

CELEBRATIONS

Prom night

Teacher's notes

Age: Teenagers/Adults

Level: Elementary–Pre-intermediate (A1–B1)

Time: 45–60 minutes

Activity: In this lesson, students will:

1. read a text about prom night;
2. learn about the language and important elements of prom;
3. discuss and decide what to spend their prom budget on.

Language focus: vocabulary related to prom night and school-leaving events

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per student

Procedure

1. Elements of prom

Give students a few minutes to look at the pictures with a partner and label them. Check their answers. You may wish to explain that the noun *date* can be used in two ways – to describe a meeting between two people who like each other romantically, e.g. *They are on a date*, or to describe a person you like romantically who you have arranged to meet, e.g. *Who is your date for prom?*

Now ask students to talk about what else they know about proms or leaving school. Write any emerging prom / school-leaving vocabulary on the board and get students to copy it onto their worksheets in the 'My vocabulary notes' box.

2. 'When I left school'

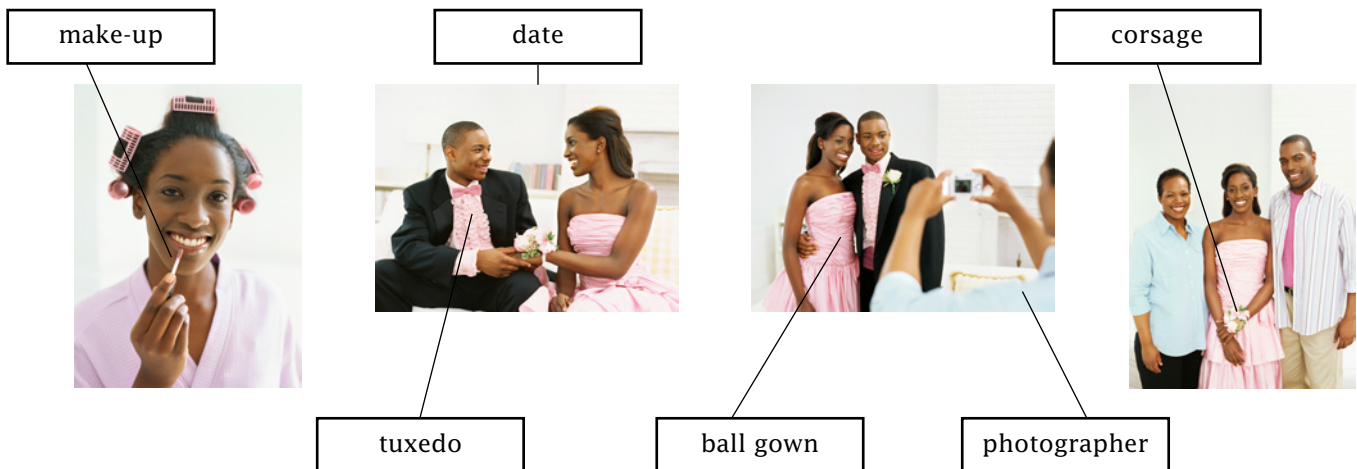
Demonstrate how to complete one of the sentences on the board – perhaps with information from your own life – then give students a few minutes to complete the rest of the sentences on their own. Note: If your students haven't left school yet, you could either ask them to make the details up or you could rewrite the sentences on the board using the future tense.

After this they should sit in pairs or small groups of three or four and read their sentences out to each other.

3. Prom night

Read aloud one of the statements in the 'What is prom' section of the text and elicit from the students whether this is a normal custom in their country. If it is not common practice then get them to tell you what people in their country do instead. Point out that the words in bold print are special words used to talk about the topic of prom night

Key:



and school-leaving events as well as the customs involved. Make sure that the students know what these words mean.

Now have the students discuss the rest of the statements in small groups. Allow 10 to 15 minutes for this discussion task, monitoring and supporting as necessary, and then ask for feedback.

Finally, discuss the three statements in the 'A short history of prom' section of the text, either in small groups or as a class. Do students think prom sounds fun? Would they like to go to a prom?

4. The prom budget

Students work in pairs. Tell them they are going to plan a prom night for an American high school

couple. Split each pair into Student A and Student B. Ask them to read the instructions in step 1, and give them some time to read the information about Emily or Jackson. Monitor as they read and explain any unfamiliar vocabulary. Note: The pair will share the information they've read, so it doesn't need to be kept secret.

Then, ask students to read the instructions for steps 2 and 3 and answer any questions they have. Students now talk about how they will spend their combined budget to give Emily and Jackson the best prom night possible. After deciding what things they will buy, they sit together with another pair, discussing and comparing their decisions.

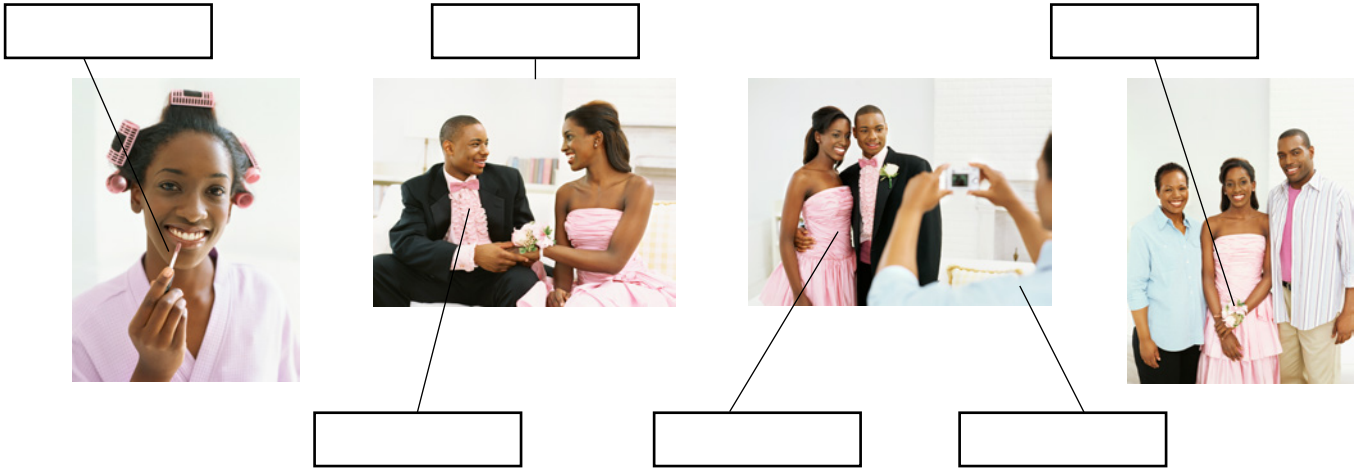
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Worksheet

Exercise 1: Elements of prom

a. Label the photos that show some elements of prom. Use the words from the box.



ball gown

corsage

date

make-up

photographer

tuxedo

b. What else do you know about prom night? Discuss with your partner.

c. Do these photographs look like typical school-leaving photographs from your country?

My vocabulary notes

Exercise 2: 'When I left school'

Complete these sentences to make them true for you.

I left school when I was _____ years old.

The name of my school was _____.

My best friend's name was _____.

We had a _____ (*prom / disco / party / ball / ...*) to celebrate the end of school.

I went to the end-of-school event with my _____ (*girlfriend / boyfriend / friends / ...*).

The venue for the event was a _____ (*school hall / hotel / nightclub / ...*).

The music was _____ (*classical / pop / hip hop / ...*).

Exercise 3: Prom night

Read the text and discuss the sentences about prom night.

Prom night



What is prom?

- Prom night is one of the most important evenings in the lives of many US **high school** students.
- At prom night, high school **seniors** celebrate their **graduation** and the end of their time at school.
- **Ballrooms** and hotels are often booked as the **venues** for high school proms. (In 1975, Susan Ford, the daughter of US President Gerald Ford, held her prom night at the **White House!**)
- Before prom night, students **elect** two students from their school year to be prom king and queen.
- The prom king and queen usually wear **sashes** and **crowns** take the **first dance** at prom. (Actress Halle Berry and singer John Legend were the **prom king and queen** at their high schools!)
- Students get together with a group of friends and **hire** a **limousine** or **party bus** to drive them to the prom.
- Many parents hire **photographers** to take pictures of the students in their party dresses and **suits** before they go to prom.
- After the **official** school prom, the celebrations usually continue at after-prom parties.
- Boys usually buy a **corsage** for the girl who agrees to be his **date** and go with him to the prom.
- Prom night can be very **expensive**. Most students in the US spend over \$1000 on their prom.

A short history of prom

- When it began over 100 years ago, prom night was a **formal ball** for university **graduates**.
- In the 1950s, prom night started to become the popular and fun end-of-school **event** it is today.
- In the past 20 years, school proms have become popular events for **school-leavers** in the UK, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand, as well as in other countries around the world.

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Prom night

Worksheet

Exercise 4: The prom budget

Emily and Jackson are going to prom. They each have \$800 to spend. Work in pairs to plan their prom night.

Step 1: Student A, read the information about Jackson. Student B, read the information about Emily.

Step 2: Look at the Price List for transport, clothes and other items.

Step 3: Together, discuss how to spend the money you have to give them the best prom night possible.

Information about Jackson:



Jackson wants Emily to have a great prom night. He doesn't like going to the hairdresser's, but he likes buying new clothes. He wants lots of good photographs of his girlfriend. He can drive and owns a car. He can't dance.

Information about Emily:



Emily is very excited about prom night. She thinks Jackson always looks handsome. She wants the perfect dress, but she already owns lots of shoes. She always does her own make-up, and she likes taking selfies. She doesn't like Jackson's car. She wants to do a lot of dancing.

Price List:

(remember, you have **\$1,600** in total)



For Jackson:

- \$95 – tuxedo (rented)
- \$150 – tuxedo (new)
- \$25 – small corsage
- \$50 – big corsage
- \$50 – haircut and styling
- \$80 – shoes (new)

For Emily:

- \$150 – ball gown (cheap)
- \$250 – ball gown (expensive)
- \$120 – haircut and styling
- \$80 – prom make-up artist
- \$80 – shoes (new)

For them both:

- \$200 – two prom tickets
- \$130 – limousine (one way)
- \$260 – limousine (return journey)
- \$50 – photographer (one photo)
- \$40 – one hour of dance lessons

Total: _____