

TEACHER'S NOTES

iceberg home

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Overview: Suggestions for using the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article on *iceberg home* 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 internet 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. Encourage students to read through the questions in Exercise 1 before they look at the *BuzzWord* article. Ask them to read through the whole article carefully and answer the questions. Tell them to compare their answers with a partner. Then check the answers as a class.
4. Ask students to complete Exercise 2 independently. They should identify the option that has a different meaning to the others. Encourage them to look up any of the answer options they don't understand in the Macmillan Dictionary. Check the answers as a class.
5. Exercise 3 features a range of vocabulary related to houses and homes. Ask students to complete the exercise in pairs, matching any words they already know the meaning of first, which may help them to work out the others by a process of elimination. If necessary, give assistance with unfamiliar words or allow students to use the Macmillan Dictionary (you might also like to note that *flat* is British English for the US equivalent *apartment*).
6. A complementary activity might be to create a simple labelling / matching pairs exercise by sourcing some pictures of these buildings (easily found on the internet) and adding a few other obvious ones too (e.g. *detached / semi-detached house, terraced house*, etc).
7. Draw students' attention to the final paragraph in the background section of the article where it's explained that the word *iceberg* is being used as a metaphor (= a type of comparison, a meaning that has developed from a literal meaning because it has some of the same features). They should also be familiar with this from their answer to question 5 in Exercise 1. Exercise 4 features five idiomatic expressions containing the word *ice(berg)*, two of which are explained in this paragraph. Ask students to complete the exercise independently, reminding them that if they need help, they can look in the article, and/or find explanations of the other three phrases by looking them up in the Macmillan Dictionary (note that *cut no ice* is found under verb *cut*, whilst the other two are found in the entry for the noun *ice*).
8. As an extension activity/homework, ask students to find some common idiomatic phrases featuring the noun *water* (e.g. *throw / pour cold water on something*) or *steam* (e.g. *let off steam*) and provide some examples of their use.
9. Point out the word *maxim* in the opening sentence of the article. Explain that this refers to a phrase or saying which expresses a general truth or principle. Do students have sayings in their own languages? Invite them to share examples. There are a number of sayings which are quite common in spoken

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English, and students may come across them from time to time, especially in conversation with native speakers. Complete Exercise 5 as a class activity, starting by exploring the meaning of each saying in the box (again, these can all be found in the Macmillan Dictionary – note that *don't count your chickens ...* is found in the entry for the verb *count*, and *people who live in glass houses ...* is found under the noun *glass*). Explain that these sayings are often abbreviated in conversation by omitting the words shown in brackets.

WORKSHEET

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

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/iceberg-home.html>

1 Find the information

Read the *BuzzWord* article on the word *iceberg home* and answer the questions.

1. What is unusual about an iceberg home?
2. According to the article, where in Britain is it particularly expensive to live?
3. What luxuries do people sometimes put in iceberg homes? Give two examples.
4. What are two disadvantages connected with building iceberg homes?
5. Why is the word *iceberg* a good metaphor?
6. What language does the word *iceberg* originally come from?

2 Find the odd one out

Cross out the word in italics that has a different meaning to the other two.

1. There are *restrictions on* / *limits to* / *guidelines for* what people can do to their properties.
2. The *original* / *sensible* / *logical* solution is to build underground.
3. Iceberg homes can be very *spacious* / *attractive* / *large*.
4. Neighbours often *obtain* / *object to* / *oppose* the building plans.
5. These constructions can increase the *risk* / *chance* / *occurrence* of flooding.
6. Councils for some *districts* / *grounds* / *areas* have prevented these homes from being built.

3 Houses and homes

Match the nouns in the left-hand column with their definitions in the right-hand column.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. shed | a. a small house or shelter, usually containing just one room |
| 2. caravan | b. a building for keeping a car in, especially one that is connected to or near a house |
| 3. hut | c. a room with glass walls and a glass roof, built next to a house |
| 4. cottage | d. a very large building, especially one used as the official home of a royal family |
| 5. conservatory | e. a set of rooms for living in, usually on one floor of a large building |
| 6. flat | f. a small house, usually in a village or the countryside |
| 7. mansion | g. a small building, usually made of wood, in which you store things |
| 8. garage | h. a very large house, especially a beautiful one |
| 9. palace | i. a wheeled vehicle for living in which can be pulled by a car |

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4 Ice idioms

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the phrases in the box.

break the ice

be skating on thin ice

put (something) on ice

cut no ice

the tip of the iceberg

1. I've listened to your excuses and they _____ with me.
2. The recent food shortages are just _____, there are far bigger problems ahead.
3. If Amy's telling lies then I'm afraid she _____. Her parents will find out.
4. We played a couple of games just to _____ before the session started.
5. They had plans to go on holiday, but when Jo fell ill they had to _____ them _____.

5 The right thing to say

Complete the conversations with the sayings in the box.

Time flies (when you're having fun).

Better the devil you know (than the devil you don't).

While the cat's away (the mice will play).

Don't count your chickens (before they're hatched).

People who live in glass houses (shouldn't throw stones).

No news is good news.

1.

A: Simon and Helen have gone away
and the kids are throwing a party.

B: Yes, I heard, _____
_____.

2.

A: It's surprising he was so critical when he's made
exactly the same mistakes himself.

B: I agree, _____
_____.

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3.

A: When I get some money for my birthday, I'm going to buy those shoes.

B: I think you should wait and see. _____
_____.

4.

A: I haven't heard from Tom for a while but he was fine last time I spoke to him.

B: Oh don't worry, _____
_____.

5.

A: I can't believe the holiday is nearly over!

B: Yes, I know. _____
_____.

6.

A: Mike can be a bit unreliable sometimes, but I'm not sure the new guy would be any better at doing this job.

B: Ah well, _____
_____.

KEY

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KEY

1 Find the information

1. A large part of it is underground.
2. London
3. possible answers: swimming pool, spa, gym, bowling alley, cinema
4. They cause a lot of disruption to surrounding neighbourhoods. They increase the risk of flooding.
5. because an iceberg is much larger below ground than it appears to be on the surface
6. Dutch

2 Find the odd one out

1. guidelines
2. original
3. attractive
4. obtain
5. occurrence
6. grounds

3 Houses and homes

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

4 Ice idioms

1. cut no ice (note: *don't cut any ice* is also possible)
2. the tip of the iceberg
3. 's / is skating on thin ice
4. break the ice
5. put (them) on ice

5 The right thing to say

1. While the cat's away (the mice will play).
2. People who live in glass houses (shouldn't throw stones).
3. Don't count your chickens (before they're hatched).
4. No news is good news.
5. Time flies (when you're having fun).
6. Better the devil you know (than the devil you don't).