Focus on activity: False cognates

Target audience (age): Ensino Médio
Lesson links: *Upgrade*, Unit 19, ENEM practice
Aims: identify false cognates and main ideas in a text
Duration: 20 min.
Organization: individual work
Materials: text worksheets, board

Preparation:

• Have worksheet copies ready.

Procedures:

• Explain the meaning of false cognates and write some examples on the board.

• Ask students to read the question and answers.

• Tell them to look for the false cognates in the text and circle them. For example, *expert = perito*, *parents = pais*, *realize = perceber*.

• Ask them to read the text again and answer the question.

• Discuss the answer with the class.

Information to the teacher:

False cognates

Looks can be deceiving. False cognates, also called "false friends," are words in English that usually come from Latin and have a similar or the same spelling in Portuguese, but a different meaning. They give you a false idea of their real meaning.

Examples: *prejudice = preconceito*; *pretend = fingir*; *push = empurrar*; *sensible = sensato*; *attend = frequentar*, *participar*; *costume = fantasia*, etc.

Student's worksheet with answer:

1 Leia o texto e assinale todos os falsos cognatos que encontrar.

Parents, do you know what these texts mean?
By Elizabeth Cohen, CNN Senior Medical Correspondent

August 26, 2010 -- Updated 1557 GMT (2357 HKT)

Do you know what this means: %*@:-(?
Or this: ~~#ZZZZZZ ?

Six years ago, Ryan Jones didn't know what the above terms meant either—but that was before he became an expert in the shorthand teens use to communicate about their illicit activities.
In 2004, Jones, a software engineer, received some odd instant messages at work, using terms such as "idk" and "lyk." He quickly realized the messages weren't from his boss—they were from his boss' children, who were hanging out at the office with their father for the day. He later learned "idk" means "I don't know" and "lyk" means "like."
Jones created noslang.com in 2005, and as more readers have submitted terms related to drugs and sex, what started out as a fun little lexicon of innocuous shortcuts has become a valuable educational tool for parents to learn about what their children are up to.
Try to translate a real message found by Susan Shankle and Barbara Melton, co-authors of the book *What in the World Are Your Kids Doing Online?*:

The message reads:

"1 4m 4|| j1773ry 4nd n33d 70 m337 up w17h y0u 70n16h7 4f73r my p4r3n75 7h1nk 1 4m 45|33p."

Translation:

"I am all jittery and need to meet up with you tonight after my parents think I am asleep."

Adapted from <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/HEALTH/08/26/kids.drugs.text/>. Accessed on February 25, 2014.

2 Assinale a alternativa correta, de acordo com o texto.

a) Ryan Jones é um engenheiro esperto que realizou muitas mensagens para adolescentes pela internet em seu *site*.

b) Ao criar o *site* www.noslang.com, Ryan aceitou contribuições para ajudar os parentes dos adolescentes a compreender os problemas que enfrentam.

c) Susan Shankle e Barbara Melton são colaboradoras do *site* e do chefe de Ryan Jones.

d) O *site* criado por Ryan é uma ótima ferramenta para os pais compreenderem no que seus filhos estão envolvidos em relação a drogas e sexo.

Answer key: D

Name _____ **Date___/___/___**

Understanding false cognates

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