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Song: Three crows

Lecturas complementarias:

For the Love of Crows

Crows belong to the family Corvidae. Crows are believed to be the most intelligent of all birds. There is very little wonder why they have been revered and worshipped over the centuries.

Physical characteristics:

The American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*, when fully grown is 17" to 21" (from tip of bill to tip of tail). Weight when fully grown; approximately one pound.

Differentiation of sexes

There is no way to tell by physical appearance alone, as to whether a crow is male or female. DNA testing of blood will indicate sex. Close study of crows in their daily life, especially during nesting season may provide a clue as to sex, however, this is not something that many people will be able to observe.

Coloration

Crows are black for a very good reason. This is for identification of their own kind. A crow can easily identify another crow in the distance, during the day, because black is very visible during the day.

However, at night, the black coloration helps to protect it from predators. Black is not easily seen during the night, when a crow is most vulnerable.

Life Expectancy

Crows in the wild can live to be 10 years old +/- 2 to 3 years. However, predators and disease often shorten this by a few years.

The oldest known wild American Crow was 29 1/2 years old (Dilling, 1988, Ontario Bird Banding Association Newsletter 22:2-3.) The second oldest known, however, was only 14 years, 7 months old (Clapp et. al., 1983, Journal of Field Ornithology, 54(2): 123-137).

Diet

Crows will eat just about anything. You are bound to find them feasting at fast food restaurant parking lots. They will eat bugs, worms, roadkill, mice, berries, corn, and a variety of other tasty treats. An adult crow needs 11 ounces of food each day. Many people believe that crows damage farm crops. This is not always true. Crows often eat harmful insects, benefitting farmers.

Anotaciones

I.- Introduction:

- . Ordinal numbers.
- . Past simple
- . Past continuous
- . Culture: crows

Anotaciones

II. Cultural quiz:: Crows

1.- The true crows are in the:

a)genus Corvus b)bird of corral c)bird of prey

2.- Where did crows appear?

a) Africa b)Asia c)Europe

3.- Many crow species are all...

a) white b)red c)black

4.- Crows and ravens often score very highly on ...

a) intelligence tests b)ability tests c)academic tests

5.- Crows, and especially ..., often feature in legends or mythology.

a)parrots b)ravens c)parakeets.

Anotaciones

III.- Presenting the song:

Antes de escuchar la canción, se explica a los alumnos lo que se va a hacer y qué objetivos se pretenden alcanzar con la escucha y las actividades posteriores relacionadas con el tema. También se lee la letra de la canción y se aclaran dudas sobre algún aspecto gramatical así como se traducen las palabras que sean difíciles y que dificulten el entendimiento del tema.

El profesor cantará sin música de fondo la canción para que los alumnos vayan familiarizándose con el tema y después se pasa a la audición que se pondrá tres veces: la primera como toma de contacto con el ritmo, entonación y pronunciación, la segunda para fijarse en los aspectos gramaticales que se pretenden repasar (past simple y past continuous) y la tercera como algo más lúdico. Todos los alumnos deben participar en la actividad. Se puede escuchar en más ocasiones si los alumnos lo solicitan y el profesor lo considera oportuno.



Three crows sat upon a wall,
Sat upon a wall, sat upon a wall,
Three crows sat upon a wall,
On a cold and frosty morning

The first crow couldn't fly at all,
Couldn't fly at all, couldn't fly at all,
The first crow couldn't fly at all,
On a Cold and frosty morning.

The second crow was crying for his ma,
Crying for his ma, crying for his ma
The second crow was crying for his ma,
On a cold a frosty morning

The third crow fell and broke his jaw,
Fell and broke his jaw, fell and broke his jaw,
The third crow fell and broke his jaw
On a cold and frosty morning

The fourth crow wasn't there at all
Three crows there were once
who sat on a stone,
Fal la la la la la!
But two flew away
and then there was one.
Fal la la la la la!
The other crow felt so timid alone,
Fal la la la la la!
That he flew away,
and then there was one,
Fal la la la la l

Anotaciones

IV.- Practising the language:

Hay que hacer hincapié en que hay términos tienen más de una traducción posible y que hay frases que no tienen sentido de manera literal por lo que hay que buscar una traducción aproximada que dé sentido a la traducción completa del texto.

Se repasan las formas verbales que aparecen en la canción:

Past simple:

Structure

In the positive form, for regular verbs, add an -ed to the base form of the verb. If the verb ends in -y preceded by a consonant, change the -y to -ied. For irregular verbs check the list.

I

You

He

She arrived late last night. (regular verb)

It came back late last night. (irregular verb)

We

You

They

Use the conjugated helping verb 'did' not (didn't) the base form of the verb to make negatives.

I

You

He

She

It didn't go to New York last week.

We

You

They

Use the conjugated helping verb 'did' subject the base form of the verb in question forms.

I
You
He
When did She come?
It
We
You
They

Past continuous:

This tense was formed using two components: the verb BE (in the past tense), and the -ING form of a verb. Here are the rules, using the example verb "sing":

Subject	BE	-ING FORM
I	was	singing
You	were	singing
He	was	singing
She	was	singing
It	was	singing
We	were	singing
They	were	singing

When to use the past continuous

The past continuous is usually used when one action began before another, and finished after it. Consider this sentence:

I was reading when he arrived.

In other words I started reading (maybe at 8 o'clock), then he arrived (maybe at 9 o'clock), then I finished reading (maybe at 10 o'clock)

1. Translate the lyrics into Spanish:

English:

Spanish:

Three crows sat upon a wall,

Sat upon a wall, sat upon a wall,

Three crows sat upon a wall,

On a cold and frosty morning

The first crow couldn't fly at all,

Couldn't fly at all, couldn't fly at all,

The first crow couldn't fly at all,

On a Cold and frosty morning.

The second crow was crying for his ma,

Crying for his ma, crying for his ma

The second crow was crying for his ma,

On a cold and frosty morning

The third crow fell and broke his jaw,

Fell and broke his jaw, fell and broke his jaw,

The third crow fell and broke his jaw

On a cold and frosty morning

2. Write the ordinal numbers from first to twentieth:

3. Underline in red the past simple verbs and in blue the past continuous one:

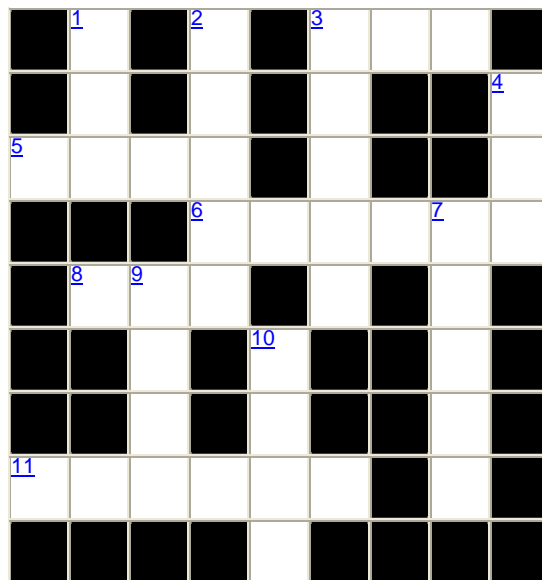
4.- Crossword:

Across

- 3) **6**
- 5) **4**
- 6) **11**
- 8) **1**
- 11) **12**

Down

- 1) **2**
- 2) **3**
- 3) **7**
- 4) **10**
- 7) **8**
- 9) **9**
- 10) **5**



V. Creative work:

1.- Invent new strophes for this song:

Example:

The fourth crow fell down and broke his beak.

Fell and broke his beak, fell and broke his beak,

The fourth crow fell and broke his beak

On a cold and frosty morning.

VI. Singing the song.