

12



CARE
GLOBAL
TEACH
LOCAL!

MONTHS OF SOCIAL ISSUES

ELT CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS

Margarita Kosior



01 JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6				
11	12	13				
18	19	20				
25	26	27				

02 FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

03 MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

04 APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

05 MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

06 JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

07 JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

08 AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

09 SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

10 OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

11 NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

12 DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Special Days:
Bicycle Day (June 3)
Mother Earth Day (April 22)

CARE GLOBAL. TEACH LOCAL!

GISIG

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A note from IATEFL GISIG

365 days , 52 weeks, 12 months a year. That is a lot of time for things to happen, for the world to change, for people to make a difference. We all like to celebrate special days, remember those who sacrificed their lives for us, marvel at the resilience of the human spirit.

There are so many different, important days in a year. So many people and things that affect our lives. Sometimes in our day-to-day lives in the classroom, we want to teach our learners something different and meaningful, something that will engage them, teach them about the issues that are important and affect us. How do we bring these important issues into our classrooms in a sensitive and educational way, which will raise awareness and help develop understanding and empathy in our learners?

Look no further. *12 Months of Social Issues* helps you do this and much more. This very special teachers' resource book will help teachers across the globe to teach their students about some of these important events. IATEFL's Global Issues SIG is very proud to bring you Margarita Kosior's labour of love. A book that is very much needed in times of uncertainty and instability for educators, to help local communities and wider society shape a better future.

Varinder Unlu
IATEFL GISIG Coordinator

A note from the author

Although incorporating social issues into ELT is presently growing in popularity, more often than not it has the form of a mere one-off occurrence. The creation of an ELT calendar of special days, a pack of ready-to-use ideas (B1-B2 student materials complete with teacher's notes), is an attempt to turn global education into a more systematic effort. It is a compilation of lessons, one per month, focusing on a different special day (mostly UN and UNESCO) each time. In this way, this volume consists of 12 complete sessions.

The publication meets two basic goals: developing linguistic competence (receptive and productive skills, vocabulary and grammar) and raising awareness of important issues. Raising awareness is essential, especially today, in the days of crisis and instability. Since world crisis and instability both stem from and lead to the crisis of human relationships, a few of the lessons in the volume focus on nurturing such bonds and values. Stronger human relationships will inevitably lead to better collaboration, fewer conflicts and a better world.

It is, therefore, our duty as educators to make our students aware of social issues and global injustice, and to help them realise that their voices can be heard and that, when in unison, they will resonate even louder. To this end, the lessons in this volume do not only present important social issues, but also encourage students to take action, reach out to the wider community, and make a difference.

Margarita Kosior

The aim of this session is to:

- engage Ss in pair work and in group discussions;
- enhance Ss' reading skills (scanning);
- enhance Ss' vocabulary (idiomatic expressions related to the topic of happiness); and
- develop empathy.

What you will need: a copy of the handout for each student

Teacher's notes

Step 1

Begin the lesson by engaging Ss in a discussion based on the following questions:

1. Who is the happiest person you know? What makes him/her happy?
2. Are people your age, in your country, happy? Why/Why not?
3. Are you happy?
4. What does happiness mean to you?

Step 2 (Handout, Task 1)

Ss work individually to rank the words/phrases in Task 1. Answers will vary.

Then, get them to compare their answers with their classmates, and to draw conclusions.

You can help them with the following questions:

1. Is there one thing that makes most of you happy or do different things make different people happy? Why?
2. Is there one thing that most of you placed at the end of the list? Why?
3. What other ideas did your classmates come up with?

Step 3 (Handout, Task 2)

1. Facilitate a discussion on what makes people in the online forum happy.
2. Ss read the text and provide answers following the instructions.

Answer key:

- a. **jump for joy – be extremely happy**
- b. **be in seventh heaven – be extremely happy**
- c. **have a whale of time – have a great time**
- d. **grin from ear to ear – smile, look satisfied and happy**
- e. **be on cloud nine – be very happy and excited**
- f. **be happy as a clam – be very happy**

- g. be tickled pink – be very pleased
- h. be over the moon – be very pleased
- i. have the time of your life – to have an extremely enjoyable experience
- j. burst with joy – be filled with joy

Draw Ss' attention to the fact that many of these expressions are synonyms.

Step 4

After Ss complete the table, ask them to work in pairs to ask each other and answer: Can you remember the last time you *were over the moon / jumped for joy / grinned from ear to ear / etc.?*

Tell Ss that they can use expressions from Task 2 or their own ideas.

Step 5 (Handout, Task 3)

Facilitate a discussion following the instructions to Task 3.

Step 6

To wrap up, each student picks a situation from Task 1 which happened to them at a specific time in the past, and talks about it for one minute using expressions from Task 2.

Appendix

Additional resources

Talk:

- ["What makes a good life? Lessons from the longest study on happiness"; TEDxBeaconStreet Talk by Robert Waldinger \(2015\)](#)

Handout

Task 1

What makes you happy? Put the words/phrases in the box in the right order. If the thing that makes you very happy is not in the box, add it in the empty space.

getting good results at a task assigned to you	the smell of rain	waking up without an alarm clock	spending time with family	eating your favourite food	_____
listening to your favourite song on repeat	exercising	hanging out with friends	the first day of summer holidays	buying things for yourself	_____

1. _____	7. _____
2. _____	8. _____
3. _____	9. _____
4. _____	10. _____
5. _____	11. _____
6. _____	

Task 2

- a. Read the three texts below written by people for an online forum. What makes these people happy?

Forum	Expressions
<p>1.</p> <p>Liam, 34</p> <p>It was my birthday on Saturday, but I didn't plan anything special on that day. I was not in the best mood and I stayed at home all day. In the afternoon, I heard the doorbell ring. When I opened the door, I saw all my friends from work. They were holding balloons and singing <i>Happy birthday!</i> I don't have to tell you I jumped for joy and let everybody in.</p> <p>My friends brought food and drinks with them. We listened to music, talked for hours, and danced a bit. I was in seventh heaven and it was the best birthday party ever. We had a whale of time and that was</p>	<p>a. jump for joy</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>b. be in seventh heaven</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>c. have a whale of time</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

<p>exactly what I needed after a difficult week at work. I fell asleep with a big smile on my face that night. Really, I was grinning from ear to ear 😊. My friends rock!</p>	<p>d. grin from ear to ear</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>2.</p> <p>Jacob, 20</p> <p>A few weeks ago, I had an important exam at college. It was very difficult and I didn't manage to answer all the questions. It made me sad, because I didn't want to fail... Well, we got the results today and guess what! I didn't fail! I passed and, in fact, my grade was really good. I was on cloud nine and I invited my friends for a milkshake after school to celebrate. We spent a relaxing afternoon together, talking about school, but not only! When I got back home, I was happy as a clam.</p>	<p>e. be on cloud nine</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>f. be happy as a clam</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>3.</p> <p>Evita, 13</p> <p>Last weekend, my mum told me she had a surprise for me. I was tickled pink because I like surprises very much! Then, she showed me three tickets. They were tickets to my favourite singer's concert! I was over the moon! I gave Mum a big hug and ran to my room to get ready.</p> <p>In the evening, together with two friends, I went to my first live concert ever! At the concert, I had the time of my life! Elena has a great voice and she can dance very well, too. I admire her a lot.</p> <p>After the concert, we went backstage to ask Elena for autographs. I was bursting with joy when she agreed to have a picture with me.</p> <p>Back home, I thanked Mum for the wonderful surprise. Then, I stuck Elena's autograph on my wall and I went to sleep. I was on top of the world!</p>	<p>g. be tickled pink</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>h. be over the moon</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>i. have the time of your life</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>j. burst with joy</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>k. be on top of the world</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

b. Now, read the text again and look at the expressions in bold. Can you guess what they mean? Write your answers in the column on the right.

Task 3

There are days, however, when you don't feel happy. Think of three recent situations in which you felt "not so happy". Find out what your classmates advise you to do next time you feel like this. Ask three classmates. Then, give them your advice ("Next time you feel not so happy...").

About the author



Margarita Kosior

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As an advocate for social justice, Margarita Kosior believes in spreading awareness of global issues through ELT. Margarita has incorporated social issues into her teaching since the beginning of her career when, as a novice teacher, she still didn't know much about Global Education. She simply believed that what she was doing was the right thing to do. Since then, she has participated in relevant projects, presented at international conferences and written ELT materials based on social issues ranging from modern day slavery, disabilities, the Holocaust, to kindness, as an underlying value necessary to make a big change in the world.

Margarita shares her insights and teaching tips on her blog: [ELT for a Better World](#) and she is the author of a series of children's stories, **Tales of strays**.