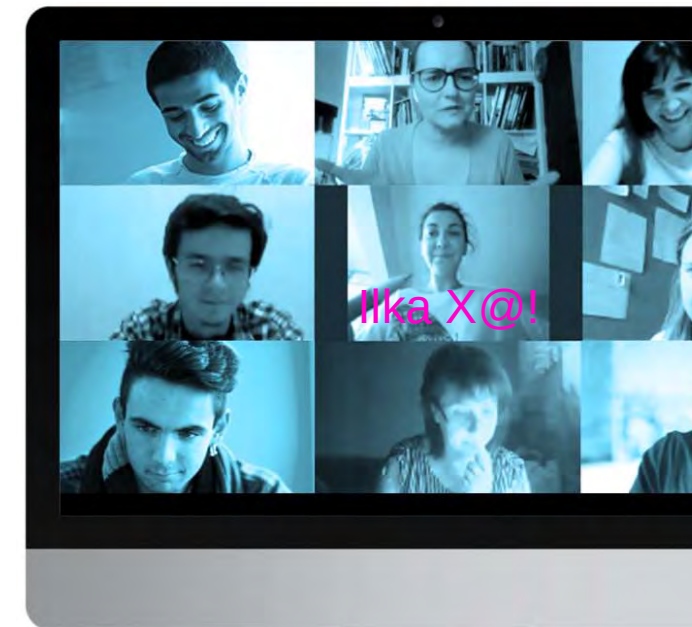


A writer's life

Theme:
Fame and Notoriety

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**



Zoom features

Check your audio and video settings



Use Latin letters for your name

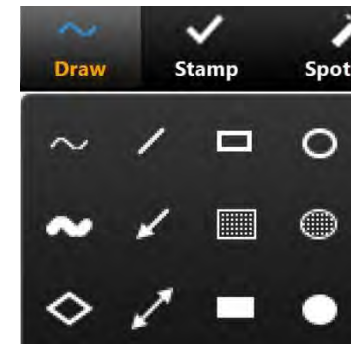


Ask questions in the Chat or use Reactions

Share Screen when the teacher asks



Use Annotate when a screen is shared



Use Save to make screenshots

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



Pre-lesson activities

Prepare



An interview with a biographer



Ways of introducing questions

Practise



Verb forms for biography



Verb forms for biography

Lesson objective

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



Lesson objectives

In this **live** part of the lesson, you will invent and roleplay an interview with the biographer of a famous writer, real or imaginary. You will review ways of introducing questions and the appropriate verb forms for biography that you looked at **before** the lesson.

Highlighted skills:

Speaking (live class) and listening (before the lesson)

Language focus:

Grammar: Verb forms for biographies

Functional language: Ways of introducing questions

Lead-in

**How far do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Discuss them with your group.**

1. If I enjoy a book, I want to know more about the writer.
2. To really understand a writer's work, you need to know about his / her life.
3. We read biographies to prove to ourselves that even the great have faults.
4. A writer who has never suffered has nothing interesting to say.
5. A great writer has to be unconventional.



Language focus 1

Match 1–7 with a–g to make complete sentences.

1 Would it be true

2 Could you

3 Can I

4 I've always

5 I was

6 Do you

7 Would you like

a ask you to talk about your own reactions to the book?

b happen to know more about his early life?

c tell us something about his childhood?

d to say something about your meeting with her?

e to say that her life was unhappy?

f wondered about his relationship with his first wife.

g wondering what influence her grandmother had on him?

Language focus 1: answers

1 Would it be true

2 Could you

3 Can I

4 I' ve always

5 I was

6 Do you

7 Would you like

e to say that her life was unhappy?

c tell us something about his childhood?

a ask you to talk about your own reactions to the books?

f wondered about his relationship with his first wife

g wondering what influence her grandmother had on her.

b happen to know more about his early life?

d to say something about your meeting with her?

Language focus 1

Interview your partner. You can ask about their job, studies, home, family, reasons for learning English, etc.

- Am I correct in thinking ...?
- What do you think it was that ...?
- Do you think you could tell us / me a little about ...?
- Would you say that ...?
- Do you consider ...?
- Would it be true to say that...?
- Could you tell us...?
- Can I ask you to talk about...?
- I've always wondered about...?
- I was wondering...?
- Do you happen to know more about...?
- Would you like to say something about...?

Language focus 2

1. I'd **been in touch with her** on and off for several years, while I was researching the background for the book, but we'd never met.
2. I don't think I would have liked the young woman much, but I've always been strange **to her** mixture of strength and vulnerability. I think **life threw her a few curve balls**, and was hurt, but **she never gave up**.
3. She chose a rather old-fashioned, quiet little hotel in central London. The staff knew how she'd obviously been **a regular** for a long time.
4. Well of course, she was **well into** her eighties then, but you could see the striking beauty that had attracted so many lovers.
5. Women **have always tended to** write about relationships – people interacting, doing real things, but that has never made women's fiction **shallow**.
6. For me she's a **feminist icon**. It **wasn't a role she sought** when she was alive and she wouldn't have been **flattered** by the title.

Task



Task Preparation

You are going to roleplay a radio interview with a biographer of a famous writer who recently met the writer face-to-face. The famous writer can be imaginary or real, but you'll need to **construct a profile. Take notes about the following topics:**

- Why you chose them for a biography.
- If they are still alive.
- When they were writing.
- Genre of writing (novels, poetry, drama, etc.).
- Some names of works.
- Recurring themes.
- A memorable quote.
- Something interesting in their life story.
- Their clothes and physical description.
- Their attitude / personality.
- Something memorable that they said during the meeting.
- People's reactions to the work.
- And anything else you think is important about them.
- Where you met them.

Task Preparation

You will be taking it in turns to play the part of the biographer and radio interviewer so **prepare a few questions to ask. Look back at language we've covered to help.**

- Am I correct in thinking ...?
- What do you think it was that ...?
- Do you think you could tell us / me a little about ...?
- Would you say that ...?
- Do you consider ...?
- Would it be true to say that...?
- Could you tell us...?
- Can I ask you to talk about...?
- I've always wondered about...?
- I was wondering...?
- Do you happen to know more about...?
- Would you like to say something about...?

Task

When you're ready, roleplay the interview with another student. Take it in turns to be the biographer and the radio interviewer.



Feedback

Review



Think/talk about:

3 new words you want to remember from today's lesson

2 activities you liked in today's lesson

1 thing you will do after class to revise what you learned today

Lesson materials

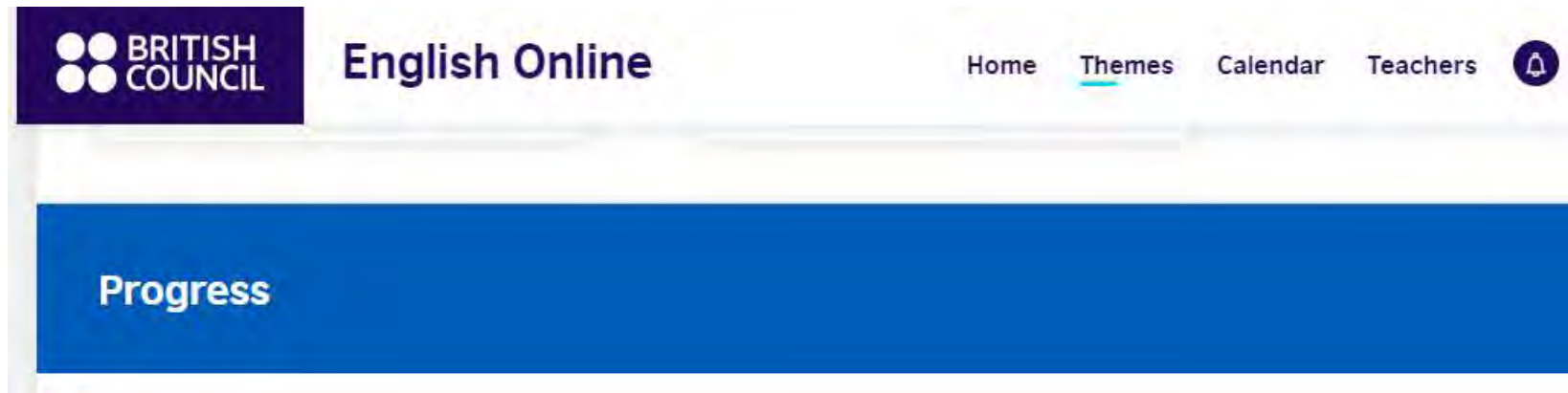
Make sure you have

- **downloaded the *.pdf with this presentation**
- **saved the Zoom Chat**



How can you make more progress?

Complete the Progress activities online.



Review the language rule we have practised today.



<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/skills/reading/advanced-c1/a-biography-of-kilian-jornet>

What's next?

Try another theme!

How about...?



Social

Expand Your Horizons

6 lessons

These theme looks at a range of different topics in some detail. You'll refine your critical thinking skills as well as your English. Understand different points of view and learn the best way to express yours.

After-class speaking session

You can talk about any topic that interests you!

Use these questions as a guide, if needed.

- Have you ever thought about writing a book? If so, what kind of book would you like to write?
- In your opinion, who is the greatest writer in your country's history?
- What are the ingredients of a great novel?
- Is there a writer (or a book) that has changed your life?
- If you were stranded on a desert island, which three books would you take with you, and why?

For help, contact:

support.englishonline@britishcouncil.org

Dos

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

Don'ts

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

What do you think?

Do you like the platform?

What did you think of the activities?

What further information do you need?

For more information, write to

support.englishonline@britishcouncil.org



Teacher's Notes

This slide deck was made by Kathryn Inkster.

Notes

Share your thoughts about the lesson with the next teacher