

The United Nations

1 Listening: How does the United Nations work?

RMIT University academic Dr Binoy Kampmark explains how the United Nations works.

a) Watch the video below to get a first idea of how the United Nations works.



Video "How does the United Nations work?":
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qolafzc0k74>

b) After having watched the video, do one of the following two tasks:

- Use the tool Universal Subtitles to add subtitles to the video.
- Share your videos in class and compare your subtitles.



Universal Subtitles – The easiest way to caption and translate any video:
<http://www.universalsubtitles.org/>

- Using the online tool mentioned below, design a mind map visualising the structure and the most important services of the United Nations.
- Compare your mind maps in class and discuss the points each of you laid the most emphasis on.



Wisemapping – Free online mind mapping editor for individuals and business:
<http://wisemapping.com/>

2 Reading: How the United Nations works

On the page "How stuff works" you can find out how everyday phenomena, machines and devices work. Let's find out more about how the United Nations works!

a) Read the article mentioned below.



How the United Nations works:
<http://www.howstuffworks.com/united-nations.htm/printable>

b) Use the tool Web Clipper to work with the text:

- highlight parts of the text important to you
- use comment boxes to ask at least ten questions connected to different aspects of the article
- compare your notes in class; collect and answer the questions you have asked



Web Clipper:
<https://evernote.com/intl/en/products/webclipper>

c) In the text, find the following numbers and explain the context in which they appear in your own words:

Number	Context	Number	Context
1945		1991	
192		54	
6		716	
10		22	

3 Speaking: Aspects of the United Nations

The article from *How stuff works* which you have just had a look at contains a number of links to similar articles dealing with sub-aspects of the topic. For this speaking exercise, you have to pick one of them.

- a) Scroll to the bottom of the page quoted below and have a look at the links leading to related articles.



How the United Nations works:
<http://www.howstuffworks.com/united-nations.htm/printable>

- b) Pick one of the articles and read it.

- c) Prepare a presentation about the topic you have chosen using the presentation tool given below. It allows you to create visuals for your speech that do not look like ordinary presentation slides but like a big poster into which you can zoom to talk about details whenever needed.

In your presentation, cover the following aspects:

- reasons that made you choose this text
- how your text fits in the organisation of the United Nations
- a short summary of the most important points



Prezi - The Zooming Presentation Editor: <http://prezi.com/>

- d) Present your video in class or create a screencast (recording of your presentation including your voice and the Prezi visuals) using the following internet tool.



Screencast-O-Matic - Free online screen recorder: <http://www.screencast-o-matic.com/>



4 Writing: Interpreting an infographic

Infographics give you a lot of information about a topic in a nice visual design. They may be used as a starter for a presentation or to get ideas when writing an informative text.

- a) Visit the website given below and choose one of the many infographics available.
 b) Write a short text about it, combining information you get in the infographic and more details you research online.



Infographics about topics related to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): <http://www.unesco.org>

5 Listening: "I Was Here"

Beyonce produced a special version of her song "I Was Here", shining a spotlight on humanitarian work and encouraging people to get involved by doing something good for others.

- a) Watch the music video of Beyonce performing on the United Nations World Humanitarian Day.



Beyonce: "I Was Here" (United Nations World Humanitarian Day Performance):
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i41qWj6QjPI>

- b) Comment on the lyrics and the visuals. How do you respond to the song? Why does/doesn't it encourage you to become involved in a humanitarian project?

- c) *Exchange questions on the video with a partner and research answers to each others' questions. Use various media to answer the questions: articles, websites, videos and podcasts.*