

Teacher's Notes & Answer Key

Level	Intermediate +
Lesson Aims	Learners will develop listening skills and develop their ability to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary from context
Approximate Timing	45-60 mins
Notes to the teacher	<p>This lesson isn't directly connected to Father's Day but includes a funny and sweet story about "a very special father." I won't give away why he's special just yet as I recommend listening to the text yourself to find out. In any case, it's a fun lesson and useful to develop your learners' listening skills and their ability to deduce meaning of vocabulary from context.</p> <p>The text is from an episode of "This American Life," which is a great source of free, authentic listening texts for your students' extensive listening skills available here: http://www.thisamericanlife.org.</p> <p>Enjoy and Happy Father's Day!</p>
Text Link	http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/188/kid-logic
Image Links	"I exist!" Support Group photo - http://www.outsidethebeltway.com/lying-about-the-easter-bunny-santa-claus-and-the-tooth-fairy/

Teacher's Notes

- 1) Show the "I EXIST!" support group picture and elicit who might be at this meeting. Examples include Santa, the Easter Bunny, etc.



Students discuss the questions in ex. 1 in pairs.

During feedback, find out their ideas and elicit basic facts about the tooth fairy (when a child's tooth falls out, they leave the tooth under the pillow and the "tooth fairy" takes the tooth and leaves money in its place. It shouldn't be too hard for students to figure out who the tooth fairy really is if they don't already know!

- 2) Tell students they are going to listen to part of a radio show in which a guest, Rebecca, tells the presenter, Ira Glass, a story about the tooth fairy. Set the initial task in ex. 2 "Who did Rebecca think the tooth fairy was?"

Play the extract from This American Life, available here:

<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/188/kid-logic> from 0.00-3.47

Students pair check and then get feedback.

Answer: She thought the tooth fairy was Rachel's Dad/Ronnie Loberfeld.

- 3) Students unfold the paper, read the questions, listen again and decide whether the statements are true or false. Do the example with the class.

Students pair check. If they struggle, give them the audio transcript to check. Then go over the answers with the class:

- a) Rebecca's mom thought that Ronnie Loberfeld was the tooth fairy. **F (She didn't really think so!)**
 - b) Rebecca's mom played along with Rebecca's conclusion. **T (She pretended it was true for her daughter's benefit)**
 - c) Ronnie Loberfeld worked at the Stop & Shop. **F (He worked in finance - at an office next to the Stop & Shop)**
 - d) Ronnie Loberfeld drove a Volvo. **T (But probably not delivering everyone's tooth fairy money!)**
 - e) Rebecca acted very excitedly when she was around Ronnie Loberfeld. **F (She acted cool/played it cool)**
 - f) The child psychologist Alison Gopnik thinks that Rebecca's conclusion is logical. **T (It's difficult for children to know where their parents' power begins and ends).**
- 4) Students can now complete the crossword puzzle by looking for words in the transcript. Point out that the clues tell them which part of the story to look at. Demo the activity by asking students what 4 across might be. (NB in this case there are a couple of alternatives – downplay; act cool, but only "play it cool" has three words. Students can work individually first then in pairs. During feedback, give extra clarification of meaning and help with pronunciation as necessary.

A Very Special Father: Father's Day Lesson

A Seasonal Lesson Plan by Lizzy Adams

www.TeachingHouse.com

Answers:



- 5) Students discuss the questions in exercise 5 in pairs. You could start by sharing your own opinion or telling them a true story about your childhood to inspire them to share. When they are speaking in pairs let them know that they will be reporting on their partner's opinions later on so they should pay close attention. During feedback, have Ss comment on which stories are the funniest / most logical / most cruel on the part of the parents, etc.

Student Worksheet 1

1 a) What are some of the characters that parents tell their children about in the US? In your country?



1 b) What do you know about the tooth fairy? Do parents tell their children about the tooth fairy in your country? 1

2) You are going to listen to a story from a radio show, "This American Life"². Listen and answer this question: Who does Rebecca think is the tooth fairy?

_____ fold _____ fold _____ fold _____

3) Listen again and decide whether the statements are true or false:

Example: Rebecca thought her own father was the tooth fairy? *False*

- a) Rebecca's mom thought that Ronnie Loberfeld was the tooth fairy.
- b) Rebecca's mom played along with Rebecca's conclusion.
- c) Ronnie Loberfeld worked at the Stop & Shop.
- d) Ronnie Loberfeld drove a Volvo.
- e) Rebecca acted very excitedly when she was around Ronnie Loberfeld.
- f) The child psychologist, Alison Gopnik, thinks that Rebecca's conclusion is logical.

¹ images accessed from <http://www.outsidethebeltway.com/lying-about-the-easter-bunny-santa-claus-and-the-tooth-fairy/> and <http://really-rach.com/2013/10/is-the-tooth-fairy-real-mum/> on February 28th 2014

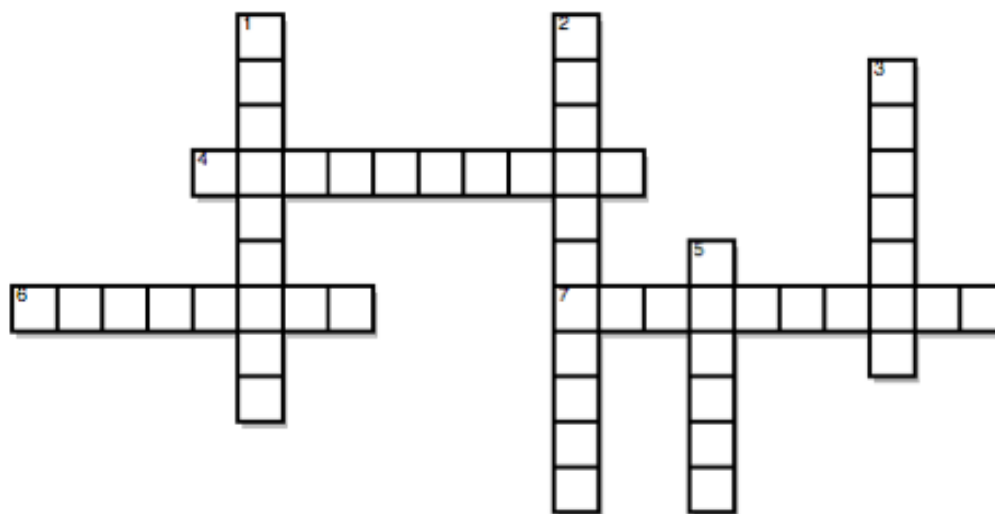
² Audio from <http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/188/kid-logic>

Transcript

A Very Special Father	
Part 1	<p>Presenter: Rebecca remembers exactly when she learned the astonishing truth. She was in second grade and ran into her best friend, Rachel, at school one day.</p> <p>Rebecca: And she pulled me aside and said, you know, last night I lost a tooth. I woke up while the tooth fairy was putting the money under my pillow. And guess who the tooth fairy was? I said, oh my god, who was it? I have to know. And she said, my dad. My dad is the tooth fairy.</p> <p>And I remember running home after school and telling my mom. Mom, I know who the tooth fairy is. And declaring it as if I had grown up, that I knew who the tooth fairy was. And she said, oh, well, who is the tooth fairy? And I turned to her and I said, Rachel's dad is the tooth fairy. Ronnie Loberfeld is the tooth fairy. And she said, I can't believe you know. It's totally secret, you can't let anyone else know. But you're right, Ronnie is the tooth fairy. And he works really hard. And, you know, it's a secret. So you can't let anyone else know. He is the tooth fairy but you can't let anyone else know. And from that day on, Ronnie Loberfeld was the tooth fairy. And all of my notes under my pillow were signed "Love, Ronnie Loberfeld."</p>
Part 2	<p>Presenter: Now, in his day job what did Ronnie Loberfeld do?</p> <p>Rebecca: I think he did something in finance. He was either an accountant or a stockbroker. He worked next to a Stop & Shop in Massachusetts, in Newton. Had dark hair, wore a suit. And I definitely had images of his driving his Volvo around the Boston area and delivering the tooth fairy treats. I remember wondering what it was like for Rachel to know that her dad was the tooth fairy. And definitely being a little envious that her dad had this special job and this special power and that he had this whole other interesting life. Where my dad just came home from work and that was it.</p> <p>Presenter: So when you would actually run into Ronnie Loberfeld, what was it like for you? How would you act?</p> <p>Rebecca: I tried to act cool. It's like if you're starstruck but you don't want them to know that you're starstruck.</p> <p>Presenter: Just like meeting a celebrity.</p> <p>Rebecca: Exactly. You downplay it, you try not to mention it, but you definitely check them out twice and look at them when they walk away. Like, oh my god, you're the tooth fairy.</p> <p>Presenter: But you knew enough to play it cool.</p> <p>Rebecca: I knew enough to play it cool. I said hey, how you doing, what's for dinner, how am I getting home tonight? Are my parents going to pick me up, have they called?</p> <p>Presenter: You did play it cool.</p>
Part 3	<p>Presenter: One interesting question in all this, why did both girls come to what seems like the least likely conclusion from the evidence in front of them-- of a parent swapping money for a tooth under a pillow? Well, Alison Gopnick studies how children think, and she says of course it's logical for a seven-year-old to conclude that her own father might be the tooth fairy.</p> <p>Alison Gopnik: Children understand that their parents, for instance, are powerful in all sorts of ways that make them very different from children. Now, from a child's point of view, knowing where those powers begin and end is pretty tricky. I mean, think about all the things that your parents can do that you can't do. And think about the fact that there isn't any obvious explanation about why your father can use a Visa card, for instance, which is something that you can't do.</p> <p>The power to be a tooth fairy isn't all that much more impressive.</p>
	<p>Chicago Public Radio and Public Radio International, Ira Glass, This American Life – Episode 188, "Kid Logic" http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/188/transcript accessed 2/18/2014</p>

Student Worksheet 2

- 4) Vocabulary scavenger hunt! Read the transcript and find words to complete the puzzle.



Clues

Across →

4) A verb phrase which means
“act in a calm way even when
you really feel excited” (3 words)
(part 2)

6) A verb which means
“exchanging one thing for
something else” (part 3)

7) an adjective from the text
which means “interested in and
excited by famous people”
(part 2)

Down ↓

1) a verb in the first part of the
story which means “saying
something in a serious way to
make it sound very important”.
(part 1)

2) An adjective which means
“very surprising” (part 1).

3) an adjective which means “the
way you feel when you want
something that another person
has. Another word for jealous”
(part 2)

5) An adjective which means
something is “difficult”.
(part 3)

- 5) Speaking – discuss these questions with a partner.

- What stories do you know that parents tell their children that are not true?
- Do you think it is ok to tell these stories to children? Why or why not?
- What stories did your parents tell you when you were younger that you found out were not true? How did you feel when you found out?