

1. Valentine's Day

The subject of this week's lesson is Valentine's Day, an annual cause of intense emotions and huge expenditure. It is, of course, celebrated on 14th February.

Level

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

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm what your students know about Valentine's Day or the equivalent celebration in their county, if there is one.
2. Divide the students into pairs and give them five to ten minutes to read through the text on Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell them they are going to have to fill the gaps with appropriate words. You could perhaps suggest that they guess what those words might be.
3. When the time is up, hand out Worksheet B and give the students another five to ten minutes to fill the gaps using the correct words from the box. Make it clear that (a) there is only one possible word to fill each gap, and (b) there are sixteen words in the box but only twelve gaps in the text, meaning that four of the words should not be used.
4. When the time is up, check answers in open class. Then, keeping the students in their pairs, give them at least five minutes to try the second exercise on Worksheet B, in which they have to put the mixed-up quotations back together again. You might want to point out that the quotations are real, and in a couple of cases quite famous.
5. Check answers in open class, and ask the students if they strongly agreed or disagreed with any of the quotations!

Answers

Part A (gap-fill)

exchanging
 gifts
 heart
 before
 name
 explanation
 single
 marriage
 unfair
 discovered
 woman
 to

(Words that should not be used: good, head, from, said)

Part B (mixed-up quotations)

1. **It is never too late to fall in love.**
(Sandy Wilson)
2. **Loving is not just looking at each other, it's looking in the same direction.**
(Antoine de Saint-Exupéry)
3. **The most important thing in life is to learn how to give out love, and to let it come in.**
(Morrie Schwartz)
4. **Love is a game that two can play, and both win by losing their heart.**
(Eva Gabor)
5. **Love is not finding someone to live with, it's finding someone you can't live without.** (Anonymous)
6. **True love stories never have endings.**
(Richard Bach)
7. **Where there is love, there is life.**
(Mahatma Gandhi)
8. **When love is not madness, it is not love.**
(Pedro Calderón de la Barca)

2. Related Websites

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

<http://www.stvalentinesday.org>

An entire website devoted to Valentine's Day and the theme of love. Intermediate level and above.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/hottopics/love/flirting.shtml>

'The Science of Flirting', from the section 'The Science of Love' on the BBC website. A challenging but potentially interesting text for intermediate-level adult students. Includes an entertaining 'lonely hearts test'.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_1770000/newsid_1779400/1779489.stm

Page from the BBC *Newsround* website with links to lots of material related to Valentine's Day. More appropriate for teenagers than for adults. Pre-intermediate and above.