

Gurning ABC Dictation



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Level: B1 or higher

Age: 15 - 19

Aim: to learn about an annual event in Britain, to practise vocabulary connected with British festivals

Exercise type: ABC Dictation (listening, writing, speaking, putting sentences in the correct order)

Time: 40 minutes

Language: annual, be held, wheelbarrow, fair (n.), horse collar, greasy, pole, include

Materials: You need to make copies of a blank ABC Dictation sheet, e. g. for twelve students you make 4 copies of the sheet and cut them up between A4 and B1 and B4 and C1. Cut between A1 and A2, A2 and A3, A3 and A4 but not completely (as suggested below). Do the same with Bs and Cs.



A1	
A2	_____
A3	_____
A4	_____

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You also need one copy of the full text in the correct order and mixed up. If you do not have access to the internet, bring a map of the UK and some printed images of the Gurning Contest winners.

- Instructions:**
- 1 If you have B1-level students, pre-teach or make sure they understand the vocabulary in the Language section. If your students have reached B2 level, go to Step 2.
 - 2 Students split into groups of three. Hand out blank copies. In each group there must be one student with an A copy, one with B and one with C.
 - 3 Explain to the students that you are going to dictate sentences. When they hear the number of the sentence they have on their sheet, they have to write it down as precisely as possible. A student with an A copy is going to write sentences A1-4. You are going to read each sentence twice. Start dictating sentences from the second chart: "A1 – The Fair was established in 1267. The Fair was established in 1267. B1 – Gurning means ..."
 - 4 As soon as you finish dictating, tell all As to come to one table, Bs to one table and Cs to one table. Now the students check that they have written down everything correctly.
 - 5 Tell them to go back to their original groups of three (in each group, 1 A, 1 B and 1 C student). Students split their copies completely, read all their sentences and arrange them so that these form a complete article. Help them with the first sentence: "B2 – The Egremont Crab Fair is an annual event held in the Lake District."
 - 6 Check the correct order of the sentences. If there is still time left, you can google images of the Lake District, show the students its location and images of the Gurning competition winners.

Attachment: Gurning ABC Dictation

Tip: You can use ABC dictation with various topics.

Source: The material is used with permission of Esther Western-Thomas, Senior Teacher/Senior Trainer at IPC Exeter.