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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 15/04/13

Ding Dong over Anti-Thatcher song - Saturday 13th April 2013

Following Margaret Thatcher's death, protesters have propelled a song into the downloaded music charts called *Ding Dong The Witch is Dead*. The song from the movie *The Wizard of Oz* has caused a storm of protest across Britain; more so in the British press, to the point that the BBC decided at first to ban the song being played!

The BBC says the campaign promoting the song is "distasteful". They issued a statement: "The BBC finds this campaign distasteful but does not believe the record should be banned. On Sunday, the *Radio 1 chart show* will contain a news item explaining why it is in the charts. During this a short clip will be played, as it has been in some of our news programmes."

The banning of the song – many call it censorship by the BBC - is in today's world quite extraordinary. The BBC is historically famous for censoring and banning songs. In 1977, they refused to play The Sex Pistols and *God Save The Queen*. In 1983, they banned Frankie Goes To Hollywood and *Relax*.

By banning the song being broadcast fully has meant people have wanted to hear all of it! The result is *Ding Dong The Witch is Dead* has rapidly climbed the downloaded music charts all week. It is already in the top five and is likely to get to No 1. Not bad for a song that was first released in 1939! It will also be one of the shortest songs to get to the top of the charts.

Meanwhile supporters of Margaret Thatcher have released a rival song by the 1970s' punk band Notsensibles called *I'm In Love with Margaret Thatcher*. They are hoping that this tribute to her will reach the top of the charts. We will see! ***
(UPDATE - see page 4)

SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about the song *Ding Dong the Witch is Dead*. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) **The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) **The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) **Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the 70s' punk band.
- 2) Name the song the 70s' punk band released.
- 3) Name the movie.
- 4) Name the song from the movie.

Student B questions

- 1) Name the person who has died.
- 2) Name the songs that were banned by the BBC.
- 3) Name the groups.
- 4) Name the radio station

Watch: *Ding Dong the Witch Is Dead*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMFjFog6T9M>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHJoj9IgeKq>

Watch: *I'm in love with Margaret Thatcher*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgS0xSDG0V4>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnToK3kSKKq>

Category: Music / Songs / Margaret Thatcher
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Ding Dong The Witch is Dead**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

Ding Dong over Anti-Thatcher song - *In pairs* choose three things from the article.

Write them below.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three similar ideas of your own about the subject. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - Write down some brief notes on Margaret Thatcher's funeral. Then **either** talk to your partner about the event **or** using them speak to the class about it.

The teacher will choose some students to read out their work to the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What do you think of the song 'Ding Dong The Witch is Dead'?
- 3) Will you be downloading the 'Ding Dong' song?
- 4) Have you watched the video of the song?
- 5) Why is the BBC banning the song being played in full?
- 6) Is the song distasteful? Explain.
- 7) How have the Thatcher family reacted to the song?
- 8) Will you be buying the rival song 'I love Margaret Thatcher'?
- 9) Why does the BBC ban songs?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Radio London* TV studio. Today's interview is: *The BBC not playing the song 'Ding Dong The Witch is Dead'*.

- 1) A downloader
- 2) A pro-Thatcher spokesperson
- 3) A BBC spokesperson
- 4) Anti-Thatcher spokesperson

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are in a pub in London. Start a conversation about the song: '*Ding Dong The Witch is Dead*'. 5 mins.

SPEAKING - GAME

Groups - 20 things you know about the movie: **The Wizard of Oz**. 5 mins.

The teacher will choose some groups to hear their findings in front of the class.

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...Margaret Thatcher – You either love her or hate her

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Name a song that was banned in your country.
- 3) Name a song that was less than 2 minutes long that made it to No 1.
- 4) What do you think of the Sex Pistols and Frankie Goes to Hollywood songs in the article?
- 5) Is there censorship in your country?
- 6) Why has this story become a big issue in Britain?
- 7) Have the British press over-reacted to this song?
- 8) Is music censored in your country?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Ding Dong over Anti-Thatcher song

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Following Margaret Thatcher's (1)___, protesters have propelled a song into the downloaded music (2)___ called *Ding Dong The Witch is Dead*. The song from the movie *The Wizard of Oz* has caused a storm of (3)___ across Britain; more so in the British press, to the point that the BBC decided at first to (4)___ the song being played!

The BBC says the campaign promoting the song is "distasteful". They issued a (5)___: "The BBC finds this campaign distasteful but does not believe the record should be banned. On Sunday, the *Radio 1 chart show* will contain a news (6)___ explaining why it is in the charts. During this a short (7)___ will be played, as it has been in some of our news (8)___."

Programmes / ban / charts / protest / item / death / statement / clip

The banning of the song – many call it (1)___ by the BBC - is in today's world quite (2)___ . The BBC is (3)___ famous for censoring and banning songs. In 1977, they refused to play The Sex Pistols and *God Save The Queen*. In 1983, they banned Frankie Goes To Hollywood and *Relax*.

By banning the song being (4)___ fully has meant people have wanted to hear all of it! The result is *Ding Dong The Witch is Dead* has rapidly climbed the downloaded music charts all week. It is already in the top five and is likely to get to No 1. Not bad for a song that was first released in 1939! It will also be one of the shortest songs to get to the top of the charts.

Meanwhile (5)___ of Margaret Thatcher have released a (6)___ song by the 1970s' (7)___ band Notsensibles called *I'm In Love with Margaret Thatcher*. They are hoping that this (8)___ to her will reach the top of the charts. We will see!

tribute / censorship / rival / punk / broadcast / extraordinary / historically / supporters

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Ding Dong over Anti-Thatcher song

Saturday 13th April 2013

Following Margaret Thatcher's death, protesters have propelled a song (1)___ the downloaded music charts called *Ding Dong The Witch is Dead*. The song (2)___ the movie *The Wizard of Oz* has caused a storm of protest across Britain; (3)___ in the British press, to the point (4)___ the BBC decided at first to ban the song being played!

The BBC says the campaign promoting the song is "distasteful". (5)___ issued a statement: "The BBC finds this campaign distasteful but does not believe the record (6)___ be banned. On Sunday, the *Radio 1 chart show* will contain a news item explaining why it is in the charts. During (7)___ a short clip will be played, as it has been in (8)___ of our news programmes."

some / that / into / should / more so / this / they / from

The banning of the song – many call (1)___ censorship by (2)___ BBC - is in today's world quite extraordinary. The BBC is historically famous (3)___ censoring and banning songs. In 1977, they refused to play The Sex Pistols and *God Save The Queen*. In 1983, they banned Frankie Goes To Hollywood and *Relax*.

(4)___ banning the song being broadcast fully has meant people have wanted to hear all of it! The result is *Ding Dong The Witch is Dead* has rapidly climbed the downloaded music charts all week. It is already (5)___ the top five (6)___ is likely to get to No 1. Not bad for a song that was first released in 1939! It will also be one of the shortest songs to get to the top of the charts.

Meanwhile supporters of Margaret Thatcher have released a rival song by the 1970s' punk band Notsensibles called *I'm In Love with Margaret Thatcher*. They are hoping that this tribute to (7)___ will reach the top of the charts. (8)___ will see!

we / by / it / in / for / the / and / her

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

Ding Dong over Anti-Thatcher song

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Following _____'s death, protesters have propelled a song into the downloaded music charts called *Ding Dong* _____. The song from the movie *The Wizard of Oz* has caused a storm of protest across Britain; more so in the British press, to the point that the BBC decided at first to ban _____!

The BBC says the campaign promoting the song is "distasteful". They issued a statement: "The BBC finds this _____ but does not believe the record should be banned. On Sunday, the *Radio 1 chart show* will contain a news item explaining why it is in the charts. During this a short clip will be played, as it has been in some of _____."

The banning of the song – many call it censorship by the BBC - is in today's world _____.

The BBC is historically famous for censoring and banning songs. In 1977, they refused to play The Sex Pistols and *God Save The Queen*. In 1983, they banned _____ and *Relax*.

By banning the song being broadcast fully has meant people have wanted to hear all of it! The result is *Ding Dong The Witch is Dead* has rapidly climbed the _____ all week. It is already in the top five and is likely to get to No 1. Not bad for a song that was first released in 1939! It will also be one of _____ to get to the top of the charts.

Meanwhile supporters of Margaret Thatcher have released a rival song by the 1970s' punk band Notsensibles called *I'm In Love with Margaret Thatcher*. They are hoping that this tribute to her will reach _____. We will see!

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs/small groups* – list five banned songs on the radio in your country. Talk about each of them. *5 mins*.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Margaret Thatcher _____
- 2) 'I love Margaret Thatcher' _____
- 3) 'Ding Dong _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Banned songs on the radio in my country**. Your email can be read out in class.

Note: UPDATE 14th April 2013 – On the BBC chart show tonight *Ding Dong The Witch is Dead* came in at No 2! *I'm In Love with Margaret Thatcher* came in at No 35!

GAP FILL READING

- 1) death
- 2) charts
- 3) protest
- 4) ban
- 5) statement
- 6) item
- 7) clip
- 8) programmes

ANSWERS

- 1) censorship
- 2) extraordinary
- 3) historically
- 4) broadcast
- 5) supporters
- 6) rival
- 7) punk
- 8) tribute

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) charts
- 2) distasteful
- 3) campaign
- 4) statement
- 5) downloaded
- 6) wizard
- 7) protest
- 8) during
- 9) programmes
- 10) censorship

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12
Good = 15
Very good = 18
Excellent = 20

- 11) quite
- 12) extraordinary
- 13) historically
- 14) famous
- 15) broadcast
- 16) meant
- 17) already
- 18) meanwhile
- 19) rival
- 20) tribute

Ding Dong over Anti-Thatcher song – *15th April 2013*