

A Very Special Father: Father's Day Lesson

Father's Day Lesson Plan Overview	
Learners will develop listening skills and develop their ability to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary from context	Suitable for Intermediate +
	Approximate Timing: 45-60 mins
<p><u>Note to the teacher:</u> This lesson isn't directly connected to Father's Day but includes a funny and sweet story about "a very special father". It's a fun lesson, and useful to develop your learners' listening skills and their ability to deduce meaning of vocabulary from context.</p> <p>The text is from an episode of "This American Life," which is a great source of free, authentic listening texts for you students' extensive listening skills available here" http://www.thisamericanlife.org</p>	

1) Lead In:

Show the "I EXIST!" support group picture and elicit who might be at this meeting. Examples include Santa Claus / Father Christmas, the Easter Bunny, leprechauns, Sinterklaas, The Sandman, Bake-Danuki, etc.

Students discuss the questions in ex. 1 in pairs.



During feedback, find out their ideas and elicit basic facts about the tooth fairy (when a child's tooth falls out, they leave the tooth under the pillow and the "tooth fairy" takes the tooth and leaves money in its place. It shouldn't be too hard for students to figure out who the tooth fairy really is if they don't already know!

2)

Tell students they are going to listen to part of a radio show in which a guest, Rebecca, tells the presenter, Ira Glass, a story about the tooth fairy. Set the initial task in ex. 2 "Who does Rebecca think the tooth fairy is?"

Play the extract from This American Life, available here:

<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/188/kid-logic> from 0.00 - 3.47

Students pair check and then get feedback.

Answer: She thought the tooth fairy was Rachel's Dad/ Ronnie Loberfeld.

3)

Students unfold the paper, read the questions, listen again and decide whether the statements over the answers with the class:

a) Rebecca's mom thought that Ronnie Loberfeld was the tooth fairy.

False (She didn't really think so!)

b) Rebecca's mom played along with Rebecca's conclusion.

True (She pretended it was true for her daughter's benefit)

c) Ronnie Loberfeld worked at the Stop & Shop.

False (He worked in finance - at an office next to the Stop & Shop)

d) Ronnie Loberfeld drove a Volvo.

True (But probably not delivering everyone's tooth)

e) Rebecca acted very excitedly when she was around Ronnie Loberfeld.

False (She acted cool/ played it cool)

f) The child psychologist Alison Gopnik thinks that Rebecca's conclusion is logical.

True (It's difficult for children to know where their parents' power begins and ends.)

4)

Students can now complete the crossword puzzle by looking for words in the transcript. Point out that the clues tell them which part of the story to look at. Demo the activity by asking students what 4 across might be. (NB in this case there are a couple of alternatives - downplay; act cool, but only 'play it cool' has three words). Students can work individually first then in pairs. During feedback, give extra clarification of meaning and help with pronunciation as necessary.

Answers:



5)

Students discuss the question in exercise 5 in pairs. You could start by sharing your own opinion or telling them a true story about your childhood to inspire them to share. When they are speaking in pairs let them know that they will be reporting on their partner's opinions later on so they should pay close attention.

During feedback, have Ss comment on which stories are the funniest/ most logical/ most cruel on the part of the parents, etc.