

# FANS IN THE UK

We interviewed fifteen football fans living or studying in the UK. We asked questions about football, living in the UK, the best way to learn English, the weather and much more.

**Question 7:** When did you start learning English?

## Lesson plan

**Level** A2

**Aims** Students will be able to ask and answer questions about when they started learning something by completing a class-mingle activity.

## Language

### Skills & functions:

- To predict and listen for specific information
- To write longer sentences using conjunctions; and, so, because
- To speak: students will be able to ask and answer questions about when they started learning something

**Vocabulary:** Conjunctions (and, so because)

**Grammar:** Past simple: Questions and Answers

**Focus:** Students will look at the fans talking about when/where they started to learn English. Then they'll be able to personalize and talk about themselves and each other.

### Materials:

- DVD cue to Question 7: When did you start learning English?
- Copies of students' worksheets (i.e. Activities 1,2,3,4 & 5).

### Stages & timing:

- Before you watch: Lead in (10 minutes)
- Before you watch: Activity 1 (5 minutes)
- While you Watch: Activity 2 (5 minutes)
- Post-watching: Activity 3 (10 minutes)
- Post-watching: Activity 4 (10 minutes)
- Post-watching: Activity 5 (20 minutes)
- Stimulus Question (5 minutes)

for more English language learning activities

**Before you watch: Lead in (10 minutes)**

Draw a picture of yourself on the board.

Ask the students 'who is it?'

Write the year that you started learning English on the board. If you're a native speaker you can still say when you first started to speak.

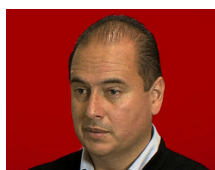
Ask students 'What did I start doing in this year?' elicit some ideas. Give them some clues if they are finding this difficult e.g. *What are we doing now? We're learning English.*

When the students guess, try to elicit the whole phrase e.g. You started learning English in 1999/11 years ago.

Ask students 'where did I start learning English?' Elicit correct responses.

**Before you watch: Activity 1 - When did they start learning English? (5 mins)**

Tell students they are going to watch a video of the fans called 'When did you start learning English?' Tell them to look at the worksheet and complete Activity 1 (match the fans to the year).



Jorge from Peru



Minji from Korea



Jorge from Spain



Valentini from  
Greece



Martin from  
Argentina

- a) when I was 8
- b) 32 years ago
- c) 2 months ago
- d) at the age of 5
- e) 10 or 11 years ago

Students then watch video and check their answers.

**Answers:** Jorge (from Peru) – b, Minji – e, Jorge (from Spain) - c, Valentini - a, Martin - d

**While you Watch: Activity 2 (5 mins)**

Ask students what other information the fans gave about learning to speak English (answer: where they started learning). Students think back to the video and complete worksheet activity 2 (match the fans to the place).

Look at the place expressions and match the fan to where they started learning English.



**Valentini**

**Farid**

**Amnah**

**Jaime**

a. at university

b. at primary  
school

c. in my country

d. at school, at  
private lessons

Students then watch video and check their answers.

**Answer Key:** Valentini – d, Farid - a, Amnah – c, Jaime – b

**Post-watching: Activity 3 - Focus on Conjunctions (10 mins)**

**Lead in:** Write 3 examples on the board e.g.

- 1) My name is Jo \_\_\_\_ I'm from England.
- 2) I started learning the guitar \_\_\_\_\_ I love rock music.
- 3) I can speak French \_\_\_\_ I want go to university in France.

Elicit the word for the gaps: answers 1) and; 2) because; 3) so

Elicit/tell students that these are 'conjunctions' and ask students 'Why do we use conjunctions?'

**Answer:** to link sentences and make the text more logical.

**Answer key:** 1) and, 2) so, 3) because

Ask students to complete activity 3:

Instructions: Read the sentences and fill in the gaps with a conjunction.

1. Jorge from Peru: I started learning English when I was 11, back in Peru, \_\_\_\_\_ that was twenty two, thirty two years ago in school.
2. Martin: I learnt it when I was very young at the age of 5 since learning I have been speaking it ever since.
3. Amnah: I started learning English in my country \_\_\_\_\_ my Bachelor degree was in English literature.
4. Jorge from Spain: Two months ago \_\_\_\_\_ in Spain I only speak Spanish.

**Answer Key:** Jorge from Peru: so, Martin: and, Amnah: because, Jorge from Spain: because

**Post-watching: Activity 4 - Write about you (10 mins)**

Ask the students to write three sentence about themselves using the conjunctions: 'and' 'because' and 'so'. Elicit an example sentence from the students. Students write 3 sentences in their notebooks.

**Activity 5: Speaking / Mingle activity (20 mins)**

Elicit words for each prompt on table. Ask student in the class 'Do you play the guitar?' If a student answers 'yes' ask him/her "When did you start playing the guitar?" Encourage the full answer 'I started playing the guitar 6 years ago'. Follow-up with the question 'Where did you start playing the guitar?' and elicit a full answer (I started playing the guitar in elementary school/at home). Ask other questions to the students (e.g. do you paint?) and follow the procedure above

Tell students to focus on the Worksheet activity 5. Tell them to ask you the questions and to fill in the worksheet. Elicit and respond as necessary.

*It may be useful to copy and enlarge the table or draw it on the board so that you can model what the students have to do.*

e.g. **Student:** Do you study English?

**Teacher:** Yes, I do.

**Student:** When did you start studying English?

**Teacher:** I started studying English in 1989

**Student:** Where did you start studying English?

**Teacher:** I started studying at home. The teacher came to my house

**Student:** Do you enjoy it?

**Teacher:** Yes, very much etc.

Yes or no?	Name	When did you start (learning English)?	Where did you start (learning English)?	Any other information (e.g. Do you enjoy it? Are you good at it?)
Do you study English?	1) Teacher	1987	At home, with a teacher	Enjoy very much and very good at it.
	2)			
	3)			

Tell students to speak to two or three students (i.e. pair work or group work) in order to complete the worksheet. Early finishers can create another question and continue asking their classmates those.

**Stimulus Question (5 mins)**

Put students in pair/groups of 3 and get them to discuss the following question:

*What age do you think is the best age for starting to learn English? Why?*

As a whole class, discuss their ideas.

**Transcript**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Jorge     | I started learning English when I was 11, back in Peru so that was twenty two, thirty two years ago. In school and sort of classes after school.    |
| Martin    | I learnt it when I was very young at the age of 5 and I've been speaking it ever since.   |
| Valentini | I started when I was 8 so I did it, I did study at school at private lessons.   |
| Beatriz   | My school, high school yeah.  |
| Jaime     | The primary school.   |
| Minji     | When I was in Korea like ten years ago or eleven years ago.   |
| Shafai    | When I was studying at high school in Libya.  |
| Valentini | I took the Cambridge exams: First Certificate; Proficiency then IELTS to get into Uni.  |
| Amnah     | I started learning English in my country because my Bachelor was in English literature and I came here to continue my degree.                       |
| Farid     | I started to learn English at university but not so.. it was not so useful. Then I came here and I started to do an English course for nine months. |
| Jorge     | Two months ago because in Spain I only speak Spanish. In the primary school I learn English but a little, a little bit of English.                  |