April Fool's Day

Topic

April Fool's Day

Aims

- **To practise speaking skills**
- **To practise reading skills**
- **To learn vocabulary related to April Fool's Day**

Age group

12- adult

Level

A2 / B1

Time

60 minutes

Materials

1. April Fool's Day student worksheet and April Fool's Day tricks handout
2. Internet links: http://hoaxes.org/aprilfool/ - Top 100 April Fool's hoaxes
   http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_Fools%27_Day - Wikipedia entry for April Fool's Day
   http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/magazine-articles/april-fools-day - Learn English listening
   activity on April Fool's Day

Introduction

This lesson is about April Fool's Day which takes place in the UK on April 1st. Many countries have their own equivalent of April Fool's Day. If your country does, this lesson would create opportunities for students to tell you all about their country's version and their experiences of it.

You could start the class with a live listening, in which you play an April Fool's trick on your students! Task 1 is based on discussion questions and Task 2 is a reading text from the British Council's Trend UK site. Task 3 is based on the idea of a website message board and gives a selection of opinions on the April Fool's day and Task 4 looks at the top ten tricks that have been played on the general public in various countries from around the world. Task 5 asks students to think up their own April Fool's trick.

Procedure

1. Introduce the topic: April Fool!	How better to introduce the topic than by playing a mini April Fool joke on your students? Before the class think of an April fool style trick you can play on them. This will vary depending on their age and level. To give a silly example, tell them that you've just read on the internet that scientists have invented a new English dictionary on a micro chip that can be implanted into people to equip them with all the vocabulary they need in a foreign language. If you're good at telling stories you could really go to town and elaborate by telling students you're worried that English teachers will all lose their jobs. If you're currently studying a language degree in the UK tell students that the micro chips will be invented for all languages so now there's no point completing your degree and you're worried about your future etc. etc. If you're a natural actor this may well work and your students will naturally ask you questions.

When you've let the trick go on long enough tell your students, "April Fool!" and explain that it was a trick. Explain the basic idea of April Fool's day. |
| **2. Task 1 – April Fool's Day** | This task is to introduce the concept of April Fool's Day. Discuss the questions with your students and use them as a chance to explain the idea of the day and to find out as much as you can about their country's version of April Fool's Day if they have one. This would be a good time to pre-teach useful vocabulary for the class such as:

Practical jokes, play a trick, to fool somebody, a hoax, joker etc. |
3. Task 2 – Just fooling around	Put students into pairs and ask them to read the text and discuss the questions as they read through. The text is adapted from a Trend UK article. This would be a nice lead in for you to explain some of your own experiences of April Fool's Day in the UK.
4. Task 3 – Message board: April Fool's Day: Love it or hate it?	Imagine an internet site asked viewers whether or not they liked April Fool's Day. Here are the replies. Use them to give students an idea of what some people think about the day and to ask students what they think about April Fool's or a similar day they may have in their own country. Students could write their own opinion as an extension activity, which you could then display. You could give students one comment each to read and explain to the group.

5. Task 4 – Top ten tricks	This task is based on real April Fool's tricks from around the world. Cut up the ten cards and give them out to your students. Each student (or pair) should read the trick and then explain it, in their own words, to the class. Then hold a class vote to rank the tricks from the best to the worst – 1st to 10th. If you have a big class they could discuss the ten tricks in groups and then come together as a class to share their opinions of the tricks.
6. Task 5 – Make up your own April Fool's tick	This is a task to finish the class with. Ask students to think of their own idea for an April Fool's trick. They can be as elaborate as they like. If you have done task 4 they should have got lots of ideas already. If you want, hold a class vote to decide on the best trick.

Contributed by

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