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So what are life's greatest pleasures?

English lesson plan = 1 or 2 x 90 mins or 1 or 2 x 60 min

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Ideas and Articles by David Robinson	

1st February 2010

Category: Lifestyle / Survey / Greatest pleasures
Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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THE ARTICLE

So what are life's greatest pleasures?

Just what are life's greatest pleasures? Is it popping bubble wrap or maybe watching a DVD? Perhaps even your mum's cooking or waking up in a room with an amazing view? Of course, there are many ideas and what may be good for one may be different for others. So just what are the little thrills we all enjoy? Batchelors Cup-a-Soup in Britain recently compiled a top 50 list of suggestions sent in by 3,000 people. Topping the list was a good night's sleep. Insomniacs everywhere will agree!

The top ten favourite little thrills are: (10) Laughing at things that have happened in the past; (9) Catching up with an old friend; (8) Making someone smile; (7) Getting a bargain; (6) Sleeping in newly laundered laundry; (5) Having a lie-in; (4) Crying with laughter; (3) Cuddling up with a partner in bed; (2) Finding a forgotten tenner in your pocket!; (1) A good night's sleep.

The moments we love are unsurprisingly the ones we share with others, such as girlie nights in, looking through old photo albums or catching up with old friends. The list offers some surprises like receiving a letter from a friend or discovering you've lost weight, or realising the queue you're in at the supermarket is moving the quickest! People like to take lunch with friends, have breakfast in bed, and eat a Sunday roast with the family. Other small sources of joy were singing in the car, browsing in a second hand bookshop, finding the perfect fit of jeans and watching a live band.

The next 10 places: (20) First snowfall of the year; (19) Eating a takeaway; (18) Looking through old photo albums; (17) A random person smiling at you in the street; (16) Waking up thinking it's a work day and realising it's the weekend; (15) Breakfast in bed; (14) Discovering you've lost a few pounds; (13) Curling up on the sofa with a good book and a hot drink; (12) Someone saying you look nice!; (11) Eating a Sunday roast with your family.

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Other favourite thrills include: (30) A pampering session at home; (29) A girly night in; (28) Being chatted up; (27) Finding a pair of jeans that fit perfectly; (26) Playing in the snow; (25) Reading a book or listening to your iPod on holiday by the pool; (24) Having a massage; (23) Listening to a baby laughing; (22) Having lunch with friends; (21) Singing your heart out to your favourite song in the car.

Other little pleasurable things we like to do that money simply can't buy are: (40) Getting dressed up for a night out; (39) Your mum's cooking; (38) Staying up all night getting to know someone special; (37) Fitting into an old pair of jeans again after losing some weight; (36) Waking up in a room with an amazing view; (33) Looking at a baby asleep in a cot; (32) Sitting in a pub with your friends; (31) The smell of freshly cut grass.

The final ten places are: (50) Popping bubble wrap; (49) Getting tipsy; (48) Watching a DVD; (47) The cold side of a pillow; (46) Your queue being the quickest at the supermarket; (45) Getting a new hairstyle; (44) Going to the cinema; (43) Browsing in a second hand bookshop; (42) Drinking a cold beer after work; (41) Watching a band live.

Well, there you have top 50 greatest pleasures. What are your favourite pleasures that money simply can't buy?

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EXERCISES

1. Greatest pleasures in life: What are your top 3 everyday greatest pleasures in life? 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 chat! In pairs. One of you rings your fellow student who is in another country on your mobile or on Skype! Chat about a survey you have just read about life's greatest pleasures that money can't buy. There is a bad line. *5-minutes*.

7. Let's tell a story! Choose 10 greatest pleasures from the article. Write them below. Using them compile a short story about **life's greatest pleasures**. (Imagine!) Tell your story to your partner.

1	6
2	7
3	8
4	9
5	10

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

8. Let's think! Choose 5 little pleasures you like from the article. Then add 5 of your own. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these?

5 greatest pleasures from the article	5 G.P. of your own
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

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9. Let's debate: In pairs. Students A think **life's greatest pleasures** are important. Students B think otherwise. Explain why.

10. 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 soup company.
- 2) How many people responded?
- 3) What is the No 1 pleasure?
- 4) What pleasure is at No 50?
- 5) The moments we love are?
- 6) People like to...?

Student B

- 1) What is an insomniac?
- 2) What country was the list done in?
- 3) Name 2 pleasures in the bottom 40.
- 4) Name 2 pleasures from the top 10.
- 5) Name 2 pleasures from the final 50.
- 6) Name some other small sources of joy.

11. Let's write! An e-mail: Write and send an e-mail (200 words) to your teacher about **life's greatest pleasures**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

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

13. Let's write! Spend 5 minutes writing a short article on **life's greatest pleasures**. Students might be asked to read their passage aloud.

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

- a) My top three _____
- b) The little thrills _____
- c) The survey _____
- d) My favourite _____
- e) I like to _____

15. Let's think! In a group in a circle. A quickfire session. The teacher asks the class, "**Life's greatest pleasures** include..."

GAP FILL: READING

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

So what are life's greatest pleasures?

Just what are life's greatest pleasures? Is it popping _____ or maybe watching a DVD? Perhaps even your mum's cooking or waking up in a room with an amazing ____? Of course, there are many ideas and what may be good for one may be _____ for others. So just what are the little thrills we all enjoy? Batchelors Cup-a-Soup in Britain recently compiled a top 50 list of suggestions sent in by 3,000 people. Topping the list was a good night's sleep. _____ everywhere will agree!

The top ten favourite little _____ are: (10) Laughing at things that have happened in the past; (9) Catching up with an old friend; (8) Making someone _____; (7) Getting a bargain; (6) Sleeping in newly laundered _____; (5) Having a _____; (4) Crying with laughter; (3) Cuddling up with a partner in bed; (2) Finding a forgotten tenner in your pocket!; (1) A good night's sleep.

The moments we love are unsurprisingly the ones we share with others, such as _____ nights in, looking through old photo albums or catching up with old friends. The list offers some surprises like receiving a letter from a friend or discovering you've lost weight or realising the queue you're in at the _____ is moving the quickest! People like to take lunch with friends, have breakfast in bed, and eat a Sunday roast with the family. Other small sources of _____ were singing in the car, browsing in a second hand _____, finding the perfect fit of _____ and watching a live band.

The next 10 places: (20) First snowfall of the year; (19) Eating a takeaway; (18) Looking through old photo _____; (17) A random person smiling at you in the street; (16) Waking up thinking it's a work day and realising it's the _____; (15) Breakfast in bed; (14) Discovering you've lost a few pounds; (13) Curling up on the sofa with a good book and a hot drink; (12) Someone saying you look nice!; (11) Eating a Sunday roast with your _____.

Bubble wrap

thrills

laundry

smile

different

lie-in

view

insomniacs

jeans

albums

weekend

joy

supermarket

family

bookshop

girlie

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

So what are life's greatest pleasures?

Just what are life's greatest pleasures? Is it _____ or maybe watching a DVD? Perhaps even _____ or waking up in a room with an amazing view? Of course, there are _____ may be good for one may be different for others. So just what are the little thrills we all enjoy? Batchelors Cup-a-Soup in Britain recently compiled a top 50 _____ sent in by 3,000 people. Topping the list was a good night's sleep. Insomniacs everywhere will agree!

The top ten favourite little thrills are: (10) Laughing at things that have happened in the past; (9) _____ old friend; (8) Making someone smile; (7) Getting a bargain; (6) Sleeping in _____; (5) Having a lie-in; (4) _____; (3) Cuddling up with a partner in bed; (2) Finding a forgotten tenner in your pocket!; (1) A good night's sleep.

The moments we love are unsurprisingly the ones _____, such as girly nights in, looking through old photo albums or catching up with old friends. The list offers some surprises like receiving a letter from a friend or discovering you've lost weight or realising the queue you're in at the supermarket is moving the quickest! People like to take lunch with friends, have _____, and eat a Sunday roast with the family. Other small sources of joy were singing in the car, browsing in a second hand bookshop, finding the perfect fit of jeans and watching a live band.

The next 10 places: (20) First snowfall of the year; (19) Eating a takeaway; (18) Looking through _____; (17) A random person smiling at you in the street; (16) Waking up thinking it's a work day and realising it's the weekend; (15) _____; (14) Discovering you've lost a few pounds; (13) Curling up on the sofa with a good book and a hot drink; (12) Someone saying you look nice!; (11) Eating _____ your family.

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DISCUSSION

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

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. Be honest, do you like to popping bubble wrap?
- c. What smells do you like?
- d. What smells do you dislike?
- e. How often do you sing your heart out to your favourite song in your car?
- f. Do you like a girlie night in?
- g. When did you last play in the snow?
- h. How often do you read a book by the pool?
- i. How often do you have lunch with friends?
- j. When did a random person last smile at you on the street?



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

- a. What soup company is your favourite?
- b. When did you last catch up with an old friend?
- c. Have you ever forgotten a tenner in your pocket?
- d. Do you like a good night's sleep?
- e. What was the last band you saw play live?
- f. Do you ever eat lunch with your family on a Sunday? If yes, what do you normally eat?
- g. When was the first snowfall this year?
- h. When was the last time you had breakfast in bed?
- i. How often do you curl up on the sofa with a good book and a hot drink?
- j. What soups do you like?

PUT THE ARTICLE BACK TOGETHER

Put the article back together

- () night's sleep. Insomniacs everywhere will agree! The top ten favourite little thrills are: (10) Laughing at things that have happened in the past; (9) Catching up with an old friend; (8) Making someone smile; (7) Getting a
- () up on the sofa with a good book and a hot drink; (12) Someone saying you look nice!; (11) Eating a Sunday roast with your family.
- () were singing in the car, browsing in a second hand bookshop, finding the perfect fit of jeans and watching a live band. The next 10 places: (20) First snowfall of the year; (19) Eating a takeaway; (18) Looking through old
- () you've lost weight or realising the queue you're in at the supermarket is moving the quickest! People like to take lunch with friends, have breakfast in bed, and eat a Sunday roast with the family. Other small sources of joy
- (1) Just what are life's greatest pleasures? Is it popping bubble wrap or maybe watching a DVD? Perhaps even your mum's cooking or waking up in a room with an amazing view? Of course, there are many ideas and what may be
- () bargain; (6) Sleeping in newly laundered laundry; (5) Having a lie-in; (4) Crying with laughter; (3) Cuddling up with a partner in bed; (2) Finding a forgotten tenner in your pocket!; (1) A good night's sleep. The moments we
- () good for one may be different for others. So just what are the little thrills we all enjoy? Batchelors Cup-a-Soup in Britain recently compiled a top 50 list of suggestions sent in by 3,000 people. Topping the list was a good
- () love are unsurprisingly the ones we share with others, such as girlie nights in, looking through old photo albums or catching up with old friends. The list offers some surprises like receiving a letter from a friend or discovering
- () photo albums; (17) A random person smiling at you in the street; (16) Waking up thinking it's a work day and realising it's the weekend; (15) Breakfast in bed; (14) Discovering you've lost a few pounds; (13) Curling

GRAMMAR 1: MIDWAY

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

So what are life's greatest pleasures?

(1)___ what are life's greatest pleasures? Is it popping bubble wrap or (2)___ watching a DVD? Perhaps (3)___ your mum's cooking or waking up in a room with an amazing view? Of course, (4)___ are many ideas and what may be good for one may be different for others. So just (5)___ are the little thrills we all enjoy? Batchelors Cup-a-Soup in Britain recently compiled a top 50 list of suggestions sent in by 3,000 people. Topping the list was a good night's sleep. Insomniacs everywhere will agree!

The top ten favourite little thrills are: (10) Laughing at things (6)___ have happened in the past; (9) Catching up with an old friend; (8) Making someone smile; (7) Getting a bargain; (6) Sleeping in newly laundered laundry; (5) Having a lie-in; (4) Crying with laughter; (3) Cuddling up (7)___ a partner in bed; (2) Finding a forgotten tenner in (8)___ pocket!; (1) A good night's sleep.

The moments we love are unsurprisingly the ones we share with others, (1)___ girlie nights in, looking through old photo albums or catching up with old friends. The list offers (2)___ surprises like receiving a letter (3)___ a friend or discovering you've lost weight or realising the queue you're in at the supermarket is moving the quickest! People like to take lunch with friends, have breakfast in bed, and eat a Sunday roast with the family. (4)___ small sources of joy were singing in the car, browsing in a second hand bookshop, finding the perfect fit of jeans and watching a live band.

The next 10 places: (20) First snowfall of the year; (19) Eating a takeaway; (18) Looking (5)___ old photo albums; (17) A random person smiling at you in the street; (16) Waking up thinking it's a work day and realising it's the weekend; (15) Breakfast in bed; (14) Discovering you've lost a few pounds; (13) Curling up on the sofa (6)___ a good book and a hot drink; (12) (7)___ saying you look nice!; (11) Eating a Sunday roast with (8)___ family.

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GRAMMAR 2: EASY

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

So what are life's greatest pleasures?

Just what are life's greatest pleasures? Is it popping bubble wrap or maybe watching a DVD? Perhaps even your mum's cooking (1)___ waking up in a room with an amazing view? (2)___ course, there are many ideas and what may be good for one may be different for others. (3)___ just what are the little thrills (4)___ all enjoy? Batchelors Cup-a-Soup in Britain recently compiled (5)___ top 50 list of suggestions sent in (6)___ 3,000 people. Topping the list was a good night's sleep. Insomniacs everywhere will agree!

The top ten favourite little thrills are: (10) Laughing at things that have happened (7)___ the past; (9) Catching up with (8)___ old friend; (8) Making someone smile; (7) Getting a bargain; (6) Sleeping in newly laundered laundry; (5) Having a lie-in; (4) Crying with laughter; (3) Cuddling up with a partner in bed; (2) Finding a forgotten tenner in your pocket!; (1) A good night's sleep.

The moments (1)___ love are unsurprisingly the ones we share with others, such as girlie nights in, looking through old photo albums or catching up with old friends. The list offers some surprises like receiving a letter from a friend or discovering you've lost weight (2)___ realising the queue you're in at (3)___ supermarket is moving the quickest! People like to take lunch with friends, have breakfast in bed, and eat a Sunday roast with the family. Other small sources (4)___ joy were singing in the car, browsing in a second hand bookshop, finding the perfect fit of jeans and watching a live band.

The next 10 places: (20) First snowfall of the year; (19) Eating a takeaway; (18) Looking through old photo albums; (17) A random person smiling at you in the street; (16) Waking up thinking (5)___ a work day and realising it's the weekend; (15) Breakfast in bed; (14) Discovering you've lost a few pounds; (13) Curling up (6)___ the sofa with (7)___ good book and a hot drink; (12) Someone saying (8)___ look nice!; (11) Eating a Sunday roast with your family.

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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	favourite	11	suggestions
2	discovering	12	pleasurable
3	receiving	13	listening
4	curling	14	wrap
5	thrills	15	perfectly
6	insomniacs	16	grass
7	through	17	partner
8	laughter	18	laundry
9	browsing	19	random
10	bargain	20	laundered

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: So what are life's greatest pleasures? Just what are life's greatest pleasures? Is it popping **bubble wrap** or maybe watching a DVD? Perhaps even your mum's cooking or waking up in a room with an amazing **view**? Of course, there are many ideas and what may be good for one may be **different** for others. So just what are the little thrills we all enjoy? Batchelors Cup-a-Soup in Britain recently compiled a top 50 list of suggestions sent in by 3,000 people. Topping the list was a good night's sleep. **Insomniacs** everywhere will agree!

The top ten favourite little **thrills** are: (10) Laughing at things that have happened in the past; (9) Catching up with an old friend; (8) Making someone **smile**; (7) Getting a bargain; (6) Sleeping in newly laundered **laundry**; (5) Having a **lie-in**; (4) Crying with laughter; (3) Cuddling up with a partner in bed; (2) Finding a forgotten tenner in your pocket!; (1) A good night's sleep.

The moments we love are unsurprisingly the ones we share with others, such as **girlie** nights in, looking through old photo albums or catching up with old friends. The list offers some surprises like receiving a letter from a friend or discovering you've lost weight or realising the queue you're in at the **supermarket** is moving the quickest! People like to take lunch with friends, have breakfast in bed, and eat a Sunday roast with the family. Other small sources of **joy** were singing in the car, browsing in a second hand **bookshop**, finding the perfect fit of **jeans** and watching a live band.

The next 10 places: (20) First snowfall of the year; (19) Eating a takeaway; (18) Looking through old photo **albums**; (17) A random person smiling at you in the street; (16) Waking up thinking it's a work day and realising it's the **weekend**; (15) Breakfast in bed; (14) Discovering you've lost a few pounds; (13) Curling up on the sofa with a good book and a hot drink; (12) Someone saying you look nice!; (11) Eating a Sunday roast with your **family**.