

Political Scandals

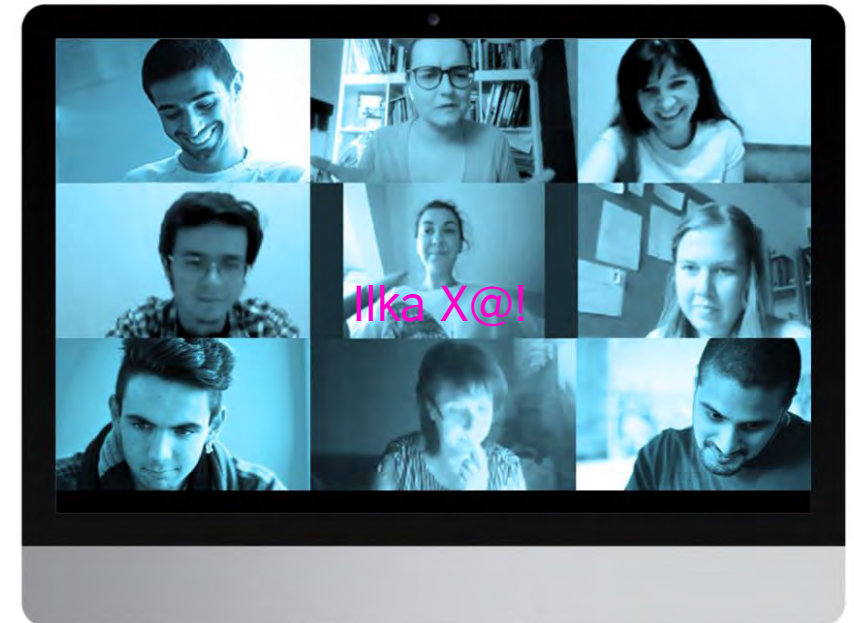
Theme:

Government, Politics, Crime and Justice



Before we start, please make sure...

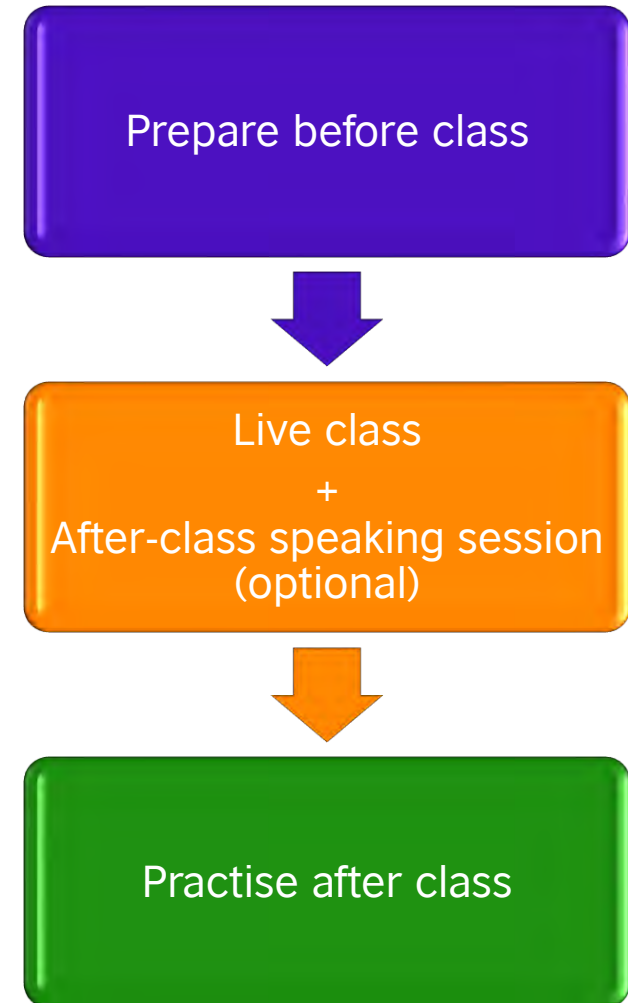
- ✓ your name on Zoom is clear (use Latin letters)
- ✓ your camera is on and mic is off (unmute when needed)
- ✓ you are in a quiet area that helps you focus
- ✓ you have a notebook or a note app ready to take notes



Welcome to English Online

How does it work?

You need to complete all three parts to get the most out of English Online.



After-class speaking session

Stay back after class for 5 or 10 minutes to talk to your classmates from around the world.

This extra speaking practice will help you...

- improve your conversation skills
- practise using language learnt in class
- support and help your fellow students
- practise using English in a natural context
- become a part of a global learning community



After-class
speaking
sessions

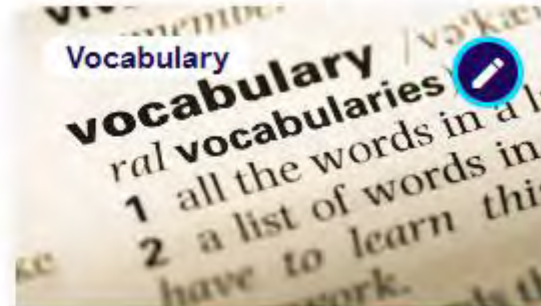
Prepare before class



Article on a political scandal



Article on a political scandal



Scandal vocabulary



Apologies and acknowledgments

Warmer

1. How interested in politics are you?
2. Have ever seen/heard a formal apology being given?

Lesson objective

What do you expect to learn by the end of this class?



**Political Scandals
Advanced**

Lesson objective



In the **live** part of this lesson, you will practise the language of apologizing and making excuses as well as responding to accusations and criticism.
You will also review political scandal vocabulary that you learned in the **before class** preparation task (reading).

Highlighted Skills

Reading & Speaking

Language Focus

- **Vocabulary:** political scandals / phrases of apologizing and giving explanations

**Political Scandals
Advanced**

Lead-in

You know a politician is lying when his/her lips move.

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?



**Political Scandals
Advanced**

Lead-in

Which of the below can be considered to be a serious political scandal? Why?

1. a political party accepts illegal campaign donations from a private company.
2. a married politician has an affair with a member of staff.
3. the leader of a country diverts aid money to his own personal bank accounts.

What's the most shocking political scandal you have heard of?



**Political Scandals
Advanced**

Input

Reading

You've read an article about a political scandal in the preparation task. The text was about a politician who...

1. contributed to defaming another Politician
2. exploited tax-payers' money
3. used hate speech against a group of people

According to the text, did his apology sound sincere? Why/Why not?

In Pike's resignation declaration today, he told the Commons "I have been advised to apologise to the House for my approach to the Commissioner's inquiries, and indeed I apologise voluntarily / unreservedly ¹⁰. I fully accept the committee's recommendations and am grateful that the matter is now closed."

**Political Scandals
Advanced**

Language Focus

Vocabulary

Complete the following sentences with formal apology vocabulary/phrases

1. I would like to express my
2. My actions were
3. I have let
4. Please
5. I am sorry to
6. I take

Can you think of any more expressions?



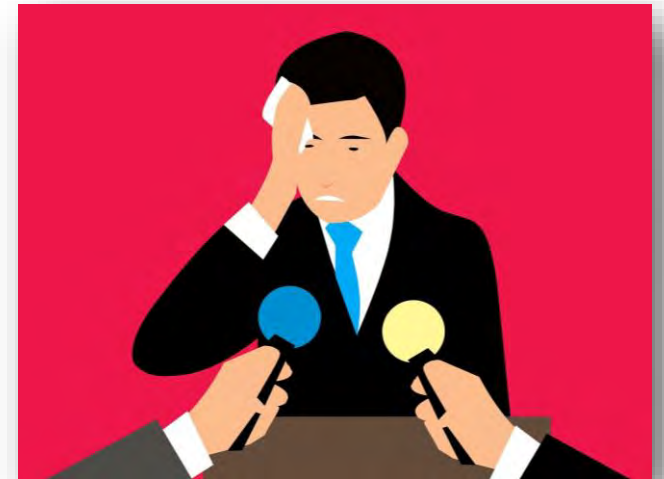
**Political Scandals
Advanced**

Language Focus

Vocabulary

Formally apologise and give excuses for the following situations

1. You are a politician whose extra-marital affair has just been revealed in a Sunday newspaper.
2. You are a Minister in the Department of Health who smokes thirty cigarettes a day.
3. You are from the Treasury and have been exposed as offering personal loans to cabinet colleagues.
4. You are a politician who has been quoted saying “We should bomb them. That will teach them.”



**Political Scandals
Advanced**

Task



**Political Scandals
Advanced**

Pre-task

to ask questions, apologise and give explanations

Watch this clip from the film “The Frontrunner” about an American Senator’s campaign to become the president of the United States.

The married Senator was accused of having an affair and he denied it.

Listen carefully to the dialogue between the Senator and a journalist.

Did the journalist ask the right questions? How did the Senator react?



**Political Scandals
Advanced**

Task

to ask questions, apologise and give explanations

Role-play

You will start a role-play between journalists and politicians; the politician is facing a political scandal and a journalist is interviewing him/her.

Politicians: should think of good excuses and ways of apologising which mean they can still keep their job.

Journalists: should think of questions they can ask which will force the politician to admit responsibility and resign.



**Political Scandals
Advanced**

Task

to ask questions, apologise and give explanations



Health Minister

- You said “The biggest problem we face now is obesity. Personally, I would introduce food-rationing for fatties.”
- You believe in refusing operations to people whose illness is related to a life-style choice e.g. smoking.
- You think it is a waste of time to provide special access for disabled people on buses etc. because they are better off staying at home.
- You have been quoted as saying “The main reason public health care is so expensive is because the genetically-inferior are living longer lives. Nature should take care of them.”

Foreign Minister

- On a visit to Latin America, you said it was a pity you had never studied Latin at school because then you could speak to the people in their own native language.
- You were overheard saying “The problem with the Chinese is they all look alike.”
- While attending a Russian state banquet, you got so drunk you fell over.
- Visiting an under-developed African country, you told the Head of State “Life here is so simple – if I were you, I wouldn’t change a thing.”



**Political Scandals
Advanced**

Task

to ask questions, apologise and give explanations



Education Minister

- You have responsibility for public education, but send your children to private schools on the grounds that “everyone knows they are just better.”
- You were heard saying “Most kids are too stupid to go to higher education. The school-leaving age should be 14.”
- On a visit to a school in a deprived area, you remarked “They don’t need teachers; they need prison officers.”
- When teachers asked for a pay-rise, you responded “We pay you more than you’re worth, anyway, judging by the standard of school-leavers these days.”

Environment Minister

- You sit on the board of a major oil company.
- You told Greenpeace that they were wasting their time protesting about tuna-fishing “because cats are more important than tuna, and that’s what my cats like to eat.”
- You were caught on camera bicycling to work – but with your chauffeur driving your car behind you.
- You are in favour of extending nuclear-testing because “if there is a nuclear war, there won’t be any environment to protect, so we should have as many missiles as possible to prevent war.”

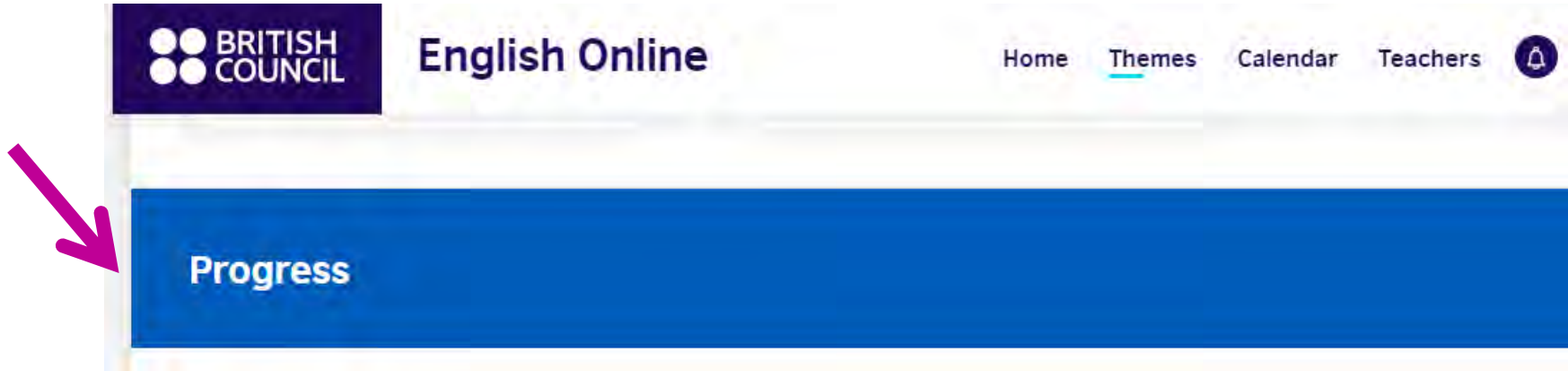


**Political Scandals
Advanced**

Feedback

How can you make more progress?

Complete the Progress activities online.



Review one of the language rules we have practised today.



<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/skills/writing/c1-writing/response-complaint>

After-class speaking session

You can talk about any topic that interests you!

Use these questions as a guide, if needed.

- How have your political views changed during your lifetime?
- Do you think that every future politician should be vetted for security reasons?
- What are the main political parties in your country?
- Who is the most controversial politician in your country?
- Should politics be a career for someone, or an option if they want a new career later in life?

For help, contact:

support.englishonline@britishcouncil.org

Dos

- ✓ Treat everyone with respect
- ✓ Keep your camera on and participate
- ✓ Let others share ideas too
- ✓ Listen to everyone
- ✓ Click 'Leave' if you cannot stay back

Don'ts

- ✗ Don't take pictures or record
- ✗ Don't share personal details
- ✗ Don't let your children be visible onscreen

After-class
speaking
sessions

