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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 10/04/15

Do you judge a book by its cover?

Today we are going to talk about books. When you go into a bookshop do you judge a book by its cover? Is the front or back cover important when deciding whether to buy the book or not? Perhaps you like to read what is written on the back cover. It is normally a bit about the book. There could also be a review or two that might make you impulsively buy the book! Some people like to nose inside it and read a snippet or two.

Do you prefer to buy a hardback or softback version, which might be cheaper? Some people like to hold a hardback book in their hands. Others like to display it on their bookshelf after reading it. Of course, a softback cover can bend a bit if you are packing it in your suitcase. Then again you might opt for an e-book. This can be read on a tablet, Kindle, or even mobile phone. Holding a Kindle just isn't the same as holding a hardback book! It is easier to transport and you don't need a bookshelf to put it on after reading.

In some countries book publishers prefer printing hardback books as it increases their profit margins. People can be directed to buy the hardback book en masse simply by the softback book not being available. On the other hand some people prefer buying hardback books. People's book buying habits do vary considerably in different countries!

The size of the book can also be a deciding factor if buying a softback or hardback book. In the UK some new authors and some top authors get their new books published in softback using a much larger format than the traditional softback novel size of 5" x 8". Hardback books normally are size 5.5" x 8.5" or 6" x 9". For people reading e-books you can increase the viewing size of the font to suit your eyes.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about books. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What is an e-book?
- 2) Specify two book sizes.
- 3) What is a Kindle?
- 4) What is a font?
- 5) What does 'read a snippet' mean?

Student B questions

- 1) What does 'to judge a book by its cover' mean?
- 2) What do some people like to hold?
- 3) What does 'en masse' mean here?
- 4) What vary considerably?
- 5) What might a review or two do?

Category: Books / Book Covers / Size and Contents
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

Do you judge a book by its cover? – 10th April 2015

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **'books'**. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Each of you chooses three books you have read in the last year. Write them below. Talk about them!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Each of you adds three books you might like to read. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

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

SPEAKING

In pairs. Each of you writes down a book title you know of in each of the following categories – *Detective, horror, romance, adventure, fiction, non-fiction.* Talk about them. *5 mins.*

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Do you buy books in languages other than your own language?
- 2) What book are you reading at the moment?
- 3) What was the last book you read?
- 4) Do you prefer reading a hardback, softback or e-book? Explain.
- 5) Do you have publishing house monopolies, large bookshop monopolies and distribution wars in your country? Explain.
- 6) When reading a novel which size book is best? Explain.
- 7) Do you use the internet to buy books?
- 8) Do publishers like to flog hardback books in your country?
- 9) Have you ever read a book using a Kindle or other such similar device?
- 10) Do you judge a book by its cover?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Do you judge a book by its cover?*

- 1) A large bookshop owner owned by a large corporation who is trying to steal the market share of the book market and is offering bad contracts to local independent publishers.
- 2) An avid book reader.
- 3) A local author.
- 4) An independent bookshop owner.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 3

Student A is a reporter. *Student B* is a local independent bookshop owner. *Student A* is interviewing *Student B* about book sales of local authors, as well as famous authors. *3-5 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...
Bookshops and libraries in your country

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Is the front cover important when deciding whether to buy a book?
- 2) Are hardback books more expensive than softback books in your country?
- 3) Are e-books cheaper than softback books in your country?
- 4) Where do you buy books in your country?
- 5) Name three book chains in your country.
- 6) Has the internet changed the way you buy books?
- 7) Where do you like to read a book?
- 8) Do independent publishers manage to get their books into the local bookshops in your country?
- 9) Do you support local authors?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

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hardback / books / bookshelf / display / nousey / judge / opt / impulsively

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The size of the book can also be a deciding (4)__ if buying a softback or hardback book. In the UK some new authors and some top (5)__ get their new books published in softback using a much larger (6)__ than the traditional softback (7)__ size of 5" x 8". Hardback books normally are size 5.5" x 8.5" or 6" x 9". For people reading e-books you can increase the viewing size of the (8)__ to suit your eyes.

font / novel / authors / factor / prefer / countries / format / vary

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

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this / some / could / might / when / their / what / even

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The size of the book can also be a deciding factor (3)__ buying a softback or hardback book. In the UK some new authors (4)__ some top authors get their new books published (5)__ softback using a much larger format than the traditional softback novel size (6)__ 5" x 8". Hardback books normally are size 5.5" x 8.5" or 6" x 9". (7)__ people reading e-books (8)__ can increase the viewing size of the font to suit your eyes.

in / on / if / of / you / for / the / and

GAP FILL: LISTENING

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Do you prefer to buy a hardback or softback version, which might be cheaper? Some people like to hold a _____ their hands. Others like to display it on their bookshelf after reading it. Of course, a softback cover can bend a bit if you are packing it in your suitcase. Then again you might opt for an e-book. This can be read on a tablet, Kindle, or even mobile phone. _____ isn't the same as holding a hardback book!

It is easier to transport and you don't need a bookshelf to put it on after reading.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs*, list 20 things you know about **books**. *Five minutes. Talk about each of them.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) E-books _____
- 2) Hardback books _____
- 3) I prefer _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Do you judge a book by its cover?** Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) books
- 2) judge
- 3) impulsively
- 4) nosey
- 5) hardback
- 6) display
- 7) opt
- 8) bookshelf

ANSWERS

- 1) countries
- 2) prefer
- 3) vary
- 4) factor
- 5) authors
- 6) format
- 7) novel
- 8) font

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) normally
- 2) Kindle
- 3) even
- 4) nosey
- 5) version
- 6) cover
- 7) could
- 8) judge
- 9) whether
- 10) review

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12
Good = 15
Very good = 18
Excellent = 20

- 11) impulsively
- 12) snippet
- 13) might
- 14) suitcase
- 15) traditional
- 16) en masse
- 17) considerably
- 18) factor
- 19) authors
- 20) novel

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