Holy Cow

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Learn and practice using - Comparing and Contrasting, Giving Opinions, Intonation and stress, Comprehension activities.

Activity One - **Ask and answer** with your teacher or partner.



1. Do you drink milk?
2. Do you drink cow urine?
3. Do you drink any other type of milk substitute?
4. What do you know about the diary industry?
5. Did you ever think about how milk is produced?
6. Do you think that dairy cows should be treated better?

Activity Two - **Read about the Holy Cow.**

Millions of Hindus revere and worship **cows**. Hinduism is a religion that raises the status of Mother to the level of Goddess. Therefore, the cow is considered a **sacred** animal, as it provides us life sustaining milk.

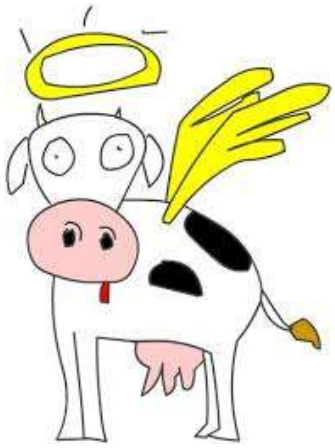
The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, India's leading Hindu cultural group, has developed Gau Jal or Cow Water, at its research centre in the Indian holy city of Haridwar on the River Ganges, and hopes it will be marketed as a 'healthy' alternative to Coke and Pepsi.
Hindus worship cows for their life-sustaining dairy products, but many also consume bovine urine and faeces in drinks and spice mixes for their "health-giving" properties.

In some Indian states, cow dung and urine are sold in regular dairy shops alongside milk and yogurt, and "ayurvedic" Indian health food companies make porridge, toothpaste and tonic drinks which claim to cure ailments ranging from liver complaints to diabetes and cancer. The urine is also believed to have disinfectant properties while the dung is used in many Indian village huts as a clean and antiseptic flooring.

Now, the RSS's Cow Protection Department has invented a new urine-based soft drink it hopes will promote its health-giving properties to a wider market. "We refer to gau ark (cow urine) as gau jal (cow water) as it has immense potential to cure various diseases. We have developed a soft drink formula with gau jal as the base and it has been sent to a laboratory at Lucknow for testing," said director Om Prakash.

By Dean Nelson in New Delhi





Comprehension Questions:

1. What is cow water?
2. What will it be marketed as?
3. Why do hindus worship cows?
4. What is made out of cow urine and dung?
5. What claims are made about such products?
6. What does cow urine have the potential to cure according to Om Prakash?

Now watch the video about how cows are treated in India.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoWXF6scIyw

Activity Three - **Compare and contrast.**

Here are some words and expressions you can use when comparing two ideas:

- *unlike*
- *in contrast to*
- *as opposed to*
- *different from*
- *whereas*
- *As ... as*
- *Though, Although, Even Though*
- *However, Nonetheless*
- *Despite, In Spite Of*

Activity Four - **Read AND Compare**
Read the article and then compare and contrast the way cows are treated in India and the way cows are treated in Europe or America etc.. Try to use as many of the words and expressions from activity three as possible.

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/mar/30/dairy-scary-public-farming-calves-pens-alternatives

The daily practices of most dairy farms are more distressing than those of meat production. A mother cow only produces milk when she gets pregnant. So, starting from the age of 15 months, she will usually be artificially inseminated. Dairy is proving to be a vulnerable spot for the entire slaughter racket

When she gives birth, her calf will typically be removed within 36 hours, so the farmers can steal and sell you the milk that is meant for her baby. Wildlife experts say that a strong bond between cow and calf is formed quickly after birth. Following that callous separation, the mother will bellow and scream for days, wondering where her baby is. The answer depends on the gender of the calf. If male, he will probably either be shot and tossed into a bin, or sold to be raised for veal, which delays his death by just a matter of months. But if the calf is female, she will usually be prepared for her own entry into dairy production, where she will face the same cycle of hell that her mother is trapped in: forced impregnation, the theft of her baby, and a return to the cattle crush two or three months later.

For at least six months of the year, she will often be confined inside dark sheds. But a growing number of dairy farms in Britain use a "zero-grazing system" in which cows spend their entire lives indoors, in increasingly intensive structures.

Activity Five: **Giving your opinion in English.**

Now let's look at some words and expressions which are useful for giving your opinion in English:

In my opinion, ... *In my eyes, ...*
To my mind, ... *As far as I am concerned, ...*
From my point of view, ...
My view / opinion / belief / impression / conviction is that ...
I would say that ... *It seems to me that ...*
I am of the opinion that ...
My impression is that ... *I am under the impression that ...*
I have the feeling that ... *My own feeling on the subject is that ...*
I have no doubt that ... *I am sure / I am certain that ...*

I think / consider / find / feel / believe / suppose / presume / assume that ...
I hold the opinion that ... *I guess that ...*

Activity Six : Stressed animals - your opinion… Using the expressions and words from activity five give your opinion on the following questions?

1. What do you think about the way animals are treated in general in the food industry and particularly in the diary industry?
2. Do you think that dairy produce will increasingly be replaced by alternatives?
3. What's your opinion on how diary farming affects the environment?
4. Do you think that milk and dairy products are good for our health?

Activity Seven: **Stressed sounds in English**

English is a stress timed language

One of the most important features of English that second language speakers need to be aware of is that English is a **stress timed language**. This means that we stress the important words and all the other words get squeezed in between those important ones. So that these sentences:

- Dogs chase cats
- The dogs chase the cats
- The dogs will be chasing the cats

all take the same amount of time to say. This means that many words have strong forms (when they are important and stressed) and weak forms (when they are not important and squeezed into the rest of the sentence).
The first step is to understand the nature of this feature of English and you can do that by taking a look at a couple of youtube clips which explain it well. Xansworld and Rachel's English. Com have some nice short explanations which make it clear.

Source: https://englishforuniversity.com/pronunciation/english-is-a-stress-timed-language/

Activity Eight - Read an extract from this article making an effort to say the important words with more stress so that there is a rhythm to your speech.
https://www.ciwf.org.uk/your-food/dairy/



