

C, eh? N, eh? D, eh?

CANADA!

Level: Expert

Topic: Canadian English

Key vocabulary: bilingual lists in PDF and boxes (teachers can download this material from the online version of the magazine)

Preparation: 1. A copy of the article for each student 2. Audio samples with accents from different English speaking countries (if possible)

Objective: Students learn about pronunciation and vocabulary differences within the English language, and do research about an English speaking country

Warm up

Talk about the native language(s) that your students speak. Tell students that we refer to an accent when there are differences in the way people pronounce words, and that we talk about a dialect when there are significant differences in vocabulary.

Ask questions to encourage students to participate:

Are there many accents in your country? Can you tell the difference between people from different countries by listening to their accents? Are there any accents that you particularly like in English? (Students are likely to answer American and/or British so it would be useful to have access to recordings with people speaking English from different English speaking countries)

Main activity

1. Tell your students they are going to read an article about a special linguistic feature of Canadian English. Give them the title of the article and ask them to predict what they think the special feature is.
2. Ask students to tell you how much they know about Canada. (Alternatively, you can set this task as homework and allow some time for students to present their findings.)
3. Give each student a copy of the article.
4. Read the first paragraph together with your students and explain some of the concepts that appear in that part of the text (“Land of the silver birch, home of the beaver,” and “poutine”).
5. Allow some time for silent reading and ask students to underline or highlight unknown words. You can give them the meaning of words or make them work with a dictionary. Just make sure you don't spend too much time on this activity.
6. Give students comprehension questions for pair work: 1. Why is 'eh' considered a filler word? 2. Does everyone use it in Canada? 3. What are the typical uses of the word mentioned in the text? 4. Is there any Canadian group of people who claim to use only proper English? 5. Do academics agree that only people in Canada use this linguistic feature? 6. Is the writer aware of how often they use the word 'eh'? 7. What textual clues help you answer this last question?
7. Check the answers with the whole class. Write grammatically correct answers on the board and ask them to check their work and correct any grammar mistakes they have made.
8. After checking for comprehension, tell your students that they are going to work on a project about an English speaking country. Ask them to form groups of three or four people. Set the research as homework.



My English Break!

Follow up: Project on an English speaking country

1. Students do preliminary research about an English speaking country.
2. Students work together in their group to write a report which should include information about: geography, weather, some aspects of the culture (music, literature, typical dances, etc), politics (democracy, kingdom, etc), and language, focusing on any particular features like expressions, a particular word they use, differences in pronunciation and so on.
3. Encourage them to create a poster or any visual aid they can use when presenting their projects. Give them time in class so you can monitor their work.
4. Ask students to decide who will present each part of the report. Allow some time for rehearsal, checking pronunciation and fluency in each group.
5. At the end of each presentation invite other students to comment or ask questions.

At www.teatime-mag.com your students can read the article presented in this lesson as well as many more that feature attractive and motivating designs, as well as pictures that make reading easier and more appealing.

They can also listen to the articles as they read and download the audio version in mp3 format for free.