

TEACHER'S NOTES

New words in 2013

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**Overview:** Suggestions for using the Macmillan Dictionary *BuzzWord* articles on *fracking*, *bagel*, and *sharent* and the associated worksheet.

**Total time for worksheet activities:** 60 mins

**Suggested level:** Upper intermediate and above

1. If you intend to use the worksheet in class, go to the *BuzzWord* articles at the web addresses given throughout the worksheet and print off a copy of the articles. Make copies of the worksheet and the *BuzzWord* articles 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 links. 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 on *fracking*. 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. Return to question 6 and point out that, as explained in the background section, *fracking* is based on the word *fracture*, which means 'to break'. English has a range of other synonyms for the concept of breaking, and Exercise 2 looks at some commonly used ones. Ask students to complete the exercise individually and check the answers as a class. Less confident students could be permitted to look the verbs up in the Macmillan Dictionary. They might also enjoy playing the sound effects for rip, smash and crack as an aid to comprehension.
5. Ask students to read through the *BuzzWord* article on *bagel*. Complete Exercise 3 as a class activity.
6. Before beginning Exercise 4, ask students to briefly look again at the second paragraph – what two word classes does *bagel* now have? (answer = verb, noun). Point out that there are of course many other English words which function as both nouns and verbs or other word classes. Can students think of examples? (e.g. row, fine). Some of these can be described as homographs – words that are spelt the same but have different meanings. Sometimes there is a connection between the two meanings, as with *bagel*, but sometimes the meanings are very distinct (compare *bear* noun = furry animal and *bear* verb = to accept a difficult situation). Exercise 4 explores some common verb-noun homographs (these are all two and three star 'red' words in the Macmillan Dictionary). Ask students to complete the exercise in pairs, and then check the answers as a class.  
  
As an extension activity, students could be asked to research four other English homographs, providing the word class and a definition for at least two meanings.
7. Ask students to read through the *BuzzWord* article on *sharent*.
8. Ask students to complete Exercise 5 and compare their answers with a partner. When students have completed the exercise, ask

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them to correct the false statements (see the Key for corrections). Check the answers as a class.

- Exercise 6 explores some higher level vocabulary on the theme of family and 'people you know'. Complete the first part of the exercise as a class activity and then ask students to complete the second part independently. Check answers. As an extension activity or homework, students could role-play or write a short dialogue of their own using a selection of these words.

WORKSHEET

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Go to the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article at:  
<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/fracking.html>

**1 Find the information**

Read the **BuzzWord** article on *fracking* and answer these questions.

1. What is a major concern in the 21st century?
2. What is the name of the rock which potentially contains gas?
3. What has happened to US fuel prices as a result of fracking?
4. What situation is described by the expression *energy crunch*?
5. Why might fracking be bad for the environment?
6. What word is the term *fracking* based on?

**2 Choose the best verb**

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

break      crack      crumble      rip      shatter      smash

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ her leg in a skiing accident last year.
2. Someone had used a hammer to \_\_\_\_\_ the window.
3. There was a sharp nail sticking out of the chair and I \_\_\_\_\_ my skirt.
4. The soft earth by the river began to \_\_\_\_\_ beneath his feet.
5. We stopped suddenly and the windscreen \_\_\_\_\_ into hundreds of tiny pieces.
6. The egg \_\_\_\_\_ open and a little chick popped out.

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Go to the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article at:  
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**3 Choose the correct answer**

Read the *BuzzWord* article on *bagel* and circle the correct option to complete the statements below.

1. If a tennis player is *bagelled*, they lose / win every game in the set.
2. 'Verbing' is a process in which a noun is changed into a thing / an action.
3. The verb *bagel* usually appears in the active / passive form.
4. A *triple-bagel* is quite rare / common.
5. A score of 6-1 is sometimes called a *breadstick* / *pretzel*.
6. The word *love* / *egg* is used to describe a zero score in modern tennis.

**4 Verb-noun homographs**

Put the words in the box next to the correct pair of definitions.

match      park      rock      roll      sink      wave

1. a. to disappear below the surface of water  
 b. a large open container for water, usually fixed to a wall and connected to pipes \_\_\_\_\_
2. a. the hard solid substance that forms part of the Earth's surface  
 b. to move backwards and forwards or from side to side in a gentle way \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. to move a vehicle into a place where you are going to leave it for a period of time  
 b. an open public area with grass and trees \_\_\_\_\_
4. a. a small stick that produces a flame when rubbed against a rough surface  
 b. to be equal to something else in amount or level \_\_\_\_\_
5. a. to move your hand to say hello or goodbye or as a signal  
 b. a line of water that rises up on the surface of a sea, lake or river \_\_\_\_\_
6. a. bread in the form of a small round or long shape  
 b. to move forward while turning over and over \_\_\_\_\_

WORKSHEET

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Go to the **Macmillan Dictionary *BuzzWord*** article at:  
<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/sharent.html>

## 5 Comprehension check

Read the *BuzzWord* article on *sharent*. Are these statements true (T) or false (F) according to the text?

- Parents don't often talk about their children.
- Sharents* are usually more than forty years old.
- Sharents* talk about their experiences using social media.
- The concept of *sharenting* has been criticized.
- The word *sharent* is a blend of the noun *parent* and the verb *show*.
- The main sense of the verb *share* is changing in the 21st century.

## 6 People you know

Match the words 1-8 with their definitions a-h.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. acquaintance | a. brother or sister   |
| 2. colleague    | b. someone who lives near you                                      |
| 3. mate         | c. a member of your family   |
| 4. neighbour    | d. someone who works in the same organization as you               |
| 5. relative     | e. a husband or wife   |
| 6. sibling      | f. someone you know a little, who is not a close friend            |
| 7. partner      | g. someone who you live with and have a romantic relationship with |
| 8. spouse       | h. an informal word for a friend                                   |

Now use the correct form of four of the words to complete the conversation below.

A: How do you know Sarah?

B: I don't know her well but we live on the same street so I chat to her sometimes.

A: Oh, I didn't realise you were (1) \_\_\_\_\_.

B: Yes, and her husband Jack is a manager at the same company as Ed, they've been  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_ for a couple of years.

A: And that man you were talking to – is he your brother?

B: Oh no, I don't have any (3) \_\_\_\_\_. In fact he's just an (4) \_\_\_\_\_, I don't know him very well at all.

KEY

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## KEY

### 1 Find the information

1. to find new ways of supplying energy
2. shale
3. they have decreased / fallen / gone down
4. less available fuel and rising fuel costs
5. because it uses toxic chemicals and may cause earth tremors (seismic activity)
6. fracture

### 2 Choose the best verb

1. broke
2. smash
3. ripped
4. crumble
5. shattered
6. cracked

### 3 Choose the correct answer

1. lose
2. an action
3. passive
4. rare
5. breadstick
6. love

### 4 Verb-noun homographs

1. sink
2. rock
3. park
4. match
5. wave
6. roll

### 5 Comprehension check

1. F. It's impossible for parents to avoid talking about their children because caring for them is such an important part of their lives.
2. F. Sharents are usually in their thirties.
3. T
4. T
5. F. The word sharent is a blend of the noun parent and the verb share.
6. T

### 6 People you know

1. f
  2. d
  3. h
  4. b
  5. c
  6. a
  7. g
  8. e
1. neighbours
  2. colleagues
  3. siblings
  4. acquaintance