



Cloze Listening Activity (Teacher)

1. The students are all handed an authentic text with some missing words (see *cloze listening student* below). The teacher instructs students to skim the text very quickly. The teacher then instructs the students to listen and follow as she reads the completed text dealing with the extinction of honeybees. Students have to listen for the missing words and fill them in the gaps, as they listen. For an advanced group, the teacher need only read the text once, at normal speed. (The activity could thus also train the supporting skill of note taking if the teacher encouraged the use of shorthand or abbreviations when filling in the missing words. Students could be given time at the end of the activity to write the answers in full). The reading may be repeated for lower level groups.

Authentic Text:

(Teacher reads)...

The Buzz Word

Honeybees are disappearing – and rapidly. How worried should we be?

Albert Einstein is said to have predicted that if bees were to disappear, man would follow only a few years later. In the UK, nearly one in three honeybee hives did not survive last winter, according to the British Beekeepers Association. Honeybees are integral to agriculture – they pollinate everything from onions to strawberries, broccoli, soybeans and apples, forming a critical link in the long chain that results in food on our table. Scientists have coined the term, Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) to describe the disappearance of adult bees from hives. The US Department of Agriculture has narrowed the causes of CCD down to a possible combination of four factors: disease, parasites, and environmental stresses (including pesticides). It's not that simple to fix. European honeybees have been bred to produce honey, so they have lost genetic diversity. South African bees on the other hand are perfectly healthy, unlike European honeybees; local bees haven't been bred and have huge genetic diversity.

2. Ideas for the classroom

The authentic text as a starting point (a context) for learning and teaching:

- a) **Grammar** –
 - i. Present simple
 - ii. Past simple
 - iii. Present perfect simple
 - iv. Proper Nouns (South Africa, Europe, Albert Einstein)



v. Abbreviations (US, UK, CCD)

vi. Punctuation (comma, semi-colon, etc.)

vii. Adjectives

viii. Collective nouns

b) **Vocabulary** - bee, insects, parasites, diseases, pollinate, agriculture, food groups, environmental stresses, honey, hives, survive, local, bred (past tense) healthy, etc.

c) **Creative writing:** suggestions below

Activities/ideas for creative writing

1. Students could write their prediction on the end of the world. When is it going to happen? What will cause the world to come to an end?
2. Students could write a short paragraph on how they survived their last winter, describing how cold it was, or how they felt.
3. Students find out that the world is about to end; they realise they only have one day to live, **today**. They write a 50-word paragraph on their thoughts, their feelings and how they're going to spend their last day.



Cloze Listening (Student)

Authentic Text:

(The student skim reads and then listens for the missing words) ...

The Buzz word

Honeybees are disappearing – and rapidly. How worried should we be?

_____ is said to have predicted that if _____ were to disappear, man would follow only a few years later. In the _____, nearly one in three honeybee _____ did not _____ last _____, according to the British Beekeepers Association. Honeybees are integral to _____ – they _____ everything from _____ to _____, _____, _____ and _____, forming a critical link in the long chain that results in food on our table. Scientists have coined the term, _____ (CCD) to describe the disappearance of adult bees from hives. The US Department of Agriculture has narrowed the causes of CCD down to a possible combination of four factors: _____, _____, and environmental stresses (including _____). It's not that simple to fix. European honeybees have been bred to produce honey, so they have lost genetic diversity. South African bees on the other hand are perfectly _____, unlike European honeybees; _____ bees haven't been _____ and have huge genetic diversity.

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