TOPIC-BASED TEACHING RESOURCES

Effective and Engaging Photocopiable Activities, Games and Worksheets

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE (B2)



ESSENTIALS SERIES





TOPIC-BASED TEACHING RESOURCES

Upper-intermediate (B2)

FIRST EDITION

By Teach-This.com



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The Upper-intermediate Topic-based Teaching Resources eBook

This collection of over 100 teaching resources from the Teach-This.com website provides worksheets, activities, and games aimed at upper-intermediate level (B2) students. These resources have been created by a dedicated team of highly qualified and experienced ESL professionals and have been tried and tested many times in the classroom.

The resources can be used in any general English course and are intended to supplement other materials. These resources are flexible enough to be easily incorporated into most lesson plans and can be used to introduce or reinforce language, practice or revise language structures, or improve core skills.

The book contains a wide range of easy to use, practical, and effective supplementary materials that focus on speaking practice as well as vocabulary or grammar exercises or activities to help students develop their reading and writing skills.

How to Use this eBook

First, scan through the table of contents to select a teaching resource. To make the selection process easy, all resources are categorised according to their relevant language point and are arranged in alphabetical order. The table of contents also indicates the aim of each resource and lists activity types that the students will engage in. Shortcut hyperlinks that quickly and easily direct you to your chosen resource are included.

Each resource comes with detailed teacher's notes that provide key details such as activity types, language focus, aim, preparation requirements, and estimated time duration. The notes also include a comprehensive step-by-step procedure and answer keys, making lessons quick and easy to plan. Each resource comes in a user-friendly and printable A4 PDF format.

Activity Types Explained

Each resource in this eBook falls into one of three categories: worksheets, activities, or games. The worksheets provide opportunities for students to examine form and function and exercises typically focus on either vocabulary or grammar. The activities are designed to provide opportunities for students to practice using the language in more interactive and interesting ways. The games offer students more fun and engaging methods to practice the language and help to liven up lessons.

For each language point covered in this eBook, you will generally be provided with one standalone worksheet, one activity, and one game to help students learn and practice the language in different ways.

Controlled, Freer and Communicative Practice

Speaking activities in this eBook are labelled as either controlled, freer or communicative practice. In the controlled practice activities, students are given the target language to practice in a limited form. These activities are more restricted, and the focus is more on developing accuracy. The freer practice activities provide students with prompts that require them to make meaningful choices before they use the language. This enables students to produce the target language more independently with more of a focus on fluency than accuracy. The communicative activities are more free form in nature, giving students more control over the content and the structure of the language used.

| Name | Aim | Activity Type | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Animals | | | |
| 1. Describing Animals | To practice describing various animals using adjectives and nouns. | Vocabulary exercises | |
| 2. Animal Trivia Challenge | To practice vocabulary related to animals. | Vocabulary activity | |
| | Christmas | | |
| 3. A Festive Match | To practice vocabulary related to Christmas. | Vocabulary activity | |
| 4. Santa's Secret | To practice talking about Christmas using related vocabulary. | Vocabulary and speaking game | |
| | Cities and Towns | | |
| 5. Town Terminology | To review and practice vocabulary related to cities and towns. | Vocabulary exercises | |
| 6. Urban Explorer | To review and practice vocabulary related places in a city. | Vocabulary and speaking activity | |
| 7. Urban Trivia Quiz | To practice vocabulary for urban places. | Vocabulary game | |
| | Clothes and Fashion | | |
| 8. Celebrity Fashion | To describe the clothes and appearance of five celebrities. | Vocabulary and writing activity | |
| 9. Clothes Quiz | To revise vocabulary related to clothes and fashion. | Vocabulary game | |
| 10. Clothes Vocabulary Test | To review clothes vocabulary and adjectives related to clothing, fashion and appearance | Vocabulary exercises | |
| 11. Unusual Clothing | To categorise unusual clothes-related words into items worn or found above or below the waist. | Vocabulary game | |
| Colours | | | |
| 12. Colourful Language | To practice or review vocabulary related to colours. | Vocabulary exercise Speaking activity | |
| 13. Beyond the Rainbow | To practice adjectives related to colour and the names of less common colours. | Vocabulary game | |
| Computers and Smart Phones | | | |
| 14. Caught in the Act | To review and practice vocabulary related to smartphones. | Vocabulary and writing activity | |

| Name | Aim | Activity Type | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| С | Computers and Smart Phones (continued) | | |
| 15. Smarter than Smartphones | To practice vocabulary related to smartphones. | Vocabulary game | |
| 16. Tech Team Taboo | To practice computer-related vocabulary by describing and guessing computer nouns. | Vocabulary and speaking game | |
| | Countries and Nationalities | | |
| 17. Worldly Wordsmiths | To review and practice vocabulary related to countries. | Vocabulary game | |
| 18. Passport to Fluency | To practice advanced country-related vocabulary and asking and answering topic-related questions. | Vocabulary and speaking activity | |
| 19. Countries Vocabulary | To learn and practice advanced vocabulary related to countries. | Vocabulary exercises | |
| | Crime, Law and Punishment | | |
| 20. The Prison Cell | To learn and practice the names of crimes. | Vocabulary and speaking activity | |
| 21. Judgement Day | To invent a theft, and present evidence and suspects to a jury, who try to identify the perpetrator of the crime. | Speaking activity | |
| 22. The Perfect Plot | To practice nouns and verbs used to discuss common crimes. | Vocabulary, reading and writing exercises | |
| | Cultural Celebrations | | |
| 23. Lunar New Year Crossword | To complete a crossword by describing and guessing words related to Lunar New Year. | Vocabulary activity | |
| 24. St. Patrick's Day | To learn and practice vocabulary related to St. Patrick's Day. | Vocabulary activity | |
| 25. Ramadan | To learn about the Muslim holiday Ramadan and its associated vocabulary. | Vocabulary activity | |
| Easter | | | |
| 26. An Eggcellent Easter | To practice vocabulary related to Easter. | Vocabulary activity | |
| 27. Easter Vocabulary Challenge | To review and practice Easter Vocabulary. | Vocabulary exercises Speaking activity Vocabulary game | |

| Name | Aim | Activity Type |
|---|--|---|
| | Education | |
| 28. A Scholarly Match | To practice vocabulary related to education. | Vocabulary activity |
| 29. Learner's Lexicon | To practice vocabulary related to education. | Vocabulary exercises Speaking activity |
| | Family and Relationships | |
| 30. Keep it in the Family | To describe and define words related to family. | Vocabulary and speaking game |
| 31. Match Up | To practice family and relationships phrasal verbs and idioms. | Vocabulary and speaking game |
| 32. Relationship Phrasal Verb | To practice phrasal verbs that are commonly used to talk about relationships. | Vocabulary, writing and reading exercises Speaking activity |
| 33. It Runs in the Family | To practice family relations vocabulary. | Vocabulary and speaking activities |
| | Food and Drink | |
| 34. Food and Drink Collocation Dominoes | To form and practice food or drink collocations. | Vocabulary game |
| 35. Gone in 30 Seconds | To talk about food-related words for 30 seconds. | Vocabulary and speaking game |
| 36. Pizza and Pancakes | To complete recipes with cooking verbs. | Vocabulary and speaking activity |
| 37. Disappointed Diners | To practice adjectives related to food. | Vocabulary activity |
| 38. Food Frenzy Board Game | To practice verbs, adjectives and nouns related to food and drink. | Vocabulary and speaking game |
| | Going Out and Entertainment | |
| 39. A Day at the Theme Park | To learn vocabulary related to theme park attractions and to practice language for agreeing and disagreeing. | Vocabulary exercises Speaking activity |
| 40. After Dark | To practice vocabulary related to a night out. | Vocabulary exercises Speaking activity |
| 41. Out on the Town | To practice vocabulary related to going out and entertainment. | Vocabulary exercises Speaking activity |
| Halloween | | |
| 42. Creepy Clues | To complete a crossword by describing and guessing Halloween vocabulary. | Vocabulary activity |

| Name | Aim | Activity Type | |
|---|--|---|--|
| | Halloween (continued) | | |
| 43. Halloween Word Wizardry | To practice vocabulary related to Halloween. | Vocabulary exercises Speaking activities | |
| | Health and Fitness | | |
| 44. Health and Fitness Dominoes | To make health and fitness collocations and use the collocations in sentences. | Vocabulary and speaking game | |
| 45. Health and Fitness Phrasal Verbs | To practice health and fitness phrasal verbs. | Vocabulary and speaking activity | |
| 46. Get Some Exercise | To practice vocabulary and phrasal verbs related to exercise. | Vocabulary exercises Speaking activity | |
| | Hobbies and Free Time | | |
| 47. Free-Time Fun | To practice vocabulary related to hobbies and free-time activities. | Vocabulary activity | |
| 48. Fun with Hobbies | To practice the names of hobbies and their related vocabulary. | Vocabulary exercises Speaking activities | |
| 49. Activity Antics | To practice talking about hobbies and free-time activities and to review related vocabulary. | Vocabulary and speaking game | |
| 50. Hobbies Uncovered | To review the names of hobbies and practice asking and answering hobby-related questions. | Vocabulary and speaking activity | |
| | Houses, Rooms and Furniture | | |
| 51. Home and Decor Debates | To practice home and decor vocabulary and talk about home and decor options. | Vocabulary and speaking activity | |
| 52. House of Curiosities | To describe and guess words related to houses, rooms and furniture. | Vocabulary activity | |
| 53. Décor Detectives | To practice talking about homes using room, furniture and decor vocabulary. | Vocabulary and speaking game | |
| | Idioms | | |
| 54. Baseball Idioms | To learn and practice common baseball idioms. | Vocabulary activity | |
| 55. Idioms Bluff | To learn and practice common English idioms. | Writing and vocabulary game | |
| Jobs and the Workplace | | | |
| 56. Phrasal Verbs at Work | To review and practice work-related phrasal verbs. | Speaking activity | |
| 57. What's my job? | To describe and guess jobs. | Vocabulary and speaking game | |

| Name | Aim | Activity Type | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| | Jobs and the Workplace (continued) | | | |
| 58. Work Skills and Preferences | To talk about work skills and preferences. | Speaking activity | | |
| | Love, Romance and Dating | | | |
| 59. The Game of Love | To practice talking about love, romance and dating | Vocabulary and speaking game | | |
| 60. The Language of Love | To practice verbs and phrasal verbs related to love, romance and dating. | Reading and vocabulary exercises Speaking activity | | |
| 61. Happily Ever After | To practice vocabulary related to love and romance. | Vocabulary and reading exercises Speaking activity | | |
| | Modes of Transport | | | |
| 62. How was your Journey? | To guess transportation adjectives from modes of transport. | Vocabulary game | | |
| 63. Setting Sail | To learn boat vocabulary and practice talking about travelling by boat. | Vocabulary exercises | | |
| | Money | | | |
| 64. Banking and Spending Habits | To learn and practice vocabulary related to banking and spending habits. | Vocabulary and reading exercises | | |
| 65. Bet on It! | To complete sentences with money verbs and place bets on the answers. | Vocabulary game | | |
| 66. Money Verbs Race | To race to complete sentences with money verbs. | Vocabulary game | | |
| | Music | | | |
| 67. Let's Talk about Music | To practice vocabulary related to music. | Vocabulary and speaking activity | | |
| 68. Music Taboo | To practice music vocabulary by describing and guessing nouns related to music. | Vocabulary and speaking game | | |
| 69. Musical Lingo | To practice vocabulary related to maths. | Vocabulary exercises Speaking activity | | |
| Numbers | | | | |
| 70. Fraction and Percentage Dominoes | To match numerical concepts expressed in different terms or symbols. | Vocabulary game | | |
| 71. Fractional Facts | To practice fractions. | Grammar game | | |
| 72. Talking Numbers | To practice vocabulary related to maths. | Vocabulary exercises Speaking activity | | |

| Name | Aim | Activity Type | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Parts of the Body | | | | |
| 73. Find the Body Parts | To find and match body parts vocabulary to definitions. | Vocabulary activity | | |
| 74. Parts of the Body Taboo | To describe parts of the body without saying specific words. | Vocabulary and speaking game | | |
| 75. Body Blitz Challenge | To practice parts of the body vocabulary. | Vocabulary and speaking game | | |
| | Reading Comprehension | | | |
| 76. The First Americans | To read about the first Americans and answer comprehension questions about the text. | Reading and vocabulary exercises | | |
| 77. The Great Hot Drinks Debate | To read a text about tea and coffee and complete a series of reading comprehension exercises based on the text. | Reading and vocabulary exercises | | |
| 78. The Secret Life of Mosquitoes | To read a text about mosquitoes then complete a series of comprehension exercises. | Reading and vocabulary exercises | | |
| | Seasons | | | |
| 79. Race through the Snow | To play a board game that involves miming and guessing winter activities. | Grammar and vocabulary game | | |
| 80. Spring Vocabulary | To learn and practice vocabulary associated with spring. | Vocabulary exercises Speaking activity | | |
| 81. Winter Vocabulary | To learn and practice winter vocabulary. | Vocabulary exercises Listening and speaking activity | | |
| 82. Autumn Vocabulary | To learn and practice vocabulary associated with autumn. | Reading and vocabulary exercises | | |
| | Space | | | |
| 83. What to See in the Solar System | To practice Solar System related vocabulary. | Vocabulary game | | |
| 84. The Universe | To learn and practice vocabulary associated with the Universe. | Reading and vocabulary exercises Speaking activity | | |
| Sports | | | | |
| 85. Sports Equipment | To learn and practice sports equipment vocabulary. | Vocabulary activities | | |

| Name | Aim | Activity Type | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| | Sports (continued) | | | |
| 86. Sports Talk | To practice sports-related vocabulary and talking about sports. | Vocabulary and speaking game | | |
| 87. Sports Quiz | To practice sports-related vocabulary. | Vocabulary game | | |
| | The Natural World | | | |
| 88. Countryside Vocabulary | To learn vocabulary related to the countryside and review differences between similar words. | Vocabulary exercises Speaking activity | | |
| 89. At the Beach | To learn nature vocabulary related to beaches. | Vocabulary exercises Listening and speaking activity | | |
| | Time Expressions | | | |
| 90. Time to Talk | To practice time expressions and time idioms. | Vocabulary and speaking game | | |
| 91. Time Expressions and Idioms | To learn and practice some common expressions and idioms using the word time. | Vocabulary exercises Speaking activity | | |
| | TV and Film | | | |
| 92. The Movie Pitch | To create a plot for a film by choosing characters, settings and events and to pitch the idea to the class. | Writing and speaking activity | | |
| 93. TV Taboo | To describe and guess different types of TV programme in a game of taboo. | Vocabulary and speaking game | | |
| 94. The Oscars | To discuss and make nominations for the Oscars. | Speaking activity | | |
| 95. Film Review | To learn what goes in a film review and to practice writing one. | Writing exercises | | |
| Valentine's Day | | | | |
| 96. Would you do that on Valentine's Day? | To race to choose the best verb to complete <i>would</i> sentences and idioms related to Valentine's Day. | Speaking and vocabulary game | | |
| 97. Valentine's Day Vocabulary | To practice vocabulary related to Valentine's Day and to discuss topic related questions. | Vocabulary exercises Speaking activity | | |
| 98. Valentine's Day Board Game | To practice Valentine's Day vocabulary and talking about Valentine's Day. | Vocabulary and speaking game | | |

| Name | Aim | Activity Type |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Weather | | |
| 99. Talking About the Weather | To practice talking about the weather. | Speaking activity |
| 100. Weather Tic-Tac- Toe | To make sentences about different weather conditions with adjectives that use an infinitive clause. | Vocabulary and speaking game |
| 101. Weather Crossword | To complete a crossword by describing and guessing words related to weather. | Vocabulary activity |

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Activity Type

Vocabulary Exercises: categorising, gap-fill, unscrambling, writing sentences

Focus

Describing animals

Aim

To practice describing various animals using adjectives and nouns.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this describing animals worksheet, students practice describing various animals using adjectives and nouns.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Students start by reading a paragraph and categorizing words in the text into adjectives or nouns.

Exercise A - Answer key

Adjectives: gigantic, solid, thick, bushy, flat, muscular, huge, hind, round, striped

Nouns: fur, stripes, spots, tail, wings, humps

Review the meaning of the adjectives and nouns with the students based on their context.

Next, students unscramble sentences that describe animals.

Exercise B - Answer key

- 1. Beavers have thick fur and a flat tail.
- 2. Owls have large eyes, a flat face, and big wings.
- 3. Kangaroos have strong hind legs and can kick hard.
- 4. Zebras have black and white stripes and can run fast.
- 5. Ducks have a short neck, and they like to swim and fly.
- 6. Raccoons have black fur on their face and a striped bushy tail.
- 7. Rabbits are small animals with long ears, short tails, and strong hind legs.
- 8. Camels have long legs and one hump or two humps on their back.

Afterwards, students do a gap-fill exercise where they complete descriptions of animals with the adjectives and nouns from the worksheet.

Exercise C - Answer key

- 1. gigantic
- 2. legs, neck
- 3. round
- 4. long, solid

- 5. spots, muscular
- 6. striped, coats
- 7. ears
- 8. bushy

Lastly, students look at pictures of animals and describe them using the adjectives and nouns they have learned.

