

Premier Skills English

Teaching Vocabulary A Greener Match Day

Introduction

Green is the colour of the pitch, but we also use the word 'green' to describe being 'environmentally friendly'. As football fans, there are many ways in which we can make 'match days' kinder on the world around us. This lesson will look at how we can do this by introducing new language and ways to present these new ideas.

Level

B1/B2 (intermediate to upper intermediate)

Age group

Teenagers and adults

Aims

1. Learn vocabulary connected to environmental issues.
2. Speaking about the environment and how to be eco-friendly.

Approximate time

80 – 90 minutes

This lesson is flexible and can be used over two different classes or one 90-minute class. You can also extend or shorten some of the steps depending on the level and needs of your students.

Materials

- Student Materials Pack

Preparation

- Read this plan, and familiarise yourself with the topic.
- Make copies of worksheets and coaching plans.

1. Lead-in

Set the scene: On the way to the stadium on match day you and your friends see some things that might be bad for the environment. Ask learners: What might you see?

Ask learners which of the following they think are environmental problems. Students tell their partner why.

plastic bottles

flowers

traffic

bus exhaust fumes

flashing LCD screens

pop music

Answers: All options can cause some environmental problems.

Ask for opinions and examples.

Premier Skills English

Teaching Vocabulary A Greener Match Day

2. Reading for gist

Elicit the idea of a club magazine or fanzine.

Set the scene: In the local fanzine (club magazine) tell students about a small article called 'Greener Match days'.

Students read the text and decide which of the following the text is referring to:

- a. Ideas for before the match
- b. Ideas during the match
- c. Ideas after the match
- d. Ideas for all the above (**correct answer**)

3. Reading for more detail

Ask students to read again and match the words to the meanings.

Answers:

- a. Feel emotionally and strongly about something (**care passionately**)
- b. Very surprising and happening fast (**alarming rate**)
- c. Unusual weather patterns caused by pollution (**climate change**)
- d. Salad, soups or fruit dishes (**vegetarian options**)
- e. Electrical items found in your home (**appliances**)
- f. Produce that isn't imported or brought in from far away (**locally sourced**)
- g. Kind to the world we live in (**eco-friendly**)

4. Vocabulary building

Set the scene by asking students some of the things they might do before they leave their home on match day.

Ask students to reformulate the words to make some 'green suggestions' before you leave your home.

Answers:

- lights / the / switch off (**switch off the lights**)
- recycle / rubbish / your (**recycle your rubbish**)
- down / your / shut / computer (**shut down your computer**)
- buy / local / stores / groceries at (**buy groceries at local stores**)
- friendly / buy / environmentally / products (**buy environmentally friendly products**)

Premier Skills English

Teaching Vocabulary A Greener Match Day

5. Vocabulary building

Ask students how they might travel to the stadium on match day. Ask students to match the verb to the noun to make 'green suggestions' for the journey to the stadium.

Answers: ride a bike, walk to the stadium, take the bus/train, share your car)

6. Vocabulary building

Ask students what they might do at the stadium on match day.

Answers:

Use reusable drinking b (**bottles**)

Reuse plastic b ... (**bags**)

Eat more v food (**vegetarian**)

Use r bags (**reusable/recycled**)

Don't use plastic drinking st (**straws**)

Clean up your r before you leave (**rubbish**)

Possible break

7. Language

Tell students they're going to discuss their favourite 'green ideas'. For this, they will need some simple discussion language.

Ask students to look at the phrases and match them to their correct function box in the table.

Pronunciation: Ask students to underline the words that are stressed in each phrase. Give an example e.g. 'What do you think?' Students work in pairs to complete. Drill the phrases.

Answers:

Asking for ideas: What do you think?, What's your suggestion?
Any ideas?

Like the idea: Great idea!, That's a nice idea.

Dislike the idea: I'm not sure about that.
I don't think that's going to work.

Reasons why: It's difficult., It should be easy to do.,
It's quite expensive., It's complicated.

Premier Skills English

Teaching Vocabulary A Greener Match Day

8. Task

Explain that your class has decided to help make match day a 'greener experience' by creating an information poster page for the local fanzine/magazine. The best poster will appear in the fanzine.

Discussion stage (10-15 minutes): In small groups, students choose their favourite ideas from today's lesson and decide on the 'best 5' for their group poster justifying their choices. Tell students they have 15 minutes to discuss and decide.

Give students 10 minutes to make a poster and prepare to present their ideas to the other groups.

Students show their poster to the other groups and compare.

Which are the most popular ideas?
Whose poster is the best?

Ask students to explain the reasons for their choices.

9. Extensions

If students show an interest in this lesson and theme encourage them to look at these further lessons and reading resources:

A Premier Skills English lesson on the biggest environmental problem in your country:

<https://premierskillsenglish.britishcouncil.org/teachers/lesson-plans/whats-biggest-environmental-problem-your-country>

A Premier Skills English Podcast on how football clubs are thinking about the environment:

<https://premierskillsenglish.britishcouncil.org/skills/listen/podcasts/five-ways-you-can-help-environment>

A newspaper article about Forest Green Rovers FC: the first carbon neutral football club in the world:

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2018/jul/30/forest-green-rovers-named-worlds-first-un-certified-carbon-neutral-football-club>

Premier Skills English

Teaching Vocabulary A Greener Match Day

Activity 1

Which of the following do you think are environmental problems. Tell your partner why.

pop music

flashing LCD screens

traffic

flowers

bus exhaust fumes

plastic bottles

Activity 2

In a local club magazine is a small article titled 'Greener Match days'. Read the text and decide which of the following the text is referring to:

a. ideas for before the match

b. ideas during the match

c. ideas for after the match

d. all of them

Greener Match Days

Here at the stadium, the players, the staff and the fans all care passionately about this football club. We also care about the environment that we live in, so here are a few ideas and some advice to guide everyone connected to this football club on how to have an environmentally friendly day out at the stadium and beyond.

The oceans are filling up with plastic at an alarming rate, so please consider how much plastic you use. Bring a reusable container for water or other drinks. It might be a good idea to buy a recycled 'bag for life'.

Climate change is affecting all areas of the planet. Try reducing the meat you eat. Try a vegetarian option at the stadium for a change. You could also take a bicycle or walk to the stadium instead of creating more air pollution using public transport.

Make sure you turn off all your appliances at home too, before you leave for the stadium. This causes further damage to the climate. And, keep recycling all your rubbish. Finally, try to buy locally sourced food and drink, from local stores. Check for products that are eco-friendly, too. Together we can all make a difference to the world we live in, and enjoy our football even more.

Premier Skills English

Teaching Vocabulary A Greener Match Day

Activity 3

Find words with the following definitions in the article:

- a. feel emotionally and strongly about something
- b. very surprising and happening fast
- c. Unusual weather patterns caused by pollution
- d. Salad, soups or fruit dishes
- e. Electrical items found in your home
- f. Produce that isn't imported or brought in from far away
- g. Kind to the world we live in

Activity 4

Make sentences from the words below to make some 'green suggestions':

- a. lights / the / switch off
- b. recycle / rubbish / your
- c. down / your / shut / computer
- d. buy / local / stores / groceries at
- e. friendly / buy / environmentally / products

Activity 5

Match the verb to the noun to make some more 'green suggestions':

- a. walk
- b. ride
- c. share
- d. take

- 1. a bike to the stadium
- 2. to the stadium
- 3. a bus/train
- 4. a car with friends

Premier Skills English

Teaching Vocabulary A Greener Match Day

Activity 6

Guess the missing words for 'green suggestions' at the stadium:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| a. Use reusable drinking b _____. | d. Use r _____ bags |
| b. Reuse plastic b _____. | e. Don't use plastic drinking st _____. |
| c. Eat more v _____ food. | f. Clean up your r _____ before you leave. |

Activity 7

Look at the phrases. Match them to the correct function box below.

Ideas Language	
What do you think? Great idea! It's difficult. I don't think that's going to work. That's a nice idea. Any ideas? It's quite expensive. That sounds complicated What's your suggestion? It should be easy to do. I'm not sure about that.	
Asking for ideas	Like the idea
Dislike the idea	Reasons why

Pronunciation: Listen to your teacher and underline the stressed words in each phrase.