STAY WOKE



EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Discuss opinions, Learn about Participles and the gerund, Comprehension activities.

Activity One: Discuss with your partner or teacher.

1. Would you say that you are particularly aware or concerned about social justice in the world?
2. Are you engaged in any organisations or work which helps to promote social justice?
3. Does your job, or your studies give you a sense of purpose and is that important to you?
4. Do you like to help others and do you seek opportunities to do that?
5. Are you interested in language and how language and particular words evolve?

Activity Two: Participle Practice

Do you sometimes get confused about which participle to use? What is a participle in fact, as soon as you start saying the word it sounds weird doesn't it! *Par-tic-i-ple*…. arghhh.. let's look into this together, by reviewing grammar rules occasionally, then can sometimes make mire sense when we hear them in use. It's important not to try and think about the rules too much when we are speaking though, just be aware of them and then let your brain make the connections - stay woke ;-)…

Participles come in two types: past and present. They are two of the five forms or principal parts that every verb has. Participles have three functions in sentences. They can be components of multipart verbs, or they can function as adjectives or nouns.

- **Present participles** can function as nouns. Whenever a present participle functions as a noun, you call it a gerund.
  - Thinking about social injustice and acting on it is proof that you are 'woke'.
  - Criticizing someone for their political beliefs is intolerant.

Thinking acting AND criticizing in these sentences function as nouns.



The gerund must be used when a verb comes after a preposition.

- I can't read the newspaper **without being** shocked by the violence!
- Stay aware of the real issues in the community **by reading** the local paper.
- Homeless people are **always asking** for money in this city.

You also have to use the gerund after phrasal verbs.

- People **keep on using** the word 'woke' in an ironic way.
- The word woke has **ended up being** a joke!

- **Past Participles; (**To wake up **- woke, woken)**

-ed or **-en** are both *morphemes* which signify the past.
However many past participles in English are irregular.
Furthermore, Past participles can also be used as adjectives.

- The **startled** neighborhood awoke to the sound of gunshots at 3am!
- The **torn** coat of a police officer was still in the middle of the street in the morning.

Startled and torn are adjectives in these sentences.

A. Write three more sentences with past participles used as adjectives, talk about issues in society.
B. Write three sentences with the gerund, talk about violence in our inner cities.

Activity Three: Comprehension: Listening activity.



Redbone.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kp7eSUU9oy8

Listen to the song and follow the lyrics below.
Then answer the following questions about the message of this song.

1. What do you think the songwriter is advising his listeners to do and not to do?
2. How would you describe the style of the music?
3. Did you like the song?
4. What do you think we can still believe in, in today's society?
5. Can we get what we want, like the song says?

Daylight, I wake up feeling like you won't play right
I usually know but now, that shit don't feel right
It made me put away my pride

*So long, you made a n*g** wait for some, so long*
You make it hoverboard like that, but no wrong
I'm wishing I could make this mine, oh

If you want it, yeah
You can have it, oh, oh, oh
If you need it, oooh
We can make it, oh
If you want it
You can have it



But stay woke
*N*g**s creepin'*
They gon' find you
Gon' catch you sleepin'
Oooh, now stay woke
*N*g**s creepin'*
Now don't you close your eyes
oo late
You wanna make it right, but now it's too late
My peanut butter chocolate cake with Kool-Aid
I'm trying not to waste my time

If you want it, oh
You can have it, you can have it
If you need it
You better believe in something
We can make it
If you want it
You can have it, aaaaah!

But stay woke
*N*g**s creepin'*
They gon' find you
Gon' catch you sleepin'
Put your hands up on me
Now stay woke
*N*g**s creepin'*
Now don't you close your eyes
But stay woke, ooooh
*N*g**s creepin'*
They gon' find you
Gon' catch you sleepin'
Ooh, now stay woke
*N*g**s creepin'*
Now don't you close your eyes

Baby get so scandalous, oh
How'd it get so scandalous?
Oh, oh
Baby you
How'd it get...
How'd it get so scandalous?

Activity Four: Agree or disagree with the statements: Using the following expressions, agree or disagree with the statements below (they all use the gerund).

- Then make your own statements using the gerund, about social justice.

- I agree entirely,
- Absolutely,
- Yes I think that's absolutely right!
- I disagree
- I beg to differ
- I really don't agree with that

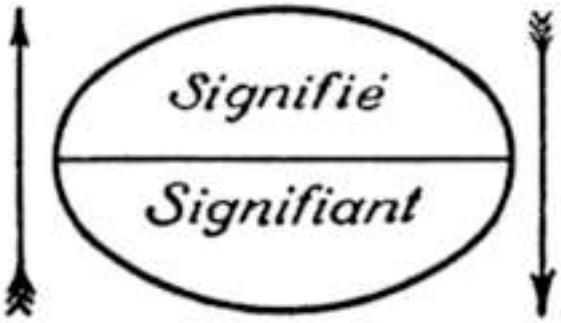


A. Talking about politics doesn't help anyone, only taking action can make a difference!
B. Using social media to spread political messages is a way to make a difference!
C. You may think you are making a difference by going on a march or posting something on Instagram, but you don't have any real power, only money or violence talks!

Activity Five: Read the article paying attention to your intonation and stress. **Then say what you think about it.**

Be a word detective and Trust Yourself!

By understanding the relation between words you can use 'morphological cues' to **deduce** meaning.



Morphological - Morphology is the study of how the structure and the form of a language can show word meaning. Morphemes are the smallest unit of meaning in a language. Many words have just one morpheme.

There are specific morphemes which show tense, number, possession or comparison. There are also morphemes which create new words when added to the root of the word, these are prefixes and suffixes. These morphemes tell us a lot about how the language has developed historically, they also help us to derive meaning. Our language is constantly evolving, often a grammatical error, or pronunciation mistake can create a new word.

The signified can evolve whilst the signified stays unchanged. Using your powers of logical deduction then, your instinct, your understanding of the context, is essential to improving your comprehension of a foreign language.

Language is constantly evolving, as the story of the word 'woke' tells us. By looking into the history of a word you can understand the shades of meaning and therefore know how to use it correctly.

Trust Yourself



These are the two words which I repeat the most often to my students. At all ages, French speakers of English as a foreign language do seem to be plagued with self doubt. Frequently the fear of making a mistake overrides all other instincts. This can pose problems with both listening and speaking.

If you are afraid and doubtful, then it's easy to get flustered if you can't think of a word you need. If you are stressed then it's hard to think clearly. If you are worried that you may not understand, then you won't understand. A mental block can form when you are stressed that actually prevents you from understanding. Furthermore, stress and tension stops you from learning and of course from enjoying the experience!

Being aware of this tendency (or I guess you could say being woke to it:-) is the first step to resolving the problem it poses. If you are relaxed and listening to your instinct then you can use logical deduction and your understanding of the context, to deduce meaning. For this to work though, you absolutely have to trust yourself!

You have heard spoken English all of your life, in music played when you were not really listening, on the TV, in snippets of conversation, in English lessons, in your travels… your brain was processing this information all along. You were making connections without even realizing it.

You've learned other languages, you know your own language. It's in your DNA to to understand what certain morphemes mean, what certain sounds mean. So there's never a point when you don't understand anything! Portant, 'je n'ai rien compris' is a common complaint from French learners of English!

If you consider the fact that 29% of all English words are of French origin and a further 29% are of Latin origin, there are a lot of cognates there for you to work with!

By focussing on the words you do know, instead of those you don't, you can derive meaning and understand the main message of what people are saying to you. By using the words you have,and even inventing a few, instead of getting blocked trying to translate from your French thoughts, you can get your message across in a simple way. Often people will help you along and prompt you, repeating things back correctly or filling your gaps. This will be the moment you learn the most! These will be the words you remember when you need them next time. It's only by daring to make mistakes, by taking some risks, that you can learn.

In language acquisition **attitude is everything!** So make sure yours is positive and you will see immediate results. Trust yourself - you're amazing!

Activity Six: History of Woke - From bold to sold out!

Source: https://splinternews.com/how-woke-went-from-black-activist-watchword-to-teen-int-1793853989

Like most slang, the meaning of "woke" changes depending on who's saying it, and to whom. Among black people talking about Ferguson, "stay woke" might mean something like: "stay conscious of the apparatus of white supremacy, don't automatically accept the official explanations for police violence, keep safe."

"Woke" can also refer, mockingly, to (white) people whose perspectives on race change suddenly after learning about historical injustice. (e.g. "You talked to Brad recently? He read some Ta-Nehesi Coates and now he thinks he's woke.")

Though it was popularized as a call to action that went hand in hand with the #BlackLivesMatter movement, the idea of getting (and staying) "woke" has taken on a different, more complex meaning in the years since it first began to spread across the internet.

In her 2008 song Master Teacher, Erykah Badu (along with Bilal and Georgia Anne Muldrow) sing about how they dream of a world where there are "no niggas," but instead "only master teachers." They immediately clarify that they "stay woke." (Meaning that they recognize that, although it would be nice, their dream of racial equality is far from reality.) Badu's song is generally considered the first major usage of the phrase.

On February 26, 2012, George Zimmerman shot and killed Trayvon Martin, and in the following months, Zimmerman was charged with second-degree murder and subsequently found not guilty.

The court's decision not to convict George Zimmerman sparked a wave of public outrage that resulted in protests across the country and the creation of the Black Lives Matter movement. Social media played a key role in the way that Black Lives Matter transformed from a collection of disaffected activists into an organized phenomenon.

By 2013, Black Lives Matter had become a powerful, real-world force and an iconic hashtag used by thousands of Twitters users to organize and shed light on the stories of even more black lives that had been lost too soon.Calling someone "woke," in these years, was a signal that they understood these systemic injustices, and were determined to do something about them.

Like "bae," "on fleek," and "bruh," it was only a matter of time before "woke" was co-opted by the mainstream internet, but there's a certain tragedy to its loss #StayWoke was, for a time, a

legitimately useful word for black people reminding each other to be conscious of black struggles during a time of systematic injustice.

Now, though, for some, it's just an internet signifier, used for joking around as Saturday Night Live proves in their spoof jeans ad. **Click here to watch the video.**

Further reading if you are interested: https://www.okayplayer.com/originals/georgia-muldrow-erykah-badu-stay-woke-master-teacher.html

Comprehension Questions:

1. Why did the word 'woke' become popular for talking about social injustice?
2. How did it lose it's strength of meaning?
3. Why is it a shame that it lost its meaning?
4. How does the jeans ad joke with the word woke?



Activity Seven: Role Plays

- You are a reporter, interviewing Trump about violence in the inner cities a shootings. You ask him about his views on gun control.
- You are Sybrina Fulton, Trayvon Martin's mother. You have just made a speech about making Florida safer, when an old white man stands up and tells you that he has fought in the war and he has won the right to carry a gun to protect his family.
- You are a famous rapper, well known for his outspoken views on racism and inequality. You are stopped in the street by a young kid who wants to know why you don't share some of your money with the poor people like the ones in his neighborhood.

Activity Eight: Just for fun: Rap You: Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a rap star? Here's your chance to imagine…. click on the link and find out your rap name!

https://www.name-generator.org.uk/rapper/

