

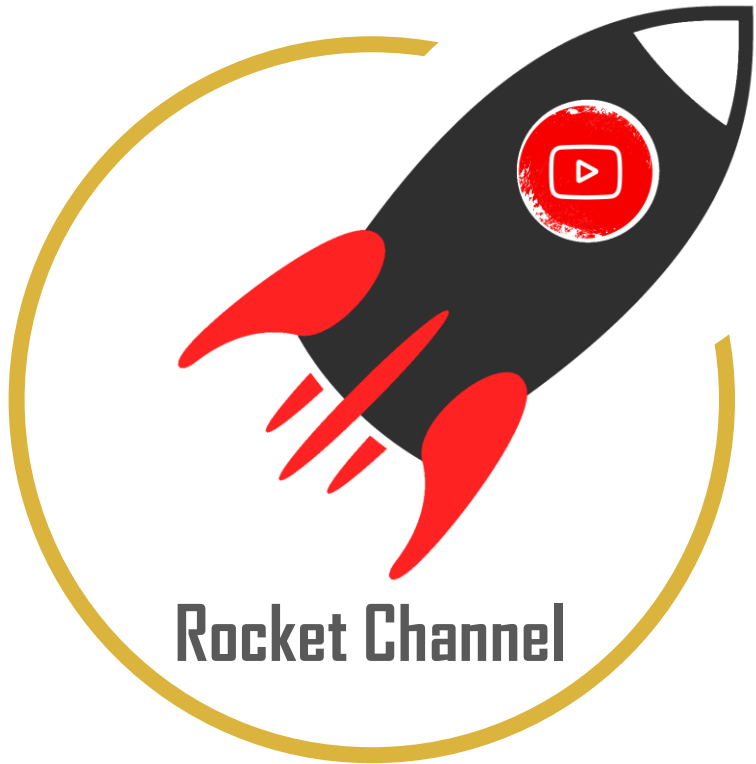


a play by Arnaud Cramoisan



Teacher's Notes

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vocabulary exercises

A. Complete the sentences with the appropriate word(s)

1. I think I will buy Brian a **SOUVENIR** because he took care of my cat while I was on holiday.
2. John had always had great ideas. Today he is the **FOUNDING MEMBER** of an association which organizes activities for elderly people.
3. The plane was about to **TAKE OFF** when the pilot realized there was a problem with one of the engines.
4. Solving a math problem is extremely difficult for me but for Rachel, it's a **PIECE OF CAKE!**
5. You can be sure that if you cheat, Louise will **RAT** you **OUT** to the teacher.

B. Link the questions from the first column to their convenient answer in the second column

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What does Spud look like? | b. He is small, green and has 5 eyes. |
| 2. What do Commando and Square like? | c. Breaking records and making the buzz. |
| 3. What is the Very Very Special Agent like? | a. Very determined to catch the alien. |
| 4. What would Spud like to do? | e. Find potatoes to go back to his planet. |
| 5. How is Spud? | d. Much better now he's back on his planet. |

C. Complete the crossword thanks to the clues

Across

1. Synonym of "very small": **TINY**
4. Informal name chosen for someone according to their (first)name or personality: **NICKNAME**

Down

1. Synonym of "to invent": **TO MAKE UP**
2. Adjective to describe something which gets popular very quickly: **VIRAL**
3. Synonym of unusual, strange: **WEIRD**

D. Match the idioms with the corresponding images

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Daredevil | Image d) |
| 2. To be grounded | Image e) |
| 3. Not to be right in the head | Image c) |
| 4. The reward | Image b) |
| 5. To take the statement | Image a) |

vocabulary exercises

E. Describing people

Don't hesitate to refer to this grid when making the exercise of oral expression.

You could invite your students to use those structures.

TO TALK ABOUT	WE USE THE VERB	WE USE THE QUESTION WORD(S)
General information	TO BE LIKE	WHAT What is your new job like? It's a bit stressful but very interesting. What is your house like? It has two bedrooms and a huge garden. What is your sister like? She is always in a good mood.
Health	TO BE	HOW How is your grandmother? She's still in hospital unfortunately. How are you? I'm much better, thank you.

TO TALK ABOUT	WE USE THE VERB	WE USE THE QUESTION WORD(S)
Physical appearance	TO LOOK LIKE	WHAT What does your brother look like? He is tall and has brown eyes. What did you look like when you were a teenager? I was thin and had long blonde hair WHO Who do you look like? I really look like my mother: we have the same eyes and smile.
Hobbies	TO LIKE	WHAT What (sport) do you like? I like playing football. What does she like? She loves spaghettis.
Projects / preferences	WOULD LIKE TO + inf	WHAT What would you like to do? I would like to play a game with you. WHO Who would you like to meet one day? I would like to meet Ariana Grande. WHERE Where would you like to go? I would like to go to the cinema.

multiple choice

Your students have read the scene by scene outline and the presentation of the main protagonists of Hot Spud. The multiple-choice exercise can be done before or after attending the play. Here are the answers. To encourage oral or written expression, students could be asked to correct the false allegations or justify their answers.

1. When weird noises are heard, Square and Commando are

- Visiting the Potato Museum of Rocket Hill
- Grounded after a failed attempt to reach fame

2. The two teenagers are trying to go viral thanks to their Tick Tock performances

- True
- False (they have created a youtube channel)

3. The extra-terrestrial's name is chosen in reference to

- His interests in potatoes
- His love for karaoke

4. Square and Commando are the only ones interested in Spud.

- True
- False (So are Very Very Special Agent and the residents of the retirement home)

5. Commando's first reaction when realizing Spud is an alien is

- To dream about all the scientific research that will be done thanks to their discovery
- To think that he has finally found the way to make the buzz

6. The two teenagers want to help Spud go back home because of the villagers' reaction

- True
- False

7. Spud can't go back on his planet as quickly as he hoped because

- He has been caught by the Very Very Special Agent
- The fuel tank of his spaceship is empty

8. Square and Commando have known each other since they were kids.

- True
- False

9. Square got his nickname because

- He is a fan of mathematics
- He is a bit old-fashioned and prefers intellectual activities rather than crazy adventures

10. Very Very Special Agent can easily communicate with everyone as he speaks 18 different languages

- True
- False (he speaks them all at the same time)

oral expression

Thanks to this exercise of oral expression, students will have the opportunity to practise different lexical and grammatical elements while having fun imagining a fantasy world. Both students will have to form questions using different question words as well as various tenses: simple past, present perfect, simple present and the future depending on what they have already studied.

Comparing their society and the way they live; the human being and the alien will necessarily use comparatives and superlatives.

The lexical themes of the daily routine, the physical appearance, the hobbies, the means of transport, the description of places and accommodation, will definitely be useful.

Don't hesitate to use the grid proposed in the vocabulary section: it recaps the different structures to deal with description and talk about hobbies, as well as the corresponding question words.

The more imaginative your students are, the funnier the exercise will be.



Encourage **Student A** to consider what is best in our society but they can also point out what goes wrong in our world. It could actually lead to a nice debate with **Student B**. This can also be suggested to students who are more comfortable in English than others.

Student B will have to be creative and invent a whole world. If they lack inspiration, don't hesitate to show them some pictures representing different types of aliens. **It may help them imagine a story starting with the pictures.**

Here are a few examples



culture | quiz questions

Thanks to this quiz your students will have fun while learning about the fascination the world has always had for space and aliens as well as a brief historical account of the specific relationship Irish people have with potatoes!

1) Divide the class into groups and choose a captain for each team.

To make it easier to run, don't have more than 5 groups.

2) Explain the guidelines:

You will go through different activities (video watching and reading exercises).

Students have to remember as much information as they can. They could imagine a strategy, for example: A will take down notes about the dates, B about the places, C the name of the people mentioned etc.

After each document students will have to answer questions. You can choose to give them the questions in a written document or ask them orally.

After conferring with their team members, the captain gives an answer to the teacher.

He or she can blow a whistle, raise his/her hand, that's up to you!

The first team to give the correct answer wins a point.

3) The losing team could sing a song like live musicians would do in any Irish pub with a karaoke version of the song or the winning team gets candies, ...

This is up to you.

A. Reading comprehension: Myths and legends

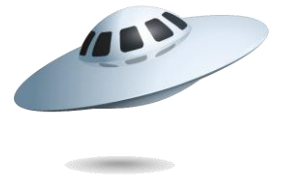
1. What is the main argument to explain aliens' intervention in the building of the architectural sites mentioned?

Those structures are made of extremely heavy stones, the manipulation of those would, according to the astronaut theorists, have been impossible for human beings without the help of supernatural forces.

B. Reading comprehension: Aliens and spacecrafts in art

1. What do the letters UFO stand for?

Unidentified Flying Object



2. When was Madonna and Child with the Infant St John painted?

It was painted in the 16th century.

3. What are aliens generally like in movies?

Aliens are generally presented as dangerous colonizers and enemies to the Earth inhabitants.

culture | quiz questions

4. Where is District 9 located?

In Johannesburg, South Africa.

5. Why is that particularly symbolic?

The title of District 9 was inspired by events in Cape Town's District Six, during the apartheid era. At that time, the sixth district was considered to be a whites-only area. Consequently, Black people were forced to leave. Thanks to its original plot, District 9 deals with themes such as social segregation, xenophobia and humanity.

6. Why is Avatar original in its way of presenting humans and the inhabitants of another planet?

Humans are not endangered by the invasion of nasty aliens; they are the ones colonizing other people' territory.



C. Video watching: Crop circles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=207UI1FQTiA>

The video is about 5 minutes long. Subtitles are available.

1. What are crop circles? What do they represent?

These strange generally geometrical patterns have been observed in fields in various countries mainly from the 1970s to present days. People have the impression that they are made with a machine or at least by someone who can see them from above. Their shape sometimes correspond to complex mathematical equations.

2. What happened in Australia in 1966?

A local farmer saw a large flying saucer rise 30 feet in the air out of a swamp and fly away. Curious, the farmer investigated the spot where the saucer had been and reportedly found a circle of flattened grass and reeds.

3. What was the official explanation about this event?

An investigation by police, a local university and the Australian air force concluded that the incident had natural causes, like a whirlwind or waterspout.



culture | quiz questions

D. Reading comprehension: Roswell and Area 51

1. What happened in 1947 in Roswell?

In 1947, people mentioned having seen a "flying disc" crashing near a ranch

2. How do we call people convinced spacecrafts exist?

Ufologists

3. What are the consequences today of the 1947 incident in Roswell?

This incident has helped the touristic development of the American city with thematic shops and attractions such as the UFO international museum, the UFO festival and Galacticon and SciFi film festivals.

4. What kind of event was organised on Facebook?

The announced objective of the Facebook event "*Storm Area 51, They Can't Stop All of Us*" in September 2019 was to enter the site in a search for extra-terrestrial life. More than 2 million people responded "going" and 1.5 million "interested" on the page of the event! The man at the origin of this initiative later declared that it was only a joke.



5. How do you know it's forbidden to enter the site of Area 51?

At the entrance of Area 51, there are warning signs informing no one will be tolerated on the site.

E. Reading comprehension: Ireland and its potatoes

1. Why are potatoes so popular in Ireland?

The potato is a staple food in Ireland and is one of the key ingredients of many of Irish specialties such as the colcannon, as an accompaniment to an Irish Stew, fish and chips, etc. People realized that it was cheap and easy to grow and very nourishing.

2. What determining element caused the Great Famine in Ireland?

A parasite, the late blight, which devastated all potato production.

3. What were the consequences of this event?

The Great Famine (1845-1849) led to the starvation and death of around 1 million people. The reaction of the British government only made things worse and Irish people didn't have many choices. Many stayed on the island and died, those who had the possibility emigrated to the USA. This event marked Irish history forever.