

## Nip and tuck

### Teacher's notes and answer key

**Level:** Intermediate and above

**Age:** Adults

**Time needed:** 45 minutes plus

**Procedure:** The 'Twelve top tips' will give you extra ideas for using the plays in the classroom.

#### Notes on language and culture

1. The expression 'nip and tuck' is a reference to what cosmetic surgeons do with their instruments.
2. Croydon is a growing town in south London that has in recent times become an important centre for shopping. It is also the hometown of the supermodel Kate Moss.
3. When Dawn says *B-O-T-O-X* at the beginning of the play, she is spelling the word out quietly so the other customers in the café won't hear.
4. The word 'kosher' originally meant that something was approved or allowed by Jewish laws concerning food. In colloquial English, it is often used to say either that something is not false or that it is not illegal or dishonest, as in 'Don't worry. These satnavs are kosher. I bought 'em at an auction'.
5. When Dawn says 'I don't believe you sometimes' she doesn't mean this literally. She is expressing frustration because she often doesn't understand why Erica's behaves and reacts the way that she does.
6. *Now you come to mention it* is an expression that is frequently used in conversational English when someone else says something that makes you realize or remember another thing.
7. *On the small side* means *a bit small*.
8. When Erica says 'They weren't exactly two fried eggs though, were they?' she means that they weren't particularly small.
9. Erica also says 'What was it, buy one get one free?'. Here she is referring to the slogan used in supermarkets offering two products for the price of one. In this context, it is supposed to be humorous.
10. The addition of *come to that* to the end of sentences is used in spoken English to mean *too* or *as well* when firmly stating an opinion or reprimanding someone, e.g. 'You have to take responsibility for feeding those cats. And so must Eddie, come to that'.



11. 'Lipo' is short for 'liposuction'.
12. In this context, *that's it* means *that's the end of it*.

#### Twelve top tips

1. Take away the title of the play. Students try to guess the context. Who? Where? Why? What?
2. Ask students to describe the appearance, personality and social status of the characters in the play.
3. Cut the play up into four sections. Students then put it back in the correct sequence.
4. Supply several statements of fact or opinion about the play. Ask students to assess whether each one follows from the play, supports it, contradicts it or is assumed.
5. Use the play alongside a onestopenglish news lesson or news article on the same subject and hold a debate and discussion on the topic to link the content with students' experience or knowledge.
6. Students add their own stage directions, e.g. ... *he said angrily – rising from his chair*.
7. Students can finish the play off in their own words or change its ending.
8. Students interpret the play, perform it and then record and listen to themselves for correct use of stress and intonation.
9. Students perform the play using the same words but in different styles, e.g. a romance, a ghost story, a thriller, etc.

# Mini-plays

by Tim Bowen and Liz Plampton

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10. Students identify vocabulary that has a negative connotation.
11. Students identify the word/phrase/phrasal verb that means ...
12. Take an adjective or adverb out of a sentence and put it in brackets at the end of the line. Students put it back in the correct place or wherever it will logically fit, for example:

*Look, I know you don't approve. [EXACTLY]*

*Look, I know you don't exactly approve.*

### Answer key

#### 1. Find the correct order

5; 4; 7; 2; 1; 6; 3

#### 2. Vocabulary

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

#### 3. Find the colloquial expression

1. bloke; 2. kosher; 3. boobs; 4. killjoy; 5. the full monty; 6. live with it

#### 4. Colloquial language: Ellipsis

1. I've got an appointment at two.
2. He's a specialist, apparently.
3. They're good, aren't they?
4. I'm having a bit of 'lipo' done next.
5. It's got to be before the end of the month.
6. I'm just starting to get those telltale jowls

#### 5. Chunks

1. Now you come to mention it ...
2. ... a bit on the small side.
3. It'll be worth it in the end.
4. I've made up my mind.
5. Do you know what I mean?
6. Just live with it.

## Nip and tuck

### Transcript

**Scenario:** Two women sit in a café in Croydon

**Characters:** Dawn, Erica

- Dawn** Nipping next door in a minute. Got an appointment at two. Only a bit of ... you know.
- Erica** What?
- Dawn** You know! B-O-T-O-X!
- Erica** Next door? I thought it was a hairdresser's.
- Dawn** It is. But they've got this new bloke now. Specialist, apparently. Wears a white coat, anyway.
- Erica** Well, if he wears a white coat he must be kosher!
- Dawn** Oh shut up, you're scaring me now. Anyway, you never noticed?
- Erica** What?
- Dawn** These!
- Erica** I'm sorry?
- Dawn** These! My boobs!
- Erica** Erm ... yes! They're very nice! ... Can I finish my lunch now?
- Dawn** I don't believe you sometimes.
- Erica** They really are very nice. What's wrong?
- Dawn** The size. What do you think of the size?
- Erica** Oh, you haven't?
- Dawn** I have!
- Erica** Well, now you come to mention it, they do look ...
- Dawn** Good, aren't they?
- Erica** Well, I suppose so. But there was nothing wrong with them in the first place.
- Dawn** Well, no, but they were always a bit on the small side.
- Erica** They weren't exactly two fried eggs though, were they?
- Dawn** Oh, shut up, you. Bob likes them. He's very pleased with them ...
- Erica** That's all right then. What was it, buy one get one free?
- Dawn** Look, I know you don't exactly approve.
- Erica** It's just that I don't think you should mess with nature. You should be grateful for what you've been given. And so should Bob, come to that.
- Dawn** Having a bit of 'lipo' done next.

**Nip and tuck**

**Transcript**

**Erica**           What?

**Dawn**           Well, the surgeon said ...

**Erica**           The surgeon just wants your money!

**Dawn**           No, listen. He said if I sign up for the liposuction now, he'll give me a 25% discount!

**Erica**           So, when's that, then?

**Dawn**           Got to be before the end of the month.

**Erica**           I take it you've thought about this and perhaps considered the dangers?

**Dawn**           Course! The surgeon, Kenneth, says it'll be a bit painful at first, but ...

**Erica**           It'll be worth it in the end? ... I don't believe you!

**Dawn**           Don't be such a killjoy!

**Erica**           So, what's next, then? A chin lift, a face lift, an eyelid lift? Or just go for the full monty and have a full body lift?

**Dawn**           No! I've made up my mind. After the lipo, that's it. That's definitely it!

**Erica**           Really?

**Dawn**           Yep. I mean it.

**Erica**           You do?

**Dawn**           Well, er, yes. Although I wouldn't mind getting my chin done. Just starting to get those telltale jowls. D'you know what I mean?

**Erica**           You're getting older, Dawn. It happens. Just live with it!

## Nip and tuck

### Worksheet

#### 1 Find the correct order

Here are seven lines from the play. Put them in a logical order.

- Dawn No, listen, he said if I sign up for the liposuction now, he'll give me a 25% discount!
- Erica The surgeon just wants your money!
- Dawn Got to be before the end of the month
- Erica What?
- Dawn Having a bit of 'lipo' done next.
- Erica So when's that, then?
- Dawn Well, the surgeon said ...

Now look at the play and check your answers.

#### 2 Vocabulary

Match these words from the text with their meanings.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1. nip         | a. a medical operation to remove fat from part of someone's body          |
| 2. telltale    | b. go somewhere quickly and just for a short time                         |
| 3. jowl        | c. interfere with   |
| 4. mess with   | d. obvious signs of something   |
| 5. liposuction | e. a substance injected into the face to make the skin look younger       |
| 6. botox       | f. the lower part of the cheek, especially if the skin hangs over the jaw |

#### 3 Find the colloquial expression

Look at the play and find the following words and phrases. Note that they are in the order in which they appear in the play.

1. a noun meaning *man*
2. a noun meaning *not illegal or dishonest*
3. a noun meaning *breasts*
4. a noun meaning *someone who makes it difficult for other people to enjoy themselves*
5. a three-word expression meaning *every possible thing*
6. a three-word expression meaning *accept it because you cannot change it*

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### Worksheet

#### 4 Colloquial language: Ellipsis

Which words are missing from these examples from the play?

1. Got an appointment at two.
2. Specialist, apparently.
3. Good, aren't they?
4. Having a bit of 'lipo' done next.
5. Got to be before the end of the month.
6. Just starting to get those tell-tale jowls.

#### 5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. come now mention you it to
2. bit side on a small the
3. the it end worth it'll in be
4. my I've up mind made
5. know mean you I what do ?
6. live it with just

#### 6 Discussion

What do you think of cosmetic surgery? Would you have it done? Why? Why not?