



Turning over a new leaf — Teacher's Notes

Level: A2-B2 (1:1s or groups).

Focus: Speaking about the future, making predictions and using degrees of probability.

Materials: Work sheet and song*

Estimated time: 60 minutes.

Background: Rhett and Link are *Internetainers*, that is entertainers who have become famous on the internet! Their New Year's Resolution song is just one of the over 200 music videos and comedy sketches that have been seen over 70 million times. The duo are among the top Youtube channels with more than 600,000 subscribers.

They have been friends since childhood and come from North Carolina.

Suggested procedure

1. (Class) Ask your Ss what they know about New Year's resolutions and if they have made any this year. Tell them to read the introduction on the worksheet and suggest reasons for why resolutions very rarely succeed.
2. (Class) Check your Ss' comprehension of the given sentence structures. Ask them to compare and explain the degree of certainty of each one.
3. (Individual) Tell Ss to complete the first column of the table. They should choose one structure for each resolution e.g. *I'm planning to... lose weight.*
4. (Pairs) Once Ss have completed the first column, tell them to work in pairs and compare their answers.
5. (Class) Tell Ss that they will now listen to/watch Rhett & Link's New Year's Resolution Song.* As they listen they should complete the second column in the table, this time with either a 'yes' if Rhett and Link intend to do it or a 'no' if it is not their resolution for this year.
6. (Pairs) Ss read the words to the song and compare their answers to the lyrics.

* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1eOu-jVuuxo>

Fact: According to a research study by British psychologist Richard Wiseman, 88% of New Year's resolutions fail.

Ideas for further study

- New Year resolutions are an example of the *rolling forecast-method* of planning. Plans are established at regular short or medium-term time intervals, when only a rough long-term plan exists. Several websites speak about making financial (either personal or national) New Year's resolutions. Ask your Ss to discuss the value of such planning and to come up with ideas for how to make financial resolutions succeed.