WORDS
IN THE
NEWS
Teacher's pack

BBC WORLD SERVICE
LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Internet companies try to stop spam – 8 February 2006

(story link: http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2006/02/060208_spam.shtml)

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Words in the News – Internet companies try to stop spam – 8 February 2006 – Intermediate Reading Skills
Core materials Lesson Plan

	Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork
P R E R E A D I N G T E X T		5	Generate interest about today's by asking students how they would (or do) deal with spam emails: expected responses: open a new account open emails only from trusted friends and sources use an anti-spam filter	open a new email account only open emails from trusted friends and sources use an anti-spam filter
	Pre-teach essential vocabulary	10	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 aren't sure of. 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.	

	Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork
			the Internet equivalent of junk mail the same thing on the Internet as letters, especially advertisements, that are sent by organisations to large numbers of people. We use the term 'junk mail' to show disapproval. **at best, it's unwanted; at its worst, it can be sinister or offensive** if something is 'sinister', it makes you feel that something evil, dangerous, or illegal is happening or will happen. If something is 'offensive' it is very rude or insulting and likely to upset people. Notice the construction: 'at best ... at worst ...'. We use this to emphasise the negative aspects or qualities of something. We put the least bad quality first, then the worst. to block 08 Tf0 -12 TD 0 0 Tc (e Tc (t) Tj-0.11856 Tc (o) Tj.05184 Tc ( ) Tj-0.08544 Tc (s) Tj0.10848	

	Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork
			to make it difficult for **for less than a penny a piece** for under a penny for each e-mail **to bypass** to avoid, to go around **a stamp of approval and authenticity** if something has 'a stamp of' particular qualities, it has those qualities. 'Approval' means officially accepted or allowed. 'Authenticity' means the quality of being true. **to carry on** to continue	**the Internet equivalent of junk mail** **at best, it's unwanted; at its worst, it can be sinister or offensive** **to block** **legitimate (adj)** **to filter** **to make it hard for** **for less than a penny a piece**
	Written record	5 - 10	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.	**to bypass** **a stamp of approval and authenticity** **to carry on**

	Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork
	Set a scanning question. Students read text the first time		Tell the students they are going to read a story about AOL and Yahoo (two internet companies which provide email services). Give them a time limit (1 - 2 minutes) to read the text quickly to find the answer to the question on the board: How many of our ideas are mentioned in the text?	How many of our ideas are mentioned in the text? open a new email account only open emails from trusted friends and sources use an anti-spam filter
	Check answer	2 - 3	Elicit students' answers and write the correct answer (1) on the board. 'anti-spam software' is mentioned in paragraph 1	How many of our ideas are mentioned in the text? open a new email account only open emails from trusted friends and sources use an anti-spam filter ü
	Set specific information questions	5	Use worksheet A or the online quiz to help students understand the text in more detail. Give students a time limit (5 - 6 minutes) to read the text again in more detail and to answer the questions.	
	Check specific information answers	2	Elicit answers True or False. Direct attention to a particular paragraph if an answer is wrong to try to elicit correct answer (see worksheet A and answer key).	

	Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork
	Vocabulary consolidation/ building	5	Before the lesson, make enough copies of worksheet B 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.	
	Check answers	2	Elicit answers. If an answer is wrong, ask other students to try to elicit correct answer.	
Total Time Approx		45 mins		

	Activity	Approx time in mins	Teacher	Boardwork
	Grammar focus	5 - 10	Use worksheet C to focus on words that go together with 'play', 'make' or 'do'. Tell students to put the words into the correct column depending on which verb is used with each word/s.	
	Check answers	3	If an answer is wrong, ask other students to try to elicit correct answer. (see worksheet C and answer key)	
	Follow-up activity: speaking	15	Tell students there are going to invent something as simple yet lucrative (money-making) as AOL's email delivery scheme. In groups they should think about what their product or service is, who and where their market is, how much they will charge and so on. When they have invented their product, each group will tell the rest of the class about it and there will be a vote for the best one. Put the students into small groups. Give them 4 – 5 minutes to brainstorm, 4 - 5 minutes to prepare what they are going to say to the rest of the class and 4 – 5 minutes for each group to tell the rest of the class about their product or service. While they are speaking, move around the room listening to them unobtrusively. Make notes of any errors you hear.	
	Feedback		After all the groups have presented their ideas, have a class vote to find the winning product or service. Give praise for content (for example, who came up with a simple but very profitable idea) Give praise for correct examples you heard.	Examples: It costs next to nothing but will be a real time-saver for you. (ü)

			Give feedback on incorrect examples you heard. Elicit corrections.	This is the most convenience thing. **(0)**
Total time		30		

Words in the News – Worksheet A – Specific information questions

Internet companies try to stop spam – 8 February 2006

Are the following questions true or false? Read the text again and circle the correct answer:

1.	Letters that are sent to people's houses and offices is called 'spam'.	T/F
2.	The most awful thing about spam is that it's something people don't want it.	T/F
3.	Anti-spam software is very successful for both businesses and customers.	T/F
4.	Yahoo and AOL are offering a new, cheap service to post emails directly to users, side-stepping the anti-spam programmes.	T/F
5.	If businesses use this new service they will get a government certificate to say they don't send spam to their customers.	T/F
6.	Every registered business will have to join Yahoo and AOL's anti-spam programme	T/F

This quiz is available online. Go to:

(story link: http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2006/02/060208_spam.shtml)

at the bottom of the page (Words in the News), follow the link Do a comprehension test about this story

Words in the News – Worksheet B – Vocabulary building

Internet companies try to stop spam – 8 February 2006

Cut up the following vocabulary items. Ask students to match them correctly with the definitions.

1.	the Internet equivalent of junk mail
2.	at best, it's unwanted; at its worst, it can be sinister or offensive
3.	to block
4.	legitimate
5.	to filter
6.	to make it hard for
7.	for less than a penny a piece
8.	to bypass
9.	a stamp of approval and authenticity
10.	to carry on

Words in the News – Worksheet B - Vocabulary building

Internet companies try to stop spam – 8 February 2006

Cut up the following definitions. Ask students to match them correctly with the vocabulary items.

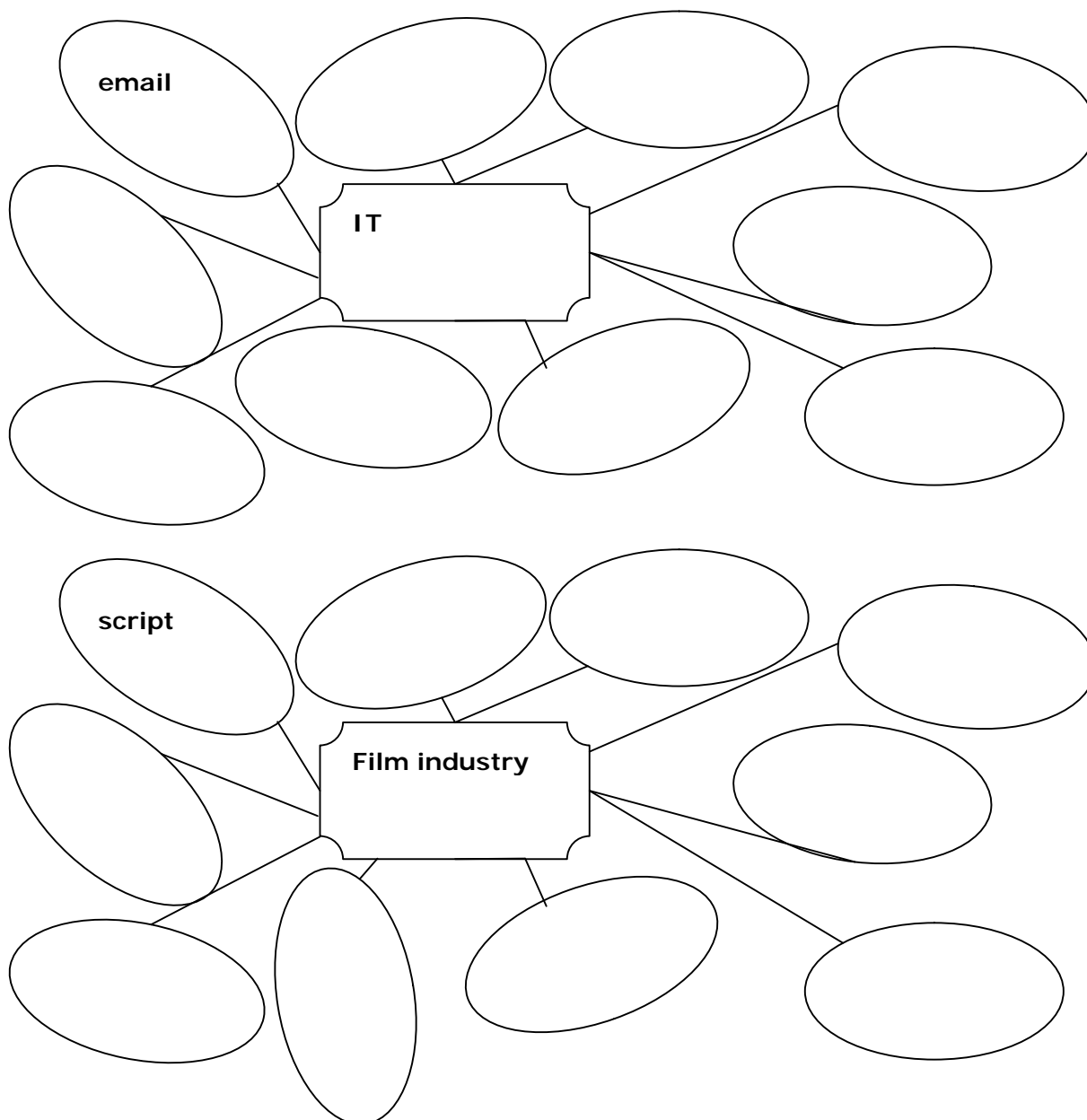| A.	to continue
B.	to stop

C.   the same thing on the Internet ath

Words in the News – Worksheet C – Word families

Many people find it's easier to remember vocabulary if it's grouped together in a meaningful way.

Below are words about IT (some from today's text) and some about the film industry (from 1 February story – Oscar nominations announed). Put the words into the correct category. The first ones have been done for you:

e-mail	script	keyboard	director
grip	inbox	set	magabytes
spam	software	close-up	hard drive
review	virus	mouse	zoom
location	jpeg	shoot	lighting

email

IT

script

Film industry

Words in the News – Answer key

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Answers

Worksheet A	Worksheet B

Worksheet A

1. **False** - Paragraph 1 says 'Spam is the Internet equivalent of junk mail.'

2. **False** - Paragraph 1 says 'At best, it's unwanted; at its worst it can be sinister or offensive.'

3. **False** – Paragraph 1 says 'But legitimate e-mail from big business is often filtered by anti-spam software, making it hard for the company to operate and depriving customers of potentially attractive offers.'

4. **True** – Paragraph 2 says 'For less than a penny a piece, they're offering to deliver e-mails directly to people's inboxes, bypassing any anti-spam device.'

5. **False** – Paragraph 2 says 'Sending thousands or millions of e-mails would clearly incur a significant cost -- but for that fee, the business would get a stamp of approval and authenticity.'

6. **False** – Paragraph 2 says 'Anyone who didn't want to pay could carry on as before.'

Worksheet B

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

Worksheet C

IT	Film industry
1. e-mail	1. script
2. keyboard	2. director
3. inbox	3. set
4. spam	4. grip
5. magabytes	5. close-up
6. software	6. review
7. hard drive	7. zoom
8. virus	8. location
9. mouse	9. shoot
10. jpeg	10. lighting