Session 1

Big events in the news can stay in our memories forever. Even if we weren't directly involved, we remember where we were and what we were doing at that time. In this session, you'll learn about one of the most well-known disasters of the 20th Century, improve your vocabulary, and test your knowledge.

Activity 3

6 Minute Vocabulary

Lexical sets

Finn and Catherine give you some tips which can help you to remember new words. In 6 Minute Vocabulary, you'll hear about a useful way of grouping words and learn a fun game to help you remember them.



Show transcript

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You can download 6 Minute Vocabulary from our Unit 7 downloads page or from our 6 Minute Vocabulary podcast page. (size 8MB)

Vocabulary points to take away

A **lexical set** is a group of words that share the same topic or theme and belong to the same part of speech - they are all nouns, all verbs, all adjectives (for example).

Lexical sets are a useful way to organise vocabulary, making it easier to learn. When reading texts from different sources, it is a good idea to try to find groups of words that are related to the same topic and that belong to the same part of speech.

Practice

Look at this short text and find the words belonging to the same lexical set (download the pdf for some possible answers):

The English country garden can be a beautiful place. Flowers of many different types make the garden very colourful. Green bushes and hedges often provide shelter for wildlife, and it is common to find birds like robins flying around. If there are any trees, squirrels may also visit the garden. It's also possible for foxes to find their way into the garden, especially late at night. At this time, when there are no visiting animals or birds, it can be so quiet in a country garden that you can hear the insects crawling around.

Try to find lexical sets in texts you read in English. Look through a text and pick out the words you think belong to different lexical sets and write them down on a separate piece of paper. It is a good idea to check what you have written with another person. You may have spotted different words and different lexical sets. Then hide the original text and try to remember it from your lexical set lists. If you want an even more difficult challenge, try to write your own version of the text from your lists.

End of Session 1

We hope you enjoyed this session about the Titanic and learned some useful vocabulary. In Session 2, we will look at the past simple and past continuous tenses and how we can use them to tell a narrative.