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So how were the Noughties for you?

Long version of English lesson plan = 1 or 2 x 90 mins

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Ideas and Articles by David Robinson	

18th January 2010

Category: History / World / The Noughties
Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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THE ARTICLE

So how were the Noughties for you?

The Noughties are now over. Another decade has ended. So how were the Noughties for you? Was the era a success or will you regard them like having had a big hangover? How will you remember them? What was the best bit of the Noughties? There are many things that happened in this era. The TV and newspapers have been full of articles about this decade. It certainly gets one thinking about the Noughties. For example what were the top 5 films of the Noughties? What were the top 5 TV programmes...The top 5 important historical moments...The top 3 records of the era? What were the worst top 3 records? Who made the headlines during the Noughties? Who were your favourite film stars, musicians and politicians? Which ones did you detest? What were the political scandals of the Noughties? Who got fired? Who triumphed? Who died? Who were the top 3 best sportsmen and women? What were the top 3 sports events of the decade? How did society change in the Noughties? Were we better or worse off? What new gadgets did we start using? Just how did the financial crisis hit you at the end of the Noughties?

The Noughties got us more online. Social networks rapidly grew. People got fatter in the Noughties! Many countries saw either mass immigration or emigration. Reality TV became popular. Binge drinking got worse. A smoking ban came in across Europe forcing many pubs to close. There was Botox and Viagra! There was too much easy credit. We all paid too much for houses. The EU expanded eastwards. New work opportunities brought the Polish plumber to the UK. The EU continued its Big Brother stranglehold on Europe. There was the Lisbon Treaty saga then the crushing of incandescent light bulbs! A new dim rather than dark age has now emerged! Big Brother got bigger, and I'm not only talking about the TV reality show. States began building databases on every citizen. Funny, I thought that ended when communism ended in Eastern Europe! Wrong! George Orwell was right! Come to think about it so was the Czech President.

So how were the Noughties for you? – 18th January 2010

The Human Rights Act arrived in 2000 and where did it get us? There was Harry Potter! Italy won the football World Cup in Germany. But probably the most defining moment in the Noughties must be 9/11 in 2001. The War on Terror began. Life has never been the same since! Tell me, what exactly did happen to Bin Laden? Then there's George W. Bush. What a popular guy he was! Still, he had his poodle on a lead, Tony Blair. The French saw a little Frenchman stand on his soapbox to talk to Germany's answer to Margaret Thatcher – Angela Merkel. While Italy's Prime Minister got a smack on the face. Other notable events include the Pope dying. There was also the Great Tsunami in the Indian Ocean. The world woke up to the Somali pirate issue. Iran also upset the West in its quest for nuclear power. Then there was the financial crisis. What a disaster that's been for many people! The meltdown that spread quicker than butter has affected each and every one of us. Banks crashed as did share and property prices. Bankers became loathed for getting their bank bonuses. Many countries at the end of the Noughties endured unemployment. Many jobless people lived on benefits.

The decade ended with the Afghanistan and Iran issue unresolved. The Israeli and Palestinian dispute will take another 2,000 years to solve. Global warming became the top issue of 2009. The Chinese soon cooled any realistic hope of achieving anything from the Copenhagen summit on it. In fact, while China emerged as the new world superpower Britain lost its world superpower status - ending the decade failing to stop a British man who was mentally ill from being executed for drug smuggling in China. In 2009, the world lost some great names: Ted Kennedy, Patrick Swayze & Michael Jackson all died. Perhaps the biggest surprise of 2009 must be Scottish singer Susan Boyle! The Noughties started with a big party. They ended with many having a big financial hangover. As for the future who knows? The Teenies will be harder for many. They will be lean and mean, as the debt crisis created by the financial crisis now has to be repaid. What we need is vision. Maybe the new American President Barack Obama can help solve the world's problems? Perhaps we need Mr Bean! No, we have Mr Brown! Welcome to the Teenies!

So how were the Noughties for you? – 18th January 2010

LET'S START

1. The Noughties: Think of 5 things you can remember about the Noughties? (2000-2009). Go round the room swapping details.

2. Dictation: The teacher will read 4 to 6 lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self correct your work from page 2 - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than 5 is very good. 10 is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than 20 - we need to do some work!

3. Reading: The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. Vocabulary: Students now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. The article: Students look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

6. Let's write! An e-mail: Write and send an e-mail to your teacher about **the Noughties**. (200 words) (Imagine!) Your e-mail can be read out in class.

7. Let's tell a story! Below are 20 words and phrases from the article. Use them to compile your own story about **the Noughties**. (Imagine!) Add 2 words of your own. Tell your story to your partner. (*Maybe tick off your words as you tell it*)

1	decade	11	Teenies
2	Harry Potter	12	era
3	some great names	13	banks
4	the Noughties	14	Tsunami
5	George W. Bush	15	financial crisis
6	Polish Plumber	16	best bit
7	Botox and Viagra	17	social networks
8	scandals	18	films
9	sports events	19	records
10	gadgets	20	EU
Your choice 1 _____		Your choice 2 _____	

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their stories in front of the class.

8. Let's chat! In pairs. One of you rings your fellow student who is in another country on your mobile or on Skype! Chat about the Noughties. What do you best remember about them! Momentarily there is a bad line. *5-minutes*.

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9. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score 1 point for each correct answer, and ½ point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Name the Treaty.
- 2) What did States begin doing?
- 3) What got dim?
- 4) Who is George Orwell?
- 5) Name the Czech President.
- 6) What is Tony Blair?

Student B

- 1) What did banks do?
- 2) Who is Mr Bean?
- 3) Who is Mr Brown?
- 4) What happened to the Italian Prime Minister?
- 5) Which new superpower emerged?
- 6) Who was the biggest surprise of 2009?

10. Let's debate: In pairs. Students A think the Noughties were great. Students B think otherwise. Explain why.

11. Let's think! Swap partners. With your new partner on the board write as many words to do with **the Noughties** as you can. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

12. Let's compile! Sentences: Choose six/nine of the words from No 11. Write two/three sentences using two/three words in each. Underline your chosen words. The teacher will if necessary correct your work. Students might be asked to read their sentences aloud.

13. Let's think! Think of 3 positive things about the Noughties. Then add 3 negative things. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these?

3 positive things	3 negative things
1	1
2	2
3	3

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

14. Economic: Some economic thinking: How did the world economy change during the Noughties? Was it better or worse than the 90's? How did your country's economy do during this period? Did it improve or get worse?

15. Random Noughties: With your partner think of 3 top sports events, 3 top sportswomen, 3 top sportsmen, 3 top musicians, 3 important events in your country, 3 international events, 3 top TV programmes, 3 political scandals, 3 new gadgets and 3 top records.

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16. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) The Noughties _____
- b) I loved the Noughties _____
- c) I hated the Noughties _____
- d) The decade _____
- e) The highlight of the era _____

17. Let's unscramble: Try to unscramble the following sentences:

- 1) You Noughties the were for so how
- 2) Noughties bit was best what the of the
- 3) One gets Noughties thinking it about the certainly
- 4) immigration mass there everywhere was
- 5) UK arrived Polish the in plumber the

(answers are on page 16)

18. Let's talk! The Noughties: *In pairs/groups/as a class.* Discuss together the changes in the world during the Noughties. What are your conclusions? *5-minutes.*

19. Presentation: In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a 2 minute presentation on ***the Noughties***. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation. The class can vote on the best presentation. Class – After the presentations go through the strong and weak points on each presentation. Learn from the results.

20. Predictions for the Teenies (2010-2019): In pairs think of 3 things you want to do in the Teenies (2010-2019). Then make 3 predictions of worldwide things that you think might happen. Compare results with others.

Things you want to do between 2010-2019	Your worldwide predictions between 2010-2019
1	1
2	2
3	3

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

21. Let's think! Quick-fire! In a group in a circle. A quick-fire session. The teacher asks the class, **"I love the Noughties because..."**

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: After reading the article guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. People got thinner in the Noughties | T / F |
| b. The Polish plasterer arrived in the UK | T / F |
| c. There was Botox and Viagra | T / F |
| d. There was mass emigration everywhere | T / F |
| e. Binge drinking got worse | T / F |
| f. Reality TV became unpopular on TV | T / F |
| g. A smoking ban came in across most of Europe | T / F |
| h. There was too much easy credit | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| a. citizen | invention |
| b. success | large |
| c. big | telly |
| d. just | shining |
| e. TV | got bigger |
| f. dim | resident |
| g. incandescent | arrived |
| h. emerged | triumph |
| i. gadget | poorly lit |
| j. expand | so |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| a. The Noughties | in this era. |
| b. Another decade | you remember them? |
| c. So how were | films of the Noughties? |
| d. will you regard them | of the Noughties? |
| e. How will | about the Noughties |
| f. What was the best bit | has ended. |
| g. There are many things that happened | did we start using? |
| h. It certainly gets one thinking | the Noughties for you? |
| i. what were the top 5 films | like having had a big hangover? |
| j. What new gadgets | are now over |

GAP FILL: READING

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The _____ are now over. Another decade has ended. So how were the Noughties for you? Was the era a success or will you regard them like having had a big _____? How will you remember them? What was the best bit of the Noughties? There are many things that happened in this _____. The TV and newspapers have been full of articles about this _____. It certainly gets one thinking about the Noughties. For example what were the top 5 _____ of the Noughties? What were the top 5 TV programmes...The top 5 _____ historical moments...The top 3 records of the era? What were the worst top 3 records? Who made the headlines during the Noughties? Who were your favourite film stars, _____ and politicians? Which ones did you detest? What were the political scandals of the Noughties? Who got fired? Who triumphed? Who died? Who were the top 3 best sportsmen and women? What were the top 3 sports events of the decade? How did _____ change in the Noughties? Were we better or worse off? What new gadgets did we start using? Just how did the financial crisis hit you at the end of the Noughties?

The Noughties got us more _____. Social networks rapidly grew. People got fatter in the Noughties! Many countries saw either mass immigration or emigration. Reality TV became popular. Binge drinking got worse. A smoking ___ came in across Europe forcing many pubs to close. There was Botox and Viagra! There was too much easy credit. We all paid too much for houses. The EU expanded eastwards. New work opportunities brought the Polish plumber to the UK. The EU continued its Big Brother _____ on Europe. There was the Lisbon Treaty saga then the crushing of _____ light bulbs! A new ___ rather than dark age has now emerged! Big Brother got bigger, and I'm not only talking about the TV reality show. States began building _____ on every citizen. Funny, I thought that ended when _____ ended in Eastern Europe! Wrong! George Orwell was right! Come to think about it so was the Czech President.

films

decade

hangover

musicians

era

important

society

Noughties

incandescent

plumber

databases

communism

online

stranglehold

dim

ban

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

So how were the Noughties for you?

The Noughties are now over. Another decade has ended. So how _____ for you? Was the era a success _____ them like having had a big hangover? How will you remember them? _____ of the Noughties? There are many things that happened in this era. The TV and newspapers have been full of articles about this decade. It certainly _____ about the Noughties. For example what were the top 5 films of the Noughties? What were the top 5 TV programmes...The top 5 important historical moments...The top 3 records of the era? What were the worst top 3 records? Who made the headlines during the Noughties? Who were your _____, musicians and politicians? Which ones did you detest? What were the political scandals of the Noughties? Who got fired? Who triumphed? Who died? Who were the top 3 best sportsmen and women? What were the top 3 sports events of the decade? How did society change in the Noughties? Were we better or worse off? What _____ start using? Just how did the financial crisis hit you at the end of the Noughties?

The Noughties got us more online. _____. People got fatter in the Noughties! Many countries saw either mass immigration or emigration. Reality TV became popular. _____. A smoking ban came in across Europe forcing many pubs to close. There _____. There was too much easy credit. We all paid too much for houses. The EU expanded eastwards. New work opportunities brought _____ the UK. The EU continued its Big Brother stranglehold on Europe. There was the Lisbon Treaty saga then the crushing of incandescent light bulbs! A new dim _____ has now emerged! Big Brother got bigger, and I'm not only talking about the TV reality show. States began building databases on every citizen. Funny, I thought that ended when communism ended in Eastern Europe! Wrong! George Orwell was right! Come _____ was the Czech President.

So how were the Noughties for you? – 18th January 2010

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. What was the biggest record of the Noughties?
- c. What was the best gadget of the Noughties?
- d. Who was the best film star of the Noughties?
- e. Who was the best music group of the Noughties?
- f. Who was the best female artist of the Noughties?
- g. Who was the best male artist of the Noughties?
- h. What was your favourite TV programme of the Noughties?
- i. What TV channel did you watch most in the Noughties?
- j. What decade do you prefer most in your life? Why this one?



STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. What do you think about what you read?
- b. Who was your favourite sportsman of the Noughties?
- c. Who was your favourite sportswoman of the Noughties?
- d. What was the most important event of the Noughties?
- e. What was the most important event in your life in the Noughties?
- f. Who was the most famous person in the Noughties?
- g. Whose death do you remember most from the Noughties?
- h. Which political scandal do you remember from the Noughties?
- i. What did you give up in the Noughties?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

So how were the Noughties for you? – 18th January 2010

Let's brainstorm!

The Noughties!

Allow 10-20 minutes

Small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

Brainstorm some ideas about **the Noughties**. Choose a spokesperson who can present your ideas to the class at the end of your preparation. Present it visually or use the board etc... Try to be imaginative! *10-20 minutes*.

	Your ideas
1) 5 top musicians	
2) 5 top songs	
3) 5 major events	
4) 5 celebrities	
5) 5 politicians	
6) 5 sportsmen or sportswomen	
7) 5 new gadgets	

The teacher can moderate the session.

PUT THE ARTICLE BACK TOGETHER

Put the article back together

- () your favourite film stars, musicians and politicians? Which ones did you detest? What were the political scandals of the Noughties? Who got fired? Who triumphed? Who died? Who were the top 3 best sportsmen and
- () only talking about the TV reality show. States began building databases on every citizen. Funny, I thought that ended when communism ended in
- (1) The Noughties are now over. Another decade has ended. So how were the Noughties for you? Was the era a success or will you regard them like having had a big hangover? How will you remember them? What was the
- () Noughties? The Noughties got us more online. Social networks rapidly grew. People got fatter in the Noughties! Many countries saw either mass immigration or emigration. Reality TV became popular. Binge drinking got
- () the top 5 films of the Noughties? What were the top 5 TV programmes... The top 5 important historical moments...The top 3 records of the era? What were the worst top 3 records? Who made the headlines during the Noughties? Who were
- () UK. The EU continued its Big Brother stranglehold on Europe. There was the Lisbon Treaty saga then the crushing of incandescent light bulbs! A new dim rather than dark age has now emerged! Big Brother got bigger, and I'm not
- () Eastern Europe! Wrong! George Orwell was right! Come to think about it so was the Czech President.
- () best bit of the Noughties? There are many things that happened in this era. The TV and newspapers have been full of articles about this decade. It certainly gets one thinking about the Noughties. For example what were
- () women? What were the top 3 sports events of the decade? How did society change in the Noughties? Were we better or worse off? What new gadgets did we start using? Just how did the financial crisis hit you at the end of the
- () worse. A smoking ban came in across Europe forcing many pubs to close. There was Botox and Viagra! There was too much easy credit. We all paid too much for houses. The EU expanded eastwards. New work opportunities brought the Polish plumber to the UK.

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LANGUAGE: Choose the correct words from a–d below and write them in the article.

The Noughties are now over. Another decade has ended. So how were the Noughties for you? Was the era a success or will you regard them like having had a big hangover? How will you remember them? What was the best bit of the Noughties? There are many things that happened in this era. The TV and newspapers have been full of articles about this decade. It certainly gets one thinking about the Noughties. For example what were the top 5 films of the Noughties? What were the top 5 TV programmes...The top 5 important historical moments...The top 3 records of the era? What were the worst top 3 records? Who made the headlines during the Noughties? Who were your favourite film stars, musicians and politicians? Which ones did you detest? What were the political scandals of the Noughties? Who got fired? Who triumphed? Who died? Who were the top 3 best sportsmen and women? What were the top 3 sports events of the decade? How did society change in the Noughties? Were we better or worse off? What new gadgets did we start using? Just how did the financial crisis hit you at the end of the Noughties? The Noughties got us more online. Social networks rapidly grew. People got fatter in the Noughties! Many countries saw either mass immigration or emigration. Reality TV became popular. (1)___ drinking got worse. A smoking (2)___ came in across Europe forcing many pubs to close. There was Botox and Viagra! There was too much easy (3)__. We all paid too much for houses. The EU expanded eastwards. New work opportunities brought the Polish (4)___ to the UK. The (5)___ continued its Big Brother stranglehold on Europe. There was the Lisbon Treaty (6)___ then the (7)___ of incandescent light bulbs! A new (8)___ rather than dark age has now emerged! Big Brother got bigger, and I'm not only talking about the TV reality show. States began building databases on every citizen. (9)___, I (10)___ that ended when communism ended in Eastern Europe! (11)___! George Orwell was right! Come to think about it so was the Czech (12)___.

1.	(a)	singe	(b)	whinge	(c)	Binge	(d)	tinge
2.	(a)	tan	(b)	ban	(c)	pan	(d)	ran
3.	(a)	credit	(b)	debit	(c)	money	(d)	dosh
4.	(a)	Miner	(b)	electrician	(c)	plumber	(d)	Nurse
5.	(a)	NATO	(b)	UK	(c)	USA	(d)	EU
6.	(a)	lager	(b)	saga	(c)	gaga	(d)	sagas
7.	(a)	crushing	(b)	washing	(c)	rushing	(d)	brushing
8.	(a)	brim	(b)	rim	(c)	trim	(d)	dim
9.	(a)	fun	(b)	funnies	(c)	funnily	(d)	funny
10.	(a)	thought	(b)	though	(c)	thoroughly	(d)	through
11.	(a)	write	(b)	Wong	(c)	wrong	(d)	prong
12.	(a)	boss	(b)	President	(c)	PM	(d)	citizen

GRAMMAR 1: MIDWAY

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

So how were the Noughties for you?

The Noughties are now over. (1)___ decade has ended. So how were the Noughties for you? Was the era a success or will you regard them like having had a big hangover? How will you remember (2)___? What was the best bit of the Noughties? There are many things (3)___ happened in (4)___ era. The TV and newspapers have been full of articles about this decade. It certainly gets one thinking about the Noughties. For example what were the top 5 films of the Noughties? What were the top 5 TV programmes...The top 5 important historical moments...The top 3 records of the era? What were the worst top 3 records? Who made the headlines during the Noughties? Who were (5)___ favourite film stars, musicians and politicians? (6)___ ones did you detest? What were the political scandals of the Noughties? Who got fired? Who triumphed? Who died? Who were the top 3 best sportsmen and women? (7)___ were the top 3 sports events of the decade? How did society change in the Noughties? Were we better or worse off? What new gadgets did we start using? (8)___ how did the financial crisis hit you at the end of the Noughties?

The Noughties got us more online. Social networks rapidly grew. People got fatter in the Noughties! Many countries saw either mass immigration or emigration. Reality TV became popular. Binge drinking got worse. A smoking ban came in across Europe forcing (1)___ pubs to close. (2)___ was Botox and Viagra! There was too much easy credit. We all paid too (3)___ for houses. The EU expanded eastwards. New work opportunities brought the Polish plumber to the UK. The EU continued its Big Brother stranglehold on Europe. There was the Lisbon Treaty saga (4)___ the crushing of incandescent light bulbs! A new dim rather (5)___ dark age has now emerged! Big Brother got bigger, and I'm not (6)___ talking about the TV reality show. States began building databases on (7)___ citizen. Funny, I thought that ended (8)___ communism ended in Eastern Europe! Wrong! George Orwell was right! Come to think about it so was the Czech President.

this
what
your
which
just
another
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many
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every
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when
much
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GRAMMAR 2: EASY

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

So how were the Noughties for you?

The Noughties are now over. Another decade has ended. (1)___ how were the Noughties (2)___ you? Was the era a success or will you regard them like having had a big hangover? How will you remember them? What was the best bit of the Noughties? There are many things that happened in this era. The TV and newspapers have been full of articles about this decade. (3)___ certainly gets one thinking about the Noughties. For example what were the top 5 films of the Noughties? What were the top 5 TV programmes...The top 5 important historical moments...The top 3 records of the era? What were the worst top 3 records? Who made the headlines during the Noughties? (4)___ were your favourite film stars, musicians and politicians? Which ones did you detest? What were (5)___ political scandals of the Noughties? Who got fired? Who triumphed? Who died? Who were the top 3 best sportsmen and women? What were the top 3 sports events of the decade? (6)___ did society change in the Noughties? Were we better or worse off? What new gadgets did (7)___ start using? Just how did the financial crisis hit you at the end (8)___ the Noughties?

The Noughties got (1)___ more online. Social networks rapidly grew. People got fatter in the Noughties! Many countries saw either mass immigration or emigration. Reality TV became popular. Binge drinking got worse. (2)___ smoking ban came in across Europe forcing many pubs to close. There was Botox and Viagra! There was too much easy credit. We all paid too much for houses. The EU expanded eastwards. New work opportunities brought the Polish plumber to (3)___ UK. The EU continued (4)___ Big Brother stranglehold on Europe. There was the Lisbon Treaty saga then the crushing of incandescent light bulbs! A new dim rather than dark age has now emerged! Big Brother got bigger, (5)___ I'm not only talking about the TV reality show. States began building databases (6)___ every citizen. Funny, (7)___ thought that ended when communism ended in Eastern Europe! Wrong! George Orwell was right! Come to think about it (8)___ was the Czech President.

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	Noughties	11	unemployment
2	quest	12	decade
3	summit	13	politicians
4	Teenies	14	financial
5	hangover	15	immigration
6	Tsunami	16	plumber
7	countries	17	beginning
8	realistic	18	stranglehold
9	communism	19	incandescent
10	favourite	20	gadgets

HOMEWORK

Newspaper article: Write an article between 200 and 500 words on **the Noughties**. Read your article to your classmates and discuss them in the next lesson.

WRITING: In class:

Five-minute article: Write an article on **the Noughties**. You have five minutes. The teacher will select some students to read out their work.

ANSWERS – 2 – UNSCRAMBLED

- 1) So how were the Noughties for you?
- 2) What was the best bit of the Noughties?
- 3) It certainly gets one thinking about the Noughties
- 4) There was mass immigration everywhere
- 5) The Polish plumber arrived in the UK

So how were the Noughties for you? – 18th January 2010

ANSWERS - 1

TRUE / FALSE:

a. F b. F c. T d. F e. T f. F g. T h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

a. citizen	resident
b. success	triumph
c. big	large
d. just	so
e. TV	telly
f. dim	poorly lit
g. incandescent	shining
h. emerged	arrived
i. gadget	invention
j. expand	got bigger

PHRASE MATCH:

a. The Noughties	are now over
b. Another decade	has ended.
c. So how were	the Noughties for you?
d. will you regard them	like having had a big hangover?
e. How will	you remember them?
f. What was the best bit	of the Noughties?
g. There are many things that happened	in this era.
h. It certainly gets one thinking	about the Noughties
i. what were the top 5	films of the Noughties?
j. What new gadgets	did we start using?

GAP FILL: So how were the Noughties for you? The **Noughties** are now over. Another decade has ended. So how were the Noughties for you? Was the era a success or will you regard them like having had a big **hangover**? How will you remember them? What was the best bit of the Noughties? There are many things that happened in this **era**. The TV and newspapers have been full of articles about this **decade**. It certainly gets one thinking about the Noughties. For example what were the top 5 **films** of the Noughties? What were the top 5 TV programmes...The top 5 **important** historical moments...The top 3 records of the era? What were the worst top 3 records? Who made the headlines during the Noughties? Who were your favourite film stars, **musicians** and politicians? Which ones did you detest? What were the political scandals of the Noughties? Who got fired? Who triumphed? Who died? Who were the top 3 best sportsmen and women? What were the top 3 sports events of the decade? How did **society** change in the Noughties? Were we better or worse off? What new gadgets did we start using? Just how did the financial crisis hit you at the end of the Noughties? The Noughties got us more **online**. Social networks rapidly grew. People got fatter in the Noughties! Many countries saw either mass immigration or emigration. Reality TV became popular. Binge drinking got worse. A smoking **ban** came in across Europe forcing many pubs to close. There was Botox and Viagra! There was too much easy credit. We all paid too much for houses. The EU expanded eastwards. New work opportunities brought the Polish plumber to the UK. The EU continued its Big Brother **stranglehold** on Europe. There was the Lisbon Treaty saga then the crushing of **incandescent** light bulbs! A new **dim** rather than dark age has now emerged! Big Brother got bigger, and I'm not only talking about the TV reality show. States began building **databases** on every citizen. Funny, I thought that ended when **communism** ended in Eastern Europe! Wrong! George Orwell was right! Come to think about it so was the Czech President.

LANGUAGE WORK:

1 - c 2 - b 3 - a 4 - c 5 - d 6 - b 7 - a 8 - d 9 - d 10 - a 11 - c 12 - b

So how were the Noughties for you? – *18th January 2010*