

Mother's Day

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THIS LESSON IS AIMED AT STUDENTS WITH A LOWER INTERMEDIATE LEVEL OF ENGLISH.

INDEX

1. VIDEO AND LISTENING

2. WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

3. READING

4. WRITING

5. TRANSCRIPT

6. TEACHER NOTES AND ANSWERS



Listening

Watch the video one time and answer the questions.

1. Which of these is the best Mother's Day gift for Happy Slip's mom?
 - a. Flowers
 - b. Clothes
 - c. A meal
 - d. A card

2. Why doesn't her mother like the clothes she gave her?
 - a. They're the wrong color.
 - b. They aren't her fashion.
 - c. They're the wrong size.
 - d. They are too expensive.

3. Which of these is not in the dinner Happy Slip made?
 - a. Zucchini
 - b. Onions
 - c. Tomatoes
 - d. Balsamic sauce

4. What's another thing that Happy Slip says she has to do in her song?
 - a. Telephone her mother.
 - b. Set up her mother's voice mail.
 - c. Send her mother a message.
 - d. Listen to her mother.

5. What does Happy Slip give her mother with the card?
 - a. A message certificate.
 - b. A happy message.
 - c. A song.
 - d. A life.

Watch and listen to song part of the video. Write in the missing words.

Happy Mothers Day. Happy Mothers Day (phone rings)

You're not **a.**[].

You're my mom, whether you like it or not (laughs)

Why do you pick up the phone every **b.**[] it rings?

You know there's **c.**[] mail.

I forgot you don't know how to set up voice mail.

It's **d.**[] thing for me to do. Another thing for me to do.

It's okay **e.**[] you're my mom.

Happy Mothers Day.

m. Okay, you can start now.

Words and Expressions

Read the sentences below and for the words in bold write in the meaning from the list a ~ k. The first has been done for you.

[] I **guess** it's time to cut the grass again. It never ends.

[] Could you help me **set up** my computer? It's the first time I've done it.

[] Don't forget it's **Mothers Day** tomorrow. Mom will be expecting a visit.

[] That's a very **fancy** watch you're wearing. Where did you get it?

[] Some people think the Ferrari is the **ultimate** in sports cars.

[] Sorry, I'm busy today, so just a **simple** meal. Bread and cheese.

[] iPods are really the **in thing** at the moment, aren't they?

[] That's a great **outfit**. I really like the skirt.

[] Buy this camera and I'll **throw in** the camera case for free.

[] My sister likes **accessories**, especially necklaces and earrings.

a. A special celebration to thank mothers.

b. A set of clothes.

c. Jewellery, watches and so on.

d. Fashionable, popular.

- e. Gorgeous, exotic, unusual
- f. Telephone voice recording.
- g. Make something ready to work.
- h. Basic.
- i. Think
- j. To give something extra or free.
- k. The best, very special.

- **You are into ...** *This is one way of expressing what your hobbies or interests are. Examples are;*

Jane is very much into flower arranging. She goes to classes twice a week.
Are you into jazz at all. I have tickets for a concert tonight, if you'd like to go.

- **~ gets the message across.** *This is used as an explanation of the effectiveness of a communication. For example;*

He may be blunt, but he gets the message across very well.
If you don't know what to say to her, send flowers. That will get the message across.

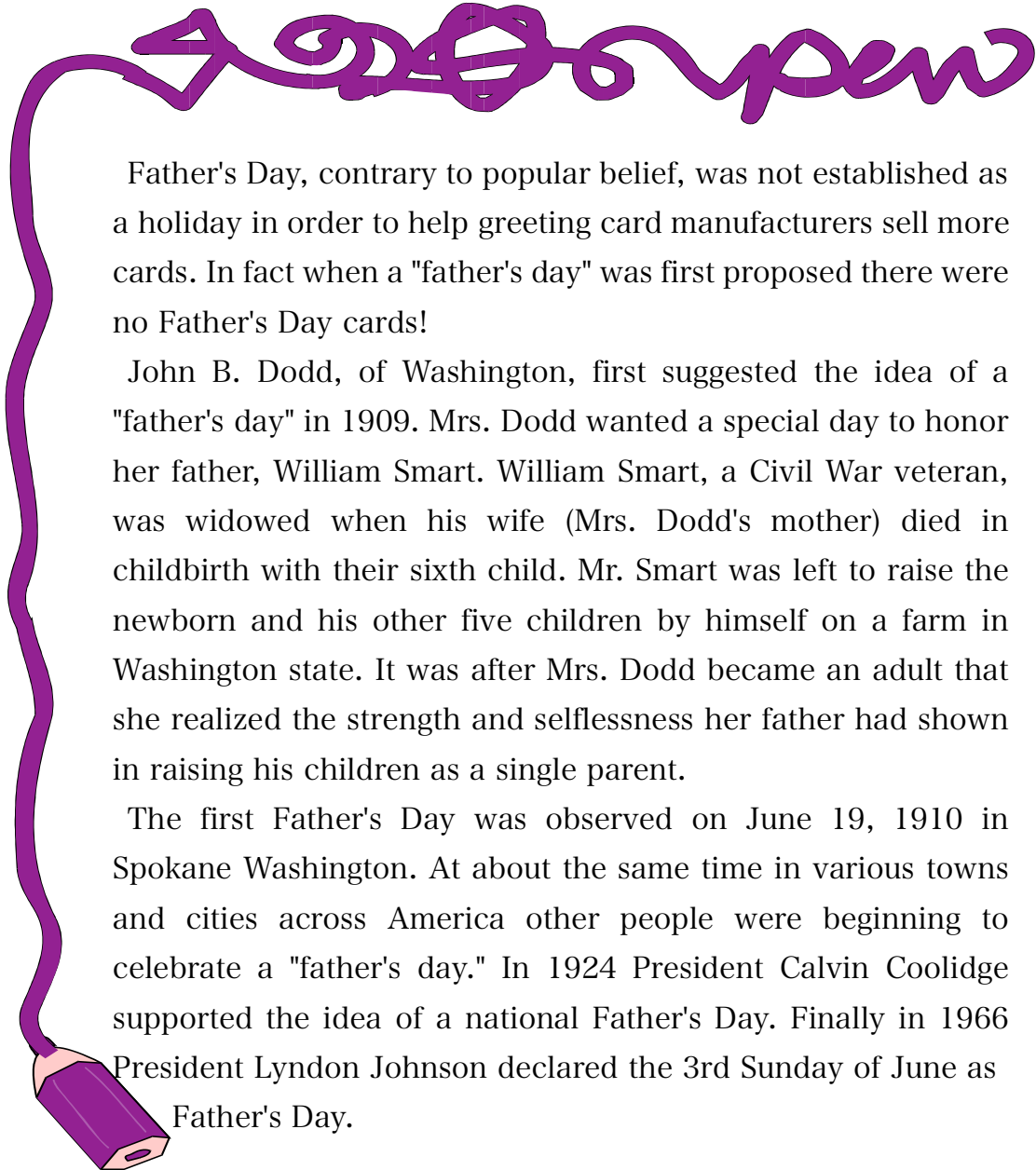
- **With all that in mind ...** *Considering everything that has already happened before making a decision. For example;*

A lot was said at the meeting and with all that in mind I've come to the decision that I should resign.

We've been together for a long time now. And with one thing and another, and all that in mind, we've decided to get married.

Reading

Read the section below and answer the questions.



Father's Day, contrary to popular belief, was not established as a holiday in order to help greeting card manufacturers sell more cards. In fact when a "father's day" was first proposed there were no Father's Day cards!

John B. Dodd, of Washington, first suggested the idea of a "father's day" in 1909. Mrs. Dodd wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart. William Smart, a Civil War veteran, was widowed when his wife (Mrs. Dodd's mother) died in childbirth with their sixth child. Mr. Smart was left to raise the newborn and his other five children by himself on a farm in Washington state. It was after Mrs. Dodd became an adult that she realized the strength and selflessness her father had shown in raising his children as a single parent.

The first Father's Day was observed on June 19, 1910 in Spokane Washington. At about the same time in various towns and cities across America other people were beginning to celebrate a "father's day." In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day. Finally in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson declared the 3rd Sunday of June as Father's Day.

1. Was Father's Day established to help makers of greeting cards?
2. When was the idea of Father's Day first suggested?
3. What did Mrs. Dodd realize about her father when she became an adult?
4. When and where was the first Father's Day observed?
5. When did Father's Day finally become official?

Writing

Write about what you do for your parents on Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Transcript

For this transcript I have highlighted the words and expressions I think are difficult for this level. Students can look them up in a dictionary or review the lesson.

So I wanna give my mom a **Mothers Day** gift, but it's not that easy. For example, the following are four ideas that do not work for my mom.

Number one. Give her flowers.

h. Happy Mothers Day mom. Hope you like these?
m. Oh yeah. That's nice. You're into flowers, huh?

Number two. Buy her a nice **outfit**, complete with **accessories**.

m. I don't think this is the **in thing**, is it?

Number three. Cook her a **fancy** dinner.

h. May I present you with delagne mignon enchante onions and zucchini with balsamic vinegar sauce.
m. Huh! Oh, I just uh, I just want my rice.

Number four. Write her a song.

h. Happy Mothers Day. Happy Mothers Day (phone rings)
You're not listening.
You're my mom, whether you like it or not (laughs)
Why do you pick up the phone every time it rings?
You know there's **voice mail**.
I forgot you don't know how to **set up** voice mail.
It's another thing for me to do. Another thing for me to do.

It's okay because you're my mom.

Happy Mothers Day.

m. Okay, you can start now.

But you know, it seems like the **simple** things work just fine and it gets the message across.

m. Life is short. I love you mom. (cries)

So with all that in mind, I **guess** a card will do for my mom. And if I **throw in** a gift certificate for a massage, that's the **ultimate** in gift giving. Oh yeah.

Teacher Notes

You can find the answers to the exercises on this page with a few guidelines for teachers.

VIDEO AND LISTENING

- Play the video through once with sound off. Ask the students (in groups) to write down what they think the video is about and make a note of any words or expressions they think may appear in the script. Also, what do they think the narrator is saying? These can be discussed in class and will give the students a background from which to start the listening section. One exercise would be to get students to make their own narration for the video. If necessary, give students practice with the vocabulary and word sections before showing it.
- Play video again with sound on. Students are asked to answer the first set of questions 1~5.

Answers; d b c b a

- Listen again to the middle portion of the story. Fill in the gaps with the words you hear.

Answers; a. listening b. time c. voice d. another e. because

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

- As well as the exercise here I might practice the words introduced in this section by use of short quizzes or vocabulary games. There are many. Two of my favorites are; Back writing – where students in pairs write the words on each other's backs using their fingers. or, The miming game – Teacher mimes a word without vocalizing it. Students guess the word by reading the teacher's lips.

Answers; i g a e k h d b j c

READING

- The reading text expands the lesson to include cross culture experiences. For my own classes, depending on the level, I ask the students to read the text first without a dictionary. They then answer the questions and then we will come back to the text and go through it again with the aid of a dictionary to cover any new words or expressions.

Answers;

1. No

2. 1909

3. The strength and selflessness he'd shown as a single parent.

4. June 19, 1910

5. 1966