

Know your Unions! : Teaching suggestions

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Activity 1

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1. Put the students in pairs or small groups to discuss this.
2. Let the students work together for a just a few minutes before stopping the activity and eliciting feedback.

Activity 2

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students do the activity individually before checking in pairs. Monitor closely.
3. Stop the activity and elicit feedback. **Answers: Column 1: union, united, unique, university, useful. Column 2: umbrella, uncle, ugly, unhappy, ultimatum**

Activity 3

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students do the activity individually before checking in pairs.
3. Monitor closely. Let students check together in pairs.
4. Stop the activity and elicit feedback. **Answers: 1. a 2. an 3. an 4. an 5. an 6. a 7. an 8. an 9. a 10. an**

Activity 4

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1. Let the students begin their conversation in pairs or small groups.
2. Monitor closely then stop the activity and elicit feedback.

Activity 5

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1. Put the students into pairs or small groups and tell them to start their conversation.
2. Monitor closely. Check for pronunciation of 'union'. Then stop the activity and elicit feedback.

Activity 6

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If your students don't have access to computers in the classroom, set this for homework.

Answers: 1. Strikes are mentioned as an example of industrial action. 2. True. 3. See below.

Quick Quiz

Read the clues below and write the solutions on a piece of paper. Then take the first letter of each answer and rearrange them to find a word connected with this month's Talking Point subject: 'Know your Unions!.'

1. A trade union is an organized group of workers who club together to make sure that employers do notEXPLOIT..... them.
2. Some peopleTRACE.....the birth of the unions as far back as the medieval guilds which operated in Europe.
3. The connection between the medieval guilds and the development of today's trade unions is often.....DISPUTED....
4. In the early days of the union movement it was actuallyILLEGAL.....to organize a union.
5. It is considered a basic human right to become a member of a trade union (Article 23, subsection 4,UNIVERSAL...Declaration of Human Rights).
6. Child labour, for example, isNO..... longer considered acceptable.

Answers: UNITED (U for Universal [5], N for No [6], I for Illegal [4], T for Trace [2], E for Exploit [1], D for Disputed [3]).

Activity 7

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This activity can be set as homework to be followed up and consolidated in a future lesson generating more discussion. What did most students feel about the question? What reasons were put forward in each case? Did the students read anything which changed their minds on the topic? (etc.)