

Teacher's Notes & Answer Key

Level	Intermediate +
Lesson Aims	Learners will develop listening skills and learn about April Fool's Day. Students will also develop their speaking skills .
Note to the teacher	This lesson is based on the BBC's April Fool's joke from a few years ago. You will need to keep up the farce that it is real until the very end of the lesson in order for it to be successful. Hopefully, the students won't have seen the video before, if they have, just skip on to the section of making practical jokes.
Video links	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dfWzp7rYR4 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzhDsojoqk8
Image links	http://static.guim.co.uk/sys-images/Observer/Pix/pictures/2009/1/20/1232477929290/Arctic-ice-cave-001.jpg http://static.guim.co.uk/sys-images/Travel/Pix/pictures/2009/11/27/1259333305591/Adult-polar-bear-Arctic-N-001.jpg http://i.telegraph.co.uk/multimedia/archive/01367/antarctic-penguin_1367800i.jpg http://www.gdargaud.net/Antarctica/Life/WeddellSeal.jpg http://images.nationalgeographic.com/wpf/media-live/photos/000/005/cache/killer-whale_591_990x742.jpg
Wikipedia link	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_Fools'_Day

1) Lead In

Hand out the Student Worksheets with pictures of animals on it. In pairs, have students brainstorm as many facts as they can think of about them.

Some facts to know while students are brainstorming:

- Polar bears mostly eat seals
- Polar bears are the world's largest predator
- The largest of all seals is the Elephant Seal.
- Seals only spend about 20% of their time on land.
- Many whales are toothless.
- There are 79 to 84 different species of whale
- Penguins are a type of bird
- Penguins can't fly

2) Prediction task

Tell students they are going to watch a short video about a newly discovered colony of penguins with an unusual ability. In pairs, the students discuss and write down a prediction as to what the ability may be.

Sts then watch the video clip and check their predictions.

Get some feedback from the students. What do they feel about this new discovery? Have they heard about this?

3) Detailed Listening task

Students listen/watch the clip again and answer the following questions:

- How many species of penguins can fly? **One**
- Why do penguins usually huddle together in winter? **To keep warm**
- Where do the penguins fly to? (The rainforests of) **South America**
- What do they do there? **Bask in the sun**

4) Vocabulary

Students match the words to their definitions based on the context of the listening

1. Colony of penguins (e)	a) To sit in the sun and enjoy it
2. Little fellas (b)	b) (slang) small people/animals
3. Rainforest (f)	c) To group together, usually to keep warm
4. Huddle together (c)	d) Something amazing that someone/something can do
5. Incredible ability (d)	e) A group/family of penguins
6. Basking in the tropical sun (a)	f) A tropical forest

5) Discussion: In groups, get the students to discuss the following questions:

Are you surprised by this new discovery?

What do you think the impacts of the discovery will be?

Have you ever heard of any other unusual animal abilities?

After the students have discussed these, get some feedback from them based on their opinions.

6) Pretend like you are moving on to a new topic. You need to try to keep up the appearance that the flying penguins exist until the very end of the lesson.

Ask the students what date it is (if April 1st) or what day it was the day before/after etc (whenever April 1st was/will be).

Ask them if they know that April 1st is a very special day and if they know why?

Tell them it is April Fool's Day and if they know what it means? Get them to unfold their handout and read what it means.

7) Ask students to get into groups. (Would work best with mixed nationalities in each group). Discuss the following questions:

Does April Fool's Day exist in their country?

If so, are the dates the same?

What do people usually do on this day?

What is the best prank/joke that they have heard about on that day?

Get some feedback from the different groups about what they have discussed. Let the students decide which sounds most interesting.

8) In groups, students discuss a prank/joke they could do on a friend. They need to decide on the following information:

Who they will play the trick on and why?

What will they need to do in order for the trick to be successful?

The plan for carrying out the trick.

Demo: I want to play a trick on my friend Jane because she is always tricking me and making fun of me. She is going on vacation to Budapest in a week and is very excited. My prank is to trick her into thinking the trip has been cancelled. What I will do is get another friend to call her and pretend to be the travel agency. I am going to write a script of what to say to her, including why the trip is cancelled (the tour agency has closed down) and why she won't get a refund for anything (because she didn't buy the specific travel insurance required). For the phone call I will meet my friend and we will call Jane on speakerphone so that I can video the entire conversation. I am sure that as soon as she gets off the phone she will call me to tell me the disaster. I will arrange to meet her to discuss it with her. When I meet her I will show her the video of the prank.

9) Presentation: Students present their prank ideas to the class and the class votes on the best/funniest practical joke.

10) Revealing the truth: Tell the students they are going to watch something about April Fool's Day pranks. Tell students to watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzhDsojqk8> and decide what they think about the prank. It should take the students only a few minutes to realize that the penguin video was a fake.

No feedback required, you can just laugh with them and send them on their way.

Student Worksheet - Brainstorm



Brainstorm information about these animals:

Seals

Whales

Polar Bears

Penguins

Student Worksheet - Video

1) You will watch a short video about a colony of penguins with an unusual ability. Before watching, discuss with your partner and write down what you think this unusual ability is.

- 2) Watch the clip again and answer the following questions:
- How many species of penguins can fly?
 - Why do penguins usually huddle together in winter?
 - Where do the penguins fly to?
 - What do they do there?

3) Match the words and phrases below to their meaning:

1. Colony of penguins	a) To sit in the sun and enjoy it
2. Little fellas	b) (<i>slang</i>) Small people/animals
3. Rainforest	c) To group together, usually to keep warm
4. Huddle together	d) Something amazing that someone/something can do
5. Incredible ability	e) A group/family of penguins
6. Basking in the tropical sun	f) A tropical forest

4) In groups, discuss the following questions

- Are you surprised by this new discovery?
- What do you think the impacts of the discovery will be?
- Have you ever heard of any other unusual animal discoveries in your lifetime?

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April Fool's Day is celebrated on April 1st every year. April 1st is not a national holiday, but it is widely recognized and celebrated in various countries as a day when people play practical jokes and hoaxes on each other called *April fools*.

5) In your groups discuss the following questions:

- Does April Fool's Day exist in your country?
- If so, are the dates the same?
- What do people usually do on this day?
- What is the best prank/joke that you have heard about on that day?

6) In groups, design a practical joke (or "prank") you could play on a friend. You need to decide on the following:

- Who you will play the trick on and why?
- What will they need to do in order for the trick to be successful?
- What are the steps you are going to take to play the trick on your friend?

7) Listen to the presentations and vote on the funniest/ most original / meanest prank.