

It's Double Dutch to Me

Idiom of the month

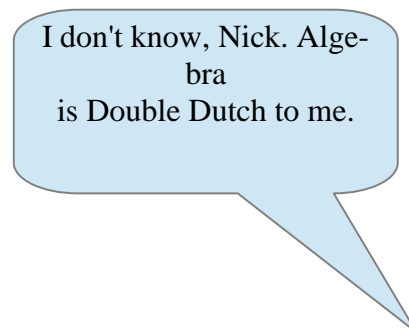
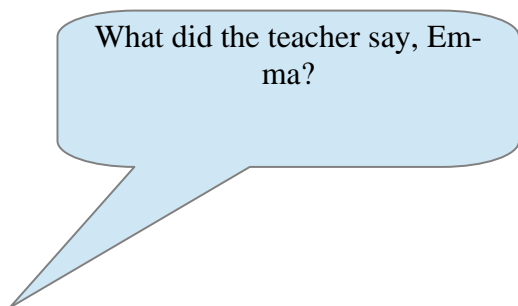
a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

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1. Write 5 more things that YOU find it difficult to do in another language.

- a. Understand accents
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.

2a. Read



2b. Complete with the idiom of the month.

When something is like _____ to you, it's like a foreign language that you can't understand.

When something you read or hear is Double Dutch to you, it means that you can't understand it. You feel confused because you can't make sense of the words.

3. Write 5 more phrases you can use to ask for help when something is Double Dutch to you.

- a. .Could you tell mewhat this means? It's Double Dutch to me.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.

4. Work with a partner.**a. Read about one of the principles of plurilingual and intercultural education in schools.**

According to the Council of Europe, every student has the 'right to use their language varieties as a medium of communication, a vehicle for learning and a means of expressing their affiliations.' (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/platform-plurilingual-intercultural-language-education/the-founding-principles-of-plurilingual-and-intercultural-education>)

b. The information on the website is for adults or older teenagers. It might sound like Double Dutch to children. Re-write the text in a simple child-friendly way.



5. Translate the texts from 4 a and 4 b into your language. Do you agree with this principle of plurilingual and intercultural education?

/ On a sign/ Don't speak Double Dutch!

Teacher's Notes

1. Sample answer:

- a. Understand accents
- b. Ask questions
- c. Pronounce new words
- d. Understand fast conversations
- e. Read long texts
- ff. Write clear sentences

2b. When something is like Double Dutch to you, it's like a foreign language that you can't understand.

3. Sample answer:

- a. Could you tell me what this means? It's Double Dutch to me.
- b. Sorry, could you explain this please?
- c. I'm sorry, I don't understand.
- d. Could you repeat that, please?
- g. Could you say that more slowly, please?
- h. Do you mean that.....?

4b. Sample answer:

According to the Council of Europe, every student has the 'right to use their language varieties as a medium of communication, a vehicle for learning and a means of expressing their affiliations.'

The Council of Europe says that at school children should be able to use their own first language or languages, not only English, in class to help them learn and talk about themselves.

5. Answers may vary.