

## TEACHER'S NOTES

### anecdota

**Overview:** Suggestions for using the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article on *anecdota* and the associated worksheets

**Total time for worksheet activities:** 60 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 and compare their answers with a partner. When students have completed the exercise, ask them to correct the false statements (see the Key for corrections). Check the answers as a class.
5. Exercise 3 focuses on some higher-level vocabulary used in the article. Ask students to complete the exercise in pairs. If they already know any of the words, suggest that they complete these answers first, which may help them to work out the others by a process of elimination. Tell them to look at the words as they appear in the text and decide whether they are nouns, adjectives or verbs, which will help to reduce the number of possible answers. If necessary, allow them to use the Macmillan Dictionary, which has entries for all the words.
6. Draw students' attention to question 5 in Exercise 1 and the first paragraph of the background section of the article. Explain that *data* is now almost always used as an uncountable noun (also sometimes described as a mass noun, as in the article) and is usually followed by a singular verb. However, historically, *data* was a Latin plural of the singular form *datum*. (Note that the word *media*, also used in the article, is another example of a former Latin plural). Remind students that although -s is by far the most common way of forming the plural in English, there are a number of others, which they will revise in Exercise 4. Complete the exercise as a class activity, asking students to explain why they have chosen the odd one out (see Key for model explanations). Please note that in word groups 3 and 5, there is a different pattern than in the other groups. Group 3 includes the word *tennis*, which doesn't have a plural. Group 5 includes three words that don't have a singular form, whereas the odd one out, *shoes*, does.
7. Exercise 5 features the conversational activity of telling an 'anecdote'. Students start by putting the sentences in order to create an example. Ask students to complete the exercise individually, giving help where necessary. Then tell them to complete the notes and, looking at the example, think about how they would tell their own anecdote. Encourage them to use an introductory sentence to invite interest and to explain the sequence of events in a logical order with appropriate use of past tenses and sequencing words, etc. As a winding-up activity, students tell each other or the class their anecdotes.

KEY

**anecdota**

KEY

**1 Find the information**

1. in broadcast or published media (e.g. TV, radio, newspapers, online)
2. No, because it is based on casual evidence or personal experience rather than facts.
3. based on personal experience rather than facts that can be checked
4. a short story told by someone about a real incident
5. *datum*
6. because it is very large and complex

**2 Comprehension check**

1. F – the word *information* may refer to many different things (e.g. facts, casual evidence, personal experience)
2. T
3. F – the word *anecdotal* dates back to the 18th century
4. T
5. T
6. F – the world of technology is competing to find effective solutions for big data

**3 What do they mean?**

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

**4 Odd one out**

1. belief
2. path
3. tennis
4. hand
5. shoes
6. kilo
7. boy
8. goose

1. The plurals of *leaf*, *life* and *half* are formed by removing *-f* and adding *-ves* (*leaves*, *lives*, *halves*). The plural of *belief* is *beliefs*.
2. The plurals of *box*, *match* and *wish* are formed by adding *-es* (*boxes*, *matches*, *wishes*). The plural of *path* is *paths*.
3. The plurals of *analysis*, *crisis* and *emphasis* are formed by changing *-is* to *-es* (*analyses*, *crises*, *emphases*). There is no plural form of *tennis*.
4. *Mouse*, *foot* and *man* have irregular plural forms (*mice*, *feet*, *men*). The plural of *hand* is *hands*.
5. *Glasses*, *shorts* and *trousers* are plural nouns with no singular form. The singular form of *shoes* is *shoe*.
6. The plurals of *hero*, *potato* and *tomato* are formed by adding *-es* (*heroes*, *potatoes*, *tomatoes*). The plural of *kilo* is *kilos*.
7. The plurals of *body*, *baby* and *family* are formed by removing *-y* and adding *-ies* (*bodies*, *babies*, *families*). The plural of *boy* is *boys*.
8. *Fish*, *deer* and *sheep* have identical singular and plural forms. The plural of *goose* is *geese*.

**5 Anecdotes**

1. I have to tell you about what happened last weekend!
2. On Saturday afternoon, we went to see a Shakespeare play at the Globe Theatre.
3. As we were watching, I noticed one of my favourite actors.
4. At first, I wanted to get his autograph, but it was too crowded after the show.
5. We left the theatre and went for a coffee nearby.
6. Then, as we were chatting, I suddenly noticed the actor walking past our table!
7. I asked him to sign my programme and he let me take a picture of us on my phone.
8. I can't believe that I've finally met him!