

e-lesson

Week starting: 6th October 2008

1. WALL-E

This week's lesson is about *WALL-E*, the latest in a string of successful animation films (including *Toy Story* and *Finding Nemo*) from the American studio Pixar.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2-B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students if they know what *WALL-E* is about. If any of them have seen it, ask them to give some brief details to the rest of the class. Can they also describe any of the other successful animation films of recent years, such as *Toy Story*, *Finding Nemo*, *Shrek* or *The Incredibles*?
2. Give your students five to ten minutes to read through Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell them they are going to answer a series of questions on the text, but that they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
3. Divide the students into pairs and hand out Worksheet B. Ask the students to work together to complete Exercise 1, in which they have to answer comprehension questions. Encourage them to try to answer in complete sentences.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Keeping the students in their pairs, ask them to move on to Exercise 2, in which they have to answer true/false/doesn't say questions.
6. Check answers in open class.
7. Hand out Worksheet C and ask the students to work together to complete the crossword.
8. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. The story takes place 800 years in the future.
2. He has a pet cockroach.
3. It is 700 years since humans lived on Earth.
4. M-O is the robot that hates dirt.
5. He picks up rubbish and puts it into piles.
6. They left Earth because pollution made it impossible to stay.
7. They sent her to see if there was any sign of life on Earth.
8. It has a serious message because it shows what might happen to our planet if we don't take care of it.

Exercise 2

1. T 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. F 6. D 7. T 8. D 9. F 10. D

Exercise 3

1. spaceship 2. feelings 3. ending 4. dirty 5. June 6. shows
7. mess 8. robot 9. fat 10. influences 11. pollution 12. lonely 13. animated

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *Andrew Stanton* will read from top to bottom.

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_7500000/newsid_7504500/7504559.stm

A brief review of *WALL-E* from *BBC Newsround*, followed by lots of short comments from British children and young teenagers. Accessible to pre-intermediate level.

<http://disney.go.com/disneypictures/wall-e/>

The official website of the film. Colourful, with lots of different sections. Intermediate level and above.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0910970/>

The *WALL-E* entry in the Internet Movie Database (IMDb). Intermediate level and above.

WALL-E

WORKSHEET A

WALL-E is the latest animated film from the American company Pixar, which also made *Toy Story* (1995), *Finding Nemo* (2003) and *The Incredibles* (2004). It came out in the United States in June this year, and in many other countries soon afterwards. Just like Pixar's other animated films, *WALL-E* tells a story that both adults and children can enjoy. Although it has a serious message, showing what might happen to our planet if we don't take care of it, there is also a lot of humour.

The story begins on Earth about 800 years into the future. There are no humans any more because they all left in spaceships in the 22nd century, when terrible pollution made it impossible to stay. They thought they would only be away for a few years and left behind thousands of robots to clean up the mess they had made, but the pollution was so bad that they couldn't return.

Now, 700 years later, all the robots have stopped working – except one, WALL-E, who spends most of his time picking up rubbish and putting it into piles. He has developed feelings and is very lonely, with only a pet cockroach for company.

Then, one day, a female robot, EVE, arrives in a spaceship. The humans, who are still living out in space on other spaceships, have sent her to see if there is any sign of life on Earth.

WALL-E falls in love with EVE, but it seems she does not feel anything towards him. When a spaceship comes to pick EVE up, WALL-E decides to take a chance and follow her into space – and that's where the comic adventure really starts.

WALL-E and EVE go to a much larger spaceship with a population of humans and robots. We see how living for 700 years away from their planet has changed these humans: they spend their time in chairs that float just above the floor, and have become so fat that they cannot even stand without the help of the robots. Some of the other robots are very funny, such as little M-O, who hates dirt and rushes around the spaceship cleaning things.

WALL-E starts to influence both the humans and the other robots in important ways, but this is not the place to say what happens at the end of the film: let's just say it's a happy ending for WALL-E himself, and that there are positive changes in the humans' behaviour.

WALL-E

Exercise 1

Answer the questions about the text on Worksheet A.

1. When does the story of *WALL-E* take place?
2. What kind of pet does WALL-E have?
3. How long is it since humans lived on Earth?
4. What is the name of the robot that hates dirt?
5. What job does WALL-E do on Earth?
6. Why did the humans leave Earth?
7. Why did the humans send EVE to Earth?
8. In what way does the film have a serious message?

Exercise 2

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't say (D).

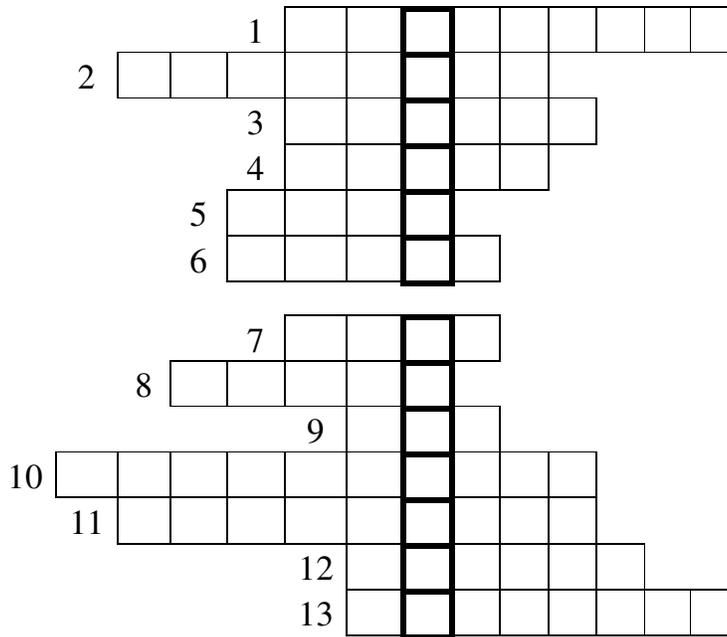
1. Pixar is a company from the United States.
2. WALL-E was one of many robots that the humans left on Earth.
3. At the start of the film there are only two robots still working on Earth.
4. In the spaceship, the humans spend their time sitting on the floor.
5. EVE travels to Earth in a spaceship with some humans.
6. EVE falls in love with WALL-E at the end of the film.
7. The humans have been away from Earth for longer than they expected.
8. M-O and WALL-E quickly become friends.
9. M-O does not move much.
10. WALL-E takes his pet cockroach into space with him.

WALL-E

WORKSHEET C

Exercise 3

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, the name of the director of *WALL-E* (and also *Toy Story*, *Finding Nemo* and *The Incredibles*) will read from top to bottom.



1. WALL-E and EVE leave Earth in a _____ .
2. WALL-E is a robot with _____ .
3. The film has a happy _____ for WALL-E.
4. M-O doesn't like anything that is _____ .
5. WALL-E came out in the United States in _____ 2008.
6. The film _____ what Earth might look like if pollution gets much worse.
7. The robots' job on Earth was to clean up the terrible _____ the humans had made.
8. WALL-E is a _____ .
9. The humans in the film have become very _____ .
10. WALL-E _____ the humans and the other robots in the spaceship.
11. Because of the _____ , humans could not live on Earth any more.
12. WALL-E feels very _____ on Earth before EVE arrives.
13. WALL-E is an _____ film.

WALL-E – Glossary

adventure noun [count/uncount]

an exciting, unusual, and sometimes dangerous experience

animated adjective

an animated film or cartoon consists of a series of drawings that are shown quickly one after another so that they look as if they are moving

behaviour noun [uncount]

the way that someone behaves

Anna was sick of her brother's behaviour.

coackroach noun [count]

an insect similar to a large beetle that lives in places where food is kept

come out phrasal verb

if something such as a book or a film comes out, it becomes available to buy or see

We've recorded a new album, and it's coming out in the spring.

comic adjective

funny

company noun [uncount]

the activity of being with other people

I thought you might be glad of some company tonight.

dirt noun [uncount]

a substance that makes something dirty

His face was covered in dirt.

fall in love phrase

to start to love someone

Why do we fall in love with one person rather than another?

float verb

to be lighter than air, and to move slowly through it

Bubbles floated in the air.

funny adjective

someone or something that is funny makes you laugh

a funny story/joke

humour noun [uncount]

the quality that makes a situation or entertainment funny

a novel full of humour

influence noun [countable/uncountable]

the effect that a person or thing has on someone's decisions, opinions, or behaviour or on the way something happens

Without his famous father's influence, he would never have got the job.

lonely adjective

unhappy because you are alone or because you have no friends

She must feel desperately lonely with all her family in Scotland.

mess noun [count/uncount]

a situation in which a place is dirty or untidy

'What a mess!' she said, looking at the kitchen.

pick up phrasal verb

to lift someone or something up from a surface

He picked the phone up and dialled.

pile noun [count]

a number of things put on top of each other

She sorted her clothes into tidy piles.

planet noun [count]

a very large round object that moves around the Sun or another star

planet Earth

pollution noun [uncount]

chemicals and other substances that have a harmful effect on air, water, or land

robot noun [count]

a machine that looks and talks like a human and can do many of the things humans do, especially in science fiction stories

rush verb

to hurry to do something

Hayley rushed to answer the phone.

sign noun [count/uncount]

a piece of evidence that something is happening or that something exists

I couldn't see any sign of progress.

spaceship noun [count]

a vehicle that can travel in space

take a chance phrase

to do something even though it involves risk

It is just not worth taking any chances.