



How Can Teachers Use Zeitgeist Vocabulary to Make Vocabulary Lessons More Relevant?

S06E24 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Teaching focus

Gav's S06E24 game groups words by the period they bring to mind. Em describes zeitgeist as the spirit of a time, then questions some of his cultural and decade associations. Those different reactions are useful material for a vocabulary lesson.

Our suggested routine

1. Choose three or four words with a strong connection to one period or decade.
2. Ask learners to suggest an era before sharing your own association.
3. Require an explanation of why the words fit that period.
4. Invite disagreement when an association could reasonably cross decades or cultures.
5. Ask learners for equivalent words from their own country, generation or profession.
6. Refresh current-era vocabulary regularly so the task stays genuinely current.
7. Finish by having learners create their own word cluster for another group to guess.

After the attempt

What could learners do? What needed another model or a smaller step? Choose one useful adjustment and try the task again.

Notes for our next lesson

Read the full teaching article and listen to the episode at howtoenglishpod.com