

1. A royal engagement

This week's lesson is about a big news story in the British and international media: the recent announcement that Prince William, second in line to the British throne, and his girlfriend Kate Middleton will be getting married on 29th April 2011 in Westminster Abbey, London.

Level

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

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm on the subject of the British royal family: which members have your students heard of, and what do they know about them? Ask your students if they know which member of the royal family is going to get married next year. What, if anything, do they know about his future bride? If your students' country is a monarchy, ask them if there seem to be any differences between their royal family and the British one. What do you students imagine might be the good and bad sides of getting married to a member of a royal family?
2. Give your students between five and ten minutes to read through Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Note that many of the words that might be new are not in the glossary because they form part of Exercise 1.
3. Give each student a copy of Worksheet B, then divide the class into pairs and ask students to work together to complete Exercise 1, in which they have to find the words to match the definitions. (You might want to mention that the verbs defined on Worksheet B are not necessarily in their infinitive form on Worksheet A.)
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Keeping the students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet C and ask the students to complete the crossword. (Note that the answer to number 8, 'bet', is an irregular past participle that the students probably don't know but should be able to guess.)
6. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. get engaged
2. pilot
3. close
4. fiancée
5. big
6. big
7. mug
8. announce
9. honeymoon
10. journalist
11. middle
12. live
13. bet
14. aristocracy
15. connection

Exercise 2

1. line
2. son
3. wedding
4. family
5. grandson
6. couple
7. November
8. bet
9. business
10. short
11. university
12. flies
13. souvenirs
14. king

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *engagement ring* will read from top to bottom.

2. Related websites

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

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_9190000/newsid_9194100/9194197.stm

An article on Prince William and Kate Middleton's engagement from BBC *Newsround*, with links to related articles on the right-hand side of the page. Accessible to pre-intermediate level.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_3920000/newsid_3921200/3921291.stm

Again from *Newsround*, the first section of a 'Guide to Prince William' (with links to the other sections on the right-hand side). Accessible to pre-intermediate level.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-11767495>

Coverage of the royal engagement (and, already, the wedding preparations) from the BBC News website. Intermediate level and above.