

CENTRAL ASIAN TEENS TALK

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

These materials were developed by English teachers and their students to meet specific needs. As English teachers, we know that learners need opportunities to work with authentic materials in their English classes, at least part of the time. Our students also need materials that relate to their own lives and interests. However, finding teaching materials that use the authentic English of young speakers in Central Asia and connect to their lives as teens is often difficult. We hope that *Central Asian Teens Talk* will help meet these needs and be useful to both teenage language learners and their teachers.

You will find here material that connects to the lives of teenage learners. In these interviews, young people talk about their lives and personal interests, the things they enjoy doing, the places they enjoy visiting. They also share their pride in their own cultures and countries. Therefore, these interviews encourage noticing the ways we are alike and the ways that we differ as individuals and provide excellent starting points for discussions and projects on appreciating one's own culture and appreciating other cultures too.

These interviews also model authentic English. They were all created by teens who use English as a learned language, not as their home or first language. There are places where there are minor differences between the English the students use and “perfect textbook English” because this is a natural part of authentic English. No one, not even monolingual English speakers, always uses “perfect textbook English.” These interviews provide natural, authentic English and set an achievable model for language learners.

CENTRAL ASIA AND BEYOND

While these materials were developed by teachers and students in Central Asia, we hope that teachers and teens in other parts of the world will use them too. Our part of the world has a mix of cultures and a long history that is, to many people, not well known. We would like to introduce our countries to language learners everywhere.

Creating these teaching materials was a challenging project; however, it may be a project that teachers and students in other areas would like to try too. English has become a very international language. English teachers and their students can open doors for increased international communication and learning.

CONTENTS

Each interview includes a video, a written text of the video, and teaching notes. The teaching notes include possible prompts for discussion or writing, an edited version of the text showing “perfect textbook English,” and a few vocabulary notes. We’ve also included information on lesson planning and a short list of resources that may be useful when using the interviews.

We wish you and your students all the best,

The Central Asian Teens Talk Team