

2022 TEACHER TRAINING COURSE USING THE NEWS IN THE CLASSROOM

INTRODUCTION

Easter, and its associated traditions and foods, gives English teachers an opportunity to use a common part of Italian and English-speaking culture in their English lessons.

By looking at the similarities (Easter Eggs, the Christian origins) and the differences (local traditions, typical dishes), we may introduce students gently into a tradition that is very familiar, but also slightly different.

Festivities such as Easter also allow us an opportunity to encourage students to use English to describe their own family traditions and habits. Rather than just repeating the normal weekly activities, students may be able to recount activities or trips that happen less frequently.

Easter Vocabulary Video

<https://youtu.be/lu3U5QCRH6s> British Holidays - Easter

Hot Cross Buns

A hot cross bun is a spiced sweet bun usually made with fruit, marked with a cross on the top, and has been traditionally eaten on Good Friday in historically Commonwealth countries such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, India, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, and some other parts of the Americas, including the United States.

The bun marks the end of the Christian season of Lent and different parts of the hot cross bun have a certain meaning, including the cross representing the crucifixion of Jesus, and the spices inside signifying the spices used to embalm him at his burial and may also include orange peel to reflect the bitterness of his time on the Cross

English folklore includes many superstitions surrounding hot cross buns. One of them says that buns baked and served on Good Friday will not spoil or grow mouldy during the subsequent year. Another encourages keeping such a bun for medicinal purposes. A piece of it given to someone ill is said to help them recover.

If taken on a sea voyage, hot cross buns are said to protect against shipwreck. If hung in the kitchen, they are said to protect against fires and ensure that all breads turn out perfectly. The hanging bun is replaced each year

In 1592, during the reign of Elizabeth I of England, the London Clerk of Markets issued a decree forbidding the sale of hot cross buns and other spiced breads, except at burials, on Good Friday, or at Christmas. The punishment for transgressing the decree was forfeiture of all the forbidden product to the poor. As a result of this decree, hot cross buns at the time were primarily made in domestic kitchens. Further attempts to suppress the sale of these items took place during the reign of James I of England (1603-1625).

Get your students to research a typical food and present weird and wonderful facts about it.

Hot cross buns!

Hot cross buns!

One a penny, two a penny,

Hot cross buns!

If you have no daughters,

give them to your sons.

One a penny, two a penny,

Hot cross buns!

<https://youtu.be/JMK8w1529YY> Hot Cross Buns ***

This was traditionally a street cry and later adapted into a nursery rhyme.

Perhaps your students could come up with a rhyme to accompany a traditional Italian Easter food?

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EASTER IN THE ENGLISH CLASSROOM

Hot Cross Buns Recipe

Can you predict the ingredients?

Do you know the meanings of the following verbs?

Pour, add, sift, melt, beat, stir, knead, divide, place, cover, mix, cut.

What do the following abbreviations mean? ml. tsp. tbsp. gr

This is a good exercise to expand food and cooking vocabulary.

Looking at ingredients, measurements and verbs.

Literature – W.B. Yeats

William Butler Yeats was one of the greatest 20th century poets, and arguably the greatest ever Irish poet. He developed from a late Romantic poet interested in Irish mythology and mysticism into a thoroughly Modern poet.

Although part of the Protestant establishment in predominantly Catholic Ireland, he was always a strong supporter of Irish independence, and in fact in later years became an honorary senator of the Irish Free State.

One of the great things about Yeats' poetry is how his life becomes the mythology that he draws on. His friends became historical figures and he was able to influence the thought of his time in a way few literary figures have done, before or since.

One of the key moments of the Irish Independence movement is the inspiration for perhaps his greatest poem – “Easter 1916”.

On Easter Monday, April 24, 1916, a group of Irish nationalists proclaimed the establishment of the Irish Republic and, along with some 1,600 followers, staged a rebellion against the British government in Ireland. The rebels seized prominent buildings in Dublin and clashed with British troops. Within a week, the insurrection had been suppressed and more than 2,000 people were dead or injured. The leaders of the rebellion soon were executed. Initially, there was little support from the Irish people for the Easter Rising; however, public opinion later shifted and the executed leaders were hailed as martyrs. In 1921, a treaty was signed that in 1922 established the Irish Free State, which eventually became the modern-day Republic of Ireland.

Yeats had long been an advocate of Irish independence, but had not supported violence. He knew a lot of those involved in the uprising personally, in fact one had been married to his muse, Maud Gonne.

One of the greatest political poems of all time, Easter 1916 still manages to evoke martyrdom and rebirth, traditional themes of Easter.

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EASTER IN THE ENGLISH CLASSROOM

Easter, 1916

William Butler Yeats

I have met them at close of day
Coming with vivid faces
From counter or desk among grey
Eighteenth-century houses.
I have passed with a nod of the head
Or polite meaningless words,
Or have lingered awhile and said
Polite meaningless words,
And thought before I had done
Of a mocking tale or a gibe
To please a companion
Around the fire at the club,
Being certain that they and I
But lived where motley is worn:
All changed, changed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.

That woman's days were spent
In ignorant good-will,
Her nights in argument
Until her voice grew shrill.
What voice more sweet than hers
When, young and beautiful,
She rode to harriers?
This man had kept a school
And rode our wingèd horse;
This other his helper and friend
Was coming into his force;
He might have won fame in the end,
So sensitive his nature seemed,
So daring and sweet his thought.
This other man I had dreamed
A drunken, vainglorious lout.
He had done most bitter wrong
To some who are near my heart,
Yet I number him in the song;
He, too, has resigned his part
In the casual comedy;
He, too, has been changed in his turn,
Transformed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.

Hearts with one purpose alone
Through summer and winter seem
Enchanted to a stone
To trouble the living stream.
The horse that comes from the road,
The rider, the birds that range
From cloud to tumbling cloud,
Minute by minute they change;
A shadow of cloud on the stream
Changes minute by minute;
A horse-hoof slides on the brim,
And a horse plashes within it;
The long-legged moor-hens dive,
And hens to moor-cocks call;
Minute by minute they live:
The stone's in the midst of all.

Too long a sacrifice
Can make a stone of the heart.
O when may it suffice?
That is Heaven's part, our part
To murmur name upon name,
As a mother names her child
When sleep at last has come
On limbs that had run wild.
What is it but nightfall?
No, no, not night but death;
Was it needless death after all?
For England may keep faith
For all that is done and said.
We know their dream; enough
To know they dreamed and are dead;
And what if excess of love
Bewildered them till they died?
I write it out in a verse—
MacDonagh and MacBride
And Connolly and Pearse
Now and in time to be,
Wherever green is worn,
Are changed, changed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.

September 25, 1916

Source: The Collected Poems of W. B. Yeats (1989)

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EASTER IN THE ENGLISH CLASSROOM

https://youtu.be/VLt_OuzW9n0 Liam Neeson reads WB Yeats' Easter 1916 | RTÉ

In this poem, Yeats starts by reflecting on the occasions that he has met these people and said “polite meaningless words”. Suddenly, there has been a change and these men have left the “casual comedy”, to become tragic figures.

In the second stanza, Yeats refers to his previous impressions of these people, some positive and some negative. Even John MacBride, a man who allegedly beat his wife, Yeats' great love, Maud Gonne, now is seen in this tragic light.

The poem hits its stride in the third stanza, with a philosophical-mythical contemplation of how “the stone” (fanaticism) troubles the living and active elements of the landscape.

In the last stanza, Yeats shows his ambivalence: was the violence justified? Will England keep its promise to give Ireland more freedom after the Great War is won?

Like most great poems, Easter 1916 does not come down on one side of the argument or the other. The “motley” (coloured clothing of a court fool) has become “green” (the unmistakable colour of Irish independence), and the “terrible beauty” of their sacrifice remains. Their names must be uttered in the poem, even though Yeats seemed to avoid them earlier.

“Easter 1916” has been echoed in many subsequent poems, with varying success. One of the greatest poems to take up the ambivalent, wearied tone of Yeats' is W.H. Auden's “September 1, 1939” in which the English poet reflects on the outbreak of war in Europe from his new home in New York. Auden had recently written a widely praised poem about Yeats' death, “In Memory of W.B. Yeats”, so Yeats' poem would have been much in Auden's mind when he wished to mark a significant date in history. Not only the title and tone, but even the stanzaic form ultimately derives from Yeats' poem.

Seamus Heaney, arguably Ireland's greatest poet since Yeats, often evokes “Easter 1916” in his great poems of the Irish troubles, such as “Casualty”. In this poem, Heaney recounts his friendship with an alcoholic fisherman who was killed in an IRA bomb. The blend of public events with personal recollection clearly finds its origins in Yeats' elegy for the dead of the Easter Rising.

Conclusion

Not only young students, but also older ones will find a lot in lessons on Easter and other festivities. Why not ask them to speak or write about “What Easter Means to Me” or “How My Family Celebrates Easter”.

Other celebrations can also be used in this way: Christmas, New Years' Eve, Local Festivities (Italian or from abroad). Questions about traditions, festivities and past and future holidays are a common topic for Cambridge Speaking exams. Any lesson which gives students vocabulary for Easter will help them increase their chances of passing the exam.

2022 TEACHER TRAINING COURSE EASTER IN THE ENGLISH CLASSROOM

Useful Links

<https://youtu.be/jD9mR2JinMo> Easter Traditions In Great Britain ESL/ESOL video A1-A2

<https://youtu.be/AGs05YQDfRA> Easter True Or False Quiz

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/easter-0>

<https://ittisouthafrica.com/celebrating-easter-in-an-inclusive-way-in-the-tefl-classroom/>

<https://oupeltglobalblog.com/2017/03/28/easter-resources-for-your-efl-classroom/>

<https://youtu.be/MoIEUM7YGDE> Mary Berry's luxurious Hot Cross Buns recipe – BBC

<https://youtu.be/OZO0gcRkvNY> Ever wondered the history behind the Easter hot cross bun? | ABC News

<https://youtu.be/WVe6TxfQdK8> ✓ Deep Analysis of EASTER 1916 by William Butler Yeats Explained in 5 min, Watch this video!

<http://www.speakuonline.it/articolo/easter-1916-by-w-b-yeats>

<https://www.litcharts.com/poetry/william-butler-yeats/easter-1916>



Easter Vocabulary quiz

- 1) Easter is the same day every year. True or False?
- 2) The date on which Easter falls coincides with Summer. True or False?
- 3) Name two of the four Easter traditions named in the video.
- 4) Who brings chocolate at Easter?
- 5) How many chocolate eggs are eaten in the UK at Easter?

Look at a popular nursery rhyme sung by many children around Eastertime. It was first published in 1798!

Hot Cross Buns lyrics

Hot cross buns!
Hot cross buns!
One ha' penny, two ha' penny,
Hot cross buns!
If you have no daughters,
Give them to your sons
One ha' penny,
Two ha' penny,
Hot Cross Buns!

Could you come up with a nursery rhyme about a typical Easter food?



Hot cross buns

Hot cross buns are traditionally eaten toasted on Good Friday, the Friday before Easter Sunday.

What do you think is in the recipe?

What do these verbs mean?

Pour

Add

Sift

Melt

Beat

Stir

Knead

Divide

What are these abbreviations?

ml

tsp

tbsp

gr

hot cross buns

For yeast mixture:

1 tbsp dried yeast
1 tsp sugar
50ml milk
150ml warm water
100g flour



For the buns:

350g flour
1 tsp salt
1 tsp mixed spice
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp nutmeg
50g sugar
50g butter
1 egg
25g currants (raisins)
40g mixed peel



Method

- Pour the warm milk and the warm water into a bowl.
- Add the sugar, yeast and 100g of flour. Leave for 20 minutes in a warm place.
- Sift 350g of flour, 50g of sugar, salt, mixed spice, cinnamon and nutmeg.
- Melt the butter in a saucepan.
- Beat the egg. Add the butter and the egg to the yeast mixture. Add the flour mixture, the currants and the mixed peel.
- Stir the mixture well.
- Knead the dough with your hands for 10 minutes.
- Divide the dough into 12 pieces.
- Place the buns on a baking tray.
- Cover the buns with a towel. Leave in a warm place for 45 minutes.
- For the topping, mix 1/2 cup (60 grams) of confectioners (powdered or icing) sugar and 1 tablespoon of milk or cream.
- Place the glaze in a paper cone or a small plastic bag. Cut the end of the cone or bag and pipe a 'cross' on the top of each bun.
- Put the buns in the oven (190°C). Bake for 15 to 20 minutes.

