

'She believed in every one of us': ex-pupils on their inspirational teachers

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-Intermediate – Teacher's notes

Article summary: The article describes how different people, including the singer Adele, were inspired somehow by their teachers.

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 for students to focus on successful female singers. In the activity, students are asked to match the singers with their nationalities. You could also ask them to name famous female singers from their country or any other well-known singers they like.

Key:

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. d | 4. e |
| 2. f | 5. b |
| 3. a | 6. c |

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. Note that *go viral* is a collocation and is used when a photo, video, or message is very popular on the internet. The adjective *viral* is also used in a medical context and collocates with illness, infection, and disease. *Spot on* is very common in British English and can be used as a response when someone gives an answer that is completely accurate.

Key:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. tears | 6. anxiety |
| 2. viral | 7. inspire |
| 3. impact | 8. immigrant |
| 4. hug | 9. struggle |
| 5. regularly | 10. spot on |

3. Comprehension check

- a. Point out that the information needed for the answers is in the order in which it appears in the text. The answers given are suggested answers. Students may answer correctly using different words.

Key:

1. English
2. Because her teacher came on stage at a concert.
3. His father died.
4. She gave his mother a huge hug.
5. He's a doctor.
6. He was worried about his sexuality.
7. She was thirteen.
8. in the UK
9. Punjabi
10. to read as much as she could

b. Key language

- a. Encourage students to look back in the text to check their answers. Note the difference between *pass an exam* (be successful) and *take an exam* (do the exam before the result is known). In this exercise, both answers are possible with *exam*, but *pass* doesn't work with *someone's advice*. If you take someone's advice, you accept it and follow it. Similarly, you can also deal with a problem, but you can't face anxieties.

Key:

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. d | 4. e |
| 2. f | 5. b |
| 3. a | 6. c |

5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note down their ideas and encourage them to say why they have chosen each particular quality.

6. In your own words

- a. The prompts given are simply guidelines. Students may omit some of these and include other information they have found. This activity could also be done as a homework activity.