

LESSON PLAN: Some tips for raising students' awareness on Avian Influenza

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Level: Mainly intermediate – advanced, but it may depend on the teacher's skill how to adapt to the level of the students)

Introduction:

Some countries recently suffered from bird flu recently. My country was also among these countries. Due to ignorance a few people died as a result of infection.

Seeing this, I drafted the below lesson plan and shared with all the members of AzETA (more than 500 English teachers) to help them raise their students' awareness on this dangerous disease. The result was very good. The teachers reported back to me that their students enjoyed the activities and were more informed on the disease. It also helped them to build on their vocabulary in the related field.

The lesson plan starts with some warming activities, followed by pre-reading activities, introduction of the topic and post-reading activities. As a home task the students might be given a written assignment to describe a situation with encountering a dead bird.

I. Brainstorming activity:

1. Ask the students what birds they know and list them on the board.
2. Now you have listed the names on the board. Divide the class into groups and ask them to make two lists from the names on the board:

Domestic birds

Wild birds

3. Do you have domestic birds at home? Which are they?

Note: This activity is good for vocabulary consolidation and depending on the English level of your class you can make it easy or challenging.

II. Pre-reading activity:

4. You may ask the students if they have heard of Avian Influenza. You can make 3-4 groups depending on the size of the class and ask them to discuss in the groups what they know about Avian Influenza. You can ask them to nominate somebody to speak on behalf of their group

Note: This might be a speaking activity for upper intermediate or advanced level students.

5. After this discussion (or skip it if the level is low) you may introduce the below topic:

III. Introducing the topic: AVIAN INFLUENZA

How do people become infected with avian influenza viruses?

Most cases of avian influenza infection in humans have resulted from direct or close contact with infected poultry (e.g., domesticated chicken, ducks, and turkeys) or surfaces contaminated with secretions and excretions from infected birds. The spread of avian influenza viruses from an ill person to another person has been reported very rarely, and transmission has not been observed to continue beyond one person. During an outbreak of avian influenza among poultry, there is a possible risk to people who have direct or close contact with infected birds or with surfaces that have been contaminated with secretions and excretions from infected birds.

What are the symptoms of avian influenza in humans?

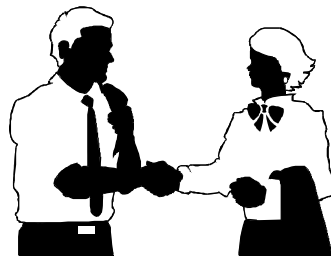
Symptoms of avian influenza in humans have ranged from typical human influenza-like symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, and muscle aches) to eye infections, pneumonia, severe respiratory diseases (such as acute respiratory distress syndrome), and other severe and life-threatening complications. The symptoms of avian influenza may depend on which specific virus subtype and strain caused the infection.

More information on bird flu is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen-info/qa.htm>

You can explain to your students that bird flu is more colloquial and avian influenza is a medical term.

You can even demonstrate through pictures the ways how people are infected with these two kinds of flu.

Human flu: from a human to a human



Avian Influenza = Bird Flu: from a bird to a human



- You can include here some “dos and don’ts” where your students will have a chance to practice grammar (Imperative Sentences)

1. Try to stay away from live birds for now.
2. Do not touch dead birds. It is dangerous for you.
3. Do not through dead birds into the river. It is dangerous for your people.
4. Do not bury dead birds.
5. Burn dead birds.
6. Wash the egg carefully with soap before boiling.
7. Boil the egg at least 10 minutes before eating.
8. Cook chicken at least 30 minutes before eating.
9. Wash your hands carefully with soap after being in contact with an egg or a bird (live or dead).

III. Post-reading activity

- Ask the students to make the list of the symptoms for both types of the flu after reading the text

Symptoms of human flu:

Symptoms of bird flu:

- You can practice the below sentences with your students through using another grammar pattern: should + verb:

1. You should try to stay away from live birds for now.
2. You should not touch dead birds. It is dangerous for you.
3. You should not throw dead birds into the river. It is dangerous for your people, etc.

- You can even practice should + passive voice

1. Dead birds should not be touched.
2. Dead birds should not be thrown into the river. It is dangerous for your people, etc.

- Multiple choice:

1. cause Avian Flu

- | | |
|---------|-----------|
| a) cows | c) fruits |
| b) fish | d) birds |

2. You should boil eggs for minutes before eating.

- | | |
|-------|------|
| a) 0 | c) 1 |
| b) 10 | d) 4 |

3. Bird flu can cause

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| a) Happiness | c) death |
| b) Peace | d) hunger |

- Writing task: You can give a task to the students to write at home: You have found a dead bird near your house. What would you do?

At the end you should explain to your students: **take it very seriously and share this with your family.**