

Stand-up comedy course for men at risk of suicide

Level 2: Intermediate – Teacher's notes

Article summary: The article describes how stand-up comedy is being used to help people with emotional and other disorders to become more confident.

Time: 60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: Vocabulary

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. The purpose of this activity is to familiarize students with some of the abbreviations used in the article. The first letter of each of the missing words is obvious from the abbreviation but, if students require more help, you could give them either the last letter of each missing word or the number of letters in each word. Note that the term *general practitioner* is used to describe a doctor who treats patients for a wide range of problems rather than specializing in a single area. The former term for this was 'family doctor'.

Key:

1. Health
2. stress
3. disorder
4. System
5. West
6. General

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. Highlight words that are related to some of the words in this exercise, e.g., *therapy, therapist, therapeutic, trauma, traumatic, counsellor, and counselling*.

Key:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. stand-up | 7. perspective |
| 2. vulnerable | 8. therapeutic |
| 3. resilient | 9. suicide |
| 4. postnatal | 10. counselling |
| 5. trauma | 11. fine line |
| 6. narrative | 12. triggering |

3. Comprehension check

- a. The answers given are only suggested answers and students may correctly answer the questions in different ways, e.g., in item 3 they may say 'It is hoping to extend the course to them' or similar.

Key:

1. False. It is one of the most difficult.
2. True
3. False. It is hoping to do this in the future.
4. True
5. True
6. False. It was a one-year project.
7. False. They create a five-minute set.
8. True
9. True
10. False. It will be at the end of the course.

4. Key language

- a. Students could be asked to do this exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs.

Key:

1. one of the most difficult jobs in the world
2. in a physically powerful position
3. the reason why someone does something differently
4. the result of a year-long research project
5. a different way of engaging with this group
6. an audience of at least a hundred people

5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note down their ideas about each statement and encourage them to say why they agree or disagree with each one.

Stand-up comedy course for men at risk of suicide

Level 2: Intermediate – Teacher's notes

6. In your own words

- a. The task could also be done as a homework task and students could then present their reports to the class or their group. You can search for useful websites beforehand and share them with students. To make this task more interesting, you could divide the questions between students so each researches and presents different information.
- b. Hold a class discussion on the questions.