

Cilil UNIT
Eight steps to the London Underground
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Eight steps to the London Underground

The lesson is the consequence of a seven day period spent in London for a school visit by sixty students and five teachers of my school. It is divided into eight steps, but you can shorten or extend it as much as you want according to your time, your students, your creativity.

1. 4W

The first step deals with the 4Wh words (what, where, when, why) about the London Underground: the language used is English, of course, in order to insist on the keywords relating to The Tube. Then, the students are handed out an A3 size map of the network and an A4 map of The Greater London, and asked to link the two maps highlighting the termini of the Underground into the metropolitan area.

2. The strike in the LU is an upsetting experience

Listen to this song by Adam Kay.

*Some people like to get a train to work,
Or drive in a Beamer or a Merc.
Some guys like to travel by bus,
But I can't be bothered with the fuss today,
I'm gonna take by bike,
'Cause once again the Tube's on strike.
The greedy bastards want extra pay
for sitting on their ass all day,
Even though they earn 30k,
So I'm here in the pouring rain.*

...

http://www.lyricsfreak.com/a/adam+kay/london+underground_10002494.html

In pairs, discuss the content; in the meanwhile, make up a Word Wall: everything you understand and learn must be used to add new words to the chart.

3. The game goes on

In order to confirm the acquaintance with the London Underground (LU) you are invited to match the creative side of your brain to the railway network. i.e., if the shape of the Milan Underground reminds me of a Velociraptor, what about the London Underground?

Then, please link the features of the imagined shape to stops and branches of the real network.

4. Stops & landmarks

About London art, architecture and monuments.

You are asked to match the landmarks of a common tourist map to the corresponding LU stops. Then, create another Word Wall on art, galleries, monuments, historical and modern buildings, bridges, etc.

5. Watch the cards!

Travelcard, Oyster card and London pass: the way Londoners and tourists save money while visiting one of the three largest towns in Europe. What are they useful for? You are given handouts on informative texts where to pick up new words about the LU to be used in your Word Walls.

6. There you are!

Challenge your speaking competence chatting with your partner about where to go and how. In London you may happen to feel lost or too tired to understand where you are, where you are going or which station to come into. What would you do? Are you sure your i-phone is always logged on like in Milan? In the carriages going to the next stop too? Check the WiFi

map!

7. Home-work & class-work

1) Compare the LU to Milan railway grid. Some chunks to help you are added; 2) Produce texts about your time spent in London. i. e., you'll be hosted in Ealing, so you are invited to tell how to arrive at the school or at the meeting point in Piccadilly; 3) The class is splitted into five or six groups of three and each group must tell three stories dealing with the LU, one of which is false; 4) Finally, you are asked to gather all your notes regarding the LU and focus on the contents (including chunks and words) related to the LU and to travelling by it. You must use them to answer questions in order to show to be confident with the "monster" and able to handle it in the approaching seven-day school visit period.

8. A post or a letter to your girl/boyfriend

As a test, the students must resume most of their work in a email or a post (blog, facebook and so) or a simple letter to their girl/boyfriends about their London experience. i.e.:

Dear,

The LU is a masterpiece of mankind, because brings the tourists to all the beauties of London, but also to the airports and to the railway stations that link London worldwide. What's more it is healthy: I use the LU staircases as often as I can: the steps upward may be up to two hundred!

True, the U may become a disappointing experience or an upsetting casualty, i.e. because of a strike...

Luckily, today it joyfully runs and with my Travel card I'll be taking the Central to Bond street, I'll be jumping on the Jubilee westbound, and I'll be getting out in Southwark to walk a while with a nice Indian girl/boy met in a pub of Camden Town last night! Bye

Assessment

Qualità del contenuto	Precisione lessicale e sintattica della esposizione	Correttezza lessicale grammaticale e sintattica	Interpretazione del registro epistolare	Voto
3	3	2	2	10

