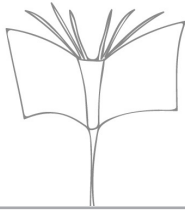


MACMILLAN DICTIONARY



learn English

pronunciations
clear definitions
key vocabulary



live English

real examples
integrated thesaurus
usage notes



love English

current BuzzWords
award-winning blog
submit your own words

what's your English?

TEACHER'S NOTES

The 21st Century Flux – Part 2

www.macmillandictionary.com

Overview: Suggestions for using the second part of the poem *The 21st Century Flux* by Dizraeli

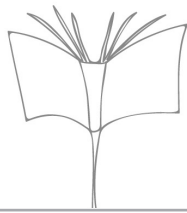
Total time for worksheet activities: 30 minutes + discussion

Suggested level: Upper intermediate to advanced

1. For each student, make a copy of the **Worksheet** (2 pages) and the poem **Transcript** and **Glossary** (2 pages).
2. Assuming that your students have already done Part 1 of this series, ask if they can remember the name of Dizraeli's poem.
3. Play the video clip until 0:55 and ask students to listen for the title. They will see and hear it at 0:47 (*The 21st Century Flux*).
4. Tell students that they are going to look at the next part of the poem. Give out copies of the **Worksheet**.
5. Draw attention to the first three lines which begin: "*The professor said, Pif! What language is this?*" Let students see and hear this part on the video (0:55 to 1:00).
6. Ask students to answer the first four questions of the **Worksheet** individually or in pairs and let everyone compare answers.
7. Go over the answers and let students correct question 4 for themselves by playing the video from 0:55 to 2:12. You may have to play this part of the video more than once.
8. Put students into small monolingual groups (if possible) and ask them to discuss and make notes about the remaining questions (5 to 9) of the **Worksheet**.
9. Allow different groups to compare and discuss their answers.
10. Conduct a feedback session for questions 5 to 9 of the **Worksheet**.
11. Allow students to follow the second part of Dizraeli's poem with the **Transcript** and **Glossary**.

Important: If you are showing the video on YouTube, play it on full-screen mode so that students won't see the title above the screen.

MACMILLAN DICTIONARY



learn English

pronunciations
clear definitions
key vocabulary



live English

real examples
integrated thesaurus
usage notes



love English

current BuzzWords
award-winning blog
submit your own words

what's your English?

WORKSHEET

The 21st Century Flux – Part 2

www.macmillandictionary.com

Discussion

Part 2 of the poem starts with the words:

The professor said, "Pif! What language is this?

Degenerate slang isn't standard English!

We at the top must establish limits."

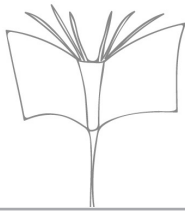
Watch Dizraeli's delivery of these words and answer the questions below.

1. Dizraeli changes his accent when he delivers these words. Why do you think he does this?

2. Find words in the passage which mean:
 - a. in a worse state than before: _____
 - b. words or expressions that are very informal and are not considered suitable for more formal situations: _____
3. In this situation, is the exclamation 'Pif!' a sound of approval (positive) or disapproval (negative)?

4. Dizraeli continues with a response to his critical teacher. Which of the following do you think you will not hear Dizraeli say in the next part of the poem?
 - a. "Language is the people that live it."
 - b. "We can fling the dictionary door wide."
 - c. "No matter what dams and channels are established – they are irrelevant."
 - d. "What matters is the message that is put across, and the passion that's invested in it."
 - e. "... meaning is whatever you say ..."
 - f. "... if the English language is the lingua franca of this planet, never say that it should be a closed system."
 - g. "Rules are important – they prevent linguistic anarchy!"
 - h. "The more words we have, the more ways we have to express the world ..."
5. Write down as many examples as possible of slang or non-standard grammar, pronunciation or written language, in your mother tongue.

MACMILLAN DICTIONARY



learn English

pronunciations
clear definitions
key vocabulary



live English

real examples
integrated thesaurus
usage notes



love English

current BuzzWords
award-winning blog
submit your own words

what's your English?

WORKSHEET

The 21st Century Flux – Part 2

www.macmillandictionary.com

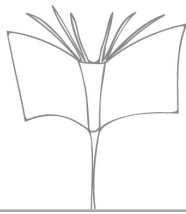
6. Can you think of any examples of English slang or non-standard English grammar, pronunciation or written language? For example, what makes your English teacher say “Pif!”

7. “*We at the top must establish limits*”
Who are the people, organizations or institutions at the top that “establish limits” with your own language?

8. What about English? Who are the people, organizations or institutions at the top that “establish limits” with English? Do you have any ideas?

9. Do you agree with Dizraeli or do you agree with his teacher? In other words, which of the two opposing statements do you like the best and why?
- a. “*We at the top must establish limits*”
b. “*No matter what dams and channels are established – they are irrelevant.*”

MACMILLAN DICTIONARY



learn English

pronunciations
clear definitions
key vocabulary



live English

real examples
integrated thesaurus
usage notes



love English

current BuzzWords
award-winning blog
submit your own words

what's your English?

TRANSCRIPT AND GLOSSARY

The 21st Century Flux – Part 2

www.macmillandictionary.com

Transcript

The 21st Century Flux (part 2)

*The professor said, "Pif! What language is this?
Degenerate slang isn't standard English!
We at the top must establish limits."*

I said "Prof! Language is the people that live it."

5 ***Get loose**, give it some vision and foresight
and juice; we can **fling** the dictionary door wide.*

*I live in a city where it seems like
every single idiom is **intermingling** stream-like,
Like **streams**, that know no barriers*

10 *No matter what **dams** and channels are established –
they are irrelevant. What matters is the message that is put across,
and the passion that's invested in it. Nothing's lost
it merely **mutates**, and lets the people speaking it
tweak it in new ways.*

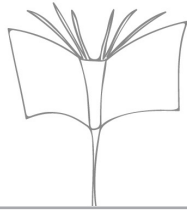
15 *Meaning that meaning is whatever you say
Jilly, Jack, Hussain, in Iraq to the UK ...
to all corners; through all **twists** and bends
Six billion personal versions of events
It's thrilling when you think of all the tongues on a **jostle**
20 *to express their puzzle in the best words possible.**

*The more words we have, the more ways we have
to express the world we have to co-exist in.
And if the English language is the **lingua franca** of this planet,
never say that it should be a closed system.*

25 *Welcome to the twenty-first century flux
for now, English is the language of choice for the performers
But when it dies, as every tongue eventually must
let it be said you added your voice to the chorus*

(excerpt from *The 21st Century Flux*. Copyright © Rowan Sawday (Dizraeli) 2010)

MACMILLAN DICTIONARY



learn English

pronunciations
clear definitions
key vocabulary



live English

real examples
integrated thesaurus
usage notes



love English

current BuzzWords
award-winning blog
submit your own words

what's your English?

TRANSCRIPT AND GLOSSARY

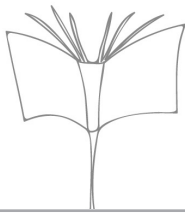
The 21st Century Flux – Part 2

www.macmillandictionary.com

Glossary

get loose	<i>phrase</i>	If you tell someone to get loose , you tell them to relax (this is slang!).
fling	<i>verb</i>	If you fling open a door, you open it quickly.
intermingle	<i>verb</i>	If two things intermingle , they mix with each other.
stream	<i>noun</i>	a small narrow river
dam	<i>noun</i>	a wall-like structure built across a river
mutate	<i>verb</i>	If an organism mutates , it undergoes a change to its genetic structure.
tweak	<i>verb</i>	If you tweak something, you make small changes to it.
twist	<i>noun</i>	a bend in a road or river
jostle	<i>noun</i>	A situation in which two people are competing with or pushing against each other.
lingua franca	<i>noun</i>	A language that people use to communicate when they have different first languages. For many, English is a lingua franca .

MACMILLAN DICTIONARY



learn English

pronunciations
clear definitions
key vocabulary



live English

real examples
integrated thesaurus
usage notes



love English

current BuzzWords
award-winning blog
submit your own words

what's your English?

KEY

The 21st Century Flux – Part 2

www.macmillandictionary.com

Discussion

1. Dizraeli is doing an impression of his teacher and mocking him as he does so.
2. a. degenerate b. slang
3. It is a sound of disapproval (negative).
4. g. *“Rules are important – they prevent linguistic anarchy!”*
6. Your students may decide to focus on non-native elements of grammar, for example:
 - omission of the third person singular –s (*“He like ...”*)
 - structures such as *“Do you want that I help you?”*Many people argue that language like this should be respected as a variety of English rather than regarded as incorrect.

Your students may know some **slang English vocabulary**, for example:

- to *nick* = to steal
- to *dump someone* = to end a relationship
- to *do a runner from a restaurant* = to leave without paying

They may also be aware of elements of **non-standard native English**, for example:

- innit*
- ain't*
- it don't*
- double negatives (*“I can't get no satisfaction”*)
- omission of the letter *h* (*“I 'aven't...”*)

7. It is highly likely that your learners' language or languages will be regulated by a body such as L'Académie Française, La Real Academia Española or L'Institut d'Estudis Catalans. Different regulatory bodies have different roles, functions and levels of power. Perhaps students could investigate these for homework.
8. English is unusual in that it has no regulatory body or institution. People often regard dictionaries and prestigious grammar books as being authoritative. As with all languages, there is a tendency for the language of the ruling classes to be regarded as the most prestigious and therefore the 'standard'.
9. Statement **a.** reflects a *prescriptive* view to language; and statement **b.** a *descriptive* view.