



SICK AND TIRED OF MOSQUITOES

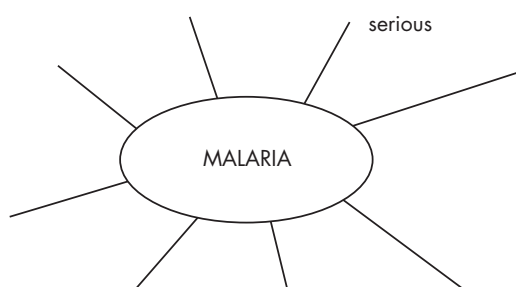
Time	45–60 minutes
Level	pre-intermediate
Skills	reading, speaking, writing
Knowledge goal	raising awareness of malaria
Materials	Ss' worksheets: p. S1 – jumbled sentences, Quiz "What do you know about malaria?" – one per pair

1 Lead-in

- Ask Ss to stand up. Indicate two places in the classroom – one for answer YES and one for NOT. The further apart they are, the better. You can indicate the places with chairs, sheets of paper, the corners etc. Tell the Ss you are going to read out four statements and their task is to move to either the YES or NOT position, depending on whether it is true for them or not. Optionally, after they have moved to one of these points, you can ask them some additional questions after each statement. These questions are in italics.

- I'm never ill.**
How often are you ill? Once a year usually?
- I'm happy when I'm ill because I can stay in bed doing nothing for a few days.**
While ill in bed, do you usually watch TV, read books, study English? Something else?
- When I'm not feeling well, I immediately go and see the doctor.**
How far is it to your doctor's? How long does it take to get there?
- I hate being ill because I have no energy and can't do what I normally do.**
What activities can't you do?

- Tell Ss that this lesson will be about malaria. Draw the diagram on the board and ask Ss in pairs to write down all the words they associate with malaria.



- Then ask them the following questions:
Have you ever had malaria?
Do you personally know someone who has had this illness?
As far as you know, is malaria a great problem in this country?

2 Main activity – Reading

- Jumbled sentences.** Tell the Ss they are going to read a real life story from Kenya. Distribute the slips with the sentences – one set per pair. Ask the Ss to put them in the correct order. To make it easier, tell them the first sentence starts with the name Isabella. They can use dictionaries. After they have done it, read them the story aloud. Check their understanding:

Is Jamal a boy or girl? How old is he now (in the text)? Where is he from?

How old was he when he had his first malaria attack?

What happened after that? What problems did he have?

What activities do you think Jamal couldn't do as a child because of this illness?

- Tell the Ss that there is a happy ending to this story because something happened when Jamal was 9 years old and he hasn't had any attack for two years now. Ask the Ss in pairs what they think might have happened. Ask them then to write the end of the story in small groups. Start with:

This went on for a number of years... But one day, when Jamal was nine,...

Then the Ss read their stories out loud. With a large class, Ss make groups of 2-3 pairs and read them to each other. If someone comes up with a story of some magic medicine, make sure Ss realise that no such medicine exists because mosquitoes are very smart and always one step ahead. Science is not as fast as mosquitoes. Then read the original ending:

But one day, when Jamal was nine, a doctor told Isabella about mosquito nets. Mosquitoes are dangerous especially at night so sleeping under bed nets is very effective. Isabella says: "I bought the nets, followed the instructions clearly, and Jamal's problems with malaria are now history. I have even sent him to a boarding school." It was a big step for Isabella because before this, she watched Jamal carefully every day. "And it's much cheaper to buy nets than to pay the doctors," she adds.

- Check understanding:

What changed Jamal's life?

How did his life change? What can he do now?

What changed for Isabella?

3 Follow-up – Quiz "What do you know about malaria?"

Distribute the quiz and ask the Ss in pairs or in small groups to do the quiz (p. S1). Then check as a class.

KEY

2. Main activity:

Isabella, 46, is the Human Resources Superintendent at the Nzoia Sugar Company in western Kenya. Jamal, 11, is her third and youngest child. For years, malaria made their lives a nightmare. Jamal was born a weak child, and was allergic to milk from the beginning. He was six months old when he suffered his first malaria attack, and from then on, was frequently ill with the mosquito-borne fever. "Jamal was a very playful child. But right in the middle of a game, he would suddenly start to have a stomach ache and then a headache," Isabella says. The malaria attacks hit every two weeks so he often had to go into hospital. This went on for a number of years...

Adapted from: <http://sociolingo.wordpress.com/2007/03/26/malaria-personal-stories-from-kenya/>

3. Follow-up – Quiz:

1. False. Malaria is transmitted only by blood – i.e. by infected mosquitoes or blood transfusion.
2. In tropical and subtropical climates.
3. B
4. No. He thinks the vaccine will be imperfect.
5. 1 million people
6. Examples of some reasons:
 - health centres are not always close. The reasons include bad infrastructure, not enough professionals, no investments
 - bad access to medical treatment
 - high costs of drugs, indoor spraying, bed nets
 - low interest of government, no public projects working for the eliminating the mosquito population
 - little information about this illness and about what to do if you have the symptoms.





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QUIZ - WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MALARIA?

1. TRUE or FALSE: You can get malaria from everyday contact with malaria-infected people, like a cold or the flu.

2. What climate is malaria the biggest problem in?
.....

3. What CANNOT control malaria?

- A. using antimalarials drugs
- B. eating healthily
- C. indoor spraying, using repellents, bed nets

4. Read the extract from the Guardian newspaper

The first malaria vaccine will probably be registered by 2011. ‘It will work but it will be an imperfect vaccine,’ says Marcel Tanner, the head of Swiss Tropical Institute. ‘It will take decades before we win, because this is not like the measles or the polio vaccine: there is no one magic bullet. We need a lot of magic bullets.’

Does Mr Tanner think that the vaccine will be a perfect solution to malaria? YES / NO

5. Insert the correct number:

Every year about.....people die of malaria. Young children are at great risk.

6. Why is it that poor countries are so affected by malaria?

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