

OPPOSITE DAY

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/01/opposite_day.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Opposite Day is on January 24th each year. It is a strange but fun day. Whatever you say on this day must be the opposite of what you mean. If you say 'yes', you mean 'no' and vice versa. If someone tells you 'You don't look so good today,' you say 'thank you'. Or perhaps that should be 'No thank you'. If you have ever tried this for yourself, it can be quite confusing, although it is fun. Children love playing this as a game and usually end up in non-stop laughter. Some psychologists have said that playing using opposite meanings is a good "philosophy course" for kids – it gets them thinking. It could also be the day when 'opposites attract,' which means two people who have totally different characters start a relationship.

Opposite Day can be a very useful day for students. This is a good time to get out vocabulary notebooks and find the antonyms, or opposites, to different words. Students could focus on prefixes that are used to give a word an opposite meaning. For example 'un' in 'unhelpful' and 'unnecessary', or 'il' in 'illegal' and 'illogical'. There are many more. Actually, Opposite Day reminds me of a little verse I learnt as a child. Here it is: "One bright morning in the middle of the night, two dead boys got up to fight. Back to back, they faced each other. Drew their swords and shot each other. A deaf policeman heard the noise, and came to arrest the two dead boys. If you don't believe this story's true, ask the blind man - he saw it too!" Confusing? Why not make your own opposite story?

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. It is a strange, | a. for kids |
| 2. the opposite of what | b. non-stop laughter |
| 3. If you say 'yes', you mean 'no' and | c. attract |
| 4. usually end up in | d. but fun day |
| 5. a good "philosophy course" | e. vice versa |
| 6. the day when opposites | f. you mean |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Opposite Day can be a very useful | a. verse I learnt |
| 2. find the antonyms, or opposites, | b. an opposite meaning |
| 3. prefixes that are used to give a word | c. story's true... |
| 4. Opposite Day reminds me of a little | d. day for students |
| 5. If you don't believe this | e. story |
| 6. make your own opposite | f. to different words |

LISTENING GAP FILL

Opposite Day is on January 24th each year. It _____ day. Whatever you say on this day must be the opposite of what you mean. If you say 'yes', you mean _____. If someone tells you 'You don't look so good today,' you say 'thank you'. Or _____ be 'No thank you'. If you have ever tried this for yourself, it can be quite confusing, although it is fun. Children love playing this as a game and usually _____ laughter. Some psychologists have said that playing using opposite meanings is a good "philosophy _____ - it gets them thinking. It could also be the day when 'opposites attract,' which means two people _____ different characters start a relationship.

Opposite Day can be _____ for students. This is a good time to get out vocabulary notebooks and find the antonyms, or opposites, to different words. Students could focus _____ used to give a word an opposite meaning. For example 'un' in 'unhelpful' and 'unnecessary', _____ and 'illogical'. There are many more. Actually, Opposite Day reminds me of a little verse _____. Here it is: "One bright morning in the middle of the night, two dead boys got up to fight. Back to back, they faced each other. Drew their swords _____. A deaf policeman heard the noise, and came to arrest the two dead boys. _____ this story's true, ask the blind man - he saw it too!" Confusing? Why not make your own opposite story?

WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Opposite Day is on January 24th each year. It is a _____ but fun day. Whatever you say on this day must be the opposite of what you mean. If you say 'yes', you mean 'no' and _____ versa. If someone tells you 'You don't look so good today,' you say 'thank you'. Or _____ that should be 'No thank you'. If you have ever tried this for yourself, it can be _____ confusing, although it is fun. Children love playing this as a game and usually end up in non-stop _____. Some psychologists have said that playing using opposite meanings is a good "philosophy _____" for kids – it gets them thinking. It could also be the day when 'opposites _____,' which means two people who have totally different characters _____ a relationship.

course
perhaps
laughter
start
strange
quite
attract
vice

Opposite Day can be a very _____ day for students. This is a good time to get out vocabulary notebooks and find the antonyms, or _____, to different words. Students could _____ on prefixes that are used to give a word an opposite meaning. For example 'un' in 'unhelpful' and 'unnecessary', or 'il' in 'illegal' and 'illogical'. There are many _____. Actually, Opposite Day reminds me of a little verse I learnt as a _____. Here it is: "One bright morning in the _____ of the night, two dead boys got up to fight. Back to back, they faced each other. Drew their swords and shot each other. A deaf policeman heard the noise, and came to arrest the two dead boys. If you don't _____ this story's true, ask the blind man - he saw it too!" Confusing? Why not make your _____ opposite story?

more
believe
focus
middle
useful
own
child
opposites

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

Opposite Day is on January 24th each year. It is a strange but fun day. Whatever you *say / speak* on this day must be the opposite of what you mean. If you say 'yes', you mean 'no' / 'yes' and vice versa. If someone *tells / speaks* you 'You don't look so good today,' you say 'thank you'. Or perhaps that should be 'No thank you'. If you have ever *tried / try* this for yourself, it can be quite confusing, although it is fun. Children love playing this as a game and usually end *down / up* in non-stop laughter. Some psychologists have said that playing *use / using* opposite meanings is a good "philosophy course" for kids – it gets *these / them* thinking. It could also be the day when 'opposites attract,' which means two people who have totally *similar / different* characters start a relationship.

Opposite Day can be a very useful day *by / for* students. This is a good time to get *in / out* vocabulary notebooks and find the antonyms, or opposites, to different words. Students could focus *on / in* prefixes that are used to give a word an opposite *meant / meaning*. For example 'un' in 'unhelpful' and 'unnecessary', or 'il' in 'illegal' and 'illogical'. There are many more. Actually, Opposite Day *reminds / remembers* me of a little verse I learnt as a child. Here it is: "One bright morning in the *centre / middle* of the night, two dead boys got up to fight. Back to back, they faced each other. Drew their swords and shot *one / each* other. A deaf policeman heard the noise, and came to arrest the two dead boys. If you don't believe this story's true, ask the blind man - he *saw / seen* it too!" Confusing? Why not make your own opposite story?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Opposite Day is on January 24th each year. It is a strange (1) _____ fun day. Whatever you say on this day must be the opposite of what you (2) _____. If you say 'yes', you mean 'no' and vice versa. If someone tells you 'You don't look so good today,' you (3) _____ 'thank you'. Or perhaps that should be 'No thank you'. If you have ever tried this for yourself, it can be quite confusing, although it is fun. Children love playing this as a game and usually end (4) _____ in non-stop laughter. Some psychologists have said that playing (5) _____ opposite meanings is a good "philosophy course" for kids – it gets them thinking. It could also be the day when 'opposites (6) _____,' which means two people who have totally different characters start a relationship.

Opposite Day can be a very useful day (7) _____ students. This is a good time to get out vocabulary notebooks and find the antonyms, or opposites, to different words. Students could focus (8) _____ prefixes that are used to give a word an opposite meaning. For example 'un' in 'unhelpful' and 'unnecessary', or 'il' in 'illegal' and 'illogical'. There are many more. Actually, Opposite Day reminds me (9) _____ a little verse I learnt as a child. Here it is: "One bright morning in the middle of the night, two dead boys got up to fight. Back to (10) _____, they faced each other. Drew their swords and shot each (11) _____. A deaf policeman heard the noise, and came to arrest the two dead boys. If you don't believe this story's true, ask the blind man - he saw it too!" Confusing? Why (12) _____ make your own opposite story?

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) however | (b) but | (c) so | (d) for |
| 2. | (a) meaning | (b) meanings | (c) meanie | (d) mean |
| 3. | (a) say | (b) speak | (c) tell | (d) talk |
| 4. | (a) down | (b) in | (c) up | (d) on |
| 5. | (a) use | (b) used | (c) using | (d) used to |
| 6. | (a) attractive | (b) attract | (c) attraction | (d) attracts |
| 7. | (a) for | (b) by | (c) at | (d) so |
| 8. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) to | (d) of |
| 9. | (a) for | (b) by | (c) with | (d) of |
| 10. | (a) back | (b) backside | (c) backwards | (d) backing |
| 11. | (a) others | (b) another | (c) the other | (d) other |
| 12. | (a) non | (b) now | (c) not | (d) nor |

SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. It is a rasetng but fun day
2. If you say 'yes', you mean 'no' and cvei versa
3. it can be quite cneginufso
4. non-stop aeturghl
5. opposites aarcttt
6. different characters trsta a relationship

Paragraph 2

7. a very uesluf day for students
8. find the oasynmtn, or opposites, to different words
9. Opposite Day nisderm me of a little verse
10. in the lemddi of the night
11. you don't eebevil this
12. ask the lbidn man - he saw it too!

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () verse I learnt as a child. Here it is: "One bright morning in the middle of the night, two dead boys got up to fight. Back to
- () of what you mean. If you say 'yes', you mean 'no' and vice versa. If someone tells you 'You don't look so
- () non-stop laughter. Some psychologists have said that playing using opposite meanings is a good "philosophy
- () Opposite Day can be a very useful day for students. This is a good time to get out vocabulary notebooks and find
- () course" for kids – it gets them thinking. It could also be the day when 'opposites attract,' which
- () blind man - he saw it too!" Confusing? Why not make your own opposite story?
- (**1**) Opposite Day is on January 24th each year. It is a strange but fun day. Whatever you say on this day must be the opposite
- () yourself, it can be quite confusing, although it is fun. Children love playing this as a game and usually end up in
- () good today,' you say 'thank you'. Or perhaps that should be 'No thank you'. If you have ever tried this for
- () noise, and came to arrest the two dead boys. If you don't believe this story's true, ask the
- () means two people who have totally different characters start a relationship.
- () opposite meaning. For example 'un' in 'unhelpful' and 'unnecessary', or 'il' in 'illegal' and 'illogical'. There are many more. Actually, Opposite Day reminds me of a little
- () the antonyms, or opposites, to different words. Students could focus on prefixes that are used to give a word an
- () back, they faced each other. Drew their swords and shot each other. A deaf policeman heard the

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. a but day is strange fun It

2. good so look don't You today

3. end usually laughter stop - non in up

4. opposites day attract when the

5. different two who totally characters people have

6. day Opposite be useful students can very for Day a

7. word a give meaning opposite an

8. child a as learnt I verse little a

9. story's this believe don't you true

10. opposite own your make not Why story ?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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THE OPPOSITE DAY SURVEY

Write five questions about Opposite Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Opposite Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Opposite Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about Opposite Day. Write about what will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.