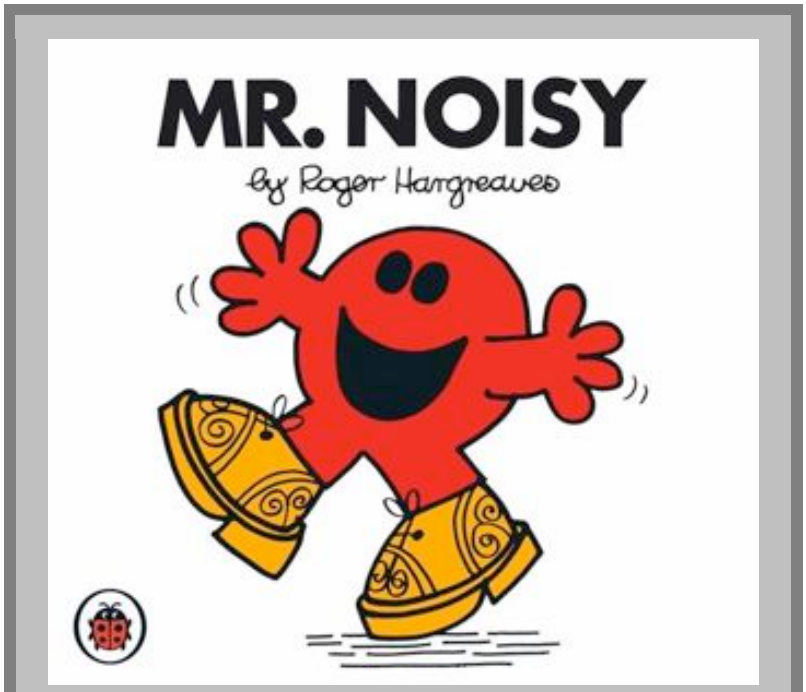
Mr Men

Language level:	Beginner – Pre-intermediate (A1 – A2)
Learner type:	Young learners; Teens; Adults
Time:	20 minutes
Activity:	Word game
Topic:	Children's books
Language:	Descriptive adjectives that end in *–y* (*happy*, *noisy*, etc.)
Materials:	Slideshow



Preparation, materials and equipment

For this activity you will need a PDF slideshow of Mr Men book covers. This can be downloaded at:

http://bit.ly/llK4NA

All images were downloaded from:
http://www.penguin.com.au/mrmen/mrmen.cfm

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

- Laptop, desktop, tablet computer (iPad, etc.)
- Computer, projector + screen.
- SMART phone, iPhone or similar mobile device (Good for one-to-ones.)
- Hard copies (Use a colour printer to make prints of the images.)

Lesson plan

1. Ask students to think of as many 2-syllable adjectives that end in *-y* as possible (*hungry*, *thirsty*, *tidy*, *sunny*, *cloudy*, etc.) Write these on the board.

2. Make sure that the following are also included:

Noisy	***Busy***	***Greedy***	***Lazy***
Nosy/Nosey	***Grumpy***	***Skinny***	***Happy***
Clumsy	***Funny***	***Messy***	***Silly***

To do this, give definitions or prompts and elicit the adjectives from students when possible. For example:

- Not quiet (*noisy*)
- You have a lot to do. You are … (*busy*)
- You are only interested in food or money (*greedy*)
- You don't like working or doing anything energetic. All you want to do is lie on the sofa or stay in bed (*lazy*)

- You want to know things about other people – things that are none of your business (*nosy/nosey*)
- You don't laugh. You are in a bad mood (*grumpy*)
- This means thin but in a negative way (*skinny*)
- The opposite of sad (*happy*)
- You break things. You drop things. You walk into things (*clumsy*)
- If someone or something makes you laugh it is … (*funny*)
- The opposite of tidy (*messy*)
- If someone isn't being serious you say: "Don't be …" (*silly*)

3. Ask students if they know about the Mr Men. Roger Hargreaves created the first character – Mr Tickle – in 1971. Since then, the list of Mr Men and Little Miss characters has grown. They have also become quite international. See Wikipedia for more: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mr_Men

4. Tell students that you have a game for them. Show them the 12 book covers (**Slides 1** to **12** in the PDF slideshow) and ask them to guess the names of the Mr Men which are covered up. Students should write down their answers. You can put students into pairs or groups for this.

Note: point out that all Mr Man names consist of 2-syllable adjectives that end in –*y*.

5. Use the images on **Slide 14** to **Slide 37** to go over the answers and find out who the winners are.

6. Write all the Mr Men's names of scrap pieces of paper. Distribute them among students randomly. Ask students to write a short 'Day in the life' composition about their Mr Man. Notes:

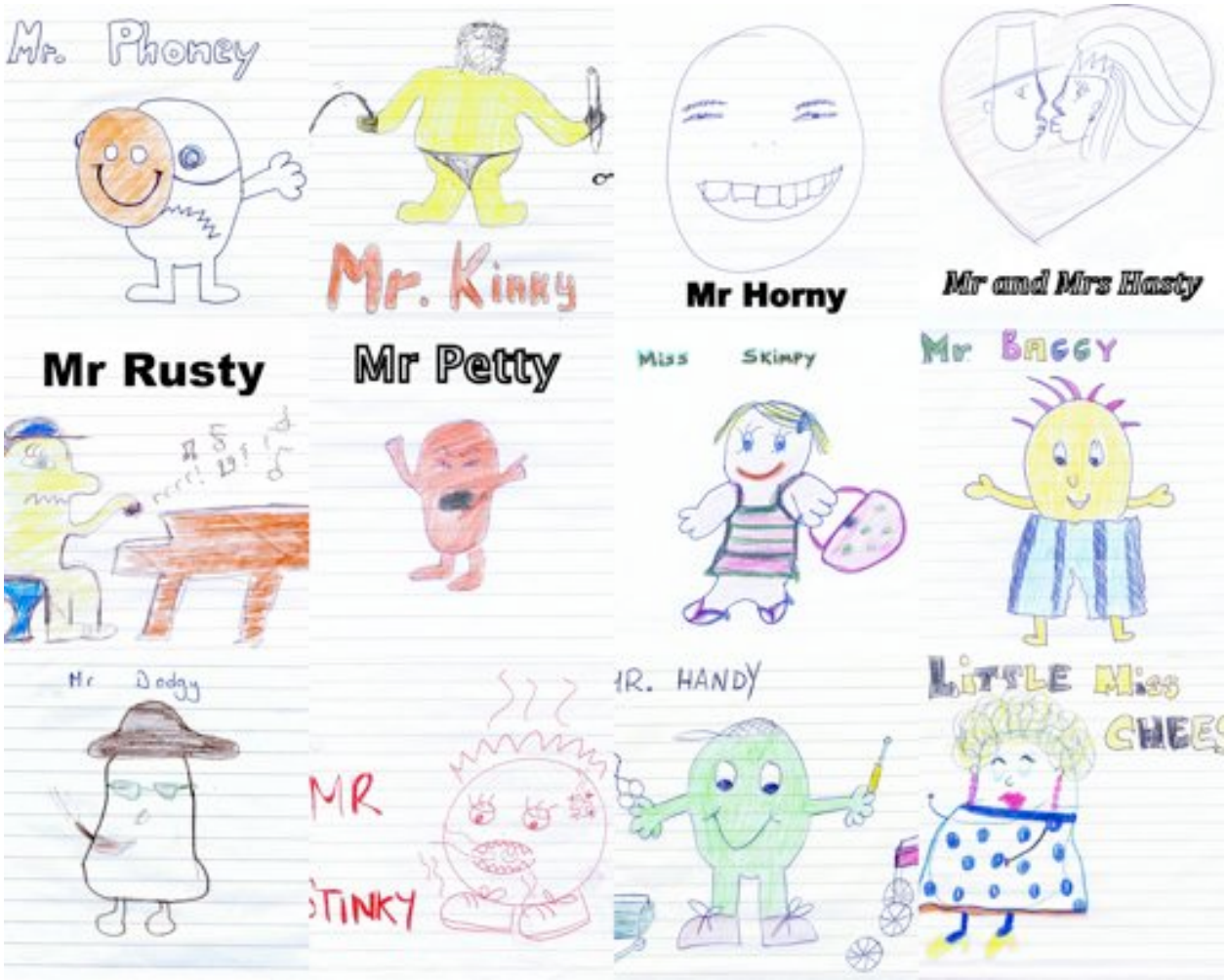
- The composition should be in the present tense. (*He gets up very late. He doesn't go to work. He sits on the sofa all day watching daytime TV. After lunch he has a three-hour siesta*, etc.)
- Students must not use their Mr Man's adjective in the composition. They should always refer to him as *he*.
- Ask students to read out their compositions. Other students should listen and write down which Mr Man they think is being described.

Follow ups

- Use the images for an observation game: name a Mr Man and ask students to describe, from memory, what he looks like. This is good for describing shape, appearance, facial expressions, physical features, colour, clothes, etc.
- Give students a list of 2-syllable adjectives that end in –y. Ask students to create their own Mr Men. They should design book covers and write a short story (see page 5 for some examples). Alternatively, make use of this online Mr Man design application here: http://www.kindersite.org/Content/Make%20a%20Mr.%20Man.swf

Baggy	Bossy	Busy	Cheeky
Cheesy	Chilly	Clumsy	Cosy
Creepy	Curly	Dirty	Dizzy
Dodgy	Early	Fatty	Feisty
Fishy	Fizzy	Flirty	Fluffy
Funny	Fussy	Fuzzy	Greedy
Groggy	Grumpy	Hairy	Handy
Happy	Hasty	Healthy	Holy
Horny	Hungry	Kinky	Lazy
Messy	Nasty	Naughty	Noisy
Nosy	Petty	Phoney	Pretty
Prickly	Pushy	Rowdy	Saggy
Salty	Scary	Seedy	Sexy
Shiny	Silly	Skimpy	Skinny
Sleepy	Soppy	Spiky	Starry
Sticky	Stroppy	Stuffy	Sweaty
Tacky	Tasty	Thirsty	Thrifty
Touchy-feely	Ugly	Wary	

Note that this selection contains some adjectives that are unsuitable for young learners.



Variation

At the beginning of this activity (step 1) use a game to introduce 2-syllable adjectives that end in –y. After giving a few examples of your own (*happy*, *easy*, *pretty*, etc.) invite students to think of their own and describe, define and/or contextualise them to the rest of the class. Points are awarded if:

- A student can think of an adjective that no one else knows (and in your opinion has described/defined/contextualised it well.)
- A student successfully manages to guess another student's adjective.

Credits

The images used in the PDF slideshow came from the site below where all Mr Man and Little Miss images are available as high quality downloads. I wrote and asked for permission to upload this lesson plan but so far haven't had a response. I promise to take it down if they send along Mr Heavy.

http://www.penguin.com.au/mrmen/mrmen.cfm