

PYGMALION

1st and 2nd of ESO

Teacher's guide





BEFORE GOING TO THE THEATRE

1. SYNOPSIS

Read the plot of Pygmalion.

Eliza Doolittle is a poor cockney speaking "flower girl" who dreams of a better life. One day in the market, she runs into Professor Henry Higgins, a grumpy famous linguist who makes fun of the way she talks. The professor makes a bet with Colonel Pickering (another renowned phonetics expert): he will make the florist look like a duchess by teaching her good manners and proper English pronunciation.

a) How do you think this will end? Explain it in a few words.

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b) The summary is written in present simple. Rewrite it in past simple.

Eliza Doolittle was a poor cockney speaking "flower girl" who dreamed/dreamt of a better life. One day in the market, she ran into Professor Henry Higgins, a grumpy famous linguist who made fun of the way she talked. The professor made a bet with Colonel Pickering (another renowned phonetics expert): he would make the florist look like a duchess by teaching her good manners and proper English pronunciation.

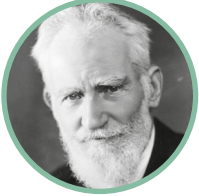
c) Find all the adjectives and write a sentence with each one.

Example: "Usain Bolt is very fast"

Adjectives in the text: poor, famous, grumpy, renowned, good.



2. THE AUTHOR



Pygmalion (the play) was written by George Bernard Shaw. He was a famous playwright of the 20th Century who wrote more than sixty plays and won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1925.

Do you know him? Look him up on the Internet and answer the following questions:

a) When and where was he born?

26 July 1856 in Portobello, Dublin (Ireland).

b) Besides this play, can you name five other works by the author?

For example: Saint Joan, Heartbreak House, Candida, Man and Superman, Major Barbara, Widowers' Houses, Arms and the Man, Caesar and Cleopatra.

c) He has been compared to William Shakespeare, the most famous writer and dramatist in the English language. Could you talk about some of his most iconic works?

For example: Hamlet, Macbeth, The Tempest, King Lear, Romeo and Juliet, King John or The Winter's Tale.

d) Do you know other theatre or cinema authors? Name their most popular works.

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3. THE MAIN CHARACTERS

Read the description of each character.

Eliza Doolittle is a poor girl who sells flowers on the street. Her dreams of a better life (and huge amounts of chocolate) will be the main motivation for her to decide to take pronunciation lessons under the tutelage of Professor Higgins.

Henry Higgins is an academic with vast knowledge of phonetics, a branch of linguistics that allows him to deduce people's origins by the way they speak within six miles. He is not very nice or kind, but accepts the bet of turning Eliza into a duchess.

Colonel Pickering is a linguist from the same social stable as Higgins himself. He has travelled to London to meet Higgins, because he admires his reputation and his studies of speech. His intrepid personality will lead him to bet with the teacher something that he considers impossible: to turn a flower seller into a duchess.

4. FROM LONDON TO...

Pygmalion takes place in London, the capital of the United Kingdom. Answer these questions:

Sur une feuille à part, faites une description de ce que vous portez aujourd'hui. Ensuite pliez le papier et donnez-le à votre professeur. Ce dernier vous donnera un autre papier provenant d'un autre camarade de classe. Vous lisez à voix haute et vous essayez de deviner à qui appartient la description vestimentaire que vous venez de lire.

a) Have you ever visited London?

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b) What are the most popular locations or attractions?

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c) Name three cities you would like to travel to

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d) Do you know other theatre or cinema authors? Name their most popular works.

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5. CINEMA AND THEATRE

The story of Pygmalion inspired a famous musical and a movie called My Fair Lady. The actress who played the character of Eliza Doolittle in the acclaimed film was portrayed by Audrey Hepburn.

Who is your favourite actor or actress of all time?

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Can you name other famous musical shows? Discuss with your class the plot of these shows.

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Work with a partner. How many different movie or theatre genres can you think of? Can you think of 3 defining features of each genre?

You can help your students with these genres ideas: Action, Adventure, Comedy, Romance, Crime, Tragedy, Horror, Musical, Science Fiction, War or Western.





Now you are going to do a genre swap! Choose one of your films and change its genre. Could Star Wars be a romantic comedy? Could La La Land be a horror movie? Write the plot of this new movie.

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7. LISTENING

Listen to tracks 1 and 2 and answer the following questions:

a) Track 1

We are in a market in the middle of London. What is Eliza trying to sell?

She's trying to sell flowers..

Why does Eliza get angry?

Because Higgins is watching her and taking notes about the way she talks..

What is Henry's hobby?

Phonetics, the science of speech. It's also his job.

Where has Colonel Pickering travelled from?

Colonel Pickering has come from India to meet Henry Higgins..



a) Track 2

What are Higgins and Pickering doing before the bell rings?

They are studying different vowel sounds..

How many vowels is the professor pronouncing?

130

How much does Eliza offer to pay for each class?

One shilling.

How long does Higgins say it will take him to pass Eliza for a duchess?

Six months. Three if she is good enough..



8. VOCABULARY

Look at the list of words below. If there are some you do not understand, look up the meaning in the dictionary or ask the teacher.

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Pence | Bucket | Lesson | Phonetics | Duchess | Dialects | Gentleman |
| Income | Poison | Polite | Weather | Races | Ambassador | Stubborn |
| Ball | Bet | Riff-Raff | Stunning | Gossip | Achievement | Slippers |

Fill in the gaps with the words from the previous exercise.

1. There are 100 **Pence** in one pound.
2. Eliza was carrying a **Buket** of flowers.
3. I learned the names of the colours in my first English **Lesson**.
4. My profession is **Phonetics**, the science of speech.
5. I could teach her how to speak properly, and in six months I could pass her off as a **Duchess** at an Embassy Ball.
6. I am interested in the different ways of speaking in India. I, myself, am a student of Indian **Dialects**.
7. A lady I know pays 18 pence to a French **Gentlemen** for teaching her French.
8. Eliza spends half her **Income** on food.
9. Eliza was afraid that Higgins wanted to kill her. But the chocolate was not **Poison**.
10. The Queen is very **Polite**. She smiles and treats people nicely.
11. The **Weather** in London is always cloudy and rainy.
12. Horses and hounds are the most common animals participating at the **Races**.
13. The **Ambassador** works at the embassy.
14. Professor Higgins is very **Stubborn**. He is willing to do whatever it takes to win.
15. Eliza was invited to the **Ball**. It was a great party with music and food.
16. I wouldn't **Bet** against that horse. He is very fast
17. If you go out with that man you will get in trouble. He is **riff-Raff**.
18. Eliza was **Stunning** the night of the ball. She looked very beautiful.
19. My grandfather loves **Gossip**. He likes to know personal things about people on TV (if they are married, if they have children, etc.).
20. They discover a cure for a strange disease. It was a great **Archivement**.
21. I would never leave my house in **Slippers**.



9. PRONUNCIATION

Read the following sentences out loud:

"How kind of you to let me come."

"The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain."

"In Hertford, Hereford, and Hampshire, hurricanes hardly ever happen."

10. TONGUE TWISTERS GAME!

In every language, you can find playful sentences that are difficult to pronounce. In pairs, try to read these tongue twisters out loud without making a mistake. Bring a watch or your phone and time how long it takes for each one to say it properly. The fastest wins!

*"Come, come,
Stay calm, stay calm,
No need for alarm,
It only hums,
It doesn't harm."*

PLAYER 1. Seconds:

PLAYER 2. Seconds:

*"Tie a knot, tie a knot.
Tie a tight, tight knot.
Tie a knot in the shape of a nought."*

PLAYER 1. Seconds:

PLAYER 2. Seconds:

*"I'm a sheet slitter.
I slit sheets.
I'm the sleekest sheet slitter
that ever slit sheets."*

PLAYER 1. Seconds:

PLAYER 2. Seconds:



AFTER GOING TO THE THEATRE

1. QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SHOW

Did you enjoy the show? Explain why.

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Who was your favourite character and why? Who was your least favourite character and why?

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Do you think Professor Higgins was polite at the beginning of the story? What happened afterwards?

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Do you remember the ending you wrote before going to the theatre? Was it similar to the actual one? Explain the differences and similarities between both endings.

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2. TRUE OR FALSE?

Did you pay attention to the play? Let's see if you can remember the plot. Mark the following sentences with True or False. If they are False, rewrite them correctly.

a) Colonel Pickering falls in love with Eliza Doolittle.

False. Henry Higgins falls in love with Eliza Doolittle

b) Professor Higgins bets he can teach Eliza how to speak properly in one year.

False. Professor Higgins bets he can teach Eliza how to speak properly in six months.

c) Eliza offers to pay one shilling for each lesson.

True

d) Eliza curses a dog for being very slow at the races.

False. Eliza curses a horse for being very slow at the races

e) Her Majesty the Queen attends the same ball where Eliza proves she can act as a duchess.

True

f) Henry Higgins wins the bet.

True

g) Eliza feels happy because she gets credit for appearing to be a duchess.

True

h) Eliza feels happy because she gets credit for appearing to be a duchess.

False. Eliza stays with Henry because she falls in love with him and he promises to be a better person.



3. WRITING

Eliza dreams about living in a big house and eating a lot of chocolate. She is amazed by the lifestyle of the rich and the famous. What would you do if you could have everything you wanted to? Would you travel around the globe?

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4. ROLECHANGE!

Work in pairs. Henry Higgins is a phonetics professor who teaches people how to speak properly. Imagine one of you is a teacher and your partner is a student. The teacher must pick his/her favourite hobby and explain its curiosities to the student. Make up a dialogue.



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www.transeduca.com

info@transeduca.com

911 138 140