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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 15/02/15

Referendum on Family Values

Today's English lesson is inspired by one of my students. When discussing her weekend activities, she told us she had been helping to promote an upcoming referendum on family values that will take place shortly in Slovakia.

There are three questions:

- 1) Do you agree that only a bond between one man and one woman can be called marriage?
- 2) Do you agree that same-sex couples should not be allowed to adopt and raise children?
- 3) Do you agree that schools cannot require children to participate in sex education or euthanasia education if their parents don't agree?

All three questions created a very interesting discussion in my English lesson, to the point where I abandoned the set theme, as I thought it best to continue the lively debate that followed.

My students in this particular English lesson are all over the age of 30, and are working in one particular company. When answering the questions, while some students said 'Yes' they agreed, some of them said 'No' they didn't agree. It got everyone talking, it got heated and it tested their English language speaking skills!

The Catholic Church has a strong influence on the Slovak population. The referendum has been organised by the *Alliance for Family*. It succeeded in getting 400,000 signatures – enough to generate a nationwide referendum.

While the family values referendum result in Slovakia won't be legally binding I thought it would make an excellent English lesson theme for you to now debate!

SPEAKING – WARM UP

What is a referendum? Think of two other things you know about referendums. 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) What did question one ask?
- 2) Who was inspired by whom?
- 3) How many questions are there in the upcoming referendum?
- 4) How old were the students in the lesson?
- 5) Name the organisation.

Student B questions

- 1) What won't be legally binding?
- 2) Name the church.
- 3) How many signatures were needed to generate a referendum?
- 4) What got heated?
- 5) What was the student initially discussing?

Note: The referendum took place on 07/02/15. The turnout was 21.07%.

Category: Referendum/ Catholic Church / Family Values
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

Referendum on Family Values – 15th February 2015

WRITING / SPEAKING

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

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs choose three points you would say in response to question one. Write them below. Talk about them!

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

Add three things you would say in response to question two. Discuss together.

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

Add three things you would add in response to question three. Discuss together.

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

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

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Do you agree that only a bond between one man and one woman can be called marriage?
- 2) Has this lesson caused a heated debate?
- 3) Are some of the questions in the article 'loaded' by the *Alliance for Family*, as I as the author of this lesson think that they are?
- 4) Can you think of two other referendums that have taken place?
- 5) Why are there no women at the top of the Catholic Church?
- 6) Would you vote in this referendum if it was in your country? Explain.
- 7) Surely it is better for gay and lesbian parents to adopt children rather than the child be beaten by a drunken drug-infested parent?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in Bratislava, Slovakia. Today's interview is about: *Referendum on family values.*

- 1) Someone who is a strong Catholic.
- 2) An atheist.
- 3) A teenager.
- 4) A gay or lesbian parent.

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

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...Family values...What are the family values in your country? How does religion come into the issue of family values? Is five years old too young to teach sex education? Should parents teach their children sex education before schools do? At what age should sex education be taught in schools? What exactly should be taught as 'sex education' in schools today? How does this differ from when you were taught in school? How does the internet complicate this issue? Are parents really in touch with what their children know from the internet?

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Do you agree that same-sex couples should not be allowed to adopt and raise children?
- 2) Should children live in an orphanage rather than with a same-sex couple?
- 3) Do you agree that schools cannot require children to participate in sex education or euthanasia education if their parents don't agree?
- 4) Surely, if a parent disagreed with the schools teaching policy the parent wouldn't send their child to the school?
- 5) How old are the students in this particular English lesson?
- 6) Should this lesson be discussed amongst students aged under 18? Explain!
- 7) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Referendum on Family Values

Today's English lesson is inspired by one of my students. When discussing her weekend (1)__, she told us she had been helping to (2)__ an upcoming (3)__ on family values that will take place shortly in Slovakia.

There are three questions:

- 1) Do you agree that only a bond between one man and one woman can be called marriage?
- 2) Do you agree that same-sex couples should not be allowed to (4)__ and raise children?
- 3) Do you (5)__ that schools cannot require children to participate in sex education or euthanasia education if their parents don't agree?

All three questions created a very interesting (6)__ in my English lesson, to the point where I abandoned the set (7)__, as I thought it best to continue the lively (8)__ that followed.

debate / theme / promote / adopt / discussion / agree / referendum / activities

My students in this (1)__ English lesson are all over the age of 30, and are working in one particular company. When answering the questions, while some students said 'Yes' they agreed, some of them said 'No' they didn't agree. It got everyone talking, it got heated and it tested their English language speaking (2)__!

The Catholic Church has a strong influence on the Slovak population. The referendum has been organised by the *Alliance for Family*. It succeeded in getting 400,000 (3)__ - (4)__ to (5)_ a (6)__ referendum.

While the (7)__ values referendum (8)__ in Slovakia won't be legally binding I thought it would make an excellent English lesson theme for you to now debate!

signatures / nationwide / family / generate / enough / skills / particular / result

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Referendum on Family Values

Today's English lesson is inspired by one of my students. When discussing (1)__ weekend activities, she told us (2)__ had been helping to promote an upcoming referendum (3)__ family values that will take place shortly in Slovakia.

There are three questions:

- 1) Do you agree that only a bond between one man and one woman can be called marriage?
- 2) Do you agree that same-sex couples should not be allowed to adopt and raise children?
- 3) Do (4)__ agree that schools cannot require children to participate in sex education or euthanasia education (5)__ their parents don't agree?

All three questions created a very interesting discussion in (6)__ English lesson, to the point where I abandoned the set theme, (7)__ I thought it best to continue (8)__ lively debate that followed.

you / she / her / the / if / on / as / my

My students in (1)__ particular English lesson are all over the age of 30, and are working in one particular company. (2)__ answering the questions, while some students said 'Yes' (3)__ agreed, (4)__ of (5)__ said 'No' they didn't agree. It got everyone talking, it got heated and it tested (6)__ English language speaking skills!

The Catholic Church has a strong influence on the Slovak population. The referendum has been organised by the *Alliance for Family*. It succeeded in getting 400,000 signatures - enough to generate a nationwide referendum.

(7)__ the family values referendum result in Slovakia won't be legally binding I thought it (8)__ make an excellent English lesson theme for you to now debate!

would / while / their / this / some / when / them / they

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Referendum on Family Values

Today’s English lesson is inspired by one of my students. When discussing her _____, she told us she had been helping to promote an _____ on family values that will take place shortly in Slovakia.

There are three questions:

- 1) _____ a bond between one man and one woman can be called marriage?
- 2) Do you agree that same-sex couples should not be allowed to adopt and raise children?
- 3) Do you agree that schools cannot require children to participate in sex education or _____ if their parents don’t agree?

All three questions created a very interesting discussion in my English lesson, _____

abandoned the set theme, as I thought it best to continue the lively debate that followed.

My students _____ English lesson are all over the age of 30, and are working in one particular company. When answering the questions, while some students said ‘Yes’ they agreed, some of them said ‘No’ they didn’t agree. It got everyone talking, _____ tested their English language speaking skills!

_____ has a strong influence on the Slovak population. The referendum has been organised by the *Alliance for Family*. It succeeded in getting 400,000 signatures – enough to generate a _____. While the family values referendum result in Slovakia won’t be legally binding I thought it would make an excellent English lesson theme _____!

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board – As a class / In pairs – Create three more referendum questions. Go round the room debating them. What is the result? 5-10 minutes. Discuss together.

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

- 1) Same-sex couples _____
- 2) Today’s theme _____
- 3) Sex education _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: *Referendum on Family Values*. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) activities
- 2) promote
- 3) referendum
- 4) adopt
- 5) agree
- 6) discussion
- 7) theme
- 8) debate

ANSWERS

- 1) particular
- 2) skills
- 3) signatures
- 4) enough
- 5) generate
- 6) nationwide
- 7) family
- 8) result

SPELLING

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

- 1) particular
- 2) theme
- 3) between
- 4) activities
- 5) promote
- 6) upcoming
- 7) shortly
- 8) Slovakia
- 9) marriage
- 10) couples

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

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

- 11) continue
- 12) agreed
- 13) influence
- 14) strong
- 15) alliance
- 16) legally
- 17) debate
- 18) values
- 19) nationwide
- 20) signatures

Referendum on Family Values – *15th February 2015*