

Dorset life

Topic

Life in Dorset

Learning outcomes

- Give some facts about Dorset, a county in England
- Take notes and make inferences while listening to an interview
- May develop intensive listening skills (identifying individual words in sentences)
- Plan and present a local day trip

Age and level

13-17, Adults (B1 / B2)

Time

Approximately 50-65 minutes

Materials

- Presentation OR Student worksheet
- Audio: Full Interview
- (Optional) Audio: Clips 1-4
- (Optional) Map / images showing Dorset

Introduction

In this lesson, learners hear a man being interviewed about his life in Dorset, a county in England. First, learners are introduced to Dorset, and react to images. Activities support them in listening to an interview that may be challenging for some. They review vocabulary before they listen, practise taking notes while

listening, then have the option to develop intensive listening skills. Finally, they work in groups to plan a one-day trip to the area where they live.

A student worksheet accompanies this lesson. However, teachers can use a presentation for a no-printing option.

Procedure

Lead-in:

Introduction to Dorset

(5-10 mins)

- Ask your learners if they have heard of a place called 'Dorset'. Ask them what they know about it. Don't worry if they don't know anything.
- Explain that Dorset is a 'county' or a region in the southwest of England. If it's possible, show the class where Dorset is on a map, for example: <https://tinyurl.com/yup4x7ze>
- If it's possible, show a few images of different parts of Dorset. If you have internet connection, search online for images. If you don't have internet connection, you could find and download images before the lesson. If you can, show the image on **slide 2** of the presentation.
- Ask learners to suggest words that they associate with the image(s). Help them with any words they want to say but don't know in English. For example, for the image on slide 2 they might suggest: countryside, woods, rural, hills, farmland, green, sheep.
- Explain that Dorset is one of the most rural counties in the UK. It has two areas with AONB status (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and they cover half of the county. One of the areas is called 'Cranborne Chase'. Write 'Cranborne Chase' on the board and check that learners understand what it is. This will help learners to understand the interview later.
- If learners have had the opportunity to see several images, ask them if they would like to visit Dorset and why.
- Explain that they will listen to an interview with a man from Dorset in this lesson. The man is from a small village called Sixpenny Handley. Again, if it's possible, show where the village is on a map and an image: <https://tinyurl.com/yc586zn8>

<p>Task 1: Vocabulary (10 mins)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain that the man in the interview uses some words which may be unfamiliar, so learners will learn these words before they listen. • Show slide 3 of the presentation or refer learners to Task 1 of the student worksheet. • Individually or in pairs / small groups, learners match the words and definitions. They can use dictionaries if necessary. If you are using the slide, learners can just match numbers and letters. • Elicit the answers from the class and check the pronunciation of each new item of vocabulary. Answers: 1d, 2e, 3h, 4f, 5c, 6i, 7a, 8g, 9b
<p>Task 2: Listening activity (15 mins)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show slide 4 of the presentation or refer learners to Task 2 in the student worksheet. • Tell learners that they are going to listen to the interview. Remind them that the man lives in a village called Sixpenny Handley. Tell them that this comes from its Anglo-Saxon name: Saxpena Hanlege. • Explain that the man is asked questions 1-4. In small groups or as a whole class, learners try to guess what the man might say. They can use ideas from what they have learned about Dorset so far in this lesson – and from the previous vocabulary task. • Tell learners that they will now listen to the interview. As they listen, they should make notes about his answer to each question. Explain that learners should just note what they understand. • Play the ‘Full interview’ audio file and let learners make notes. Give them time to compare their notes with a classmate and then let them listen a second time. • Give them time to compare again and monitor to see how much information they have managed to understand. Don’t worry too much if they haven’t got all the information, as it is quite a challenging activity. • You might want to let the learners listen a third time and this time let them read along with the transcript as this will help them to understand the interview. The transcript is available at the end of this Lesson Plan, and it is also available on slides 6-8 of the presentation. Answers

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It's low-key (quiet), there's no hustle-bustle (busy activity), people are very friendly 2. fifteen small housing estates have been built in the village – helped the village because school / shops are open and there is more money in the village; however, house prices have risen and there are not many jobs 3. near Cranborne Chase, an area of outstanding natural beauty, wonderful woods 4. (inferred answer) food products from sheep e.g. lamb, cheese
Task 3: Intensive listening activity (optional) (10 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an optional activity. For this activity, make sure that learners don't have access to the transcripts. • Show slide 5 of the presentation or refer learners to Task 3 in the student worksheet. Explain that these are four sections from the interview. Learners will need to complete the missing words (each gap represents one word). • If you like, ask learners to try to guess some of the words before they listen. They may remember from listening to the interview or reading the transcript. • Play clips 1-4 through twice and give the learners a few moments to think and write down their answers. • Once they have finished listening, get the learners to dictate the sentences to you and write the missing words up on the board. <p>Answers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the last twenty, thirty years, we've had fifteen estates put up around the village. 2. Some of them are only perhaps ten houses. It has not really altered the village because it's helped the village. Because the school's been able to keep going, the village post office, the shops that we have here. 3. The downside of it is, it's pushed the house prices up considerably. 4. There's not actually many people of my age that were born and bred in Sixpenny Handley that's actually left in the village because of the prices of the houses and there's not actually the jobs around here for them.
Task 4: Post-listening activity (15-20 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask your learners to imagine that the man in the interview is coming to visit the area where they live. Ask them to say what they think the man would enjoy as a tourist. (Suggestions: somewhere quiet but where he can meet

people; possibility of being in / seeing nature; possibility of seeing animals; good food)

- Put learners into pairs / small groups. Ask them to plan a one-day trip for the man and his wife. They should consider the kinds of things he enjoys. If it's helpful, you could suggest a framework for the day trip, e.g.:

	Activity	Transport
Morning		
Afternoon		
Evening		

- As pairs / groups make their plans, walk around and listen and help if necessary. You could suggest useful language for the discussion e.g. language to make suggestions such as 'What about...'; 'Why don't we...'
- When pairs / groups are ready, ask them to share their plans with the rest of the class (if you have a small class), or with other pairs / groups (if you have a larger class). With an unconfident class, you may like to provide useful phrases, e.g. In the morning, he will...; We think he will enjoy this because...
- Learners should decide which day trip they think the man would most enjoy.

Homework

- Ask learners to write answers to the following questions about the area where they live.
 - 1. What do you like best about your area?
 - 2. In what way has your area changed?
 - 3. Is your region famous for anything?
 - 4. Is your area famous for any special foods?

Transcript: Interview with Rob Jesse

Interviewer: So, Rob, can you just tell me whereabouts in the UK you're from and what you like about your area?

Rob: Right, I live in a little place called, a little village in Dorset, on the edge of Dorset, which is called Sixpenny Handley. It's actually got its name as an Anglo-Saxon name, which was Saxpena Hanlege. It's a small village and it actually has a parish that joins in lots of other small hamlets and things like that. So there's about six hundred and seventy houses in all the small villages and hamlets around here.

Interviewer: And what do you like best about your area?

Rob: I think it's sort of low-key, there's no 'hustle-bustle', things like that. People are very, very friendly here.

Interviewer: Can you tell me in what way your area has changed in the last 20 years?

Rob: Right, over the last twenty years I've lived here. I'm fifty-nine and I've lived here all this time. In the last twenty, thirty years, we've had fifteen estates put up around the village. Only small ones – the biggest one's about thirty, forty houses in them. Some of them are only perhaps ten houses. It has not really altered the village because it's helped the village. Because the school has been able to keep going, the village post office, the shops that we have here. We have a hairdresser's. It's brought a lot of money into the village. The downside of it is, it's pushed the house prices up considerably. There's not actually many people of my age that were born and bred in Sixpenny Handley that's actually left in the village because of the prices of the houses and there's not actually the jobs around here for them.

Interviewer: Right...and is this region famous for anything, would you say?

Rob: Well, we're very close to the Cranborne Chase, which is a world-renowned natural sight. It's got wonderful woods that people come out to. The AONB is doing lots of things around here.

Interviewer: What's that?

Rob: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which if you've been to Sixpenny Handley and walked around, you would agree that it is really outstanding.

Interviewer: And is this area famous for any special foods?

Rob: My wife is a shepherdess. We actually breed Dorset sheep. She actually shows them and we have some Poll Dorset, which is the one without the horns and we have the Dorset Horns – with the horns. So that's the rare old breed. One time, actually, it nearly died out but it's making a good comeback now.