Medium term plan

Title of Unit: Language Autobiography

Year: 7  Term:   Duration: 6 weeks  Set:

Objectives

Word
- W10  Word Analogy
- W11  Strategies for learning spellings
- W12  Using a dictionary
- W15  Dictionary and thesaurus
- W22  Words in different languages

Sentence
- Sn13  Stylistics conventions of non-fiction – Recount and Explanation
- Sn15  Vary formality
- Sn17  Standard English

Reading
- R1  Locate information

Writing
- Wr 3  Exploratory writing

Speaking and Listening
- S&L1  Clarify through talk
- S&L11  Range of Roles
- S&L14  Modify views
- S&L17  Extend Spoken repertoire

Teaching sequence

Week 1
Focus: Accents and dialects
Outcome: Glossary and poster – class wall map

Week 2
Focus: Standard English
Outcome: Explanation of Standard English use and origin.

Week 3
Focus: Slang
Outcome: Questionnaire and analysis of results

Week 4
Focus: Bi-lingual and multi-lingual speakers
Outcome: Letter to Prime Minister *

Week 5
Focus: Language development
Outcome: Idiolect diagram

Week 6
Focus: Preparing and writing the Language autobiography
Outcome: Language Autobiography * (mixture of recount and explanation)

* Assessed folder pieces
ORIGINS OF NAMES

Names are either given or inherited. The study of names and their origins is called onomastics (onoma meaning "name").

Forename – Given Name

Given names among English-speaking peoples could include first and middle names, nicknames, and pet names.
Most given names have original meanings, although not everyone knows the meaning of their name.

- Hubert comes from an old German word hugu, "heart,"
- Sarah is from the Hebrew word for "princess"
- Amy is from Old French amee, "beloved."
- Jeevan means “life”
- Graham means “war-like”
- Simran means “meditation”
- Kamal means “lotus flower”

Modern names could be inspired by the names of the months (June), precious stones (Ruby), flowers (Blossom), places (Georgia), or figures in classical legend (Diana, Jason). New names are frequently made by varying the spellings (Joetta, Beverleigh, Randi).

Surname – Inherited name.

Inherited names are given to show an individual membership to a group. The most common sort is the family name, also called surname, or last name, but there are other kinds.

Until about the 14th century most people had only one name. It has been estimated that in medieval England 3 out of 5 men were called Henry, Robert, John, William or Richard. As towns and cities grew, it became necessary to identify individuals and families, so people started to be given a surname.

There were four main ways that surnames were given.

Patronymic – The father's name with ‘son’ immediately after it, for example Peterson, Woodson etc. The Irish and Scottish Mac- or Mc- (McDonald) means ‘son of’, the Irish O' means "grandson" (O'Hare)

Place names – Name that identifies where a person or family lived or came from, for example Hill, Wood, and Lake.

Occupational Names – Name that shows what a person did for a living, for example Miller, Butler and Baker.

Nicknames – Usually based on a person’s personality or characteristics, for example Short, Long and Savage.
• In China and Japan as well as among some Hindu families of southwest India, the family name appears first; so in Zhou Enlai, the family name is Zhou and the given name is Enlai.

• Among the ancient Romans, a person had three or four names; a praenomen, or forename; a nomen, or clan name; a cognomen, or family name; and sometimes an agnomen, or honorary name, as in Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus.

• The Anglo-Saxons favoured alliterative given names in a family, and the 7th-century Kentish nobleman Eormenred went even further, calling his three daughters Eormenbeorh, Eormenburh, and Eormengyth!

• In Iceland, instead of a family name, people inherit their father’s first name. A man named Harald might have as children Erik Haraldsson and Helga Haraldsdottir.

Your Names

1. Do you know what your given name means?

2. Do you have a middle name? Do you know its meaning?

3. Do you know what your family name means?

4. Has your family got a different way of naming people?

5. Do you have a nickname or pet name?
Learning to Talk  
~ a timeline

**Birth – 6 months**  
Cries of hunger, pleasure and pain. Mothers can distinguish between them.

**3 months**  
The baby starts to make *cooing* sounds

**6 months**  
Babbling – all children *babble* the same range of sounds. Deaf children also babble.

**6 – 9 months**  
Babies use *intonation*, start to organise the babble. Deaf children do not have intonation in their babble.

**From 9 months**  
Start to make sounds that sound like real words.

**At 1 year**  
Children use one sound to mean a particular thing (or things) It might not relate to a real word. Intonation becomes clearer, can have *jargon* conversations.

**After 12 months**  
Toddlers produce one-word, then two-word, then multi-word *utterances*.  
**Examples**  
goggie for ‘dog’  
mama for ‘mother’  
Kimmy kick  
me kick ball

- What was your (or your sister’s/brother’s) first word?
- How old were you (or they) ?
- Did you give a special name to something?
- Do you remember learning to talk?
- What stage of communication is your brother/sister at?
- If you are bi-lingual, which language did you learn first? Or did you learn both together?
- Is there anything else you want to write about child language?
Your Language – Homework Project

You only have to choose two of these research activities. Although you can do more if you wish! You will be expected to show some evidence of your research.

- Do some research into the slang used by your family and friends.
- Tape a baby talking and bring in the tape!
- If you are bi-lingual ...
  - Find out some information on your first language.
  - Bring in an example of your other language in print.
  - Write a poem in another language.
- Pick a dialect and research how it is different from Standard English.
- Think of some questions and interview an older relative on language. (Ask about their attitude to slang, standard English, learning language etc.)
- Draw a cartoon or picture to represent something personal about your language.

This homework is due in on the _______________________

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Slang

Slang is informal words and phrases we use which aren’t part of the standard language. It’s used by everyone, at some time or other, but it’s especially common among young people.

You’ll also find a lot of slang among special groups. Sailors, the police, cricketers, criminals…they all have their own slang.

Sometimes, the language is so unusual that it’s not possible to work out what people are talking about. The most famous case of this is the **rhyming slang** used by Cockney traders in London.

Apples and pears = stairs
Mince pies = eyes
Cherry ripe = pipe

So how do you do it? Take the word you want to change into slang, for example **book**. Then think of a word it rhymes with, like hook. Then put hook together with another word, for example **line and hook** (the two words must make sense together).

1. In your book write a short explanation of Cockney rhyming slang.
2. Translate this phrase into standard English – **Bob’s left ‘is Hampstead Heath in the lean and lurch**.

1. Think of some Cockney rhyming slang to replace these words.
   - School
   - Lunch
   - Home
   - Cat
Why do people use slang?
When people use slang among themselves its shows that they belong together. The slang marks them out as being members of the same group – just like a uniform would.

Pupils often use slang in schools or with their friends outside of school. Do you and your friends talk in slang? Copy out the table below and add at least six examples of your own.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Slang Word</th>
<th>Meaning in Standard English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>blazing</td>
<td>insulting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Can you guess the Standard English for these words and phrases? Add them to your table if you can.

- Taking the mick
- Mug
- Duff yer up
- Dork

When you arrived in year 7, did other pupils use slang you didn’t understand? Do your older brothers and sisters, or cousins, use different slang? Do you know any slang in a different language?

**Write a paragraph about your experiences of slang in and outside of school.**
Designing a Slang Questionnaire

Your task is to think of some questions to ask your fellow pupils about slang.

Try and make them as interesting as possible and write at least seven.

You could investigate how much slang pupils use, when they use it, what the most popular words are, whether neologisms are more popular than other types of slang, where the slang comes from, what influences slang the most…etc. Think of your own ideas as well!

**Remember to use a range of WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHY, WHERE and HOW.**

You could use one of the following layouts…or you could think of your own. Remember that you must record the results in some way.

1. Which is your favourite pet? (Circle your answer)
   a. dog    b. cat    c. hamster    d. fish

1. Which is your favourite pet?
   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Favourite</th>
<th>Least Favourite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dog</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamster</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Which is your favourite pet? Give reasons for your choice.

**When you’ve done your survey, try it out!**
Bilingualism and Multilingualism

Interesting Facts

- Over half the world's population are bilingual.
- If you speak more than one language fluently, your mind is usually better trained to learn a new language.
- Learning a second language not only means learning words and conversations, but also learning about that language's culture.
- It is normal for children (and even adults) to switch back and forth between two languages within the same sentence or paragraph (This is called code-switching)

The UK has many bilingual and multilingual communities, over 20 different languages are spoken fluently, including:

- Punjabi
- Urdu
- Jamaican English
- Vietnamese
- Welsh
- Gaelic
- Arabic

Can you think of the rest?

‘Bilingualism - A window to two worlds.’

"Being bilingual--while at the same time practicing my family's traditions and customs--has enriched my life, and I want to share these special things with my children."

Cyndee Rodríguez- Spanish and English Speaker

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