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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 15/09/14

The British High School Prom

In the old days right across Britain there was the end of term or Christmas school disco. Today, thousands of schools in Great Britain put on the High School Prom for year 11 students as a reward for completing their GCSE's. These 16 year old students will then go on to take their A levels, leave school to go to college or start work.

The High School Prom idea is based on the American-style High School Prom, which is actually geared for older 18 year old students. In Central Europe 18 year old students do a similar such thing in February by attending a Vienna style Ball.

The British High School Prom is highly successful. It is big business! While the girls dress up in posh frocks, the boys wear their tuxedos, hair gel and fake tan. Students naturally expect their parents to cough up with the money to pay for their big night out.

Many girls want to arrive in a Cinderella style carriage driven by two white stallions. This though can cost a whopping £600 to hire. Alternatively students can arrive in a luxury stretch limo, a Ferrari or even a helicopter.

Girl's dresses can cost a whopping £1,200, though the average dress costs between £99 to £530. Most dresses are imported from America. Each one is different, as every girl hopes to be the 'Belle of the Ball'. Body image is especially important for girls, as each would like to be a Princess for a night.

On the big night students walk up a red carpet and have professional photographers record the moment! Naturally there's a few families and neighbours looking on. Overall, the American High School Prom idea has proved popular in Britain. Is it in your country?

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about the High School Prom. 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 a High School Prom?
- 2) Who coughs up the money?
- 3) How much is the most expensive dress?
- 4) What has proved popular in Britain?
- 5) Why is body image important?

Student B questions

- 1) What is the difference between the British and American High School Proms?
- 2) Name three ways to arrive at a High School Prom.
- 3) What is a Vienna style Ball?
- 4) What do students do after the British High School Prom?
- 5) Where is the red carpet?

**Category: School / High School Prom / Teenagers
Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

The British High School Prom - 15th September 2014

WRITING / SPEAKING

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

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - Choose three things teen girls and boys might wear to the Prom. Write them below. Talk about them.

- | | Girls | | Boys |
|----|--------------|-----|-------------|
| 1) | _____ | (1) | _____ |
| 2) | _____ | (2) | _____ |
| 3) | _____ | (3) | _____ |

Add six things you might see at a High School Prom. What are your conclusions?

- | | | | |
|----|-------|-----|-------|
| 1) | _____ | (1) | _____ |
| 2) | _____ | (2) | _____ |
| 3) | _____ | (3) | _____ |

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

WRITING / SPEAKING

On the board - In pairs - List six do's and don'ts at the High School Prom. Talk about them! *5 mins.*

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) How much peer pressure do you think there is for students who are going to a Prom?
- 3) How would you arrive at a Prom?
- 4) What would you wear to a prom?
- 5) How much would you spend on a dress/tuxedo?
- 6) Why is the British High School Prom now so popular?
- 7) Why has the British High School Prom overtaken the School disco, or has it?
- 8) Why is the British High School Prom not for 18 year olds like in other countries?
- 9) Will a girl 'be judged' at a High School Prom?

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. You are one of the following four guests or are the interviewer. You are in the Teen FM studio. Today's interview is: *The British High School Prom. 10 mins.*

- 1) A 16 year old girl who is going to the school prom.
- 2) A 16 year old boy who is going to the school prom.
- 3) An American High School student who has been to a High School Prom.
- 4) Someone from your country who is a teenager who has been to a similar such Prom or to a Ball etc...

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

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. *Student A* is a girl going to a High School Prom. *Student B* is a boy going to the same High School Prom. Start a conversation about it. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes - As a class.

High School Prom movies

Talk about them

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think of what you've just read?
- 2) Is the High School Prom just an excuse for one-upmanship?
- 3) What do you think it is like to be Cinderella for one night?
- 4) Why is body image important to girls?
- 5) Why should parents be expected to cough up with silly sums of money for the British High School Prom? Explain.
- 6) What do teachers at the High Schools think of the British High School Prom?
- 7) Do you know anyone who has been to a High School Prom?
- 8) Why are American High School Prom movies still so popular?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

The British High School Prom

In the old days right across Britain there was the end of term or Christmas school (1)__. Today, thousands of schools in Great Britain put on the High School Prom for year 11 students as a reward for completing their GCSE's. These 16 year old students will then go on to take their A levels, leave school to go to college or start work.

The High School Prom idea is based on the American-style (2)__, which is actually geared for older 18 year old students. In Central Europe 18 year old students do a similar such thing in February by attending a Vienna style (3)__.

The British High School Prom is highly successful. It is big business! While the girls dress up in (4)__(5)__, the boys wear their (6)__, hair gel and fake tan. Students (7)__ expect their parents (8)__ with the money to pay for their big night out.

naturally / frocks / tuxedos / Ball / disco / posh / to cough up / High School Prom

Many girls want to arrive in a (1)__ style carriage driven by two white (2)__. This though can cost a whopping £600 to hire. Alternatively students can arrive in a luxury (3)__, a Ferrari or even a helicopter.

Girl's dresses can cost a whopping £1,200, though the average dress costs between £99 to £530. Most dresses are imported from America. Each one is different, as every girl hopes to be the 'Belle of the Ball'. (4)__ is especially important for girls, as each would like to be a (5)__ for a night.

On the big night students walk up a red carpet and have professional photographers record the moment! Naturally there's a few families and (6)__ looking on. (7)__, the American High School Prom idea has proved (8)__ in Britain. Is it in your country?

popular / overall / body image / neighbours / princess / Cinderella / stretch limo / stallions

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

The British High School Prom

In the old days right across Britain (1)__ was the end of term or Christmas school disco. Today, thousands of schools in Great Britain put on the High School Prom for year 11 students as a reward for completing their GCSE's. (2)__ 16 year old students will (3)__ go on to take their A levels, leave school to go to college or start work.

The High School Prom idea is based on the American-style High School Prom, (4)__ is actually geared for older 18 year old students. In Central Europe 18 year old students do a similar (5)__ thing in February by attending a Vienna style Ball.

The British High School Prom is highly successful. It is big business! (6)__ the girls dress up in posh frocks, the boys wear their tuxedos, hair gel and fake tan. Students naturally expect their parents to cough up (7)__ the money to pay for (8)__ big night out.

with / such / their / which / while / then / there / these /

Many girls want to arrive in a Cinderella style carriage driven (1)__ two white stallions. This though (2)__ cost a whopping £600 to hire. Alternatively students can arrive in a luxury stretch limo, a Ferrari (3)__ even a helicopter.

Girl's dresses can cost a whopping £1,200, though the average dress costs between £99 to £530. Most dresses are imported from America. Each one is different, (4)__ every girl hopes to be the 'Belle of the Ball'. Body image is especially important for girls, as each would like to be a Princess (5)__ a night.

On (6)__ big night students walk up a red carpet (7)__ have professional photographers record the moment! Naturally there's a few families and neighbours looking on. Overall, the American High School Prom idea has proved popular (8)__ Britain. Is it in your country?

for / can / the / and / in / or / by / as

GAP FILL: LISTENING

The British High School Prom

In the old days right across Britain there was the end of term or _____. Today, thousands of schools in Great Britain put on the High School Prom for year 11 students as a reward for completing their GCSE's. These 16 year old students will _____ their A levels, leave school to go to college or start work.

The _____ is based on the American-style High School Prom, which is actually geared for older 18 year old students. In Central Europe 18 year old students do a similar such thing in February by attending _____.

The British High School Prom is highly successful. It is big business! While the girls dress up in posh frocks, the boys wear their tuxedos, hair gel and fake tan. _____ expect their parents to cough up with the money to pay for their big night out.

Many girls want to arrive in a Cinderella style carriage driven by _____. This though can cost a whopping £600 to hire. Alternatively students can arrive in a _____, a Ferrari or even a helicopter.

Girl's dresses can cost a whopping £1,200, though the average dress costs between £99 to £530. Most dresses are imported from America. Each one is different, as every girl hopes to be the '_____'. Body image is _____ for girls, as each would like to be a Princess for a night.

On the big night students walk up a red carpet and have professional photographers record the moment! Naturally there's a few families and neighbours looking on. Overall, the American High School Prom idea has proved popular in Britain. _____?

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs, as a class - write down **20 things you might see at a High School Prom**. Talk about them! 5 mins.

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

- 1) The School disco _____
- 2) The High School Prom _____
- 3) I prefer _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **The British High School Prom**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) disco
- 2) Prom
- 3) Ball
- 4) posh
- 5) frocks
- 6) tuxedos
- 7) naturally
- 8) to cough up

SPELLING

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

- 1) successful
- 2) actually
- 3) similar
- 4) such
- 5) Vienna
- 6) tuxedos
- 7) fake
- 8) cough up
- 9) Cinderella
- 10) helicopter

ANSWERS

- 1) Cinderella
- 2) stallions
- 3) stretch limo
- 4) body image
- 5) princess
- 6) neighbours
- 7) overall
- 8) popular

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) luxury
- 12) stretch limo
- 13) whopping
- 14) though
- 15) especially
- 16) professional
- 17) naturally
- 18) neighbours
- 19) overall
- 20) popular

The British High School Prom - *15th September 2014*