

e-lesson

Week starting: June 29, 2009

1. Plenty more fish in the sea?

The subject of this week's lesson is a recent documentary movie, *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 determine 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 movie *The End of the Line*. Accessible to upper-intermediate level.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/story?id=1514544>

This ABC news article, which came out before the movie was released, asks whether overfishing is causing fish to become genetically smaller – permanently. Challenging for upper-intermediate level.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/06/09/ted-danson-narrates-ocean_n_213234.html

The *Huffington Post* (an online newspaper) links to an MSNBC video about the documentary and overfishing. Includes an interview with actor Ted Danson, who narrates the movie. Accessible to upper-intermediate level.