



1. INTRODUCTION	Vocabulary Warm up Questions
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1. Introduction

The following lesson plan is to introduce your student to the language of gardening. Your student may have vegetables or herbs growing that they use for cooking or may have done so in their country of origin. Even if they live in an apartment they can still grow plants or herbs in pots. Growing your own vegetables or herbs can be particularly beneficial for people from multicultural backgrounds as they may not be able to readily buy the ingredients they use for cooking. So growing their own is a perfect solution! Research has shown that being out in the garden has many positive impacts on people's wellbeing so encourage your student to get out in their garden or balcony and enjoy their environment. Happy gardening!

Vocabulary

Garden	Balcony	<u>Tools</u>	<u>Advanced</u>
Plant	Vegetable	Trowel	Perennial
Flower	Fruit tree	Spade / shovel	Deciduous
Seed	Planting	Wheelbarrow	Bulb
Tree	Season	Rake	Seedling
Nursery	Leaves	Hose	Bird Bath
Pot	Herbs	Lawn mower	
Soil	Pot-plant	Watering can	
Worm farm	Compost		

See how many of these things you can find out in their garden or on their balcony to demonstrate

Warm up Questions

- Do you have a garden or balcony?
- Do you grow plants, flowers, vegetables or herbs?
- Have you ever planted anything in a garden?
- Do you have any pot-plants?
- What is your favourite flower?
- Have you ever grown anything that you could eat?
- Did you have a garden in your country of origin? If yes, what did you grow in your garden? Were the plants different to Australia?
- Do you know what compost is?

Advanced warm-up questions

- Have you ever planted anything from seed and watched it grow?
What would you want to grow in a vegetable garden?
Have you been to a nursery?
Do you notice how some trees change in the different seasons?
What are the easiest things to grow in a garden?
What is your favourite Australian fruit?
Do you know what season this fruit is available?
What kind of fruit is grown in your home country?
What kind of herbs do you use in cooking?
What would you grown in a herb garden?
Do you prefer to plant seeds or seedlings?
Do you know the names of any Australian native plants or flowers?
Do you know the benefits of growing native plants in your garden?
Do you know what a worm farm is? Do you have a compost bin or a worm farm?

2. Reading comprehension

Cheni arrived in Sydney one year ago from China. Cheni lives in an apartment with her husband and two children in South Sydney. Their apartment has a balcony, but Cheni misses the garden she had in China. Her garden had lots of pretty flowers in it that smelt so nice and vegetables that her and her mum used for cooking. To make her apartment feel more like home Cheni decided to go to the nursery with her husband and children to buy some flowers and pot plants they could put on the balcony. Cheni's daughter's favourite colours are pink and red so they bought lots of bright coloured flowers and a watering can to water the flowers. Cheni chose some plants that she could grow on her balcony to use for cooking. She bought some coriander seedlings, a chilli plant and seeds for growing bok choy, as these are things she uses a lot in her cooking. Cheni bought a pot and some soil to plant the coriander and a box to plant the bok choy. Cheni is much happier in her home now and spends more time on her balcony watching her plants grow and watering them everyday. Her favourite thing is to be able to use the food she grows for cooking. Cheni's children also love being able to watch the plants grow and help pick the chillies off the tree when Cheni needs them for cooking. They all agree that Cheni's home grown food tastes delicious!

Comprehension Questions

Beginner

1. Cheni arrived in Sydney _____ year ago from _____.
2. Cheni lives in an apartment with her _____ and _____ children.
3. Does their apartment have a balcony or a garden now?

4. Cheni's daughter's favourite colours are _____ and _____.
5. What did Cheni buy to water the plants with?
6. Is Cheni much happier now?
7. Cheni chose some _____ that she could grow on her balcony to use for _____.
8. She bought some _____ seedlings, a chilli _____ and seeds for growing bok _____ as these are things she uses a lot in her cooking.
9. Cheni's children also love being able to watch the plants _____ and help pick the _____ off the tree when Cheni needs them for _____.

Intermediate – Advanced

10. What does Cheni miss about China?
11. Why did Cheni decide to go to the nursery?
12. What kind of vegetables and herbs did Cheni buy?
13. What did Cheni plant in the box?
14. What is Cheni's favourite thing?
15. What do Cheni's children help with?

Intermediate to advanced reading & activity: Worm-farming and composting

Around 50% of what goes in our bin is organic waste. Recycling organic waste is a simple way to help combat climate change and reduce the amount of rubbish you send to landfill. When food and garden waste is sent to landfill, the organic nutrients become a contributor to environmental problems including water pollution and the greenhouse effect.

Instead of throwing out your food scraps you can compost them and have great fertilizer for your plants, as well as helping the environment. A compost bin would be most suitable if you live in a house or a worm farm if you live in a unit. Most Sydney councils provide free workshops and compost bins or worm farms to local residents (visit your local council or check their website for details).

Compost bin

Compost is natural and an inexpensive way of producing fertilizer for your garden. Composting is the natural decomposition of organic material by organisms such as insects, bacteria and fungi into a dark, soil-like substance. By turning your food and garden waste into compost you can make a difference to our environment, by:

- reducing the amount of waste you dispose
- reducing the use of artificial fertilisers
- improving your local soil quality
- creating a more natural, healthier (and happier) place to live.

Anything that was once a plant or animal can be composted, including fruit and vegetable peelings, newspapers, grass clippings, weeds, tea leaves, coffee grounds, egg shells, old potting mix, dead flowers, human and animal hair.

Worm farming

You don't need a large garden to have a worm farm. Worms can be kept outside, inside, on the balcony or in the garage and are ideal for people who live in units. Worm farms do not smell so they can be kept indoors without any problem. Worm castings are great for feeding house plants, adding to seedling mixes and potting soils or top dressing around plants.

Setting up a worm farm or compost bin

Make this a fun exercise with your student, something you can do together and discuss each time you are there for lessons. It will give you something to talk about and develop their vocabulary and use of grammar: see exercises to begin with below.

Before you get started:

Make sure your student is clear on what is involved in having a worm farm or compost bin before you begin by providing them with information in their own language. See these easy guides in multiple community languages:

Composting: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/EasyCompost.htm>

Worm Farming: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/EasyWormfarm.htm>

Vocabulary

Cover all the vocabulary relating to worm farming or composting with your student. Provide them with the benefits and basic facts of worm farming or composting as outlined above. Expand on each of these points as required.

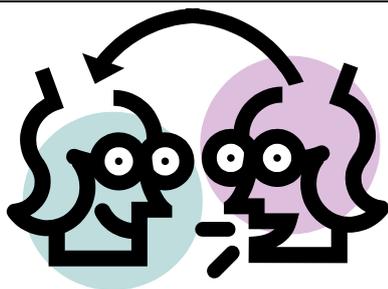
Grammar

Have a lesson on what should/shouldn't go in to their worm farm or compost bin.

Workshop

As an exercise, look up their local council website or visit the council to find out about free worm farming or composting workshops available in their local area (sometimes worm farms or compost bins are provided free after the workshop). Book them, and you if possible, into one of these sessions. Don't worry if they can't attend it is fairly simple to set-up a worm farm or compost bin without attending the workshop, just make sure you read all the instructions.

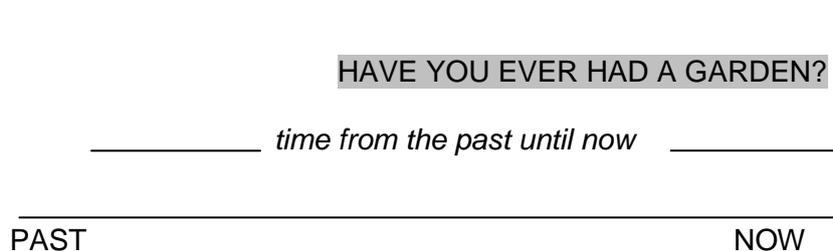
3. Grammar Focus: HAVE YOU EVER.....? (Present perfect)



Have you ever had a vegetable garden? No, I've never had a vegetable garden.

Have you been to a nursery? Yes, I have. Three times.

We use the present perfect (have been / have had / have played etc) when we talk about a time from the past until now – for example, a person's life:



Present perfect + ever (in questions) and **never**:

- Have you **ever grown** your own vegetables? No, I have **never grown** my own vegetables.
- Have you **ever been** to the nursery? Yes, once. (once = one time)
- Have your children **ever played** in that park? Yes, they have.
- I've **never had** a herb garden.
- What is that plant? I don't know I've **never seen** it before.

Gone and Been:

Bill **has gone** to the nursery:

- Where is Bill? Bill **has gone** to the nursery. (Right *now* he is at the nursery)

Two hours later

Bill **has been** to the nursery:

- Hello Bill, where have you been?. I've **been** to the nursery to buy some plants. (He went to the nursery but *now* he is back).

Write down the following questions beginning with Have you ever? then ask your tutor the questions. Remember to change the verb to the correct tense as you are asking questions about their past.

1. (London?) **Have you ever been to London?**

Answer:

2. (play / golf?) **Have you ever played golf?**

Answer:

3. (lose / passport?)

Answer:

4. (fly / aeroplane?)

Answer:

5. (eat / Chinese food?)
.....

Answer:

6. (drive / a bus?)
.....

Answer:

7. (nursery?)
.....

Answer:

8. (plant / fruit trees?)
.....

Answer:

Now write about yourself. How often have you done these things (never, once, twice, a few times, many times etc).

9. (Melbourne) **I have been to Melbourne twice** or **I have never been to Melbourne.**

10. (play / tennis)
.....

11. (be / late for work or school)
.....

12. (lose / wallet)
.....

13. (fly / aeroplane)

.....

14. (nursery)

.....

Put in **gone** or **been** to the following sentences.

1. Lucy is on holiday at the moment. She has gone to Spain.

2. Where's Jill? She's not here, I think she's to the nursery.

3. Have you ever to the Opera House?

4. My children aren't at home this evening. They've out.

5. Hello Sue. Where have you? Have you to the swimming pool?

6. Helen was here this morning but she's now.

4. Writing Exercise

Beginner

1. Ask your student to talk about or write down some of the things that you find in a garden.

Intermediate – Advanced

2. Ask your student to think about some of the benefits of growing your own food.

i.e convenience, cost, chemical free, reduces carbon footprint, enjoyment

3. Ask your student to write a story about their garden, what they grow in it and why. If they don't have a garden, write about what they would plant if they did have one and why.