

## So how were the Noughties for you?

The Noughties are now over. Another decade has ended. So how were the Noughties for you? Was the era a success or will you regard them like having had a big hangover? How will you remember them? What was the best bit of the Noughties? There are many things that happened in this era. The TV and newspapers have been full of articles about this decade. It certainly gets one thinking about the Noughties. For example what were the top five films of the Noughties? What were the top five TV programmes...the top five important historical moments...the top three records of the era? What were the worst top three records? Who made the headlines during the Noughties? Who were your favourite film stars, musicians and politicians? Which ones did you detest? What were the political scandals of the Noughties? Who got fired? Who triumphed? Who died? Who were the top three best sportsmen and women? What were the top three sports events of the decade? How did society change in the Noughties? Were we better or worse off? What new gadgets did we start using? Just how did the financial crisis hit you at the end of the Noughties?

The Noughties got us more online. Social networks rapidly grew. People got fatter in the Noughties! Many countries saw either mass immigration or emigration. Reality TV became popular. Binge drinking got worse. A smoking ban came in across Europe forcing many pubs to close. There was Botox and Viagra! There was too much easy credit. We all paid too much for houses. The EU expanded eastwards. New work opportunities brought the Polish plumber to the UK. The EU continued its Big Brother stranglehold on Europe. There was the Lisbon Treaty saga then the crushing of incandescent light bulbs. A new dim rather than dark age has now emerged! Big Brother got bigger, and I'm not only talking about the TV reality show. States began building databases on every citizen. Funny, I thought that ended when communism ended in Eastern Europe. Wrong! George Orwell was right. Come to think about it so was the Czech President.

**Category: History / World / The Noughties**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

So how were the Noughties for you? – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010

The Human Rights Act arrived in 2000 and where did it get us? There was Harry Potter! Italy won the football World Cup in Germany. But probably the most defining moment in the Noughties must be 9/11 in 2001. The War on Terror began. Life has never been the same since! Tell me, what exactly did happen to Bin Laden? Then there's George W. Bush. What a popular guy he was! Still, he had his poodle on a lead, Tony Blair. The French saw a little Frenchman stand on his soapbox to talk to Germany's answer to Margaret Thatcher – Angela Merkel. While Italy's Prime Minister got a smack on the face.

Other notable events include the Pope dying. There was also the Great Tsunami in the Indian Ocean. The world woke up to the Somali pirate issue. Iran also upset the West in its quest for nuclear power. Then there was the financial crisis. What a disaster that's been for many people! The meltdown that spread quicker than butter has affected each and every one of us. Banks crashed as did share and property prices. Bankers became loathed for getting their bank bonuses. Many countries at the end of the Noughties endured unemployment. Many jobless people lived on benefits.

The decade ended with the Afghanistan and Iran issue unresolved. The Israeli and Palestinian dispute will take another 2,000 years to solve. Global warming became the top issue. The Chinese soon cooled any realistic hope of achieving anything at the 2009 Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen. In fact, China emerged as the new world superpower.

The world lost some great names in 2009: Ted Kennedy, Patrick Swayze & Michael Jackson all died. Perhaps the biggest surprise of 2009 must be Scottish singer Susan Boyle! The Noughties started with a big party. They ended with many having a big financial hangover. As for the future, who knows? The Teenies will be harder for many. They will be lean and mean, as the debt crisis created by the financial crisis now has to be repaid. What we need is vision. Maybe the American President Barack Obama can help solve the world's problems? Welcome to the Teenies!

## EXERCISES

**1. The Noughties:** Think of five things you can remember about the Noughties? (2000-2009). Go round the room swapping details.

**2. Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self correct your work from page two - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

**3. Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

**4. Vocabulary:** Students now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

**5. The article:** Students look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

**6. Let's chat!** In pairs. One of you rings your fellow student who is in another country on your mobile or on Skype! Chat about the Noughties. What do you best remember about them! Momentarily there is a bad line. *5-minutes*.

**7. Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

**Student A**

- 1) Name the Treaty.
- 2) What did States begin doing?
- 3) What got dim?
- 4) Who is George Orwell?
- 5) Name the Czech President.

**Student B**

- 1) What did banks do?
- 2) Who is the American President?
- 3) What did many jobless people live on?
- 4) What happened to the Italian Prime Minister?
- 5) Which new superpower emerged?

**8. Let's debate:** In pairs. Students A think the Noughties were great. Students B think otherwise. Explain why.

So how were the Noughties for you? – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010

9. **Let's think!** Think of three positive and negative things about the Noughties. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these?

Three positive things	Three negative things
1	1
2	2
3	3

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

10. **Economic:** Some economic thinking: How did the world economy change during the Noughties? Was it better or worse than the 90's? How did your country's economy do during this period? Did it improve or get worse?

11. **Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) The Noughties \_\_\_\_\_
- b) I loved the Noughties \_\_\_\_\_
- c) I hated the Noughties \_\_\_\_\_

12. **Let's talk! The Noughties:** *In pairs/groups/as a class.* Discuss together the changes in the world during the Noughties. What are your conclusions? *5-minutes.*

13. **Presentation:** In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a 2 minute presentation on: **The Noughties**. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation. The class can vote on the best presentation. Class – After the presentations go through the strong and weak points on each presentation. Learn from the results.

14. **Predictions for the Teenies (2010-2019):** In pairs think of three things you want to do in the Teenies (2010-2019). Then make three predictions of worldwide things that you think might happen. Compare results with others.

Things you want to do between 2010-2019	Your worldwide predictions between 2010-2019
1	1
2	2
3	3

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

15. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **The Noughties**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

16. **Quick-fire!** In a group in a circle. A quick-fire session. The teacher asks the class, **"I love the Noughties because..."**

So how were the Noughties for you? – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010

## DISCUSSION

### STUDENT A's QUESTIONS

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What was the biggest record of the Noughties?
- 3) What was the best gadget of the Noughties?
- 4) Who was the best film star of the Noughties?
- 5) Who was the best music group of the Noughties?
- 6) Who was the best female artist of the Noughties?
- 7) Who was the best male artist of the Noughties?
- 8) What was your favourite TV programme of the Noughties?
- 9) What TV channel did you watch most in the Noughties?
- 10) What decade do you prefer most in your life? Why this one?

### STUDENT B's QUESTIONS

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) Who was your favourite sportsman of the Noughties?
- 3) Who was your favourite sportswoman of the Noughties?
- 4) What was the most important event of the Noughties?
- 5) What was the most important event in your life in the Noughties?
- 6) Who was the most famous person in the Noughties?
- 7) Whose death do you remember most from the Noughties?
- 8) Which political scandal do you remember from the Noughties?
- 9) What did you give up in the Noughties?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## SPEAKING

Let's brainstorm! The Noughties

*Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1*

Brainstorm some ideas about **the Noughties**. Choose a spokesperson who can present your ideas to the class at the end of your preparation. Try to think of three per category. Present it visually or use the board etc... Try to be imaginative!

1	Top musicians	5	Politicians
2	Top songs	6	Sportsmen/Sportswomen
3	Major events	7	New gadgets
4	Celebrities	8	Top TV programmes

The teacher can moderate the session.

So how were the Noughties for you? – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010

## GAP FILL: READING

*Put the words into the gaps in the text.*

The (1)\_\_\_\_\_ are now over. Another decade has ended. So how were the Noughties for you? Was the era a success or will you regard them like having had a big (2)\_\_\_\_\_? How will you remember them? What was the best bit of the Noughties? There are many things that happened in this (3)\_\_\_\_\_. The TV and newspapers have been full of articles about this (4)\_\_\_\_\_. It certainly gets one thinking about the Noughties. For example what were the top five (5)\_\_\_\_\_ of the Noughties? What were the top five TV programmes...the top five (6)\_\_\_\_\_ historical moments...the top three records of the era? What were the worst top three records? Who made the headlines during the Noughties? Who were your favourite film stars, (7)\_\_\_\_\_ and politicians? Which ones did you detest? What were the political scandals of the Noughties? Who got fired? Who triumphed? Who died? Who were the top three best sportsmen and women? What were the top three sports events of the decade? How did (8)\_\_\_\_\_ change in the Noughties? Were we better or worse off? What new gadgets did we start using? Just how did the financial crisis hit you at the end of the Noughties?

*films*

*decade*

*hangover*

*musicians*

*era*

*important*

*society*

*Noughties*

The Noughties got us more (1)\_\_\_\_\_. Social networks rapidly grew. People got fatter in the Noughties! Many countries saw either mass immigration or emigration. Reality TV became popular. Binge drinking got worse. A smoking (2)\_\_\_\_\_ came in across Europe forcing many pubs to close. There was Botox and Viagra! There was too much easy credit. We all paid too much for houses. The EU expanded eastwards. New work opportunities brought the Polish (3)\_\_\_\_\_ to the UK. The EU continued its Big Brother (4)\_\_\_\_\_ on Europe. There was the Lisbon Treaty saga then the crushing of (5)\_\_\_\_\_ light bulbs. A new (6)\_\_\_\_\_ rather than dark age has now emerged! Big Brother got bigger, and I'm not only talking about the TV reality show. States began building (7)\_\_\_\_\_ on every citizen. Funny, I thought that ended when (8)\_\_\_\_\_ ended in Eastern Europe. Wrong! George Orwell was right. Come to think about it so was the Czech President.

*incandescent*

*plumber*

*databases*

*communism*

*online*

*stranglehold*

*dim*

*ban*

So how were the Noughties for you? – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010

## PUT THE ARTICLE BACK TOGETHER

- ( ) your favourite film stars, musicians and politicians? Which ones did you detest? What were the political scandals of the Noughties? Who got fired? Who triumphed? Who died? Who were the top three best sportsmen and
- ( ) only talking about the TV reality show. States began building databases on every citizen. Funny, I thought that ended when communism ended in
- ( 1 ) The Noughties are now over. Another decade has ended. So how were the Noughties for you? Was the era a success or will you regard them like having had a big hangover? How will you remember them? What was the
- ( ) Noughties? The Noughties got us more online. Social networks rapidly grew. People got fatter in the Noughties! Many countries saw either mass immigration or emigration. Reality TV became popular. Binge drinking got
- ( ) the top five films of the Noughties? What were the top five TV programmes...the top five important historical moments...the top three records of the era? What were the worst top three records? Who made the headlines during the Noughties? Who were
- ( ) UK. The EU continued its Big Brother stranglehold on Europe. There was the Lisbon Treaty saga then the crushing of incandescent light bulbs. A new dim rather than dark age has now emerged! Big Brother got bigger, and I'm not
- ( ) Eastern Europe. Wrong! George Orwell was right. Come to think about it so was the Czech President.
- ( ) best bit of the Noughties? There are many things that happened in this era. The TV and newspapers have been full of articles about this decade. It certainly gets one thinking about the Noughties. For example what were
- ( ) women? What were the top three sports events of the decade? How did society change in the Noughties? Were we better or worse off? What new gadgets did we start using? Just how did the financial crisis hit you at the end of the
- ( ) worse. A smoking ban came in across Europe forcing many pubs to close. There was Botox and Viagra! There was too much easy credit. We all paid too much for houses. The EU expanded eastwards. New work opportunities brought the Polish plumber to the UK.

So how were the Noughties for you? – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010

## SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	Noughties	11	unemployment
2	quest	12	decade
3	summit	13	politicians
4	Teenies	14	financial
5	hangover	15	immigration
6	Tsunami	16	plumber
7	countries	17	beginning
8	realistic	18	stranglehold
9	communism	19	incandescent
10	favourite	20	gadgets

## ANSWERS

GAP FILL: So how were the Noughties for you? The **Noughties** are now over. Another decade has ended. So how were the Noughties for you? Was the era a success or will you regard them like having had a big **hangover**? How will you remember them? What was the best bit of the Noughties? There are many things that happened in this **era**. The TV and newspapers have been full of articles about this **decade**. It certainly gets one thinking about the Noughties. For example what were the top five **films** of the Noughties? What were the top five TV programmes...the top five **important** historical moments...the top three records of the era? What were the worst top three records? Who made the headlines during the Noughties? Who were your favourite film stars, **musicians** and politicians? Which ones did you detest? What were the political scandals of the Noughties? Who got fired? Who triumphed? Who died? Who were the top three best sportsmen and women? What were the top three sports events of the decade? How did **society** change in the Noughties? Were we better or worse off? What new gadgets did we start using? Just how did the financial crisis hit you at the end of the Noughties? The Noughties got us more **online**. Social networks rapidly grew. People got fatter in the Noughties! Many countries saw either mass immigration or emigration. Reality TV became popular. Binge drinking got worse. A smoking **ban** came in across Europe forcing many pubs to close. There was Botox and Viagra! There was too much easy credit. We all paid too much for houses. The EU expanded eastwards. New work opportunities brought the Polish **plumber** to the UK. The EU continued its Big Brother **stranglehold** on Europe. There was the Lisbon Treaty saga then the crushing of **incandescent** light bulbs. A new **dim** rather than dark age has now emerged! Big Brother got bigger, and I'm not only talking about the TV reality show. States began building **databases** on every citizen. Funny, I thought that ended when **communism** ended in Eastern Europe. Wrong! George Orwell was right. Come to think about it so was the Czech President. (V1)

[www.newsflashenglish.com](http://www.newsflashenglish.com)

Created by **David Robinson**. This ESL lesson is the copyright of [www.newsflashenglish.com](http://www.newsflashenglish.com)