstorm some facts about them.

Suggested answers:

- Polars bears mostly eat seals
- Polar bears are the world's largest predator
- The largest of all seals is the Elephant Seal
- Seals only spend about 20% of their time on land
- Many whales are toothless
- There are 79 to 84 different species of whale
- Penguins are a type of bird
- Penguins can't fly

## 2) Prediction/ gist task

Tell the students they are going to watch a short video about a newly discovered colony of penguins with an unusual ability. In pairs, the students write down a prediction as to what the ability may be. Sts then watch the video clip and check their predictions.

Get some feedback from the students. What do they feel about this new discovery? Have they heard about this?

## 3) Detailed Listening Task

Students listen/ watch the clip again and answer the following questions:

- How many species of penguins can fly? One
- Why do penguins usually huddle together in winter? To keep warm
- Where do the penguins fly to? (The rainforests of) South America
- What do they do there? Bask in the sun

## 4) Post-teach vocabulary

Students match the words to their definitions on the context of the listening. During feedback, remember to check understanding, highlight the part of speech and any common collocations (words that commonly go with the vocabulary), and drill mini-chunks of language (e.g. bask in the sun) to help learners with their pronunciation.

<b>e</b>	<i>Colony (noun)</i>	a. Sit in the sun and enjoy it
<b>b</b>	<i>Little fellas (plural noun)</i>	b. Small people/ animals (informal)
<b>f</b>	<i>Rainforest (noun)</i>	c. Group together, usually to keep warm
<b>c</b>	<i>Huddle together (verb)</i>	d. Something amazing that someone/ something can do
<b>d</b>	<i>Incredible ability (noun)</i>	e. A group/ family of penguins
<b>a</b>	<i>Bask (verb)</i>	f. A tropical forest like the Amazon

## 5) Group discussion

In groups or as a whole class, discuss the following questions:

- Are you surprised by this new discovery?
- What do you think the impacts of the discovery will be?
- Have you ever heard of any other unusual animal discoveries in your lifetime?

After the students have discussed these, get some feedback from them based on their opinions. [NB - If the learners figure out or know already that this is an April Fool, you can do stage 9) now instead of later on]

**6) If the students haven't figured it out already, then you can pretend you are moving on to a new topic and try to keep up the appearance that the flying penguins exist until the very end of the lesson.**

Ask your learners if they know whether April 1st is a special day in the USA/ UK. Tell them it is April Fools' Day and ask whether they know what it means or why it is special. Get them to unfold their handout and read what it means. They can share anything they learned in pairs before brief whole class feedback. Make sure they know the following vocabulary:

	a prank	
Play	a joke	on somebody
	a trick	

**7) Ask the students to get into groups (would work best with mixed nationalities in each group) and discuss the following questions:**

- Does April Fools' Day exist in their country?
- If so, is the date the same?
- What do people usually do on this day?
- What is the best prank/joke that they have heard about or seen online?

Get some feedback from the different groups about what they have discussed. Let the students decide which sounds most interesting.

**8) Introduce the idea of a new TV show called "Prankorama"**

In teams, contestants plan and secretly film a prank. The audience votes on which was the best prank and that team wins \$50,000. Give a couple of examples to inspire them.

Tell students that they are going to compete on Prankorama. In groups, students discuss a prank/ joke they could play on someone in real life or on social media. They need to decide on the following information.

- Who will they play the trick on and why?
- What they will need to do in order for the trick to be successful
- The plan for carrying out the trick

While they are speaking, keep a note of interesting language that comes up - either good high-level language or examples of errors to correct or upgrade. Consider grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. Put these examples on the board and go through, eliciting corrections if appropriate or praising the good, complex language. Drilling can be useful here to improve pronunciation and help learners memorise the correct language.

Students then present the ideas to the class and the class votes on the best/ funniest practical joke.

### **9) End of lesson**

To round off the lesson, tell the students they are going to watch something about April Fools' Day pranks. Tell students to watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzhDsojoqk8> and decide what they think about the prank. It should take the students only a few minutes to realize that the penguins clip was a fake.

No feedback required, you can just laugh with them and send them on their way. You could show this clip earlier in the lesson if they already know or figure out that the penguin clip is an April Fool!