

1. Plenty more fish in the sea?

The subject of this week's lesson is a recent documentary film, *The End of the Line*, which argues that due to overfishing there might soon be very few fish left in the world's oceans.

Level

Upper intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B2 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm on the subject of environmental problems – how many can your students list in English? What do they understand by a 'sustainable' activity in an environmental context? Can they think of any unsustainable activities connected with the world's oceans?
2. Divide the students into pairs and give them five to ten minutes to read the text on Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell them that in the next exercise they are going to fill in the gaps with appropriate pairs of words. You could suggest that they guess what the pairs of words might be.
3. When the time is up, hand out Worksheet B and give the students another five to ten minutes to fill in the gaps using the correct pairs of words from the box in Exercise 1. Make it clear that there is only one possible pair of words to fill each gap, and that there are four extra pairs which should not be used.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Ask the students to move on to Exercise 2, in which they have to answer true/false/doesn't say comprehension questions.
6. Check answers in open class.
7. Ask the students to turn over Worksheet A, or temporarily hand it back to you, then hand out Worksheet C. Keeping the students in their pairs, ask them to attempt Exercise 3, in which the original text has been copied with twenty-five mistakes. The students' task is to find and correct as many of the mistakes as they can. Point out that the mistakes are all grammatical or lexical, and that no correction requires them to write more than one additional word.
8. Check answers in open class. If you wish, hand out Worksheet D, which contains the text with the twenty-five corrections highlighted in bold.

Answers

Exercise 1

1. popular expression 2. came out 3. heading for 4. being caught 5. have almost
6. off the 7. technology used 8. their path 9. simply not 10. no fish 11. is not
12. number of 13. can take 14. stop buying 15. result of 16. they will

Pairs that should not be used: bad idea, was certainly, to catch, probably enjoying

Exercise 2

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

Exercise 3

See Worksheet D

2. Related Websites

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

<http://endoftheline.com/>

The website of the film *The End of the Line*. Accessible to upper-intermediate level.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8078234.stm>

A recent BBC article (June 2009) on the issues that feature in *The End of the Line*. Challenging for upper-intermediate level.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/blueplanet/>

A section of the BBC website devoted to *The Blue Planet*, a series of natural history programmes on the subject of the world's oceans. Accessible to upper-intermediate level.