

Amy Johnson – ‘air queen’

Language

Vocabulary connected with the flying, *during / while*, collocations

Level

Elementary to pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A1/A2–B1 and above)

Comment

This eLesson looks at the life of Amy Johnson on the anniversary in May of her first record-breaking flight.

How to use the lesson

- 1 Set the context of the reading – flying. Ask students how they feel about flying now and ask them to think about how flying was different 70 years ago, either as a whole class activity or in pairs/small groups followed by class feedback.
- 2 Pre-teach any vocabulary that might prevent students from doing the first reading task, eg *record-breaking*, *route* (exercise 1). Set exercise 1 and give a brief time limit, eg 1–2 minutes depending on students' level, to encourage fast reading. When the time limit is up, students can discuss their answers in pairs if appropriate. Take feedback.
- 3 Exercise 2 gives students practice in reading for detailed comprehension. If you feel your students might have problems with any of the words, you can refer them to the Glossary if appropriate. You could also check that students know how to say the numbers / dates, eg 1903: *nineteen oh three*. Students could compare their answers in pairs. Take feedback.
- 4 Exercise 3 focuses on word partnerships (collocation). Students choose the correct word to complete the collocation. This might be an appropriate time to tell students / remind students to make a note of new vocabulary with any words which are typically used with them.
- 5 Exercise 4 gives students practice in using the collocations from the previous exercise, relating it back to the text, eg *When Amy reached Karachi she was a worldwide celebrity*.
- 6 Exercise 5 focuses on the difference in the use of *during* and *while*. If appropriate for your students, focus on when something happened using *during* + noun / *while* + verb with *-ing*. With stronger students, you could ask them to look back at the text and underline the words following *during / while* and ask them to tell you the form. Students could complete the exercise in pairs if appropriate. Take feedback.
- 7 Exercise 6 gives students personalised speaking practice about Amy Johnson and breaking records. Set the discussion task for small groups if appropriate. Take class feedback. If appropriate for your students, you could ask them to use the web to find other articles about flying, eg Amelia Earhart, or other record-breakers. They could then share what they've learnt in the following class or write a short text for homework following the pattern in text about Amy Johnson, eg what records the person broke, their age etc. The best ones / All the texts could be displayed in the classroom if appropriate.

Reading eLesson

Answer key

1

- 1 paragraph 4
- 2 paragraph 7
- 3 paragraph 1
- 4 paragraph 6
- 5 paragraph 2
- 6 paragraph 3
- 7 paragraph 5

2

- | | | |
|--------|----------|--------|
| 1 26 | 4 4 | 7 6 |
| 2 1903 | 5 10,000 | 8 21 |
| 3 1929 | 6 3 | 9 1941 |

3

- 1 long-distance / record-breaking
- 2 worldwide
- 3 licence
- 4 cockpit
- 5 ranges
- 6 peaks
- 7 landings
- 8 technical
- 9 record-breaking / long-distance

4 Students' own answers / ideas.

5

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1 during | 4 during |
| 2 while | 5 During |
| 3 during | 6 while |

6 Students' own answers / ideas.

Related websites

The following websites might be useful for either you or your students.

- http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/online-exhibitions/amy_johnson
- <http://www.historynet.com/amy-johnson-pioneer-aviator.htm>
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/humber/content/articles/2005/10/18/amy_johnson_feature.shtml
- http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/onlinestuff/stories/amy_johnson.aspx?page=6
- <http://www.bigsiteofamazingfacts.com/who-was-amy-johnson-and-when-did-the-air-queen-fly-solo-from-england-to-australia>
- http://www.ninety-nines.org/index.cfm/amy_johnson.htm