**LESSON PLAN: The Straw House Listening Exercise**

Age and Ability Level: All (especially relevant as preparation for Matura Listening)

Target: Students will practise their listening skills. Students will aquire new house related vocabulary. Students will express opinion.

Time: One lesson

Students will read the questions.

Students will LISTEN twice to The Straw House and answer the questions:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q64uvQsOKGs>

Go though the answers and discuss new vocabulary.

Follow-up

Watch the clip. Students discuss whether they would like to live in a house like this.

# Listening Exercise

# Extreme Homes of Europe - A Straw Bale House

1. Where is the straw bale house situated? 1 mark
2. Give two reasons why straw was chosen as a building material. 2 marks
3. List two ways the house is environmentally friendly. 2 marks
4. Show two things the truth window can tell us. 2 marks
5. Give two ways that the straw bale house differs from a cottage. 2 marks
6. Where was the the worktop made and what is it made from? 2 marks
7. Fionn's favourite room doubles as two spaces. What are they? 2 marks
8. The bizarre ornaments are souvenirs from which country? 1 mark
9. Which word is used to describe the longevity of the house? 1 mark

 Total 15 marks

**Reflection: The Straw House Listening Exercise**

This listening exercise was simple in conception but has been used with six classes across the age and ability range.

The questions were appropriate to all ages and ability. There was enough to stretch those of a higher ability and all students were able to understand most of the feature after the second hearing.

All students needed a second playing to answer all the questions. It was difficult to hear 'beams' in question 6. The question was included as it provided discussion about both the structural and aesthetic properties of beams.

Feedback from teachers and students was positive.

I wouldn't change anything about the exercise and imagine that it will be used again and again.

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