

The pub

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. Swansea is a city in Wales.
2. Darts is a game typically played in pubs. 'One hundred and eighty' is the maximum possible score in one turn at darts. When Mike says 'tidy darts', he is complimenting Dave on how well he has thrown his darts. 'Tidy' in this sense means 'good'.
3. 'Old' used before a noun is a familiar term showing that you like something (e.g. 'the old booze').
4. A 'plonker' is an informal word meaning a stupid person, especially a man.
5. In the sentence 'Now, do you see it shaking?' 'now' is used to give emphasis.
6. When Mike says 'now you come to mention it', he means that he hadn't noticed any sweat before, but Dave asking made him notice it.
7. If you decide to 'get into shape', you want to be more physically healthy and fit.
8. 'I'll get 'em in' means 'I'll buy the drinks'.
9. '(I'll) tell you what' can be used when you are going to make a suggestion, proposal or offer.
10. A 'chaser' is a strong alcoholic drink (such as a whisky or a cognac) that you drink immediately after a weaker one such as beer.
11. 'While the cat's away ...' is the first part of the proverb 'While the cat's away, the mice will play'. We use this to say that we will do what we want and have fun when someone in authority (such as our boss or a parent) is not there.
12. When Mike says 'you got a point there', it means he thinks Dave has made an important statement.
13. 'If it's all the same to you' is another way of saying 'if you don't mind'.
14. When Dave says 'it's not like they [the pub] chuck you out at 11 now' he is referring to the fact that



pubs used to close shortly after 11pm, but since 2005 they can apply to the local authority for the opening hours of their choice.

15. A 'splitting headache' is a very bad headache.
16. 'Heavies' means large strong men who behave aggressively.
17. 'Mate' is used for talking in a friendly way to someone, especially a man.
18. 'Love' is used for talking to your husband, wife, girlfriend, etc.
19. When Sandra says 'Whatever you say', she means that she does not believe Dave but she doesn't want to argue with him.
20. The expression 'It's (all) kicking off' is used to suggest that trouble (often a violent confrontation) has started in a public place such as a pub or football stadium.
21. 'Chippy' is slang for a fish and chip shop.
22. 'She's off her face' means 'she's very drunk'.

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 it 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.

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5. Use the play alongside a 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 perhaps 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.
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, e.g.

That dance music gives me a splitting headache in the morning. [ALL]

All that dance music gives me a splitting headache in the morning.

5. Yes, you've got a point there.

6. No, I think I'll stay here.

5. Phrasal verbs

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

6. What's the topic?

There is no single answer to this. Keeping fit and losing weight are mentioned, as is violence and, indirectly, relationships. The fact that the play is set in a pub and that 'a splitting headache' is referred to suggests that c is the main theme, however.

Answer key

1. What is the play about?

1. b; 2. students' own answers

2. Vocabulary

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

3. Find the colloquial expression

1. it's my shout; 2. it's all kicking off; 3. shout one's mouth off; 4. the Old Bill; 5. hold your horses; 6. little boy's room

4. Colloquial language: Ellipsis

1. Are you clubbing tonight?
2. Do you know what I mean?
3. She said to tell you she was just nippin' next door.
4. I think I'll join you, Dave.

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Transcript

Scenario: Two friends play darts in a pub in Swansea

Characters: Dave, Mike, Sandra (Dave's wife)

- Dave** One hundred and eighty!
- Mike** I don't know how you do it!
- Dave** Been looking after myself, I have.
- Mike** Tidy darts!
- Dave** Yes, I've been working out and cutting down on the old booze, see.
- Mike** I don't see how it can have any effect on how you play darts!
- Dave** You'd be surprised. Look at that.
- Mike** What?
- Dave** My hand, you plonker! Now, do you see it shaking?
- Mike** Well, no. But it didn't before, did it?
- Dave** Oh yes! Oh yes, boy. You see? Steady as a rock ... Mike?
- Mike** Yes, Dave.
- Dave** Do you see any sweat on my brow?
- Mike** Um, well, now you come to mention it ...
- Dave** No, you don't, do you? See! I can't tell you how much it's improved my game, Mike.
- Mike** What made you decide to get into shape, Dave?
- Dave** I s'pose it was Sandra, really.
- Mike** Oh, right.
- Dave** Yes, she said my love handles were more like *door* handles – know what I mean?
- Mike** Well, I'm impressed, Dave. I'll get 'em in, shall I? It's my shout.
- Dave** Go on then, Mike. Sandra's not looking, is she?
- Mike** No, she was feelin' a bit peckish, Dave. Said to tell you she was just nippin' next door for some chips.
- Dave** Oh! Tell you what; I'll have a chaser as well, then. While the cat's away, eh?
- Mike** Think I'll join you, Dave. I mean, if you can't enjoy yourself on a Friday night, when can you?
- Dave** Saturday night, I s'pose, Mike.
- Mike** Yes, you got a point there, Dave. You clubbing tonight?
- Dave** No, think I'll stay here, if it's all the same to you. I mean, it's not like they chuck you out at 11 now, is it?

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Transcript

- Mike** You're not wrong, Dave. And I tell you what; all that dance music gives me a splittin' headache in the morning.
- Dave** You sure it's the music, Mike? To be honest, I get fed up with having to sort out the heavies. Doesn't matter what club I go to. Every time there's trouble, who do they call, Mike, who do they call?
- Mike** The police?
- Dave** No, mate, *me!* That's who they call. It's a burden, that's what it is.
- Sandra** Dave!
- Dave** I was just holdin' it for 'im, love, that's all! It's Mike's, honest it is!
- Sandra** Whatever you say, Dave. It's all kickin' off in the chippy!
- Dave** Oh!
- Sandra** It's Jane. She's off her face! Shouting her mouth off in there, she is. Somethin' about her order.
- Dave** Oh, that'll be the vinegar, that will. They water it down in there! Makes your chips go all soggy!
- Sandra** How do you know? You're supposed to be on a diet!
- Dave** And I am, love, really! Look at me – there'll be nothing left of me soon!
- Sandra** Oh come on! Someone needs to come and sort her out before the 'Old Bill' get here, or she'll get herself arrested again.
- Mike** She can get very violent, can Jane.
- Dave** Ok, ok, hold your horses! You go, Mike, I've got to visit the little boy's room first!

Worksheet

1 What is the play about?

Here are some words and phrases from the play:

cutting down
clubbing

Friday night
dance music

darts
booze

a splitting headache
get into shape

1. Where do you think the play is set?

- a. in a restaurant b. in a pub c. in a doctor's surgery

2. What do you think the play will be about?

- a. going out at the weekend b. drinking too much c. violence

2 Vocabulary

Match these words from the text with their meanings.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. plonker | a. go somewhere quickly and for a short time |
| 2. peckish | b. alcoholic drink |
| 3. booze | c. a stupid person |
| 4. love handles | d. unpleasantly wet and soft |
| 5. nip | e. slightly hungry |
| 6. soggy | f. areas of fat at the sides of someone's waist |

3 Find the colloquial expression

Look in 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 three-word expression meaning *it's my turn to buy the drinks*
2. a four-word expression meaning *a fight has started*
3. a four-word expression meaning *to give your opinions about something in a loud and annoying way*
4. a three-word expression meaning *the police*
5. a three-word expression meaning *wait a second*
6. a three-word expression that is a euphemism for *toilet*

Mini-plays

by Tim Bowen and Liz Plampton

The pub

Worksheet

4 Colloquial language: Ellipsis

Which words are missing from these examples from the play?

1. You clubbing tonight?
2. ... know what I mean?
3. Said to tell you she was just nippin' next door ...
4. Think I'll join you, Dave.
5. Yes, you got a point there, Dave.
6. No, think I'll stay here ...

5 Phrasal verbs

Match the verbs with their meanings.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. sort out | a. start |
| 2. cut down | b. force someone to leave |
| 3. kick off | c. do physical exercise to keep fit |
| 4. work out | d. reduce the amount of something |
| 5. chuck out | e. dilute a liquid to make it weaker |
| 6. water down | f. deal with a difficult person successfully |

6 What's the topic?

Which of these topics do you think is the main topic of the play?

- a. keeping fit
- b. losing weight
- c. drinking too much
- d. diet
- e. violence
- f. relationships

7 Discussion

What action should the authorities take to stop young people drinking too much alcohol?