

e-lesson

Week starting: 20th November 2006

Thailand

This week's lesson focuses on the country of Thailand, which celebrates its national day on 5th December.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm what your students know about Thailand.
2. Divide the students into pairs and give them 5-10 minutes to read through the text on Worksheet A. Encourage them to look up new vocabulary, and tell them they are going to have to fill the gaps with appropriate words. You could perhaps encourage them to guess what those words might be.
3. When the time is up, hand out Worksheet B and give the students another 5-10 minutes to fill the twelve gaps using the correct words from the box. Make it clear that there is only one possible word to fill each gap, and that four of the sixteen words should not be used.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. In the second exercise on Worksheet B, students are going to read some statements about Thailand and decide whether they have been written in correct English or not. They are then going to have to 'bet' anything from 10 to 50 points on their guess.
6. Keeping the students in their pairs, ask them to read and discuss the statements. In the first column after the statement they should write Y for Yes if they think the English is entirely satisfactory, or N for No if they think the statement contains one or more mistakes. In the second column they have to write the number of points they are willing to bet on their answer (10 points if they are forced to guess, going up to 50 if they are very confident).
7. 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 third column (points lost). In each of the cases where a statement contains a mistake, ask one of the students who answered correctly to explain why the statement is incorrect, and what the necessary correction(s) would be. At the end, students subtract the total of the third column from the total of the fourth column to give the total number of points they have won. The pair with the most points wins.

Answers

Part A (gap-fill)

1. shares
2. bright
3. rural
4. jams
5. foreigners
6. sun
7. story
8. suffered
9. earthquake
10. industries
11. delicious
12. flavours

Words that should not be used: *trip, died, bad, likes*

Part B (yes / no questions)

1. **Yes**
2. **No.** **Thai** people eat **a** lot of rice.
3. **Yes**
4. **Yes**
5. **No.** A lot of Thais are moving to Bangkok in search ~~to~~ **of** work.
6. **Yes**
7. **No.** *The Beach* is **a** film about backpackers in Thailand.
8. **No.** There ~~are~~ **is** a lot of pollution in Bangkok.
9. **No.** King Bhumibol ~~is~~ **has been** on the throne for 60 years.
10. **Yes**
11. **No.** Some people who **visit** ~~to~~ Thailand take rides **on** elephants.
12. **No.** The tidal wave had very serious consequences for the tourism and **fishing** industries.

2. Related Websites

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

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1237845.stm

Thailand country profile from the BBC website. Intermediate level and above.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_4360000/newsid_4360000/4360072.stm

From BBC *Newsround*, a British teenager's personal account of doing voluntary work at an orphanage in Thailand. A challenging text for pre-intermediate students.

<http://www.bangkokpost.co.th/>

The *Bangkok Post* – Thailand's principal English-language newspaper. Intermediate and above.

<http://www.tourismthailand.org/>

A UK-based website for potential visitors to Thailand. Intermediate and above.