



## Intermediate

### What's on Your "Bucket List"?

#### Lesson Objectives

- To learn vocabulary and idioms associated with goals and dreams.
- To generate a personal list of goals and dreams.

*For younger students, modify to "Summer Bucket List" or "One-Year Bucket List."  
Teenagers+ can do the lesson as is.*

#### Classroom Learning Activities

##### Activity 1 - Opening discussion question/topic: *(about 5 minutes)*

- Ask or write on the board, "What are some activities you would like to do before you die?" Students can answer in pairs, small groups or large group. *(Take attendance at this time.)*

**OR**

- Ask or write on the board, "What are some goals or dreams you have for this summer or this year?" *(Best option for younger students. Take attendance at this time.)*

##### Activity 2 – Bucket List Vocabulary and Idioms *(about 10 minutes)*

#### Resources Needed for Activity

- Bucket List Vocabulary poster OR white board
- Bucket List Idioms poster OR white board

1. Write “Bucket List” on board. (*Optional: Draw a bucket or include a picture of a bucket.*) Ask students to guess the meaning. Next, define and explain the vocabulary and then the idioms. (*For younger students you may choose fewer vocabulary words and idioms; write the words on the white board.*)

Vocabulary:

goals	ambition
hopes	determination
dreams	imagination
aspirations	fulfillment
journey	success
accomplishments	

Idioms:

kick the bucket	the sky is the limit
bucket list	life is a journey
follow your dreams	life is a highway

**Activity 3 – Conversation** (*about 15 minutes*)

Resources Needed for Activity

- White board
- Bucket List Questions poster (or write questions on the white board)

Display poster with questions. In groups of 2-3, students discuss the questions. Ask students to use as many of the idioms and vocabulary to answer the following:

- What would you like to learn in your lifetime?
- Where would you like to go?
- What would you like to see?
- What would you like to do?
- If you could have any job, what would it be? Why?

## **Activity 4 – Create and Discuss Bucket Lists** *(about 15 minutes)*

### Resources Needed for Activity

- Small pieces of paper (*from team supplies in Ukraine*), pen for each student
- Optional: (*good for younger students*) - Bucket List worksheet (Print copies on colored paper; cut apart. You need one bucket picture per student)

1. Students create their own Bucket List (3-8 items).
2. Put students in groups of 2-4. Students will have conversation about their bucket lists. (*Model how to ask each other questions about bucket list items and take turns asking and answering. Emphasize that they are not to simply read their lists to each other.*) Take turns asking questions.

*Write this question on the board:*

- Which bucket list item is the most important?
    - ...most achievable?
    - ...most outrageous?
    - ...most fun?
    - ...most serious?
3. After conversation time (10-15 minutes) return to large group for closing. Each person can tell something interesting they learned about another person. What were the most common bucket list items? What were the most unusual/unique bucket list item. OR -- What is the first item on your list you wish to accomplish?

## **Optional Activities**

### **Option A – Inspirational Quotes/Sayings**

*This activity would be a good substitute activity for younger children.*

## Resources Needed for Activity

- 5-6 copies of posters with inspirational quotes/sayings. (*Inspirational poster images can be found on Google images and copied into a Word document, then sized to fit the page.*)
  - White board/marker
1. Distribute posters to pairs/small groups. Or post pictures on the walls. Students walk around and choose their favorite saying.
  2. In groups 2-4, students discuss the inspirational sayings in their groups. Why do they like this saying?

Poster example:



**Option B – Bucket List Article** (*Choose this option only if you have an I+/A- class and/or a small class needing additional activities. Too advanced for an I class.*)

## Resources Needed for Activity

- 10-20 copies of Bucket List Article
- Bucket List Article Vocabulary Poster (or make Matching Cards)
- Bucket List Article Questions poster

1. Students read the Bucket List article and work with a partner to understand it.

### **What's on Your Bucket List?**

Many self-help books suggest getting off the couch and making your dreams come true. A perfect (or nearly perfect) life only needs a little self-discipline and hard work, and is reachable if you try. Many of these books also suggest that regrets pile up and diminish happiness and fulfillment.

In the real world, however, a dream life is usually unattainable. It's something to think about from time to time, such as during the commute to work or just before you fall asleep each night. But most people can't write a best-selling novel, for example, nor get rich with a start-up business -- two common dreams of many people. Responsibilities like family, a mortgage, and work must come first, and daily life often contains a lot of drudgery. The self-help books get one thing right, though: the bucket list.

A bucket list is a "to do" list before you kick the bucket, or die. Many people want to learn a foreign language someday, skydive, or travel to exotic locations around the world. The list should be inspirational, which balances the more boring facets of everyday life. You don't need to live each day as though it were your last day. Yet the list should help you plan imaginative, colorful, and even courageous acts. Explore your imagination, for human nature requires more than an endless series of identical days. In addition, the list can contain items which enrich the lives of others, too.

So what's on your bucket list?

2. Explore underlined vocabulary and any other words that are unclear. Display Vocabulary Matching Poster; students work in pairs to match.

**OR** Make vocabulary matching cards. Write words on one color index cards and definitions on a different color index cards. Have students match a definition card to a vocabulary card. (*Tape to wall or place on floor in columns.*)

<b>Discipline</b>	the practice of training people to obey rules or a code of behavior, using punishment to correct disobedience, a branch of knowledge
<b>Unattainable</b>	not able to be reached or achieved
<b>Exotic</b>	introduced from another country: not native to the place where found exotic plants.
<b>Courageous</b>	unafraid to face tough challenges Someone with courage is bold and brave,
<b>Enrich</b>	to make (someone) rich or richer: to improve the quality of (something) : to make (something) better. : to improve the usefulness or quality of (something) by adding something ...
<b>Diminish</b>	to become or to cause (something) to become less in size, importance, etc.: to lessen the authority or reputation of (someone or something)
<b>Drudgery</b>	is hard, mindless, backbreaking work.
<b>Facets</b>	one side of something many-sided, especially of a cut gem, a particular aspect or feature of something, any of the individual unit
<b>Identical</b>	exactly the same, or very similar

3. Display Questions poster. Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

- What did you find interesting about this article?
- What are some popular activities that appear on many bucket lists? Why are these popular?
- How realistic is to write a bucket list and then do the activities listed? Please explain.
- Do you think life is boring? If yes, does it have to be boring?
- Why is it important to have dreams or goals?
- Is a dream life within reach for everyone? Why/why not?

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# Bucket List Article Questions

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discipline

control that is gained by requiring that rules or orders be obeyed and punishing bad behavior; a way of behaving that shows a willingness to obey rules or orders; behavior that is judged by how well it follows a set of rules or orders

unattainable

not able to be reached or  
achieved

exotic

introduced from another  
country; not native to the  
place where found  
(example: \_\_\_\_\_ plants)

courageous

a person who is not afraid  
to face difficult challenges

enrich

identical

to make someone rich or richer; to improve the quality of something; to make something better; to improve the usefulness or quality by adding something

diminish

become less in size, importance, etc.; to lessen the authority or reputation of someone or something

drudgery

hard, mindless,  
backbreaking work

facet

one side of something with  
many sides, especially a cut  
gem; a particular aspect or  
feature of something, any  
of the individual unit

exactly the same or very  
similar

# Bucket List Questions

- What would you like to learn in your lifetime?
- Where would you like to go?
- What would you like to see?
- What would you like to do?
- If you could have any job, what would it be? Why?

# Bucket List Vocabulary

**goals**

**ambition**

**hopes**

**determination**

**dreams**

**imagination**

**aspirations**

**fulfillment**

**journey**

**success**

**accomplishments**



# Bucket List Idioms

- kick the bucket
- beyond your wildest dreams
- bucket list
- the sky is the limit
- follow your dreams
- head in the clouds
- living the dream
- life is a journey
- dream come true
- life is a highway
- chase your dreams
- broken dreams

