

## HITCH . THE DATE DOCTOR

### (A teaching experience)

WARM UP.- The teacher writes on the blackboard the following quotation

*“Life is not about the times you breathe, but the times that take your breath away”*

(From the Film: **Hitch, the date doctor**)

Then the teacher opens up a conversation on the meaning of this quotation, what they think, whether they like it or not, and so on. Then he goes on to explain the expression

*To take one’s breath away* and the adjective *breathtaking* and writes an example, such as:

*“That view at sunset on top of the cliff took my breath away”*  
*or*  
*“That view at sunset on top of the cliff took my breath away”.*

Next the teacher encourages students to think about moments that took their breath away and share it with the whole group ( he or she will not find much of participation at an oral level, but will probably find students who mentally try to remember such moments).

Then students are asked :

If you want to know the meaning of this expression (*To take one’s breath away*) in the dictionary, how would you look it up?

Then the teacher shows what the dictionary says:

**breath** [βpɛT]

**a** N

**1** (*lit*) (= *respiration*) aliento *m*; **to have bad breath** tener mal aliento; **to get one's breath back** recobrar el aliento *or* la respiración; **to hold one's breath** (*lit*) contener la respiración; **the whole world is holding its breath** el mundo entero está en vilo; **"he said he would be here" — "well, I wouldn't hold your breath"** —dijo que vendría —sí, pues yo le esperaba sentado\*; **to be/get out of breath** estar/quedar sin aliento; **without pausing for breath** sin detenerse ni un momento para recobrar el aliento *or* la respiración; **in the same or next breath** acto seguido; **he took a deep breath** respiró hondo; **to take one's breath away** dejar a uno sin habla; **he muttered something under his breath** dijo algo entre dientes *or* en voz baja

**2** (= *puff*) soplo *m*; **we went out for a breath of fresh air** salimos a tomar el (aire) fresco

**b** CPD

► **breath test** N (*Aut*) prueba *f* de la alcoholemia, prueba *f* del alcohol

## PRESENTATION

- ✓ Dictionary search strategies.
- ✓ Grammar review: - Modal verbs revision

- ✓ Listening/ viewing and speaking activity.

At this stage a new scene is played. It's from the Film. [Hitch, the date doctor](#). It lasts 3:05 minutes and it's in English with no subtitles. The scene will be shown twice and after the second viewing they will be asked several questions to check how much they have understood. This first part of talking about the film will be done orally. The same questions will be assigned as writing homework for the next session.

- ① How much have you understood? ( Everything – Most of It- half of it- Just a little- Nothing at all)
- ② What is the scene about?
- ③ Who is Hitch? What's his job?
- ④ Who are the rest of the people Hitch talk to?
- ⑤ What does Hitch say to the people?
- ⑥ What does Hitch say about Human communication?

Once they have finished their conversation, they are given the script, so they can go all over it again together.



**HITCH:** Basic principles: No woman wakes up saying: "God, I hope I don't get swept off my feet today." Now, she might say "This is a really bad time for me." Or something like, "I just need some space." Or my personal favourite: "I'm really into my career right now."  
You believe that? Neither does she. You know why?  
Because she's lying to you, that's why. You understand me?  
Lying. It's not a bad time for her. She doesn't need any space.  
She may be into her career...  
but what she's really saying is, "Get away from me now."  
Or possibly, "Try harder, stupid."  
Well, which one is it?  
60 % of all human communication is nonverbal. Body language.  
30% is your tone. So that means that  
90 % of what you're saying...-ain't coming out of your mouth.

**WOMAN** .- Toby!, Shit!

Of course she'll lie to you. She's a nice person, she doesn't want to hurt your feelings. What else is she going to say?

She doesn't even know you. Yet.

Luckily, the fact is that just like the rest of us...

even a beautiful woman doesn't know what she wants until she sees it.

And that's where I come in. My job is to open her eyes.

**WOMAN**.- Oh, my God!

**MAN 1**.- Is this what you're looking for?

Basic principles: No matter what, no matter when, no matter who...

any man has a chance to sweep any woman off her feet.

Just needs the right broom. You cannot use what you do not have.

So if you're shy, be shy. If you're outgoing, be outgoing.

**MAN 2** - I'm not outgoing.

**HITCH** - That's okay.

She may not want the whole truth, but she does want the real you.

She may not want to see it all at once, but she does want to see it.

So tonight, when you're wondering what to say, how you look, or if she likes you...

just remember, she is already out with you.

That means she said yes when she could have said no.

That means she made a plan when she could have just blown you off.

So that means it is no longer your job to try to make her like you.

It is your job not to mess it up.

## PRODUCTION

1.- The students are asked to find the modal verbs in the text and explain what function they are covering (ability, possibility, permission, obligation, etc)

2.- The film name is *Hitch, the date doctor*. Look up the word **date** in the dictionary and choose the one suits the scene you have just seen better.

**date**<sup>1</sup> [ðeɪt] a N

**1** (= *day*) fecha *f*; **what's the date today?** ¿qué fecha es hoy?; **2** (= *appointment*) cita *f*; **to have a date with sb** tener una cita con algn; **to make a date with sb** citarse *or* quedar con algn

**3** (= *person*) pareja *f*, acompañante *mf*; **who's your date for tonight?** ¿con quién sales esta noche?

**4** (= *concert etc*) actuación *f*

**b** VT **1** [+ *letter*] fechar, poner fecha a

**2** (= *establish age of*) [+ *object*] fechar, datar; **that really dates you!** ¡eso demuestra lo viejo que eres!

**C** VI **1** (= *show age*) pasar de moda

**2** **to date back to** remontarse a; **to date from** datar de

**3** (= *go out with sb*) **is she dating?** ¿sale con chicos?; **they've been dating for three months** llevan saliendo juntos tres meses

**d** CPD ► **date of birth** N fecha *f* de nacimiento

► **date rape** N violación *f* durante una cita amorosa

► **date stamp** N (*on library book, fresh food*) sello *m* de fecha; (= *postmark*) matasellos *m inv*

( Collins Dictionary)

PRACTICE

✓ Modal verbs.

Identify the function of the modal verbs in the following sentences.

**Offer, advice, Obligation, (im)possibility, (im) probability, request, prohibition, necessity, giving/refusing permission, absence of necessity, deduction, ability.**

1.- He's worked all night. He must be tired	Deduction.....
2.- Shall I open the door for you?	.....
3.- I don't believe it. It can't be true	.....
4.- You should buy a new car	.....
5.- You can't leave before 12 o'clock	.....
6.- You ought to wash that immediately	.....
7.- You may come in now	.....
8.- You should be more respectful	.....
9.- There might be some meat in the fridge	.....
10.- Can you pass me the salt, please?	.....
11.- I must go to the doctor at once	.....
12.- You can win if you want	.....
13.- You mustn't tell anyone what happened	.....
14.- I'll answer the phone for you	.....
15.- He could play the piano at the age of 4	.....
16.- She needn't wait for us	.....
17.- Albert may not remember us	.....
18.- You must control your temper	.....
19.- I might be wrong but I doubt it	.....
20.- Can't never could.	.....

✓ Dictionary use

Imagine you have said something you shouldn't have said . You should have held your tongue but you didn't. You don't know how to express that idea in English, and you look it up in the dictionary ( meter la pata). You find this:

**meter la pata to put one's foot in it.-**

**Example:** "Sorry I should have kept my mouth shut. I put my foot in it".

As you can see the form *one's* is replaced by the possessive determiner that is suitable in that case. Find the meaning of the following expressions in the dictionary and write a clear example. Use different subjects.

**\* to get something off one's chest..**

.....

**\* to change one's mind.**

.....

**\* to take one's time**

.....

**\* Not to mince one's words.**

.....

**\* To have a chip on one's shoulder**

.....

\* To have one's feet on the ground.

## EXERCISES

### ✓MODAL VERBS

1.-.- Express the following ideas by using modal verbs.

- a) Tell your brother that **it's prohibited** to speak loud in a library
- b) Ernest has **the obligation** to post the letters every day.
- c) Raúl has the **ability** to speak 8 foreign languages
- d).- There is a **possibility** of raining this afternoon
- e).- Give some **advice** to your brother. He never does his homework
- f).- Ask for **permission** to phone your friend
- g) Your friend drives very fast. **Give him some advice**
- h) Tell your partner that **it's prohibited** to eat gum in class.
- I) Express that your sister has the **ability** to speak Portuguese.
- j) Tell your mother that **she doesn't need** to drive you to school.
- k)Express the idea that you had the **obligation** to take a taxi yesterday