



KS2 Unit 3 Lesson 3 Cognates

Crib Sheet

Slides 1 and 2: Introduces the aims of the lesson. We will be looking at cognates: what they are and how they help us understand other languages. We will touch on the idea of language families (Germanic languages (e.g., German, Dutch, Flemish, English) will have lots of cognates and Romance languages (e.g., French, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Portuguese) will have lots of cognates. We will also mention “false friends”: when we think something is a cognate, but it means something entirely different e.g., “sale” in English and *sale* in French (which means dirty).

- We can understand what a cognate is.
- We can use cognates to help us understand words and sentences in different languages.
- We can see that we can understand more foreign words than we thought: learning a language is easier than we thought,

Slide 3 is a starter that links back to the learning from last lesson on loanwords.

Slide 4: This slide explains what a cognate is and provides the example of the word “house” in four Germanic languages. We can see that it is easy to guess the meaning of the words as the English is “house”: it sounds the same/similar and it looks the same/similar. Ask pupils what English word resembles the French *maison* (also meaning “house”). Do pupils know any other cognates from languages they know/are studying? A loanword is a word stolen from another language (often a non-related language) that adds to our lexicon as we don’t have a word for that particular thing whereas a cognate is a similar or same word used in two languages (often from a sister language).

Slide 5: Gives additional information. The aim of this slide is to show pupils that learning a language is easier than they think.

Slide 6: 30 second challenge. Set your timer to 30 seconds. How many pairs of cognates can pupils find? The languages are Spanish and English.

Slides 7 to 9: These slides ask lots of linguistic questions on the 4 headlines in different languages from the World Wildlife Fund. The headlines include many cognates and can be relatively easily understood. Ask the questions on the board. Pupils can work independently or in pairs/groups to answer on their worksheets.

Slide 10: This slide provides an opportunity for creativity. Pupils should create their own headline based on the headlines they have looked at. They should create one in English and another in a different language (or a mix of languages) using words met today, previously learnt words or words they know from a language spoken at home.

Slide 11: This slide introduces “false friends”. This is where we think a word is a cognate, but it means something entirely different.

pain (French) = bread

sale (French) - dirty

Gift (German) = poison



Glass (Swedish) = ice cream

Rok (Dutch) = skirt

Slide 12 is the plenary slide. Click and move the orange box to reveal a word. Pupils have to explain what the term means.