1º BACHILLERATO

UNIT 4 – “BETWEEN US” - RELATIONSHIPS

Missing U

http://film-english.com/2013/09/18/missing-u/

Language level: Intermediate (B1) – Upper Intermediate (B2)

Learner type: Teens and adults

Time: 90 minutes

Activity: Pronunciation of letters, watching a short film, reading a poem, speaking and writing

Topic: Pronunciation and love

Language: Text message abbreviations

Materials: Short film and poem

This lesson is designed around a beautiful short film entitled “Missing U” by the talented Brooke Wagstaff.

missing U poem

Step 1
Ask the students to write the alphabet horizontally on a piece of paper.

Step 2
Say each letter and ask students to repeat.

Step 3
Pair students and tell them you would like them to think of words which have exactly the same pronunciation as a letter. Give an example such as the noun bee which has the same pronunciation as the letter b.

Step 4
When students are ready ask them to say their words and explain the part of speech. Write up the words and ask the other students if they agree that the word has the same pronunciation as the letter.

Step 5
Write the following letters, words and parts of speech on the board:

a – a (article)
b – be (verb), bee (noun)
c – see (verb), sea (noun)
i – I (personal pronoun), eye (noun)
Step 6
Write missing u on the board and ask students what it means. Ask them if they use letters to represent words or parts of words when they write text messages in their language. Ask for some examples.

Step 7
Give some examples of text messages in English which use letters or numbers to represent words or parts of words.

CU – See you
CU L8R – see you later
RU SAD? – Are you sad?

Step 8
Put students in pairs, write up some examples of text speech and ask students to read the messages and write them out in “correct” English.

B4 – Before
RUOK? – Are you OK?
EZ – Easy
W8 4 ME, I’m L8 – Wait for me I’m late
DID U C? – Did you see?
PLZ – Please
OIC – Oh, I see
GR8 – Great
NE – Any
Step 9

Write the letter i on the board, say it and ask students to repeat. Give them some examples of one-syllable words which have the same sound as the letter i, such as high, fly, buy. Put them in pairs and ask them to come up with as many one-syllable words which have this sound. When the students are ready, get feedback and write up words which have different spellings of this sound.

Step 10

Write the letter U on the board, say it and ask students to repeat. Give them some examples of one-syllable words which have the same sound as the letter u, such as you, true, new. Put them in pairs and ask them to come up with as many one-syllable words which have this sound. When the students are ready, get feedback and write up words which have different spellings of this sound.

Step 11

Tell students that they are going to watch a short film titled Missing U which is about a character called i and another character called u. Ask students what they think the film will be about and what story it will tell.

Step 12

Now show the film and ask students to compare their predictions with what they see in the film. Link: https://vimeo.com/71316649

Step 13

Tell students they are going to watch the film again and that they should note down any words in the poem which rhyme.

Step 14

Now give students the poem and ask them to read it. Show the film for a third time and ask students to notice the rhythm of the poem.

Step 15

In pairs ask students to read the poem to each other.

Homework

Ask students to write a short poem in which they use some of the words which have the same pronunciation as letters.
This is the tale of the letter named i,
A lonely author who lived life with a sigh
Typing her treatise on the common green pea
I encountered a problem while pressing one key
The harder she pushed, the worst was still true
I declared to herself “I’m missing my _”
A panic seized i and she looked to the sky
Confirming her fear that all was awry
I dashed through the city and away from the crowds
Fleeing the streets and all that was loud
Climbing a cliff overlooking the sea
I searched for a sign that would answer her plea
“My writing is hindered, my home life is stark.
_pon a jo_rney for _. I m_st now embark.”
She hopped on a ship and it sailed double quick
Clutching her side, i felt quite seasick
She arrived at a jungle all filled with suspense

The lump in her throat said she’d moved well past tense
The bees they were buzzing, the blue jays flew near
But i gathered her courage and slashed past her fear
She burst through to a vista all cloaked in blue
And i’s eyes slowly widened as they took in the view.
Umbrellas, ukuleles and UFOs too,
All could be found in this haven of u.
“You’re welcome to stay, but you won’t see much here.
When the b_rds flew away so went the cheer.
The f_sh are long gone, no Key l_me p_e,
There’s plenty of sorry, but not even one i.”
She peered at his face: kind, handsome and true.
“I am none but i. U is that you?”
U looked at me then like I will never forget
And I took your hand on the day that we met.
So that is the story according to me
Of how i found u and they became we.