The King’s Speech

ESL Lesson Package
The King’s Speech Sample Lesson Plan

Note: The following is only an example. Instructors should feel free to add or remove activities as needed.

Day One

1. Tell the class they’re going to be watching a movie. Introduce the characters and explain the slang expressions for Part One.

2. Have students do the Pre-Reading exercise in class. (p. 8) Discuss the answers in class.

3. Assign the Part One Mix-and-Match vocabulary exercise (p. 9) for homework. If you wish, you can ask them to write ten sentences using ten different words from the list of new vocabulary.

Day Two

4. Mark the Mix-and-Match homework in class. If you assigned the students sentences for homework, collect their sentences to mark later.

5. Have students complete the vocabulary Self-Test for Part One. (p. 6)

6. Split the students into two’s or three’s and have them discuss the Conversation Questions for Part One. (p. 7)

7. Watch Part One of the movie. As the students watch the movie, have them complete Who Says It. (p. 10)

8. Pause at the appropriate time in the film to have them complete the Listening Close. (p. 10-11)

9. After the movie, have students complete the Comprehension Questions in pairs or assign the questions for homework. (p.11)

10. Recall what happens at the end of Part 1 of the movie. Complete the Telephone activity together as a class.

11. Assign the Part Two Mix-and-Match vocabulary exercise (p. 15) for homework.

Day Three

12. If you assigned vocabulary sentences to the students, give them back their homework. You may want to have the students work in pairs to
correct sample incorrect sentences that you have taken from their homework.

13. Mark the **Mix-and-Match** vocabulary homework in class. If you assigned the **Comprehension Questions** for homework, you will need to mark these as well.

14. Have the students complete the **Conversation Starters** activity. (p. 33)

15. Have the students complete the vocabulary **Self-Test** for Part Two. (p. 15)

16. Watch Part Two of the movie. Have students complete the **Who Says It** activity (page 17-18) while they are watching the movie. If you have extra time, pause at the appropriate time in the film to have them complete the **Listening Close Extra Activity** for Part 2. (p. 19)

17. After the movie, have students complete the **Comprehension Questions** in pairs or assign the questions for homework. (p. 18)

18. If there is time, have the students play the **Memory Match** game to reinforce vocabulary from all three sections. (p. 42)

19. Assign the **Mix-and-Match** vocabulary exercise (Pt. 3) for homework. (p. 24)

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**Day Four**

20. Mark the **Mix-and-Match** Homework. If you assigned **Comprehension Questions** for homework, mark those in class as well.

21. Have students play the **Forbidden** vocabulary activity (p. 36) to reinforce vocabulary from all three sections.

22. Have the students complete the **Self-Test** for Part Three. (p.23)

23. Watch Part Three of the movie. Have students complete the **Who Says It** activity (page 25) while they are watching the movie. Pause at the appropriate time in the film to have them complete the **Listening Close Exercise**. (p. 26)

24. Have students discuss **What Happens Next?** (p. 27) You might then choose to have them write a paragraph on this topic for homework.

25. Have students complete the **Comprehension Questions** in pairs or assign them for homework. (p.27)
Day Five

26. Have students complete the **Story Scramble** activity. (p.39)

27. Mark the **Comprehension Questions** for Part 3 if you have not done so already. (p. 27)

28. Choose a supplementary activity (Hot Seat, Typhoon, Murder, etc.) to reinforce the vocabulary you have covered. (p. 46)

29. Assign the two **Crossword Puzzles** for homework. (p. 29)

30. Collect student paragraphs for **What Happens Next?** if you assigned this for homework.

Day Six

31. Choose a supplementary activity (Hot Seat, Typhoon, Murder, etc.) to reinforce the vocabulary you have covered. (page 46)

32. Return **What Happens Next?** homework.

33. Mark the **Crossword Puzzles** in class.
Who Is It?

Instructions: Write the name of each character under his or her picture. Some of the characters do not appear until Part 2 of the movie. The names of these characters have already been filled in.

Myrtle Logue  Lionel Logue  King George V  Bertie, the Duke of York  Lady Elizabeth  The Archbishop

Wallis Simpson  Prince David  Winston Churchill
Self Test – Vocabulary Preview - Part One
(00:00 -- 38:44)

Are you ready to watch the movie? Complete the quiz to see if you will understand the vocabulary in Part One of the film.

1. Stammer:
   a. The fear of public speaking
   b. The ability to give great speeches
   c. A speech disorder that causes a person to pause while speaking

2. “My turf”:
   a. Slang term for the space between your toes
   b. Territory belonging to someone
   c. A special couch used by doctors

3. Discretion:
   a. To destroy
   b. Not revealing private information
   c. Ignoring your responsibilities

4. Unorthodox:
   a. Dangerous
   b. Embarrassing
   c. Breaking away from tradition

5. A physician
   a. A physical education teacher
   b. A doctor
   c. An advisor to a king

6. A defect
   a. An old fashioned radio
   b. An error or imperfection
   c. A very strong fear of something

7. “Now we must invade people’s home and ingratiating ourselves with them.”
   a. To make someone pleased with something
   b. To explain clearly
   c. To make money

8. Flawlessly
   a. To complete a task over a long period of time
   b. To be difficult to understand
   c. To do something without any mistakes
The King’s Speech – Part One
(00:00 -- 38:44)

Characters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bertie (The Duke of York)</td>
<td>King George V’s second son who suffers from a speech disorder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Elizabeth</td>
<td>Bertie’s supportive wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lionel Logue</td>
<td>A speech therapist and a failed actor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myrtle Logue</td>
<td>Wife of Lionel Logue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King George V</td>
<td>The British King and father of Bertie and David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince David (The Prince of Wales)</td>
<td>King George V’s oldest son who is in love with Wallis Simpson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallis Simpson</td>
<td>An American woman who is dating Prince David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Archbishop</td>
<td>An advisor to the royal family and the leader of the Church of England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winston Churchill</td>
<td>A leading member of the British Parliament</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conversation Questions

1. British Kings and Queens have very little official power anymore, but they still have a lot of influence with the British people. Does your home country have a king or queen? How much power does he or she have? Or, did your home country have a king or queen in the past? What do you think of him or her? Is it good to have a king or queen? Why?

2. Many of the characters in this movie are celebrities because they are members of the royal family. Would you want to be a celebrity? What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a celebrity?

3. Bertie’s job as the Duke of York requires him to give many public speeches. Have you ever had to give a public speech before? What was your speech about? How did you feel before you gave the speech? And after?

4. In the 1930s, the use of radios changed the ways leaders communicated with their people. How has recent technology (the internet, television, cell phones) changed the way the people and leaders communicate with each other? How has the spread of technology changed politics?
Over the past several centuries, the powers of the British monarch (the king or queen of Great Britain) have been gradually eliminated. British kings and queens can no longer declare war, collect taxes, or pass laws. Democratically elected officials – not monarchs – are now responsible for government decision-making. Instead of acting as ruler, the monarch is now supposed to work as a symbol of national stability and culture as well as promote national pride and national perseverance in difficult times.

This puts the British monarchy in a precarious position: the monarchy is an undemocratic institution, but it is supposed to represent the nation. For this reason, the monarch must have the respect and love of the people to successfully complete his or her responsibilities.

When Bertie (the main character in the film) inherited the British throne in 1936, the challenges facing the monarchy were grave. The conduct of his older brother David had damaged the reputation of the monarchy at a time when long-standing monarchies across Europe were being abolished. Many people believed the British monarchy would (or should) be abolished. As well, the prospect of a world-wide war added to people’s fears. The prospect of war also guaranteed that Bertie – a terrible public speaker – would be required to give frequent speeches in order to promote national perseverance.

Pre-Reading Questions

1. What are the responsibilities of the modern British monarch?

2. What must the monarch have in order to successfully complete his duties?

3. What were some of the challenges facing Bertie when he became king?

4. Find the bolded words in reading. Can you guess the meaning of these words in context?
**Slang Expressions**

Your teacher will explain what these expressions mean:

“to pop by” and “pop these on”

“my turf”

“hubby”

“strong suit”

“stare it square in the eye” and “stared square in to his father’s face”

**Mix-and-Match**

Match the following words to their definitions.

1. stammer __
2. discretion (n)__
3. unorthodox (adj)__
4. to pop by (v)__
5. my turf __
6. strong suit __
7. square in the eye/face__
8. indentured servitude__
9. inane (adj)__
10. audition (n) __
11. approach (n)__
12. physician (n)___
13. to commence (v)__
14. defect (n)__
15. impediment (n) __
16. flawlessly (adv)__
17. to wager (v)___
18. to ingratiate (v)___
19. schilling (n) ___
20. to intimidate (v)___
21. abyss (n)___
22. awkward (adj)___
23. invariably (adv)__
24. firm (n) __
25. appreciate (v) ___
26. method (n) ___
27. immoral (adj)___
28. divorced (adj) ___

a. Directly in the eye or face
b. Perfectly; with no mistakes
c. A try-out for a play or performance
d. To quickly stop by a place
e. To bet
f. A medical doctor
g. Work where the employee works in exchange for benefits such as travel and housing. The employee cannot leave the contract.
h. A dark, bottomless hole
i. A speech disorder that causes a person to pause while speaking
j. Not revealing private information
k. To make others pleased with something
l. An imperfection or flaw
m. Breaking away from tradition
n. My territory
o. To start, to begin
p. An obstacle
q. A coin used in the UK worth 1/20 of a pound
r. A method
s. To force some to do something with fear and threats
t. A person’s strengths
u. Stupid, silly
v. Another word for a company or business
w. Another word for “always”
x. Describes something uncomfortable or embarrassing
y. A way of doing things
z. To value something
aa. Describes people who are no longer married
bb. Describes something that conflicts with what is considered right or proper
Who says it? Write the name of the character beside his quote:

“Now this is slightly awkward, but I am afraid you’re late.”

“I don’t have a “hubby”. We don’t pop, and nor do we ever talk about our private lives.”

“I’m sorry Mrs. Johnson. My game, my turf, my rules.”

“No, you must stay bored stupid listening to your parents’ inane conversation.”

“Why bring it up if you can’t talk about it?”

“Can’t I be a penguin instead?”

“Once there were two princesses. Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret”

“Waiting for me to commence a conversation, one can wait rather a long wait.”

“Timing isn’t my strong suit.”

“I believe sucking smoke into your lungs will kill you.”

“I bet that you can read flawlessly, right here, right now, and if I win the bet, I get to ask you more questions.”

“One usually wagers money.”

“I have no idea what an Australian might do for that sort of money.”

“Sit up. Straight back, face boldly up to the bloody thing and stare it square in the eye as would any decent Englishman.”

“In the past, all a king had to do was look respectable in uniform and not fall off his horse.”

“We’re not a family. We’re a firm.”

“Your darling brother, and future king, the only wife he appears interested in is invariably the wife of another … I told him straight: no divorced person can ever be received in court.”

“Strictly business. No personal nonsense.”

Listening Close Begin at 10:54 – End at 12:17

Listen to the dialogue and fill in the blanks:

Lady Elizabeth: And what if my ______________ were the Duke of York?
**Comprehension Questions**

1. Why does Lady Elizabeth say her husband’s job is like indentured servitude?

2. What does Lionel say he needs for his method to work?

3. Why is Lionel rejected for the part of Richard III in the play?

4. Why does King George V say that the royal family has become actors?

5. What do we know about Bertie’s older brother Prince David?

6. What finally convinces Bertie to go back to Lionel’s office for treatment?
**Listening Close for Part One – Answer Key**

**Listening Close**  
Begin at 10:54 – End at 12:17

*Lady Elizabeth:* And what if my husband were the Duke of York?

*Lionel:* Duke of York?

*Lady Elizabeth:* Yes. The Duke of York.

*Lionel:* I though the appointment was for Johnson. Forgive me your…

*Lady Elizabeth:* …Royal Highness.

*Lionel:* …Your Royal Highness.

*Lady Elizabeth:* Johnson was used when he was in the Great War when the navy didn’t want the enemy to know he was aboard.

*Lionel:* Am I considered the enemy?

*Lady Elizabeth:* You will be, if you remain unobliging. You will appreciate the need for absolute discretion.

*Lionel:* Of course. How did you find me, Your Royal Highness?

*Lady Elizabeth:* The president of the Society for Speech Therapists.

*Lionel:* Ilene McCloud. Well, she’s a sport.

*Lady Elizabeth:* She warned me your antipodean methods were both unorthodox and controversial. I warned her, those are not my favorite words.

*Lionel:* I can cure your husband, but for my method to work I need trust and total equality here in the safety of my consultation room. No exceptions.

*Lady Elizabeth:* Ah well, in that case…when can you start?
King George V: Sit up. Straight back. Face boldly up to the bloody thing and stare it ________ in the eye as would any decent Englishman. Show it who’s in command.

Bertie: Papa…I don’t think I can read this.

King George V: This devilish device will change everything if you don’t. In the past, all a king had to do was look respectable in __________ and not fall off his horse. Now we must invade people’s homes and __________ ourselves with them. This family has been reduced to those lowest, basest of all creatures: we have become ___________.

Bertie: We’re not a family. We’re a firm.

King George V: Yet at any moment, some of us may be out of __________…your darling brother and the future King. The only wife he appears interested in is invariably the wife of another.

Bertie: He’s broken it off with Lady Fernice…

King George V: …and taken up with Mrs. Simpson, a woman with two husbands living. I told him straight: no ____________ person can ever be received at court. He said it made him sublimely happy. I imagine that was because she was sleeping with him.

‘I give you my word’ – this is what he said – ‘I give you my word. We have never had ____________ relations.’ ______________ square in to his father’s face and lied.

When I am dead, that boy will ruin himself, this family, and this nation within twelve months. Who will pick up the pieces? Heir Hitler ____________ half of Europe, Marshal Stalin the other half. Who will stand between us and the jackboots and the proletarian ____________? You?
King George V: Sit up. Straight back. Face boldly up to the bloody thing and stare it square in the eye as would any decent Englishman. Show it who’s in command.

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Bertie: We’re not a family. We’re a firm.

King George V: Yet at any moment, some of us may be out of work…your darling brother and the future King. The only wife he appears interested in is invariably the wife of another.

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‘I give you my word’ – this is what he said – ‘I give you my word. We have never had immoral relations.’ Stared square in to his father’s face and lied.

When I am dead, that boy will ruin himself, this family, and this nation within twelve months. Who will pick up the pieces? Heir Hitler intimidating half of Europe, Marshal Stalin the other half. Who will stand between us and the jackboots and the proletarian abyss? You?