

Kaleidoscope - Edinburgh

Topic

The Magicians of Edinburgh by Ron Butlin

Learning outcomes

- Infer meaning from a context
- Practice listening for specific information
- Practice reading comprehension
- Discuss how a city has changed over time

Age group and level

Aged 13-17 and Adult C1

Time

55-65 minutes

Materials

- Worksheet – 1 each
- Text – 1 per pair
- Presentation – This can replace the worksheet

You'll also need:

Internet access in order to watch video on TeachingEnglish website

Introduction

Kaleidoscope is a project that mixes video and original pieces of writing from well-known authors in three capital cities – Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh. The focus of this lesson is Edinburgh. It includes an original piece of writing by the author [Ron Butlin](#) and is called The Magicians of Edinburgh

Procedure

1. Lead-in (10 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either give out the worksheet or display slide 2. Ask learners to identify where Edinburgh is located. Display slide 3 or indicate on the worksheet to confirm.
2. Pre watching discussion (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either display slide 4 or read out the question: Think of a town or city that you know. How much has it changed in 1 year, 10 years and 40 years? • Give learners 2 minutes to make notes. Then put them into small groups to share their ideas. • Nominate 2 or 3 people to share their ideas with the whole class.
3. While watching comprehension (10-15 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either display slide 6 and ask learners to copy the questions into their notebooks or ask them to refer to the questions on the worksheet. • Check if there is any language the learners have questions about before playing the video. E.g: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 'hit something running' is understood to mean 'at full speed' or 'without hesitation' • In their groups ask learners to predict the answers to the questions • Play the video. Ask learners to check their answers in pairs before getting feedback <p>Note: Monitor learners closely while watching to decide if they need to watch more than once. Some learners may not be familiar with a Scottish accent.</p> <p>Answers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The writer didn't expect this to happen. Perhaps he thought that pre-21st century Edinburgh was old fashioned or behind the times. 2. Ask who they think 'the sorcerer' is. It could be anyone: an observer, an agent of change, the poet even. 1970s Edinburgh must have looked disagreeable. Students can speculate on what this might look like. 3. Is it because they are magic? Or is it to do with the supposed cost of keeping a sorcerer. Perhaps sorcerers are seen as negative and this negativity is currently associated with banks etc. 4. The key here is the word 'little'. Perhaps what is being referred to are little acts of kindness and thoughtfulness.

	<p>5. 'God's Law' would appear to indicate a place of worship (A church in Scotland is called a 'kirk'). Man's Law could refer to a courthouse, or government building or, within this context, a bank.</p> <p>6. the key word is 'we' - unless the reader thinks that the poem is written by a sorcerer or a banker, the answer is likely to be the city residents.</p>
<p>4. After watching comprehension (10 minutes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put learners into pairs Display slide 7 or ask learners to look at the Task 3 photos on their worksheet and to answer the question in pairs. <p>Note: Learners may need to watch the video again or you could give out the text if needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominate pairs to give feedback <p>Answers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 'Pavement tables reclaiming the streets' - cafes & restaurants now have outdoor facilities 'when I stand at the top of the Mound, perfectly positioned / between God's Law and Man's' - geographically placed in the centre of the city, at the centre of power I never leave home, but I meet someone I know- little moments if magic wheelie bins - a new facility that has appeared in the 21st century- rubbish collection
<p>5. Reading comprehension (10 minutes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you haven't already given out the text, give it out now Display slide 8 or ask learners to look at the questions on Task 4 on their worksheets. They work with their partner to find the answers. Take whole class feedback. <p>Answers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Contrast 1970s Edinburgh with what you will find now. <p>1970s Edinburgh was a city of poor aspect with boarded up window and graffiti, dirty residential buildings (tenements)and windowless pubs. Horses would pull</p>

	<p>carts with milk deliveries. Now many buildings are modern, covered in glass and reflecting light. There is also 24 hour a day shopping, clubbing and take away food, seemingly endless festivals and improved public services</p> <p>2. What is the significance of the final lines of the poem?</p> <p>While making a claim for ownership of the city by the citizens of it, it hints at rejection of the corporate influence; being part of the city is not something you own.</p> <p>3. How do we know that the poet is a resident of the city?</p> <p>The use of the word 'we'.</p>
<p>6. Discussion (10 minutes)</p> <p>OPTIONAL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask learner to look at Task 5 or display slide 9 • They discuss the questions with their partner and refer to the text if needed. • Nominate pairs to share their ideas. • See Appendix 1 for the answers

Appendix 1 – Answers to task 5

'How come there's shopping 24/7'	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
'The Hogmanay Party'	Hogmanay is the Scottish celebration of New Year. The Hogmanay Party is a large city-wide event which attracts many tourists every 31st December
'a wave of the corporate wand'	private money is poured into (the project)
'Sir Sean himself'	reference to Sir Sean Connery, a native of Edinburgh. ('Himself' is often used in Scottish/Irish English to reinforce the subject of the sentence)
'I see our city shaped by the sky / and the sky by our city'	The poet is referring to the silhouette of the city
'we are the magicians, and we make the city'	the magic of Edinburgh is in the hands of the citizens, and it is they who create its atmosphere (not the corporate businesses)

Contributed by

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