

TEACHER'S NOTES

tiger mother

www.macmillandictionary.com

Overview: Suggestions for using the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article on *tiger mother* and the associated worksheets.

Total time for worksheet activities: 45 minutes

Suggested level: Upper intermediate and above

1. If you intend to use the worksheets in class, go to the *BuzzWord* article at the web address given at the beginning of the worksheet and print off a copy of the article. Make a copy of the worksheet and the *BuzzWord* article for each student. You might find it helpful not to print a copy of the Key for each student but to check the answers as a class.
2. If the members of your class all have computer access, ask them to open the worksheet before they go to the *Buzzword* article link. Make sure they do not scroll down to the Key until they have completed each exercise.
3. Ask students to read through the whole *BuzzWord* article carefully.
4. Ask students to work in pairs to find the answers to the **Find the information** questions. Check the answers as a class. Look again at question 1 – do students celebrate Mother's Day in their country? If so, when / how? The word *memoir* is the answer to question 5. Ask them if they know what this word means and how it differs from the meaning of e.g. *autobiography*, *biography*. Use the Macmillan Dictionary for help if necessary.
5. Note that for exercise 2, the answers appear in order through the text. If felt necessary, first ask the students to read the article again. Extra help could be given if needed (i.e. answer 1 is in paragraph 1, answers 2 and 3 in paragraph 2, answer 4 in paragraph 3, answers 5 and 6 in paragraph 5). Check the answers as a class. Look again at question 6 – can the students give one or two examples of metaphors in English? Mention that they will be looking at metaphors again shortly.
6. Before starting exercise 3, return to the fact that *mom* is an informal US alternative to *mother* and the equivalent of *mum* in British English. Ask students to complete exercise 3 individually and check answers. What other UK / US equivalents do they know?
7. Before completing exercise 4, reiterate that in *tiger mother*, the word *tiger* is used as a metaphor for the idea of 'moving fast' (i.e. making fast progress relative to others). Explain that idioms and other common expressions in English often contain metaphorical ideas. (If there's time, you could highlight that metaphors occur at various levels, from metaphoric senses of individual words through to similes and idiomatic expressions). Ask them to complete exercise 4 in pairs. Have they ever used any of the idiomatic expressions in the exercise? If so, can they briefly talk about the situation in which they used them?

Tip: as an extension activity / homework, you could encourage students to look at the relevant Language Awareness pages of the Macmillan Dictionary (LA4-LA7) or explore one of the metaphor boxes at particular words within the main dictionary pages.
8. Complete the first part of exercise 5 as a class activity and then ask students to write examples individually (using the Macmillan Dictionary for help if needed). Invite some students to share their example sentences with the rest of the class.

WORKSHEET

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Go to the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article at:

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/tiger-mother.html>

1 Find the information

Read the **BuzzWord** article on *tiger mother* and answer these questions.

1. Why is 18th March 2012 a special day in the United Kingdom?
2. What are the informal US and UK alternatives to the expression *tiger mother*?
3. Write down three things that a *tiger mother* prevents her children from doing.
4. Read the third paragraph. What are 'Western parents' more concerned about?
5. Look at the background information. What did author Amy Chua intend her book to be?
6. What is a *surrogacy*?

2 Find the word

Find the words in the text to match the following definitions. The first letter is given for you. The words are in the order in which they appear in the text.

1. a feeling of being thankful to someone because they have given you something or have done something for you (noun) g_____
2. more important than anything else (adjective) o_____
3. to refuse to approve or allow something (verb) v_____
4. great skill or ability (noun) p_____
5. to start a fight or argument (verb) i_____
6. a word or phrase that means one thing and is used for referring to another thing in order to emphasize their similar qualities (noun) m_____

3 UK or US?

Match the **US** words in the left-hand column with their **UK** equivalents on the right.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. broil | a. pavement |
| 2. cell phone | b. rubbish |
| 3. cookie | c. handbag |
| 4. diaper | d. petrol |
| 5. flashlight | e. grill |
| 6. garbage | f. windscreen |
| 7. gasoline | g. mobile phone |
| 8. purse | h. biscuit |
| 9. sidewalk | i. nappy |
| 10. windshield | j. torch |

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4 Find the metaphor

Circle the correct word to complete the idiomatic expressions below.

1. I was so nervous about giving the speech that my legs turned to *jelly* / *liquid*.
2. Jackie might get upset if you tell her – you're treading on very thin *ice* / *snow*.
3. Tom's sad because he split up with his girlfriend, but I keep telling him there are plenty more *fish* / *waves* in the sea.
4. Everyone in the office is ill – they're dropping like *bees* / *flies*.
5. We'd had a wonderful day but that delicious meal really was the *cream* / *icing* on the cake.
6. I can't believe I forgot Sam's birthday again, I've got a memory like a *net* / *sieve*!

5 What do they mean?

Below are some expressions including the words *mum* and *mother*. Can you match them with the correct dictionary definitions?

mother tongue
 earth mother

keep mum
 mum's the word

the mother of all
 mother hen

1. used for telling someone to keep something secret

2. a woman who prefers natural methods and styles of living

3. someone who takes care of another person and worries about them

4. the main language that you learn as a child

5. used for emphasizing that something is very big, serious or exciting

6. to keep something secret

Choose two of the expressions and make up example sentences for them.

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KEY

1 Find the information

1. It is Mother's Day or Mothering Sunday.
2. US *tiger mom*, UK *tiger mum*
3. possible answers: sleepovers, arrangements to play with friends, watching TV, playing computer games
4. 'Western parents' are more concerned about children's happiness and self-esteem.
5. a comic memoir
6. an arrangement in which a woman gives birth to a child for another couple

2 Find the words

1. gratitude
2. overriding
3. veto
4. prowess
5. ignite
6. metaphor

3 UK or US?

1. e
2. g
3. h
4. i
5. j
6. b
7. d
8. c
9. a
10. f

4 Find the metaphor

1. jelly
2. ice
3. fish
4. flies
5. icing
6. sieve

5 What do they mean?

1. mum's the word
2. earth mother
3. mother hen
4. mother tongue
5. the mother of all
6. keep mum