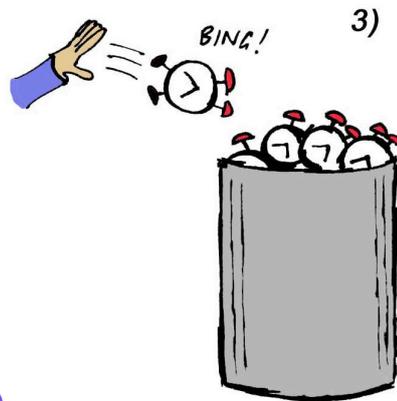


# Big Ben Beng's alarm clock factory

## /n /, /ng/ activities

For Pre-Intermediate and Intermediate  
classes



Purple Hippo

## **/n/,/ng/ Big Ben Beng's alarm clock factory**

### **Teachers' Notes**

#### **Purple Hippo**

**Rationale – this set of material focuses on accurately hearing and producing the phonemes /n/ng/, which are frequently mispronounced by Vietnamese learners.**

**Below is a suggested guide for using the materials, with timings. Teachers should feel free to adapt the materials and plan according to the needs of the class.**

#### **Phase 1 (15 minutes)**

**Introduce the phonemes that being studied. Using two simple words, such as 'ban' and 'bang', drill pronunciation with the class. Model and draw students' attention to the position of the tongue and the shape of the mouth.**

#### **Phase 2 (15 minutes)**

**Teacher dictation phase – a very important phase, in my experience, as students often have profound difficulty in accurately distinguishing similar sounds, even when carefully formed by a native speaker.**

**Project the table of words (Sheet 3) being studied onto the whiteboard (so make sure it's ready in the T Drive. You can reduce it if necessary.)**

**The teacher can then quickly model the words before dictating a random ten of them, which the students write in their books.**

**Check answers – an easy way is for the students to number the words 1-10 on sheet 1 on the whiteboard, using board pens.**

#### **Phase 3 (15 minutes)**

**Teacher dictation 2 - Phase 2 can be followed up with a board race game of two teams, each with a differently coloured marker pen. One player from each team approaches the board. The aim is to circle the word that the teacher says.**

**To familiarise the sts with the words, play a board race game – divide class into two teams, giving each a different colour board pen. A player from each team has to race to the board and circle the actual word that the teacher says.**

**Finish with *Group drilling practice* – the whole class says each word as the teacher points to it on the WB.**

#### **Phase 4 (15 minutes)**

### **Student-student dictation**

Another very valuable phase. In groups of 4, students write down, then dictate, a list of six words that they choose from those on the board. The other students write down these on mini-whiteboards or on paper. The students then compare the results – pronunciation errors are often revealed at this stage. It is much better to use groups of 4 – if done in pairs, there is a chance that the listening student will make a correct guess on a badly pronounced item – this is far less likely in a group of four.

### **Phase 5 (15 minutes)**

#### **Student-student dictation mingle**

Each student forms a single 'nonsense sentence', using prepositions to link the words together, for example, 'Bang on bin in song on thing'. The nonsense element means that mispronounced words cannot be guessed correctly from context, while it gives practice in using the words as part of a longer chunk, rather than in isolation.

Students mingle and exchange sentences. Final results could be checked by having the students write their own sentences in large letters on A4, and sticking these to the wall/whiteboard.

### **Phase 6 (15 minutes / homework\*)**

#### **Meaning of vocabulary**

An activity to attach meaning to the vocabulary items already covered.

As a class activity - students can see Sheet 1, either projected onto the whiteboard or on paper. This sheet has the definitions for the words already introduced. Students then use their knowledge and guesswork to fill in/write down the answers. Next, the teacher gives the answers as dictation, as extra listening practice, before the answers are shown on the board. This can be done by projecting sheet 2 onto the whiteboard, or getting the students to complete Sheet 1 using board markers.

As homework – Students attempt to complete Sheet 1 at home.

### **Phase 7 (30 minutes)**

#### **Student-student information exchange**

Using the poem 'Big Ben Beng's alarm clock factory', (Sheets 5 or 6), and the gapfill (Sheet 4) students exchange information to complete the whole poem. This can be done in pairs as a running dictation, or by giving students a single paragraph from the original to share with others.

## 1) Big Ben Beng's alarm clock factory - word quiz

Purple Hippo

1.	A male name, short for 'Benjamin'
2.	A factory owner's family name
3.	A noise
4.	The noise that a bell makes
5.	Not fat
6.	Will always be a noun
7.	A bread roll or a cake
8.	A slang term for 'throw'
9.	The opposite of 'daughter'
10.	Our closest star
11.	The past participle of 'to sing'
12.	To forbid something; Something that is forbidden
13.	A loud noise, normally from hitting a hard surface
14.	A crime, normally against the laws of a religion
15.	It's like speaking with music
16.	A place to throw rubbish or trash
17.	Another noise that a bell makes
18.	A long, thin piece of metal. It is often sharp
19.	Another noise that a bell makes
20.	Past simple of 'To run'
21.	Past simple of 'To ring'
22.	In some sports, players sit in this for a few minutes for breaking a rule. (Join two of the above words together)

## 2) Big Ben Beng's alarm clock factory – word quiz

Purple Hippo

1. Ben	A male name, short for 'Benjamin'
2. Beng	A factory owner's family name
3. din	A noise
4. ding	The noise that a bell makes
5. thin	Not fat
6. thing	Will always be a noun
7. bun	A bread roll or a cake
8. bung	A slang term for 'throw'
9. son	The opposite of 'daughter'
10. sun	Our closest star
11. sung	The past participle of 'to sing'
12. ban	To forbid something; Something that is forbidden
13. bang	A loud noise, normally from hitting a hard surface
14. sin	A crime, normally against the laws of a religion
15. sing	It's like speaking with music
16. bin	A place to throw rubbish or trash
17. bing	Another noise that a bell makes
18. pin	A long, thin piece of metal. It is often sharp
19. ping	Another noise that a bell makes
20. ran	Past simple of 'To run'
21. rang	Past simple of 'To ring'
22. sin bin	In some sports, players sit in this for a few minutes for breaking a rule. (Join two of the above words together)

3)

## Big Ben Beng's alarm clock factory

Purple Hippo

<b>Ben</b>	Beng	<b>din</b>	ding
<b>thin</b>	thing	<b>bun</b>	bung
<b>son/sun</b>	sung	<b>ban</b>	bang
<b>sin</b>	sing	<b>bin</b>	bing
<b>pin</b>	ping	<b>ran</b>	rang

4) **Big Ben Beng's alarm clock factory**

1) In Big \_\_\_\_\_'s alarm clock factory  
The clocks go, '\_\_\_\_\_' at quarter to three  
The \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ stops and then it's time for tea  
Tea and a funny \_\_\_\_\_ called a Smee

2) And Benny \_\_\_\_\_, he said to me, 'Now listen here, \_\_\_\_\_  
I've \_\_\_\_\_ in the Albert Hall and I've \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_  
And Smee's alright if you \_\_\_\_\_ it on a \_\_\_\_\_!

3) Now in this factory there's a few rules  
Don't \_\_\_\_\_ the clocks and don't \_\_\_\_\_ the tools  
I'm also \_\_\_\_\_ning \_\_\_\_\_ing on my motorbike  
It's a \_\_\_\_\_ bike \_\_\_\_\_, if you like

4) Rule number two, it's a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ers are \_\_\_\_\_ners, I've got a \_\_\_\_\_  
And there's also a \_\_\_\_\_ for the clocks that go '\_\_\_\_\_'  
Because they're no good, if you know what I mean

5) Clocks, on the other hand, that only go \_\_\_\_\_  
Are missing a \_\_\_\_\_, it's called a \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_  
With a \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ in, they won't \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_  
With a \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ in, they'll make a nice \_\_\_\_\_

6) And that's what my factory is all about  
Alarm clocks must \_\_\_\_\_, without any doubt'  
Then a big \_\_\_\_\_er \_\_\_\_\_ six or seven times  
And Ben \_\_\_\_\_ out shouting, 'I'm also \_\_\_\_\_ning rhymes'

5) **Big Ben Beng's alarm clock factory**

1) In Big Ben Beng's alarm clock factory  
The clocks go, 'Ding!' at quarter to three  
The ding-din stops and then it's time for tea  
Tea and a funny thin thing called a Smee

2) And Benny Beng, he said to me, 'Now listen here, son  
I've sung in the Albert Hall and I've sung in the sun  
And Smee's alright if you bung it on a bun!

3) Now in this factory there's a few rules  
Don't bang the clocks and don't bang the tools  
I'm also banning banging on my motorbike  
It's a Ben bike bang ban, if you like

4) Rule number two, it's a sin to sing  
Singers are sinners, I've got a sin bin  
And there's also a bin for the clocks that go 'bing'  
Because they're no good, if you know what I mean

5) Clocks, on the other hand, that only go ping  
Are missing a thin thing, it's called a ping-pin  
With a ping-pin in, they won't ping or bing  
With a ping-pin in, they'll make a nice ring

6) And that's what my factory is all about  
Alarm clocks must ring, without any doubt'  
Then a big ringer rang six or seven times  
And Ben ran out shouting, 'I'm also banning rhymes'

6)

## Big Ben Beng's alarm clock factory

In Big Ben Beng's alarm clock factory  
The clocks go, 'Ding!' at quarter to three  
The ding-din stops and then it's time for tea  
Tea and a funny thin thing called a Smee  
And Benny Beng, he said to me, 'Now listen here, son  
I've sung in the Albert Hall and I've sung in the sun  
And Smee's alright if you bung it on a bun!  
Now in this factory there's a few rules  
Don't bang the clocks and don't bang the tools  
I'm also banning banging on my motorbike  
It's a Ben bike bang ban, if you like  
Rule number two, it's a sin to sing  
Singers are sinners, I've got a sin bin  
And there's also a bin for the clocks that go 'bing'  
Because they're no good, if you know what I mean  
Clocks, on the other hand, that only go ping  
Are missing a thin thing, it's called a ping-pin  
With a ping-pin in, they won't ping or bing  
With a ping-pin in, they'll make a nice ring  
And that's what my factory is all about  
Alarm clocks must ring, without any doubt'  
Then a big ringer rang six or ten times  
And Ben ran out shouting, 'I'm also banning rhymes'

