

1. Cartoons

Ahead of the anniversary of the release in the United States of a film containing the first appearance of Bugs Bunny on 27th July 1940, this lesson focuses on the subject of cartoons.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2-B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Ask students about their favourite cartoons. Who are their favourite cartoon characters, and why do they like them?

2. Give your students between five and ten minutes to read through Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell them they are going to answer a series of questions on the text, but that they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.

Regarding Bugs Bunny's catchphrase, you could explain that 'What's up?' means 'How are you?' or 'What's going on?' in informal American English, and that 'doc' was similar in meaning to 'guy' (or 'mate' in informal British English) in contemporary New York slang.

3. When the time is up, give each student a copy of Worksheet B, then divide the class into pairs and ask students to work together. In parts A and B they have to find synonyms and antonyms, in Part C they must answer the true/false/doesn't say questions, and in Part D they have to fill the gaps to complete the sentences.

Regarding Fred Flintstone's catchphrase, you could mention that it doesn't really mean anything – it was just an expression of excitement.

4. Check answers in open class.

Answers

Part A (synonyms)

1. kid 2. clever 3. get 4. hilarious

Part B (antonyms)

1. fail 2. boring 3. modern 4. recently

Part C (true/false/doesn't say)

1. F 2. T 3. T 4. D 5. D 6. T 7. F 8. D

Part D (gap-fill)

1. hilarious 2. characteristics 3. catchphrase 4. character 5. charming 6. channels
7. recently 8. humour

Words that should not be used: laugh, cinema, get, joke

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.channel4.com/entertainment/tv/microsites/G/greatest/cartoons/1-25.html>

Brief descriptions of 'The 100 Greatest Cartoons' (in alphabetical order), as chosen by the Channel 4 website. Intermediate level and above.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/tv_and_radio/4301033.stm

A short BBC article on the results of a poll conducted by Channel 4 to select the very best of the hundred cartoons mentioned above. Intermediate level and above.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_6240000/newsid_6249000/6249064.stm

From the BBC *Newsround* website, a recent review (July 2007) of the third *Shrek* film. Challenging for pre-intermediate level.