



## Learning Lessons from TEFL: A Christmas Lesson Plan

### **Lesson Objectives:**

**Main aim:** Learners will develop the skill of using the present simple to produce a storyboard and script for a Christmas advert.

### **Subsidiary Aims:**

- Learners will show they are able to discuss their views on what constitutes the essence of Christmas and talk about the role commerce plays in the build up to this festival.
- Learners will develop the skill of constructing simple narratives.
- Learners will develop their presentation skills through the presentation of their storyboard to their peers.

**Level:** This lesson was originally designed for students who are studying towards a C1 level but could easily be used for any group who have a B2 level or above. It could even work with B1 students if you remove or adapt the word formation task .

**Time:** 75-90 minutes depending on number of groups

**Materials needed:** Google Slide Presentation, Christmas advert videos, storyboard example Jamboard, student Jamboard template

### **Procedure:**

**1. Warmer:** Reveal stereotypical images of different aspects of 'Christmas' and ask students to write down in books or through the chat function if online words or phrases that they associate with the images. Discuss the language that emerges.

**2. Pair-work speaking:** In pairs or small groups, ask learners to discuss whether they consider that the images represent the essence of Christmas, justifying their reasons. Ask students to suggest other images that they think should be included. Feedback to class.

**3. Word formation Task:** Ask students to complete the questions using a form of the word in bold that they feel best fits the sentence. Feedback as a class and then ask students to discuss the questions in pairs or small groups.

**4. Christmas Advert Showcase:** Ask students if Christmas adverts are popular in their country and if so, invite students to share descriptions of their favourite adverts with the class. Explain how in Britain, Christmas adverts have become a much loved tradition and how certain brands or shops (such as John Lewis) are famed for their advertising campaigns. Showcase a few of the adverts and ask students to consider while they are watching: 1) what message are the adverts trying to convey? 2) How successful are they in publicizing their brand/product? Feedback as a class. Ask students to share which advert they liked the most.

**5. Storyboard example:** Display the storyboard and elicit what is happening in the pictures – ask students if they can guess the story from the images and then give them a few minutes to read the script. Highlight/Elicit that the script is written in the present simple, explain how present simple can be used as a narrative tense and it adds more immediacy to the story we are telling, which is why it works so well in script writing.

**6. Storyboard writing:** Split students into groups and share with them the storyboard Jamboard template (if not online, this can be done on A3 paper). Go over the instructions of what they need to do (as shown on last slide) and give a time limit, this can vary depending on your learners/ lesson length but I would recommend at least 20 minutes. Remind students that they will be presenting their storyboards to the rest of the class and so they need to think about how they will divide the presentation during the assigned time.

**7. Presentations:** Groups present their storyboards to each other and vote for their favourite advert.