

PRODUCENT: KEITH FOSTER  
PEDAGOG: NINA OLIVIER  
PROJEKTLEDARE: MIA BISANDER

## Teacher's guide to

### Family Foster

### Family Foster – English Speaking Countries

### Foster's English Shorts

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#### A. Purpose:

Family Foster aims to offer a guide to different countries where English is spoken as a first language, as well as a brief dive into the history of the English language and its spread around the globe. The purpose of the series is to function as a complement to regular classroom teaching towards the goals in the curriculum for grade 9, with a focus on *listening comprehension, understanding and interpreting different English dialects* as well as *reflecting on questions regarding living conditions, traditions, society and cultural phenomena in parts of the world where English is used.*

#### B. About Family Foster:

Family Foster is a **TV series** with focus on the English language and the countries in which it is spoken.

It comes in **two versions** and **an additional series** of short programmes that explore the different phenomena that are mentioned in the original series.

**Family Foster: 7 programmes x 28 minutes**

**Family Foster – English speaking countries: 7 programmes x 14 minutes**

**Foster's English shorts: 5 programmes x 5 minutes**

**Family Foster:** Keith Foster and his daughter Julia travel the world in search of people who share the same last name as them. In each programme, we go with them as they visit a new English-speaking country and the people who live there. We learn about the history of English in the country visited, as well as about facts about the country, living conditions, traditions and culture there.



Each programme offers interviews with people speaking at least one different English dialect, giving pupils a perfect opportunity for practising *listening comprehension* in the same time as they learn new things about English and an English-speaking country.

Each programme also features animations in which we find out the history of different aspects of English, word roots where we get to know the background of some words and short lessons about the history of English with Professor Phil. You can choose to watch the programmes with English or Swedish subtitles, or without, depending on the level of the group.

With each programme comes a *worksheet* with exercises connected to the programme, both related to the listening comprehension and exercises with focus on *speaking, writing, practising vocabulary* and more.

**Family Foster – English speaking countries:** is a shorter version of Family Foster without the animations, the word roots and the lessons with Professor Phil.

**Foster’s English Shorts:** These programmes are short segments from the Family Foster series that aren’t really about the country, but about another *phenomenon within the English language*. The themes of the programmes can be anything from magazines to au pairs. These programmes come with their own separate *worksheet*.

## C. Programmes

### FAMILY FOSTER

#### 1. South Africa

**Craig and Damon Foster** are documentary filmmakers from South Africa who bring us along as they visit the coast, watch typical South African animals, visit a cave with remains of early human life and talk about click languages. With them we also visit Mandela Park, a township and their family home on the coast where we enjoy a South African Braai (barbeque).

We visit **Spring in Berlin**, which is an improvisation theatre festival where English is the common tongue among the participants of various nationalities.

**Markus Zusak** is an Australian writer, most famous for his book “the Book Thief”, who writes for young readers and who enjoys playing with the language while writing.

The **Quick History** in this programme is about war and the **word root** is about the word gun.



## 2. India

We learn about trade in India and how the British East India Company brought English to India and started centuries of trade and growing desirable crops such as tea, cardamom, spice and opium. We also learn about the new big export – IT in India - when we visit the **IT tech park in Chennai**.

We visit a tea plantation and a tea factory and we learn more about the popular British drink.

**Majja Frisk** is a Swedish girl working as au pair in London. We meet her in her English home and talk about how her English has changed since she moved to London.

**Santosh** has an Indian-Swedish IT company and we visit him at work and at home and talk about Indian work ethics and arranged marriages.

**Nina Persson** from **the Cardigans** talks about her view on English.

The **Quick History** in this programme is about trade and the **word root** is about the word abracadabra.

## 3. USA

We follow Keith and Julia as they try to find a Foster in **Hollywood**. There, we learn about the film industry and that English is not the biggest language in L.A. We also meet **Johannes Alfvén** who studies at **New York Film Academy in L.A.** and who takes classes in perfecting his American accent, then we go to Venice beach to meet **Cynthia Foster** who rents out eco-cottages but really wants to be an actress.

Julia meets **Ben Foster**, a teenager who dreams about becoming a film director. We go to England and study Cockney. **Keith Park** has written a book with Bible stories in Cockney-rhyme for kids with learning difficulties.

We meet **Robbie Bonham** who is a stand-up comedian whose Irishness colours his humour.

The **Quick History** in this programme is about the history of TV and film and the **word root** we learn is for tennis.

## 4. Ireland

Keith is on his own in Ireland, walking down Forster Street. We meet **Peadar O'Dowd**, local historian and author in Galway and learn about Irish writers, Irish literature and we visit a debate in **Galway University** in which the future of Irish is discussed.

We go to the **Aran Islands**, windswept and remote off Ireland's west coast, where Irish is still the first language for many, like 90 year-old **Dara Faherty** and other islanders.

**Vice** magazine is a Canadian magazine known to provoke its readers. We meet the editor in New York.

Norwegian artist **Ane Brun** talks about writing music in a second language.

The **Quick History** in this programme is about the written word and the **word root** is for clue.



## 5. Jamaica

In Savanna la Mar in Jamaica, we meet **Ray Foster**, priest and singer and we go with him to the studio and when he leads his congregation. In the studio, we also meet another singer, Rastafarian **Danny Brooks**.

Julia meets **Kwain Foster** who tries to teach her Patois and Keith meets former reggae manager **Herbie Miller** and professor **Donna Hope** and talks with them about Jamaican music.

**Zanna Hultén** is a vocal coach in Sweden who works with singers and teaches them how to sing better in English. We meet her when she works with **Petra Marklund**.

The **Quick History** in this programme is about music and the **word root** treats the word groggy.

## 6. Philippines

This programme is all about teaching, as **professor Danilo Dayag** tells us about how English came to the Philippines. Keith visits pupil **Krisia Foster** in school and her family at her home in Shelterville. Her father, **Nelson Foster**, brings Keith with him to his family home.

Journalist and writer **Sol Vanzi** shows Keith **Subic Bay** and talk about the history of the former U.S. naval base. Former military instructor and guide **Tata Kasoy** shows us how to survive in the jungle.

Meeting some of the sex buyers in a nearby red light town, Keith asks some tough questions.

Professor **Michael Adams** in Indiana wrote "**Slayer slang**" about slang we learn from TV series.

The **Quick History** in this programme is about education and the **word root** is about the word mess.

## 7. England

In **Newcastle** we meet some **Geordies** and learn about their dialect. Also, we meet PR agent **Laura Foster** and professor in linguistics, **David Crystal**.

Keith and Julia visit the **Lindisfarne** monastery and teach us about Vikings, gospels and warrior monks and they try punting in Cambridge.

**Marian Foster** has presented BBC programmes for many years and has her own gardening show.

**Colin Goh** and **Yen-Yen Woo** are from Singapore, but live in New York. They are the authors of the **Coxford Singlish Dictionary**.

The **Quick History** in this programme is about the story of English and the **word root** about crap.



## FOSTER'S ENGLISH SHORTS

### 1. Vice Magazine

**Vice Magazine** is a free magazine which is famous for its provoking content. We meet the chief editor in the in N.Y.

### 2. Au Pair in London

In London, we meet **Majja Frisk** who is from Kinna, but works as an au pair in London.

### 3. John Workman

Letterer **John Workman** talks about the language of the sounds in comics.

### 4. Improvisation

About advantages of **improvising** in a second language.

### 5. The Dark Side

About negative sides of the Imperial English – **apartheid, slavery and sex tourist trades**.

## D. Worksheet

There is one worksheet with each **Family Foster** programme and you can use the same one for **Family Foster – English speaking countries**. Choose one or more exercises from the worksheet to work with.

The worksheet has a part with pre-understanding that you work with before you see the programme. Then come exercises for the listening comprehension and themes from the programme to discuss in class as well as some examples of things you can work with if you would like to continue to explore things from the programme.

Last but not least is a short list of vocabulary that you can work with after watching the programme. Please feel free to add words of your own to that list.

For the **Foster's English Shorts**, the worksheets tackle themes from the programme with some questions to discuss in class and or one or two suggestions on things you can work with after having watched the programme.

## E. Suggestions on work procedure

On each worksheet you will find an exercise that you can do before watching the programme (*pre-understanding*).

Watch the programme and let the pupils answer the questions for the listening comprehension.

After watching the programme, discuss some of the things from the programme in class.

If you would like to continue to work with the country, use the exercises found under "extra".