

CELEBRATIONS

Canada Day

Teacher's notes

Age: Teenagers/Adults

Level: Intermediate (B1)

Time: 45 minutes

Activity: In this lesson, students will:

1. do a quiz about Canada for Canada Day (July 1);
2. read about Canadian English;
3. prepare a dialogue in Canadian English.

Language focus: words connected with Canada

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per student

Procedure

1. Read the following sentences to your students:

- It's a country.
- It's big.
- It's cold.
- It's wild.
- It's young.
- It's English and French.

After each sentence, pause and encourage students to guess what it is. (*Answer: Canada.*)

2. Find out what else students know about Canada. Have they ever visited it? Would they like to? Why or why not? Do they know when Canada's national holiday is? (*Answer: July 1.*)
3. Tell students that Canada is also sometimes called the Great White North. Hand out copies of the worksheet. Students do the quiz in Exercise 1 individually or in pairs and compare answers. Check the answers and see who got the most right.

Key:

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. c
5. b
6. b
7. trick question; all are Canadian!
8. a
9. d
10. d
11. a
12. b

4. Ask students what the difference is between Canadians, people from the United States and English people. (*Answer: they speak English with different accents and sometimes different words.*) Students read the text in Exercise 2 and find out what's special about Canadian English. Ask them to underline the things that are special, and check answers as a class.

Key:

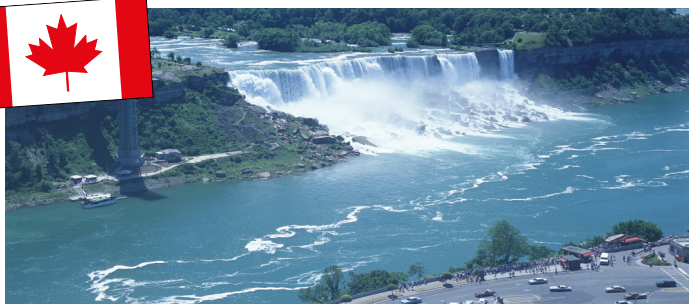
1. the spelling
2. the way they pronounce the last letter of the alphabet
3. the word 'eh'
5. Ask students to look at Exercise 3. They work in pairs and prepare a dialogue in Canadian English.
6. Students perform their dialogues to the class. The others identify the situation and decide who in the class sounds the most Canadian!

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Worksheet

Exercise 1: The Great White North Quiz



July 1 is Canada Day. How much do you know about Canada? Take the Great White North Quiz and find out.

- With a total area of 6,195,450 square miles, Canada is the _____ country in the world.
 - largest
 - second largest
 - smallest
 - third largest
- What is the capital of Canada?
 - Vancouver
 - Toronto
 - Ottawa
 - Detroit
- The Canadian flag is very distinctive. What is the symbol in the middle?
 - a maple leaf
 - a fir tree
 - an Arctic rose
 - a bear footprint
- Which of the following sports originated in Canada?
 - American football
 - baseball
 - basketball
 - ice-skating
- Canada is famous for its 'Mounties'. What are they?
 - people who have trekked across the Rocky Mountains
 - policemen on horseback
 - Indian cakes cooked on an open fire
 - a kind of whale
- What is the official name of the native people who live in the north of Canada?
 - the Eskimos
 - the Inuit
 - the Mohawks
 - the Sioux
- Which of the following famous actors or actresses is Canadian?
 - Pamela Anderson
 - Jim Carrey
 - Keanu Reeves
 - Ryan Reynolds
- What is the unit of currency in Canada?
 - the Canadian dollar
 - the American dollar
 - the Canadian pound
 - the British pound
- This animal is a national symbol of Canada. What is its name in English?
 - a moose
 - a weasel
 - a mountain goat
 - a beaver
- Canada has one of the biggest waterfalls in the world. What is it called?
 - Moosewood Waterfalls
 - Canada Chutes
 - Niagara Cascades
 - Niagara Falls
- Whose head is engraved on the back of every Canadian coin?
 - the Queen of England's
 - the Canadian prime minister's
 - a beaver's
 - Celine Dion's
- Canada Day is on July 1 and celebrates the day that Canada became a country. When did Canada become a country?
 - 1492
 - 1867
 - 1969
 - 2001

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Exercise 2: Canadian English

Read the text below. There are several things that are special about Canadian English. Can you spot them all?

Canada has two official languages: English and French. Canadian English is very similar to American English, but has some elements of British English too. For example, Canadians prefer to spell many words the British way and not the American way (*colour* instead of *color*; *centre* instead of *center*). Canadians also call the last letter of the alphabet 'zed' (like the British) and not 'zee' (like the Americans). A Canadian accent, though, is more similar to an American accent. This is why many people believe that famous Canadian singers like Justin Bieber, Celine Dion, Drake, Shania Twain and Neil Young are from the United States.

One particularly Canadian word is 'eh' (pronounced like the first letter of the alphabet). Canadians use this word quite a lot in informal conversation. It can appear as a

question tag ('You like it, eh?') and in a sentence ('We had pizza, eh, and Pepsi.'). A common way Canadians greet each other informally is, 'How's it going, eh?'

Exercise 3: Speak Canadian!

Here's your chance to speak like a Canadian. Find a partner who will speak Canadian with you. Decide on a topic of conversation (you can choose one below, or make up your own) and prepare a dialogue. Add 'eh' into your sentences and questions. Who sounds more Canadian?

- A Canadian tourist is lost in Paris and asks somebody for directions.
- A foreigner is visiting Canada and wants to know some information about the country.
- Two Canadians are complaining about the cold weather.
- You phone your Canadian friend to invite him or her to a party.

