



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 – wykroczenie
2. an appeal – odwołanie
3. a defendant – oskarżony
4. to convict – skazany
5. an expletive – przekleństwo
6. a row (over sth / between some people) – kłótnia
7. to revoke – odwołać
8. to prosecute – oskarżyć, wnieść sprawę do sądu
9. commonplace – pospolite
10. to tackle – podjąć, stawić czoła
11. to intervene – interweniować
12. a distress – zmartwienie, problem
13. to cite – cytować
14. an abolition – zniesienie
15. to erect (a sign, a building) – postawić, wznieść
16. to empower – upoważnić
17. an enforcement – egzekwowanie
18. a tenant – lokator
19. a pledge – przysięga
20. to abuse – nadużywać
21. a cadence – kadencja; tempo, rytm
22. a transgression – występek
23. a subversion – sabotaż, działalność wywrotowa
24. to undermine – podważyć
25. preposterous – niewyobrażalne
26. an endearment – czułości



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



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

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?
Yes, it was.
2. What did David Bean (referred to in the article as Mr Justice Bean) do?
He upheld the appeal of a defendant convicted for repeatedly using swear words while being searched by police.
3. What is Peter Foot's view on swear words?
He's in favour of swearing in the privacy of one's home or a likeminded company, but he believes that we shouldn't use swear words in public.
4. When was swearing banned in England?
1623
5. What did the council chiefs in Preston do?
They erected signs discouraging people from swearing and empowered the police to hand out notices for swearing.
6. Why is "The Thick of It" [the award-winning BBC political satire] mentioned in the article?
One of the show's writers was bestowed with a title of "swearing consultant" because he was good at swearing.
7. What is the article's ending suggesting?
The debate (whether using swear words should be a criminal offence) will continue.

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>

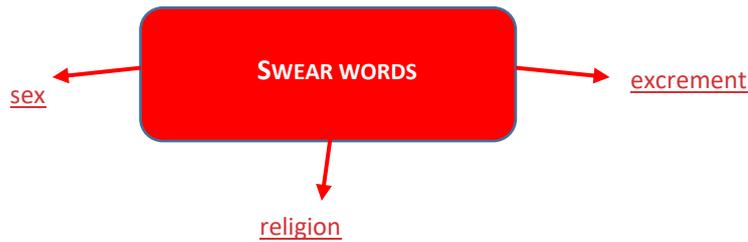
8 Watch the video. Provide answers to the tasks.



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. /no examples in the key, sorry 😊 /



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

Gosh darnit, Bejesus.

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

Mark the date on the provided timeline.



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

to swive

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?

A rooster.

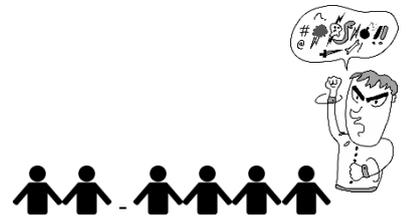
6. What name have been more commonly used instead of “Dick” since around 1968?

Rick.

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

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. The Wolf of Wall Street (569 “f-bombs”)
2. Goodfellas (300 “f-bombs”, 2.05 per minute)
3. Scarface (1.21 swear words per minute)
4. South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut (no mention of the number of swear words)
5. Clerks & Clerks II (no mention of the number of swear words)
6. Pulp Fiction (no mention of the number of swear words)
7. Casino (“f-bombs” appearing 422 times)
8. Reservoir Dogs (2.71 “f-bombs” a minute)
9. The Big Lebowski (no mention of the number of swear words)
10. Full Metal Jacket (193 “f-bombs”)