

TEACHER'S NOTES

Zumba

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Overview: Suggestions for using the **Macmillan Dictionary Buzzword** article on *Zumba* and the associated worksheets.

Total time for worksheet activities: 45 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 computer 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. Ask students to read through the whole *BuzzWord* article carefully.
4. Ask students to work in pairs to find the answers to the **Find the information** questions. Check the answers as a class.

Look again at the answer to question 1 (*obesogenic*). Explain that this word is formed by combining the adjective *obese* (meaning 'too fat in a way that is not good for your health') and the suffix *-genic* (meaning 'producing or causing'). This suffix is productive and appears in other technical adjectives (e.g. *carcinogenic* = 'causing cancer'). Highlight the fact that *affixation* (adding suffixes / prefixes) is a common way of forming new words in English and that, if you know the meaning of the base word and affix, you can often guess the meaning of the new word. Sometimes new affixes develop when language is used creatively, e.g. on the

model of the word *marathon*, we've arrived at *swimathon*, *telethon*, etc. and now *Zumbathon* (see question 6 of Exercise 1 and the Background section of the *BuzzWord* article).

Tip: Further reading on affixation can be found at p LA14 of the Language Awareness section of the Macmillan Dictionary.

5. When students have completed Exercise 2, ask them to correct the false statements (see the Key for the corrections).
6. Exercise 3 is based on higher level adjectives found in the text. Complete as a class activity, and, if necessary, encourage students to find the adjectives in the text and look for clues in the surrounding context. As an extension activity, you could ask students to write sentences including the adjectives. If necessary, they could look them up in the Macmillan Dictionary and find inspiration from the examples there.
7. Before completing Exercise 5, it might be helpful to explain what a 'trademark' is (a name belonging to a particular company). Trademarks are often so widely recognized and used that they become words in their own right. If they enter the dictionary, they will usually be labelled as trademarks (compare, e.g.: *Sellotape* (UK) / *Scotch tape* (US) in the Macmillan Dictionary). Can students give examples of widely used trademarks from their own languages / countries?

Ask students to complete the exercise and check answers as a class. Point out the example *Hoover*, and go on to explain that

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sometimes, a name or trademark is used so widely that it takes on other parts of speech, so, e.g. *hoover* is now also used as a verb. Furthermore, the word may take on a more general meaning which is not connected with the specific product, so that if you *hoover* or use a *hoover*, for example, you could be using any vacuum cleaner and not just one made by the company Hoover. A newer example of the same phenomenon is the verb *google*, which people now use to refer to the activity of searching the internet generally, and not just using the Google™ search engine. This method of word formation, where a name becomes a word in general use, is technically referred to as *eponymy*, and it's more common than you might think, e.g. *sandwich*, one of the earliest words that students may learn, is an eponym. (Interested students could be invited to research the word's etymology, i.e. the 4th Earl of Sandwich.)

WORKSHEET

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Go to the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article at:

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/Zumba.html>

1 Find the information

Read the *BuzzWord* article on *Zumba* and answer these questions.

1. Look at the third sentence of the first paragraph. What unusual adjective does the author use to describe 21st century lifestyles? Can you explain what it means?
2. What does Zumba help people to do?
3. What is *Aqua Zumba*?
4. What is the key to Zumba's popularity?
5. Look at the Background section of the article. What was Alberto Perez's job and what accidental event led to the creation of Zumba?
6. What word has been coined to describe a fundraising activity involving Zumba?

2 Comprehension check

Are these statements true (T) or false (F) according to the text?

1. People are becoming thinner in the 21st century.
2. Zumba is a good fitness activity for people who enjoy dancing.
3. Zumba is always performed to Latin American music.
4. Zumba is only popular with young people.
5. *Zumba Fitness LLC* was launched in Colombia.
6. Zumba is an invented word.

3 Adjectives – What do they mean?

Match these adjectives from the text with their meanings.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. addictive | a. involving a lot of sitting and not much exercise |
| 2. arbitrary | b. consisting of many different types |
| 3. calorific | c. attracting attention and easy to remember |
| 4. catchy | d. new or unusual |
| 5. novel | e. not done for any particular reason |
| 6. eclectic | f. likely to make you fat |
| 7. sedentary | g. so enjoyable that you want to do it very often |

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4 Thesaurus

The words in the box have a similar meaning to the words *in italics* in the sentences below. Replace the words *in italics* with the correct form of the words in the box.

start up	option	idea	unattractive
create	traditional	area	cause

- 21st century lifestyles *predispose* us to become a size or two larger than we should be.
- You might be the sort of person who finds *conventional* ways of taking exercise rather *unappealing*.
- There's even a water-based *alternative* performed in a swimming pool.
- The concept of Zumba was *invented* in the mid-nineties by Colombian fitness instructor Alberto Perez.
- Perez took this new dance-fitness *concept* to the USA.
- The three Latin Americans *launched* a business named Zumba Fitness LLC.
- The popularity of the activity has even taken it into the *realm* of fundraising.

5 Know your trademarks

Zumba is a trademark. Below are some other examples of trademarks which are regularly seen in English. Can you match them with the correct dictionary definitions?

Thermos	Astro Turf	Velcro	Hoover
Post-it	Jacuzzi	Tabasco	Lycra

- a red sauce used for adding a strong flavour to foods _____
- a container that keeps liquids hot or cold _____
- a vacuum cleaner _____
- a type of hot bath with bubbly water, in which people sit to relax _____
- a type of artificial surface that looks like grass and is used to cover the ground where sports are played

- two narrow bands of cloth with special surfaces that stick together, used for fastening clothes, shoes, etc.

- light cloth made from artificial fibres that stretches and keeps its shape _____
- a small piece of coloured paper that is used for writing notes and temporarily sticking them on other papers and surfaces _____

KEY

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KEY

1 Find the information

1. *obesogenic*. It is used to describe a lifestyle that causes people to become overweight and unfit.
2. Zumba helps people to lose weight and become fitter.
3. a water-based version of Zumba which is done in a swimming pool
4. combining internationally recognized music with simple dance steps
5. He was a fitness instructor. He forgot to bring aerobics music to a class and so used the salsa and merengue music he had with him.
6. *Zumbathon*

2 Comprehension check

1. False. More people are becoming overweight in the 21st century.
2. True
3. False. Zumba is performed to many different kinds of music, including Latin-American, hip-hop and Bollywood.
4. False. Zumba is popular with people of all ages.
5. False. *Zumba Fitness LLC* was launched in the USA.
6. True

3 Adjectives – What do they mean?

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

4 Thesaurus

1. cause
2. traditional, unattractive
3. option
4. created
5. idea
6. started up
7. area

2 Know your trademarks

1. Tabasco
2. Thermos
3. Hoover
4. Jacuzzi
5. Astro Turf
6. Velcro
7. Lycra
8. Post-it