Ferrari 250 GTO

Language level:	Pre-intermediate (A2)
Learner type:	Young learners; Teens; Adults
Time:	40 minutes
Activity:	Speaking; Creative writing
Topic:	Flash cars
Language:	Numbers; Passive structures
Materials:	Video

Preparation, materials and equipment

1. For this activity, you will need a YouTube clip titled ***My Ferrari 250 GTO***. To access the video, click on the following link:

   http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivlVfChBkzg

2. For each student, you will need a copy of the **Flash car questions** on page 4.

Decide how you are going to display the clip in class. Possibilities include:

- Laptop or desktop (good for small groups)
- Computer, projector + screen
- iPhone or other mobile device (good for one-to-ones/intimate classes)

Don't forget the loudspeakers

If you don't have Internet access in class, you could download or 'capture' the video from YouTube. Use www.savevid.com or a similar site. Note, however, that in doing so, you will be breaching YouTube's Terms of Use.

Lesson plan

1. Write **250 GTO** on the board and ask students if they can tell you what it refers to.

2. Dictate or tell your students the following (note the passive structures **in bold**):

The Ferrari 250 GTO **is often considered** to be one of the top sports cars of all time. It **was built** for racing in the early 1960s and at that time, would have cost $18,000 - well over $100,000 by today's standards if inflation **is taken** into account. Potential buyers **had to be personally approved** by Enzo Ferrari himself. Only 39 models **were made**.

3. Tell students that nowadays, the sports car is a desirable and valuable collector's item. Ask them guess how much a model could be sold for in an auction.

Modern Ferrari 250 GTO sales (source: Wikipedia):

1988	A model is seized from a convicted drug dealer and sold for approximately $2 million.
1989*	A model is sold to a Japanese buyer for $14.6 million plus commission.
2008	A model is bought by an anonymous Englishman for £15.7 million.
2010	A model is bought by Chris Evans, a well-known British radio presenter for £12 million.

* The peak of the price boom

4. Give out copies of the car questions and ask students to discuss them in pairs or small groups before getting feedback from everyone.

5. Play the video clip and pause it after 3 or 4 seconds. Tell students that the man cleaning the Ferrari 250 GTO is called Fernando and he comes from Chile. Ask students to guess how much he paid for the model.

   Play, ***The Price is Right***. Ask everyone to write down their *exact* figures on a piece of paper.

6. Invite students to read out their guesses while you write the figures on the board. Use this as an opportunity to practice the pronunciation of big numbers.

7. After establishing who came closest, tell students that Fernando got the Ferrari 250 GTO for only $39.90. Tell students that there is an interesting story behind the acquisition. Ask them to think about how this happened and write an explanation.

8. Invite students to read out their explanations to the rest of the class.

9. Play the clip until the end. Students will realize that the car is a toy model.

Variation

Instead of writing an anecdote for step 7, ask students to write a dialogue between Fernando and a neighbour or friend in which he explains how he got the Ferrari for $39.90.

Credits

The video clip was created by Fernando Córdova, a Chilean photographer and model car dealer. Visit his website at: **www.miniaturas.cl**

Flash car questions

1. Do you drive? If so, what kind of car do you have? If not, why not?
2. Out of all the people you know, who has the most flash car? What kind of car does he/she have? What sort of person is he/she?
3. Would you rather have a flash car or a great place to live? Why?
4. What do you think of men or women with flash cars? Would you like to be one? Do you find them attractive?
5. If you could afford any car on the planet, which car/type of car would you choose?

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