

Engaging millennials

Edmund Dudley
Ukraine, November 2018



Two classrooms: similarities and differences?



In this talk

- Motivating teenagers: what seems to work?
- Are we asking the right questions?
- Practical ideas for the classroom

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- **Motivating teenagers: what seems to work?**
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Motivating teenagers: what seems to work?

Think about your own students.

- How do you get them motivated?
- What makes it difficult?
- Does anything work particularly well?



Motivating teenagers: what seems to work?

- How do you get them motivated?
build rapport, involve students, be responsive, set an example with your own behaviour
- What makes it difficult?
proficiency level, inhibitions, low confidence, distractions, lack of interest
- Does anything work particularly well?
personalised tasks, open-ended prompts, flexible working modes

Is there light at the end of the tunnel?

Remember this:

Teenagers will tolerate boring lessons...

...but they'll never forgive you for being unfair.



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Are we asking the right questions?

Four tips

Ask open questions

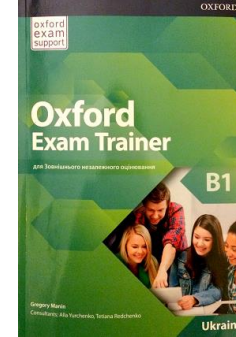
Offer *invitations to speak*

Use a scale of 1-5

Ask negative questions

Closed questions

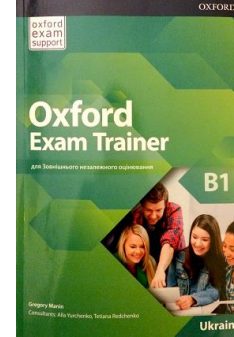
- concerned with what is true
- *right* and *wrong* answers



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Geography quiz

- 1 Which of these is not a continent: *Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, North America, South America* or *Antarctica*?
- 2 What language do they speak in Brazil: *Spanish, French* or *Portuguese*?
- 3 What's the capital city of *Australia*?
- 4 What are the *Andes*: a range of mountains or a group of islands?
- 5 What are the two longest rivers in the world?
- 6 In which two countries is *Lake Geneva*?
- 7 What's the biggest hot desert in the world?
- 8 Which of these cities is on the coast: *Cairo, Madrid* or *Sydney*?



Open questions

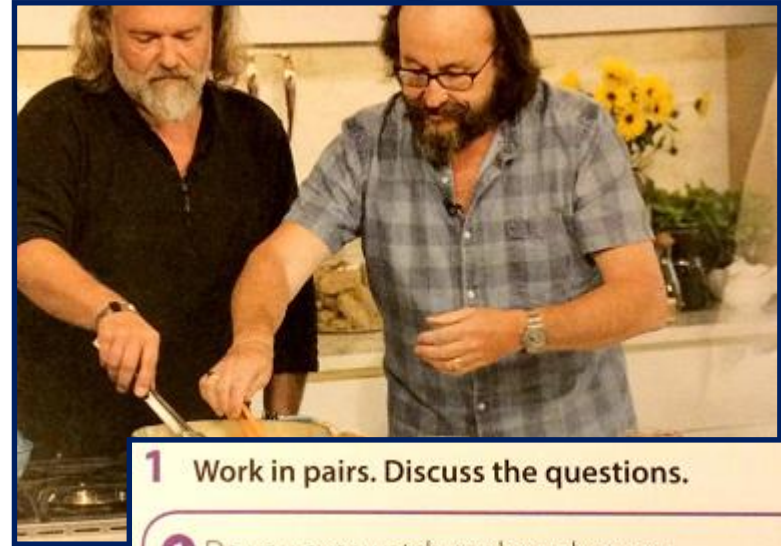
- more than one possible answer
- room for different opinions

1 Work in pairs. Ask and answer questions about people and nature.

- 1 Describe a place in nature that you like. What natural features can be found in this place? How do you feel when you're there?
- 2 How do you feel when you are close to nature? Why?
- 3 Have you ever experienced a storm? Describe what happened and how you felt.
- 4 'People shouldn't keep wild animals as pets.' Do you agree? Why?/Why not?
- 5 What is your favourite wild animal? Why?
- 6 'People who live in cities are disconnected from nature.' Do you agree? Why?/Why not?

Offer *invitations to speak*

- more indirect way of asking
- slightly playful
- encourages students
- allows them to save face



1 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you ever watch cookery shows or competitions on television? Which one is your favourite? Why?
- 2 Why do you think cookery shows have become popular?

e.g.

“Maria, you look like you have an interesting answer to this question...”

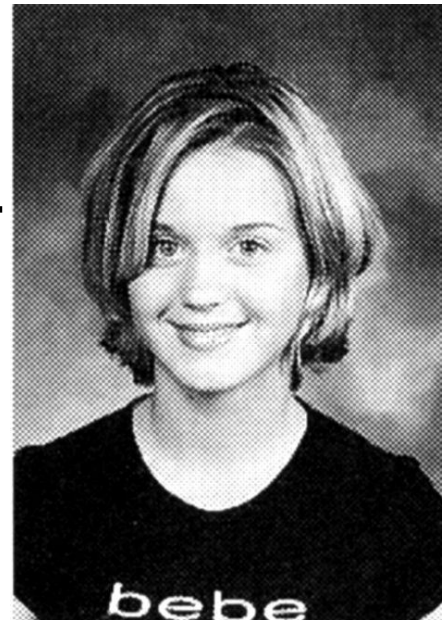
“Omar, it looks like you really want to say something...”

“Is there anything you want to add?”

Use a scale of 1-5

Can you identify the famous person?

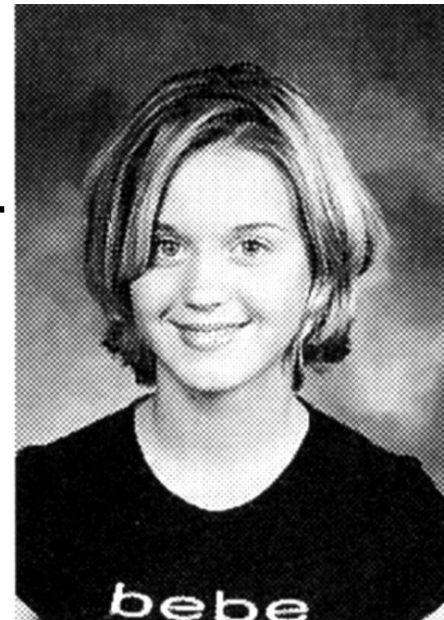
1. I have no idea, but I'll say...
2. I don't know, but it could be...
3. I think it might be...
4. I'm pretty certain it's...
5. I'm 100% sure it's...



Use a scale of 1-5

Can you identify the famous person?

1. I have no idea, but I'll say...
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Katy Perry

Ask negative questions

Teenagers hate talking about things they love...

...and love talking about things they hate!

Ask negative questions

Teenagers hate talking about things they love...

...and love talking about things they hate!

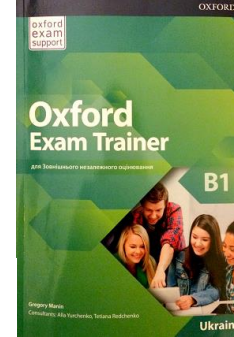
**What's the worst
song on YouTube?**

**What's the most
stupid ad on TV right
now?**

**Who is the rudest
shopkeeper in town?**

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Speak, pass, or nominate

1 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 How do students in Ukraine celebrate passing the final exams at secondary school?
- 2 How do you feel about these traditions? Are there any that you would like to change? Why? How?
- 3 Do you know of any similar traditions in other countries? What are they?

Do you want to **speak**, **pass**, or **nominate**?

Speak

→ I'll give an answer

Pass

→ Not now. Maybe later.

Nominate

→ My partner has a good answer

Do it right

Speak, pass or nominate

- Accept all answers. Move on if they pass
- Give nominated students the option of passing
- Be positive and respectful

Some observations:

- The majority of students choose to speak
- Students who pass have a sense of relief...
- ...which often leads to renewed confidence
- Students appreciate being given options

Spot-the-difference



- Students find a picture on their phones which was taken at school
- In class they try to recreate the photo as accurately as possible
- Compare the two images side-by-side
- Write down as many differences as they can

Spot-the-difference



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Invent a photo contest

- Get students to open their gallery and find a picture taken in the last week
- In pairs, share background info / answer any questions
- Tell students that each pair has to nominate one of its photos in an (imaginary) themed photo contest
- Announce the theme of the contest

Photo-contest theme revealed:

Remembering
Michael
Jackson

- Students have to figure out 1) how their photo matches the theme of the contest and 2) what to say about it
- Tip: don't let students change pictures after you announce the theme.

Photo-contest theme revealed:

(with random photos I took last week)

Remembering
Michael
Jackson



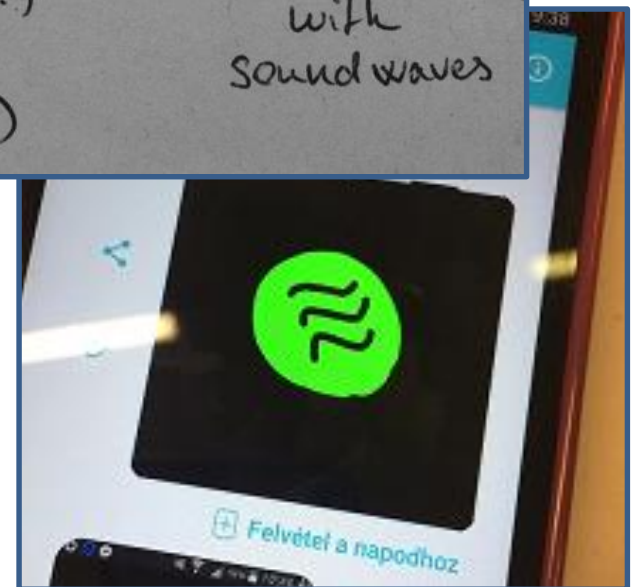
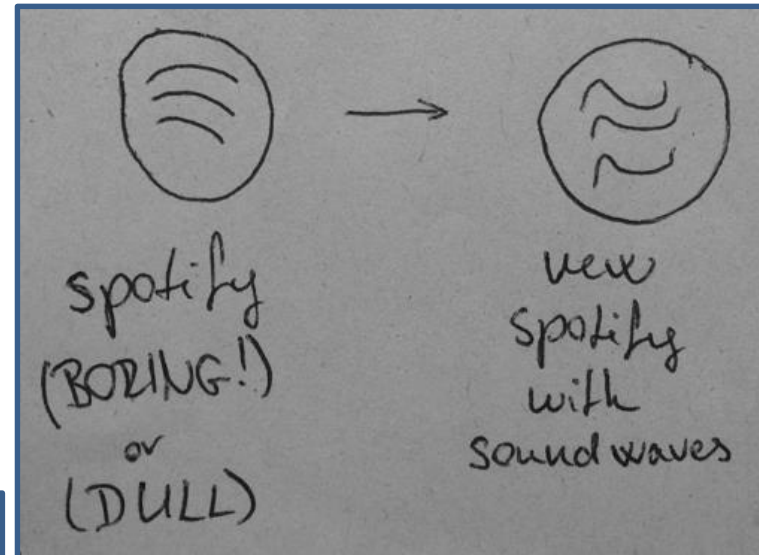
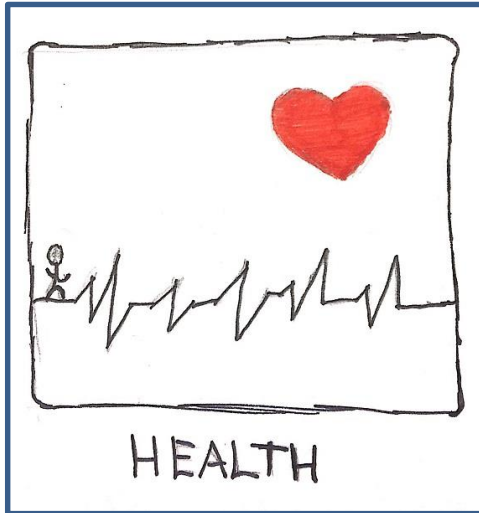
ONIONS
Coconut milk.
GARLIC
Sunflower seeds.
Beetroot.
Tomatoes
Milk
Butter

Re-designing icons

- Get students to look at the home screen of their phone
- Which icon has the best/worst design? Why?
- Ask students to make a new and improved icon for one of the apps



New and improved icons



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