



EVROPSKÁ UNIE



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání  
pro konkurenceschopnost

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

# Lesson 48:

## Killing Mothballs

Conversation Lesson with a Story,  
Vocabulary Practice,  
Questions and Activities

# Content

- The Story
  - Vocabulary Practice
  - Questions for Discussion
  - Activities
  - A Related Saying
- Role Play
  - Ideas to Help You

# The Story

The old lady walked into a chemist's shop and bought a packet of mothballs. The next day she returned and again bought a packet of mothballs. On the third day she did the same and when she appeared the fourth day and asked again for a packet of mothballs, the chemist could not restrain his curiosity.

‘You must have a lot of moths, madam?’ he queried.

‘Yes, I have,’ she nodded, ‘and I don’t know what I’m going to do. I’ve been throwing these balls at them for three days now and I haven’t hit one yet!’

Source: [The Internet TESL Journal](#)



# Vocabulary Practice

**Choose the best answer.**

- 1) A '\_\_\_\_\_' is a small ball made of a strong-smelling substance, used for keeping moths away from stored clothes ...
- a) chemist
  - b) mothball
  - c) moth
  - d) curiosity

# Vocabulary Practice

**Choose the best answer.**

2) To **'restrain'** means to ...

- a) add to
- b) be impolite
- c) hold back
- d) speak

Content

Story

# Vocabulary Practice

**Choose the best answer.**

3) **'Curiosity'** means ...

- a) wanting to know about things
- b) showing things to other people
- c) ability to say something
- d) having much knowledge

Content

Story

# Vocabulary Practice

**Choose the best answer.**

- 4) To **'query'** means to ...
- a) find out something
  - b) look after something
  - c) write something down
  - d) ask somebody a question

# Vocabulary Practice

**Choose the best answer.**

- 5) To '**nod**' means to ...
- a) talk loudly
  - b) bend the head forward
  - c) show disagreement with
  - d) jump up

Content

Story



# Questions for Discussion

- 1) What is funny about what the lady has been doing?
- 2) Why did the chemist become curious about the mothballs?
- 3) How do you use a mothball?
- 4) Have you ever been puzzled about any invention/device/gadget?

Content

Story

# Activities

- Now tell your friend(s) the story in your own words.
- Pronounce the following words several times:
  - a) chemist's shop
  - b) appear
  - c) restrain
  - d) curiosity
  - e) query

Content

Story

# A Related Saying

**‘Think twice before you speak once.’**

- What does the saying mean?
- Is there a similar saying in your mother tongue?

Content

Story

# Role Play

Imagine the following situation:

**You and your English speaking friend** are spending **a week in London**. You are not much into sightseeing and would like to **spend a day in a big shopping centre**. However, **your friend does not like the idea very much**. You should try to **convince him/her that spending time in a shopping centre can be fun**. In the end, you should **come to an agreement about how to spend your day**. Person B will play the role of **your English speaking friend** and **will start** the conversation.



## Role Play:

# Ideas to Help You

The following ideas may help you:

- *Number of shops*
- *Prices*
- *Possibility of buying presents for family and friends*
- *Facilities (cinema, bowling alley, etc.)*
- *Cafés and restaurants*
- *Other*