

Lesson 1

Stephen Hawking – the most outstanding scientist of the 21st century

Information about the group: intermediate, age: 16-18

Aims of the lesson:

- to introduce students to the objectives of the English course as part of the „Ścisłe nauki i dobre chęci – to nas kręci” project;
- to get feedback concerning students’ English language level through conducting “Test wiedzy z języka angielskiego”;
- to revise present tenses;
- to expand students’ knowledge about Stephen Hawking;
- to comprehend the narrator’s oral speech in videos;
- to get the gist of the article.

Assumed knowledge: students are aware of the differences in using present tenses;
they learn more facts about the famous scientist;
they brush up their oral speech comprehension;
they extend their English vocabulary through reading and listening.

Anticipated problems:

students may be discouraged by unknown words in the article and video.

Teaching aids:

Internet links

<https://www.youtube.com/>

- a present tense handout with instructions, examples, exercises and key to them for self-check;
- Interview with Stephen Hawking (video with subtitles), Stephen Hawking;
- autobiographical film with subtitles, Stephen Hawking (article).

Procedure:

Warm-up:

The teacher introduces some aspects of the course(its goals and structure) .

Activity 1

Before the students are given “Test wiedzy z języka angielskiego” to do the teacher tells some typical English jokes to break the ice.

Activity 2

The teacher gives out Handout 1 with present tenses instructions and exercises for the students to revise the basic rules and encourages students to consolidate their grammar skills. As soon as they finish, they get the key with answers for self-check (Handout 2).

Activity 3

Students watch a video about Stephen Hawking with subtitles to get involved into the topic. They read an article about Stephen Hawking (English Matters 31/2011). The teacher recommends the students to pay attention to the key vocabulary to be sure they understand the most essential points in the article. It depends from the learners whether they decide to read the whole article or its most important fragments. The teacher also recommends them to pick out most useful words and phrases to enrich the students' vocabulary.

Activity 4

Students watch a Stephen Hawking film with subtitles to be able to understand as much as possible for their foreign language level.

Close-up:

Handout 3 The teacher asks students to finish some sentences to express their opinion on the topic, give their feedback and share their conclusions regarding the classes.

Feedback

Keeping in mind the work you did in class finish the following sentences:

- 1) I joined the English course because
- 2) Present Tenses practice was *useful /useless* because
- 3) Watching a Stephen Hawking Interview was *interesting/boring* because
- 4) Reading the article about Stephen Hawking let me learn *a lot of important information/did not impress me* because
- 5) Watching the Hawking 2013 film *was moving/ left me indifferent* because

