



**DISCUSSION**

**1 Discuss the questions.**



1. What is a swear word?
2. When do people swear?
3. What emotions can be expressed by swear words?
4. When do you swear?
5. Is it possible to not use "bad words" in all possible situations?
6. In whose presence do you feel comfortable swearing?
7. Do you believe that one should never swear in front of certain groups of people?
8. Do you think swearing on TV and in films should be censored or limited?
9. Is it a good idea to swear in a language that you don't know very well? Why / Why not?
10. How do you feel when you hear a young child swearing?
11. Do your parents ever swear in your presence?
12. If a person uses swear words a lot, is it an indication that their vocabulary is very narrow?

**VOCABULARY**

**2 Translate these words and phrases into your own language. Ask your friends or use a dictionary to help you.**



1. an offence – .....
2. an appeal – .....
3. a defendant – .....
4. to convict – .....
5. an expletive – .....
6. a row (over sth / between some people) – .....
7. to revoke – .....
8. to prosecute – .....
9. commonplace – .....
10. to tackle – .....
11. to intervene – .....
12. a distress – .....
13. to cite – .....
14. an abolition – .....
15. to erect (a sign, a building) – .....
16. to empower – .....
17. an enforcement – .....
18. a tenant – .....
19. a pledge – .....
20. to abuse – .....
21. a cadence – .....
22. a transgression – .....
23. a subversion – .....
24. to undermine – .....
25. preposterous – .....
26. an endearment – .....



If you need English definitions you can look them up in OALD 😊

[www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com](http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com)

### 3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words from task 2.



1. Danny Lim, a well-known Sydney activist, was ..... for using ..... on a placard.
2. Surprisingly enough, Danny Lim won ..... in the District Court.
3. According to the judge, some swearwords are very ..... and because of that they cannot cause.....
4. Some people believe that the court's decision may lead to ..... of the law or provoke some people to try ..... it.
5. The authorities must find ways of ..... the problem.

Based on a true story: <https://independentaustralia.net/life/life-display/screw-it-swearing-shouldnt-be-a-crime-anymore.13381>

## DISCUSSION

### 4 Discuss the questions.



1. Should swearing be a criminal offence?
2. Would you ask a person swearing a lot to stop using expletive language? Why / Why not?
3. Do you believe that your school is doing enough to stop people from using swearwords in inappropriate circumstances?  
If not, then is there anything that the school should do?
4. Which quote (or quotes) do you agree with? Why?
  - a) *Vulgarity is like a fine wine: it should only be uncorked on a special occasion, and then only shared with the right group of people.* James Rozoff
  - b) *I hate it when people say swearing isn't necessary. Things not being necessary is what makes life interesting, the little extras in life.* Stephen Fry
  - c) *In general, there are usually two reasons to swear--to get someone's attention and because it's fun.* Aaron Burch
  - d) *Swearing was invented as a compromise between running away and fighting.* Finley Peter Dunne

## LISTENING – VIDEO 1



[https://youtu.be/s\\_osQvkeNRM](https://youtu.be/s_osQvkeNRM)

### 5 Watch the video. Are the sentences true or false?



1. Stephen Fry thinks that swearing is not an important part of one's life. **TRUE / FALSE**
2. Swearing is a sign of having poor vocabulary. **TRUE / FALSE**
3. Stephen Fry didn't meet a lot of people who were shocked by swearing. **TRUE / FALSE**

# READING



<https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-15816761>

## 6 Read the article. Answer the questions.



1. Was swearing in public a criminal offence in the UK?

.....  
.....

2. What did David Bean (referred to in the article as Mr Justice Bean) do?

.....  
.....

3. What is Peter Foot's view on swear words?

.....  
.....

4. When was swearing banned in England?

.....  
.....

5. What did the council chiefs in Preston do?

.....  
.....

6. Why is "The Thick of It" mentioned in the article?

.....  
.....

7. What is the article's ending suggesting?

.....  
.....

# DISCUSSION

## 7 Discuss the questions.



1. Is expletive language common in movies?
2. Do you know any movies with a very high number of swear words?
3. How many swear words do you think have appeared in the most "profane" Hollywood movie?
4. What may be the sources of swear words in the language?
5. Have swear words (and what is treated as swear words) changed over time?
6. Can swear words be used as an endearment?
7. Are there any expletives in English that can be called all-purpose swear words?

# LISTENING – VIDEO 2



<https://youtu.be/ZfoQVeeWzAE>

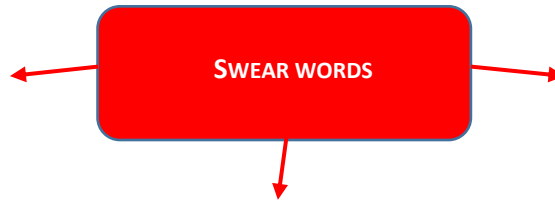
**8** Watch the video. Provide answers to the tasks.



1. What are the 3 sources of swear words in English?

Fill in the mind map.

Add (some of) the words to the appropriate categories.



2. What euphemisms (words or phrases used instead of offensive ones) appeared in English between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century?

.....  
.....  
.....

3. When did the word “f\*\*\*” appear in English?

Mark the date on the provided timeline.



4. What word did “f\*\*\*” replace in English?

.....  
.....  
.....

5. Did the word “c\*\*\*” (used for “penis”) have a different, non-offensive, meaning?

a) Yes, it did.      b) No, it didn't.

If your answer is “Yes, it did”, then what was the previous meaning?

.....  
.....

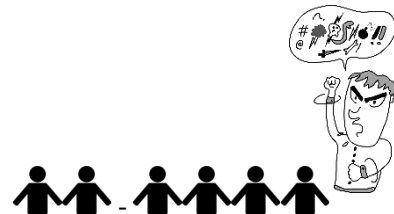
6. What name have been more commonly used instead of “Dick” since around 1968?

.....

## DISCUSSION

### 9 Discuss the questions.

8. What things have you learnt during the lesson?
9. Did you enjoy the lesson? Why / Why not?



## EXTRA TASK

### LISTENING – VIDEO 3 (warning: explicit language)



[https://youtu.be/tcdHHgA\\_QFA](https://youtu.be/tcdHHgA_QFA)

### 10 Watch the video.



Make a list of 10 movies that are mentioned in the video for having excessive swearing.

Note down the number of swear words when it is mentioned (in total, or an average per minute).

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....
6. ....
7. ....
8. ....
9. ....
10. ....