

Words In The News

Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets
with answers

Skinny models –
13 September 2006



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LEARNING ENGLISH



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BBC Learning English – Words in the News

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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: Skinny models

Language: Vocabulary of news report

Aims:

Reading skills	– Understanding a short news report
Language skills	– Practise using too/enough/as..as
Speaking skills	– Practising speaking fluency

Materials:

Worksheet 1	– Comprehension questions
Worksheet 2	– Vocabulary matching task
Worksheet 3	– Grammar/language focus – too/enough/as..as

News story – Available online at:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2006/09/060913_models.shtml

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LESSON STAGES

A Stimulate student interest in text

Generate interest about today's topic by telling students they are going to read a text about a fashion show in Madrid, Spain. Ask them to predict what words, phrases or ideas they think will be in the text. Write their suggestions on the board. You will use these suggestions later in the lesson.

(possible answers):

famous models
famous clothes designers
celebrities
new fashion trends

B Pre-teach essential vocabulary

Elicit/present key vocabulary that students need either to understand the key points in the text or to understand and/or answer any questions that you'll set them later in the lesson. The vocabulary is from Words in the News (so you can elicit the vocabulary by using the explanations provided online or below).

You could either pre-teach the vocabulary at this stage of the lesson or you could use the vocabulary building activity from further down in this lesson plan. Have students working in small groups together and ask them to try to match the vocabulary with the definitions. Encourage them to work with the other groups to pool their knowledge.

When they have done as much as they can, if they have dictionaries, ask them to look up the words to check their answers and to find out the definitions of any words they were not sure of. If they don't have dictionaries, check their answers and give them help with any words they don't know.

Whichever method you use to elicit/present the vocabulary, you should then model it (say it clearly, highlighting the word stress) and get them to repeat the words after you.

to take a stand against

to openly oppose

waif

neglected, as if not having enough food or care; here, thin and delicate like a model

a catwalk

a narrow stage that models walk along in fashion shows

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to turn away

to not allow to participate

unhealthily skinny

too thin to be healthy or fit

to reject excessively thin models

to not accept models who are too slim

would be participants

those who would like to take part

reportedly

according to what is said, although there is no proof that it is definitely true

to set

to establish, to cause to exist

to legislate to ban

to adopt a law not allowing

C Written record of vocabulary

Write the words on the board, eliciting spelling as you write. Elicit and show the word stress of each item and word class, if appropriate. Give students some time to copy your boardwork into their notebooks

You can listen to how the words are pronounced by going to this day's Words in the News page and clicking on the link **Listen to the words**:

Boardwork:

to take a stand against

waif (noun but used in today's text as an adjective)

a catwalk (n)

to turn away

unhealthily skinny

to reject excessively thin models

would be participants

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reportedly (adj)

to set

to legislate to ban

D Set a scanning question.

Tell the students they are going to read a text about a fashion show in Madrid. Give them a time limit (1 - 2 minutes) to read the text quickly to find the answer to the question on the board.

It's not important that the students understand every word of the text at this stage. The point of this task is to get them interested in the text and to read it quickly once.

Boardwork

How many of our ideas are mentioned in the text?

famous models
famous clothes designers
celebrities
new fashion trends

E Check answers

Elicit students' answers and highlight the correct answer on the board (a famous Spanish model, Esther Canadas, is mentioned in paragraph 3)

F Set specific information questions

Hand out worksheet 1 or use the online quiz. Students complete the worksheet to help them understand the text in more detail. Give them a time limit (5 - 6 minutes) to read the text in more detail and to answer the questions.

G Check answers

Elicit True or False answers. Direct attention to a particular paragraph if an answer is wrong to try to elicit the correct answer (see worksheet 1 and answer key).

H Vocabulary consolidation/building

Before the lesson, make enough copies of worksheet 2 so that there is 1 worksheet for every 4 – 5 students. Cut up the vocabulary and explanations.

In class tell students to match the correct word with the right definition.

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I Check answers

Elicit answers. If an answer is wrong, ask other students to try to elicit the correct answer.

J Language focus

Hand out worksheet 3 which focuses on words like "enough, too, as ... as". Ask students to fill in the blanks to complete the sentences correctly.

K Check answers

If an answer is wrong, ask other students to try to elicit the correct answer (see worksheet 3 and answer key). Try to elicit from students any patterns in the answers (we use enough before nouns - *I have enough money* - and after adjectives and adverbs – *She is rich enough, He ran quickly enough and made it to the train on time.*).

L Follow-up activity: Speaking

Role-play

Spilt the class into three groups. Group A is a representative of the London fashion industry, Group B is the spokesperson for the international Anorexia and Bulimia Association and Group C is a fashion model. The three people are going to have a discussion about today's story.

For 3 minutes, each group brainstorms questions or answers about topic (for example, who makes fashion, are there pressures to be thin, what sells clothes, is skinny healthy, how does it feel to be an anorexic teenager, how does it feel to be a model who has to stay slim? etc)

For 10 minutes, in groups of three, one fashion rep, one Anorexia spokesperson and one model discuss today's issues.

While they are speaking, move around the room listening to them unobtrusively. Make a note of any errors you hear.

M Feedback

Give praise for content (e.g. who had the most interesting points to make about fashion). Give praise for correct English you heard. Give feedback on incorrect language you heard. You could write some example phrases or sentences on the board and elicit from students which ones are correct and which ones are wrong and why.

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WORKSHEET 1

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Are the following sentences true or false?

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 1. | The Spanish fashion industry want very slim models in their shows. | T/F |
| 2. | A lot of people criticised the organisers of last year's fashion show because the models were too fat. | T/F |
| 3. | The Association of Fashion Designers says that if models are too thin they won't be allowed in this year's show.. | T/F |
| 4. | All the models who want to be in this year show are going to be allowed to participate. | T/F |
| 5. | The local government in Madrid wants young people to be fit, healthy and beautiful without having to diet a lot. | T/F |
| 6. | Spain's Anorexia and Bulimia Association says that there should be laws against using very thin models. | T/F |

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WORKSHEET 2

VOCABULARY MATCHING TASK

Match these words and phrases to their definitions

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. to take a stand against | A. neglected, as if not having enough food or care; here, thin and delicate like a model |
| 2. waif | B. according to what is said, although there is no proof that it is definitely true |
| 3. a catwalk | C. to not accept models who are too slim |
| 4. to turn away | D. to not allow to participate |
| 5. unhealthily skinny | E. to openly oppose |
| 6. to reject excessively thin models | F. those who would like to take part |
| 7. would be participants | G. a narrow stage that models walk along in fashion shows |
| 8. reportedly | H. to establish, to cause to exist |
| 9. to set | I. too thin to be healthy or fit |
| 10. to legislate to ban | J. to adopt a law not allowing |

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.

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WORKSHEET 3

LANGUAGE FOCUS – Prefixes

We can talk about having enough, too much or just the right amount of something we can use:

enough, not enough, too, or as ... as. The following examples come from today's text:

Women are too underweight

Models as thin as Esther Canadas

Fill in the blanks with the following words + **as ... as**, **too ...**, **enough ...** or **... enough**. The first one has been done for you.

expensive	old	hardworking	vegetables	cinemas
cold	time	money	clever	fast

1. She wants to go on holiday but she hasn't got enough money
2. She wasn't _____ to win the race.
3. It's _____ to sit outside today.
4. It's not fair. I'm _____ her but she got a pay rise and I didn't!
5. She wants to buy that new car but it's _____ for her.
6. He hasn't got _____ to make that soup.
7. Some people think there are _____ in this town but I think one or two more would be good.
8. She's _____ him but he works harder so he did better in his exams than she did.
9. She wants to go into the army but she's not _____ yet. She'll be able to enrol next year when she's 18.
10. We didn't have _____ on holiday to see everything we wanted to in Athens.

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ANSWER KEY

WORKSHEET 1

1. False – Paragraph 1 says 'The Spanish fashion industry is taking a stand against waif thin models.'
2. False – Paragraph 1 says 'Last year's fashion parade led to protests ... who complained that the participants were unhealthily skinny.'
3. True – Paragraph 2 say 'In response to pressure from the local government, the Association of Fashion Designers has agreed to ... reject excessively thin models from this year's show.'
4. False – Paragraph 3 says 'The Association of Fashion Designers says thirty per cent of would be participants fail this test.'
5. True – Paragraph 3 says 'Madrid's local government says it wants to set a more positive, healthy image of beauty for teenagers to follow.'
6. True – Paragraph 3 says – 'Spain's Anorexia and Bulimia Association says ... the government should legislate to ban thin models.'

WORKSHEET 2

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. | 8. | 9. | 10. |
| E | A | G | D | I | C | F | B | H | J |

WORKSHEET 3

1. enough money
2. fast enough
3. too cold
4. as hardworking as
5. too expensive
6. enough vegetables
7. enough cinemas
8. as clever as
9. old enough
10. enough time