

Sing Teacher's Notes **A2**

In this A1→A2 article, your students will read about *Sing (Tous en scène)*, the recent American computer-animated musical directed by Garth Jennings and produced by Illumination Entertainment, with the voices of Matthew McConaughey and Scarlett Johansson among other famous actors.

The music competition organised by the koala is based on the principle of TV programmes like *Britain's Got Talent*. This worksheet can be used as a single unit of work or as part of a broader scheme including work on the *Sing* trailer and leading to the creation of a role-play called, "Our class has got talent".

Vocabulary and structures.

- The *-ing* form
- Modals (*can/can't, must/mustn't, will/won't*)
- numbers
- Expressing purpose

Interaction.

- We suggest video projecting the opening photo of the article to introduce the topic and introduce or revise vocabulary. There are a couple of guitars visible, to start pupils off on the theme of music and talents. They can also suggest why so many of the characters/animals look nervous/scared.
- Then, we suggest brainstorming talents with **Activity A** to anticipate the topic of the article and to start linking the reading activity to the class-based final task. In **Part 1**, the written activity focuses on gerunds, but orally it's worth having pupils try to express the same ideas with *can* (dancing: he can dance). This will help them vary their productions throughout the sequence. For **Part 2**, the class is divided into 4 or 5 groups and the students move around their group to collect information about the others'

talents. Then they have to practise speaking from notes for a few minutes before telling a student in another group what they have learnt. This activity can prove a bit noisy, but real communication is. Don't attempt to correct all the mistakes you hear, concentrate on general fluency to prepare students for **Activity E**.

Reading, speaking and writing.

- **Activities B** and **C** are designed to help students understand the situation before turning to the candidates' personalities in **Activity D**. We suggest doing **Activity D** in groups to avoid spending too much time on it. You can either choose to give each group a character to study or to share the characters inside each group. The grid will then be filled in on the board.
- Finally, have students do **Activity E**. Ask them to start by going back to **Activities C** and **D** and highlighting the vocabulary they think they might need for **Activity E**.

Going Further

- If you want to do more on the theme of this film, see our article for the trailer and

other ideas. www.speakeasy-news.com/teaching-with-trailers-sing

■ Organising a talent show in class would be a fun project. You could limit pupils to just the chorus, or a verse and a chorus, of a song to keep it manageable both in terms of learning the words and the class time given over to it. Not all pupils like performing/singing but other roles could include helping the singers rehearse and learn their words; playing presenters introducing the singers; being a jury (make sure there are clear guidelines in place); being journalists interviewing performers or the jury or the audience.

Solutions

■ A.1.

1. **b** dancing
2. **e**. playing the drums
3. **g**. juggling
4. **a**. singing
5. **f**. playing the violin
6. **c**. drawing
7. **d**. painting

■ **B.** His name is Buster Moon. He is a theatre manager, a fan of musicals, not a good businessman.

■ His theatre needs publicity.

So the koala decides to organise a musical talent competition to get publicity for his theatre.

■ **C.1.** The competition brochure says the winner will get a hundred thousand dollars.

2. He only has a thousand dollars. So he can't give the winner a hundred thousand dollars.

Plays an instrument	Mike
Is afraid of singing in front of an audience	Meena
Is not afraid of the audience at all	Mike
Sings alone	Meena, Johnny
Is a mother	Rosita
Is not an adult and is not a child	Meena, Johnny, Ash
Doesn't get to the final	Lance

Loves music	Buster, Rosita, Meena, Johnny, Ash, Lance, Mike
Is a singer	Buster, Rosita, Meena, Johnny, Ash, Lance