

1. Events of 2012

This week's lesson looks back at some popular news stories from last year.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students what the major events of 2012 were, both in their country and around the world. You could perhaps divide the events into categories: politics, sports, entertainment, etc. Before handing out Worksheet A, you could try to elicit some of the vocabulary in the lesson by asking the students what major events in 2012 were connected with American politics, international sports, British entertainment, etc.
2. Divide the students into pairs and tell them that for the first exercise they are going to look at some statements about events in 2012 and decide if they are true or false. They are then going to have to "bet" between ten and fifty points on their guesses.
3. Give each pair a copy of Worksheet A and ask them to read and discuss the statements, allowing extra time for them to look up any new vocabulary. In the first column after the statement, they should write *T* (true) or *F* (false). In the second column, they have to write the number of points they are willing to bet on their answer (ten points if they are forced to guess, going up to fifty if they are very confident about the answer).
4. After the pairs have given their answers, it's time to score. Each pair calls out their answer and how many points they have bet. If they have answered correctly, students enter their points in the final column (*Points won*). If they have answered incorrectly, they should enter their points in the *Points lost* column. At the end, students subtract the total of the *Points lost* column from the total of the *Points won* column to give their "final total" number of points. The pair with the most points wins.
5. Keeping the students in their pairs, ask them to turn over Worksheet A or to hand it back to you temporarily. Then hand out Worksheet B, which contains a short text with factually correct information about the events mentioned on Worksheet A. Explain to the students that in each line of the text, there is a grammatical or lexical error. In a couple of cases the mistake is that a word is missing. Give the students at least ten minutes to go through the text and attempt to identify, and then correct, as many mistakes as they can. Make clear that at no point will the students need to write more than one extra word in order to correct a mistake.
6. Check answers in open class. If you wish, give each pair a copy of Worksheet C, which contains the text from Worksheet B but with all the mistakes corrected.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. False. (Obama's margin of victory was much smaller: he got 51% of the votes, while Romney got 48%. The other votes were for candidates from smaller political parties.)
2. True.
3. True.
4. False. (*Skyfall* was the twenty-third Bond movie; the first was *Dr. No* in 1962.)
5. False. (In fact, ballots were cast by fewer than 60% of eligible voters.)
6. True.
7. True.
8. False. (Estimates suggest that perhaps 200 million people own an iPhone® – an impressive figure, but less than 3% of the world's population.)
9. False. (The Diamond Jubilee signified that Queen Elizabeth II has been on the British throne for 60 years.)
10. True.

Exercise 2

See *Worksheet C*

2. Related websites

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

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/our-government>

The US government website, which explains how the different branches work, as well as giving links to information about the US Constitution, elections and voting, etc.

Challenging for Intermediate level.

<http://www.london2012.com/>

Official website of the 2012 Olympic Games® in London. Accessible to Intermediate level.

<http://www.space.com/17959-red-bull-stratos-skydive-photos.html>

Forty-seven photos of Felix Baumgartner's skydive from space, with short informative texts below each one, some linked to longer news articles. Accessible to all levels.