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## THE ENGLISH LESSON PLAN ON THE TOPIC “THE RISE OF THE RED DRAGON: A FIERCE FIGHT FOR GLOBAL DOMINANCE”

*This work is an English lesson scenario which discusses the current issue in the world today and encompasses a range of certain assignments aimed at students studying international relations at the B2-C1 level at English lessons. The materials are designed to help students enhance their language skills which incorporate listening, reading, speaking, and writing activities, foster students' interest in discussing competition among countries and companies, their fight for supremacy and enable students to organize active usage of language material as well as boost vocabulary acquisition and retention effectively. The work pays special attention to the lexis that concern the topic and its peculiarities.*

**Key words:** *learning the English language; lesson plan; dominance; fierce competition; reign; supremacy; expansion; race; market share; global strategy; EV market, threat.*

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### МЕТОДИЧНА РОЗРОБКА З АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ НА ТЕМУ: “ЗЛЕТ ЧЕРВОНОГО ДРАКОНА: ЗАПЕКЛА БОРОТЬБА ЗА СВІТОВЕ ПАНУВАННЯ”

*Пропонована робота є сценарієм практичного заняття з англійської мови, присвяченого одній з найактуальніших проблем сучасного світу, містить комплекс завдань, орієнтованих на студентів-міжнародників рівня B2-C1. Запропоновані форми роботи, метою яких є вдосконалення мовленнєвих навичок студентів, складаються із вправ, що передбачають вправлення в аудіюванні, читанні, говорінні та письмі, підвищують інтерес студентів до обговорення проблеми конкуренції між країнами та компаніями у світі, їх боротьбу за панування, дають змогу активно використовувати й ефективно засвоїти мовленнєвий матеріал. Особливу увагу приділено лексико-семантичним особливостям слів з цієї теми.*

**Ключові слова:** *вивчення англійської мови; практичне заняття; домінування; жорстка конкуренція; царювання; панування; експансія; перегони; частка ринку; глобальна стратегія; ринок електромобілів; загроза.*

### TOPIC: THE RISE OF THE RED DRAGON: A FIERCE FIGHT FOR GLOBAL DOMINANCE

**LEVEL: B2-C1**

#### OUTCOMES

- To boost students' vocabulary and develop their reading, listening, speaking and writing skills
- To engage students in identifying the key vocabulary, its lexical and semantic peculiarities
- To foster students to use the key vocabulary in the context
- To immerse students involved in practicing thematic vocabulary when covering the topic
- To show students' understanding of the topic

#### MATERIALS

Article “How China came to dominate the electric vehicle market, and what the U.S. can do to catch up” (available at <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ev-electric-cars-charging-china-us-competition/>); video “How Chinese EV Giant BYD Is Taking On Tesla” (available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybl8IvhGAJ4>); video “China Vows to Fight ‘to the Very End’ in Escalating Trade War” (available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWmvcg8z73U>)

*Are electric cars the future of automobiles? Are they really important? Such questions we could hear ten or fifteen years ago, but now we can see EVs are underway. Are we ready to make the jump to EV?*

*To understand the current situation of the EV industry, we have to look at what happened in the last 5 to 10 years. Nobody could imagine that Chinese electric cars would take over the world. Today Tesla and other Western carmakers are facing cutthroat competition from China.*

*Grappling with declining sales, Tesla, an American behemoth, undisputed market leader in producing EVs, was beaten and eclipsed by BYD, Chinese company that has transformed into powerhouse, posing a threat to American carmakers. But what makes Chinese cars so popular? The answer is their affordability, innovation and quality.*

*President Trump administration responded with imposing higher tariffs on Chinese EVs. Will this measure be effective? Maybe it is time to rethink the EV global strategy?*

*What does the future hold for the competitors? The solution is continuous innovation, adaptability to new emerging markets, being capable of launching new model lineup, improving technology, and building vast charging network if they want to be on the road. We think this topic is essential, enables us to get interested in it and concerns students of international relations and other majors.*

**1. “Warm-up”:** introducing the issue by focusing on the key words. The discussion between the teacher and students.

**T:** Look at the words in bold and identify what they have in common.

**race; rivalry; reign; dominance; supremacy; powerhouse, behemoth, giant.**

**T:** Name the words mentioned above using the definitions given below.

- 1) the position of being the best
- 2) a very successful and powerful organization
- 3) organization or country with a lot of power or influence
- 4) the situation in which one company, product, etc. has more power, influence, or success than others
- 5) a period during which something is the most powerful or most important feature
- 6) something that is extremely large and often extremely powerful
- 7) a competition in which all the competitors try to be the fastest and to finish first
- 8) a situation in which businesses compete with each other for the same thing

**T:** Complete the sentences with missing words given below.

race; rivalry; reign; dominance; supremacy; powerhouse, behemoth, giant.

- 1 The tech \_\_\_ laid off 20 % of its workforce.
  - 2 The Chinese \_\_\_ has undercut its American competitors on price and quality.
  - 3 China’s success in EV market has undermined the economic \_\_\_ of the USA .
  - 4 BYD has overtaken Tesla putting the end of Tesla’s \_\_\_.
  - 5 Analysts believe that India will become the economic \_\_\_ in Asia.
  - 6 Thanks to its affordability, our company is going to lead the EV \_\_\_.
  - 7 There is a fierce \_\_\_ in the EV market.
  - 8 The two companies clashed and fought for \_\_\_.
- 2. Watching video 1:** developing listening comprehension skills, helping students identify main ideas and

specific details as well as improve the key vocabulary through video activities.

**T:** Watch the video “How Chinese EV Giant BYD Is Taking On Tesla” (available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybl8IvhGAJ4>).

**3. Discussing video 1:** developing students’ ability to discuss the video using the key vocabulary.

**T:** Answer the questions.

- 1 Why do you think Tesla started to lose ground to Chinese rivals?
- 2 What is the secret of BYD’s fast growth?
- 3 What was Elon Musk’s attitude to BYD cars early on? Have American manufacturers changed their minds?
- 4 How did BYD start? What did it produce?
- 5 When did they launch their first car? What was it? How did consumers feel about driving their cars in the past?
- 6 When did the company turn things around? How did they manage to do it?
- 7 Does BYD produce only passenger cars?
- 8 How did BYD manage to be successful in expanding overseas? How did the EU and U.S. authorities respond? (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybl8IvhGAJ4>)

**4. After watching activities:** using new vocabulary and consolidating understanding of the details from the video.

**T:** Read the sentences and choose the correct option.

- 1) In the world of electric vehicles, Tesla has reigned \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) superb    b) supreme    c) inferior
  - 2) But its days as top \_\_\_\_\_ may be numbered.  
a) cat        b) bull        c) dog
  - 3) Up until very recently, it was on the \_\_\_\_\_ whether or not it was going to make it as a car company.  
a) fence    b) porch    c) hedge
  - 4) ... and it’s with that he gave his \_\_\_\_\_ to an investment, about a quarter billion dollars.  
a) bliss     b) blessing    c) light
  - 5) Before the leading electric carmaker in China, BTD has \_\_\_\_\_ its sights on bringing its cars to other markets.  
a) set        b) took        c) brought
  - 6) It recently announced it will build a factory in Mexico, possibly to \_\_\_\_\_ foothold in the North American market.  
a) get        b) give        c) gain
  - 7) But with China becoming such an automotive powerhouse, it may be hard to keep its ambitions at \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) gulf        b) bay        c) cool
  - 8) In China, the world’s largest EV market, it’s been losing \_\_\_\_\_ to domestic automakers as a ruthless price war has inflamed on already competitive market.  
a) ground    b) edge        c) temper
- T:** Look at the table and match the first part of the sentences with their halves.

1. The Chinese automaker logged 2.4 million new car insurance registrations in 2023,	a) and they're just starting to export globally to places like Australia, Japan, Europe and potentially very soon, the United States.
2. Now, they're a serious threat as they not only dominate the Chinese market,	b) since Buffett first invested.
3. About 40% of the EV market in China is owned by BYD,	c) and this is attractive to everyone in the industry.
4. After building a successful business, supplying customers such as Motorola and Nokia,	d) but have grand ambitions of expanding globally.
5. BYD's stock is up over 1,400%	e) it decided to enter the auto business.
6. What they've done essentially is to maximize the energy density,	f) making it the top brand in China with a market share of 11%.

**5. Pre-reading activities:** arousing students' interest in the topic, introducing and practicing new vocabulary.

**T:** *Discuss these questions. Give reasons for your answers.*

- 1 Would you rather drive an EV or a gas-powered car?
- 2 Do you think EVs are the future of car manufacturing? How will they reshape the global car market?
- 3 Do you agree that electric vehicles will considerably reduce carbon emissions worldwide? What is the cost of battery production?

**Definitions**

**T:** *Match these words (1-10) from the article with their meanings (a-j).*

- 1 blinked **a)** possible to achieve
- 2 dangling **b)** pay the cost of something
- 3 bevy **c)** stopped something
- 4 lagging **d)** was the first to concede in a confrontation
- 5 attainable **e)** extremely slow
- 6 exemption **f)** acceptance
- 7 halted **g)** the state of depending on somebody or something
- 8 bypass **h)** offering an enticing incentive
- 9 defray **i)** special permission not to do or pay something
- 10 reliance **j)** moving or developing more slowly than others
- 11 glacial **k)** a large group
- 12 recognition **l)** present an obstacle to a more efficient outcome

**6. While-reading activities:** identifying main points and details of each paragraph in the article.

**T:** *Read the article "How China came to dominate the electric vehicle market, and what the U.S. can do to catch up" and answer the following questions:*

- 1 How did China build an electric empire?
- 2 How did the White House respond to Chinese strategy?
- 3 How did China get the lead in electric cars?
- 4 Do you think Americans will catch up?
- 5 Do you believe Chinese carmakers pose a serious threat to Western competitors?
- 6 Which strategy do American authorities have to come up with and exploit?

**How China came to dominate the electric vehicle market, and what the U.S. can do to catch up**

1) The U.S. blinked, and China built an electric vehicle empire. "They're taking over the world, except North America," said Lei Xing, a Chinese auto industry expert. "The U.S. will be the last frontier." In the last 15 years, China has rolled out a public charging network over 10 million strong, convinced billions of drivers to go electric by dangling subsidies and other incentives, and introduced over 100 EV brands with a bevy of pricing options. The push exemplifies "China Speed," a term Xing used to describe the country's hypersonic development. The speed and scale of the shift has slingshotted China past the U.S. and every other nation in the transition to electric vehicles, while also positioning Chinese automakers near the front of the pack to dominate the market for years to come.

2) The U.S., quite simply, is playing catch-up. The Biden administration has made the transition to EVs a key priority, saying that by 2030 it wants half of all vehicles sold to be electric, plug-in hybrid or fuel cell EVs. The White House has also sought to throw sand in China's gears by imposing stiff tariffs on Chinese-made EVs, a measure aimed at protecting U.S. automakers.

But with limited supply-chain access, lagging EV infrastructure development and a culture in which American motorists remain partial to gas-powered cars, the jury is still out on whether these goals are attainable. The skeptics may have a point: EV adoption, and the nation's buildout of the required energy infrastructure, has been glacial compared to China. Biden thus committed to building 500,000 charging stations nationwide by 2030. To reach that goal, his administration has thrown \$7.5 billion in funding behind electric charging infrastructure. Of that amount, \$5 billion is being funneled toward expanding a fast-charging network along highways. So far, only some 69 of those fast chargers are operational across eight states, according to the Highway Administration. The slow infrastructure buildout has bogged down adoption, as drivers contend with "range anxiety." As of June, battery electric vehicles and plug-ins represented less than 10% of car sales in the U.S., according to federal data. "China has a head-start in a race that is still at the starting line," said Baratunde Cola, CEO and founder of Carbice, a maker of so-called nanotubes

whose products help keep electric cars from overheating. “Everybody’s still setting up race blocks.”

3) China’s lead in electric cars hasn’t happened overnight. The key driver: China’s recognition more than a decade ago that EVs represented the most important transportation innovation since Henry Ford revolutionized auto manufacturing in the early 20th century. Determined to race ahead, Beijing threw its economic might behind EV development, similar to the centrally controlled industrial policy that powered the rise of Japan’s auto sector in the 1970s and ‘80s. In 2009, the Chinese government launched a pilot subsidy program to lay the groundwork for an electric vehicle network. Dubbed “Ten Cities and Thousand Vehicle,” the program’s goal was to subsidize new electric and hybrid vehicles in the public transport sector like buses and taxis, Xing said. Starting in 2013, subsidies were made available to individual consumers through a tiered system based on an electric vehicle’s range, Xing said. The government halted the subsidies in 2022 but by that point, China was already well on its way to EV dominance. The country also offered an exemption from the 10% sales tax to defray car costs, which is slated to phase out in 2027. In total, the Chinese government doled out \$231 billion in subsidies from 2009 to 2023 according to a report from the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

4) This “carrot” approach to drive consumption proved highly effective. China has also gotten ahead by building a vast network of chargers. China has upstaged the U.S. not just in terms of quantity, but also in terms of quality. Part of this, Xing said, has to do with the country’s streamlined charging system, which offers one standard plug for all vehicles. Another advantage China has over the U.S. is its access to critical raw materials. The International Energy Agency estimates that 90% of graphite and 77% of refined rare earths – key inputs in EV and battery production— will come from China by 2030. The U.S. currently imports 100% of its graphite, with one-third of that supply sourced from China, according to the Alliance for Automotive Innovation. Proximity to semiconductor chip manufacturing also gives China an edge. “The U.S. and Canada are basically trying to cut off the dependency on China, but it’s easier said than done,” said Xing. “I think that’ll take at least a decade.”

5) Can the U.S. still catch up? U.S. drivers have been much slower to hop on the EV train.

“We have a lot more laggards, versus early adopters,” said Shahidi, who also serves as an adviser to the Biden administration on EV charging infrastructure policy. Still, experts say it’s too soon to count America out, which has the means and the technical expertise – if not always the political will – to quickly ramp up its electric transportation systems. The next few years will be the “most critical” period for domestic EV development, said Bozzella in a blog post for the Alliance for

Automotive Innovation. The Biden administration in March lowered its goal for EV sales to half the market by 2030. This “should give the market and supply chains a chance to catch up and further bypass China,” Bozzella wrote. Washington has set a “great tempo” so far setting mandates and incentives to achieve these goals, Shahidi added. But he believes more can be done to reward companies focused on the supply train and logistics side, something China has done with flying colors. “We need to incentivize and reward the ancillary economy tied to electrification,” Shahidi said.

6) For the U.S. to get a leg up, Cola, who runs Carbice, said the U.S. needs to make more investments in robotics and automating assembly, invest in advanced materials and shore up production of critical mineral supply to reduce reliance on China. “If we were to focus efforts on scaling up new technologies, like carbon nanotubes, if we were to double down on robotics, we could catch up with China and be the world leader in a decade,” he said.

7) Another focal point for the U.S. will be building charging infrastructure. “In order for us to deploy more chargers, we need more people doing deployment,” Shahidi said. As federal and local initiatives seek to fill the gaps in the clean energy workforce, the U.S. is forging ahead. The Federal Highway Administration says federally-funded projects are currently underway for over 24,100 EV chargers. More are on their way. “We expect to see hundreds of federally-funded chargers operational this year, thousands next year, and hundreds of thousands of chargers by the end of the decade,” a Highway Administration spokesperson said.

(<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ev-electric-cars-charging-china-us-competition/>)

**7. Post-reading activities:** practicing language skills and developing critical thinking.

**Word search**

**T:** Read the article and find words and expressions which fit these meanings in the mentioned paragraphs.

- 1) trying to reach the same standard or level (**paragraph 2**)
- 2) prepare for or start an activity or task (**paragraph 3**)
- 3) reward (**paragraph 4**)
- 4) gain an advantage (**paragraph 6**)
- 5) increase (**paragraph 5**)
- 6) make available (**paragraph 1**)
- 7) the thing that people concentrate on or pay attention to (**paragraph 7**)
- 8) cause problems (**paragraph 2**)
- 9) stop doing something (**paragraph 4**)
- 10) make something stronger by supporting it (**paragraph 6**)
- 11) give something, usually money (**paragraph 3**)
- 12) taking the lead or making good progress (**paragraph 7**)

### Word partnerships

**T:** Match the words to make the following partnerships from the text.

- 1 stiff **a)** option
- 2 focal **b)** development
- 3 raw **c)** tariffs
- 4 electric **d)** goals
- 5 pricing **e)** priority
- 6 hypersonic **f)** point
- 7 key **g)** vehicle
- 8 attainable **i)** materials

### Sentence completion

**T:** Complete the gaps in the sentences with the word partnerships from the previous exercise.

- 1 Our \_\_\_ is to improve infrastructure.
- 2 Our company sets goals that are \_\_\_.
- 3 We need to determine the best \_\_\_ if we want to attract more customers.
- 4 These days we can see a lot of \_\_\_ on the road.
- 5 The cost of \_\_\_ has gone up.
- 6 The city was \_\_\_ of trade in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 7 President Trump is going to impose \_\_\_ on Canada.
- 8 \_\_\_ of new weapons are a big concern for the allies.

### Word-building

**T:** Use the words in the bold to form one word that fits in the text.

... In the last 15 years, China has rolled out a public charging network over 10 million strong, convinced billions of drivers to go electric by dangling subsidies and other incentives, and introduced over 100 EV brands with a bevy of **1) \_\_\_ (price)** options.

... But with limited supply-chain access, lagging EV infrastructure development and a culture in which American motorists remain partial to gas-powered cars, the jury is still out on whether these goals are **2) \_\_\_ (attain)**. The skeptics may have a point: EV **3) \_\_\_ (adopt)**, and the nation's buildout of the required energy infrastructure, has been glacial compared to China. ... "China has a head-start in a race that is still at the starting line," said Baratunde Cola, CEO and founder of Carbice, a maker of so-called nanotubes whose products help keep electric cars from **4) \_\_\_ (heat)**.

... China's lead in electric cars hasn't happened overnight. The key driver: China's **5) \_\_\_ (recognize)** more than a decade ago that EVs represented the most important transportation innovation since Henry Ford revolutionized auto manufacturing in the early 20th century. ... The government halted the subsidies in 2022 but by that point, China was already well on its way to EV **6) \_\_\_ (dominate)**. The country also offered an **7) \_\_\_ (ex-empt)** from the 10% sales tax to defray car costs, which is slated to phase out in 2027.

... This "carrot" approach to drive **8) \_\_\_ (consume)** proved highly **9) \_\_\_ (effect)**. ... The U.S. **10) \_\_\_ (current)** imports 100% of its graphite, with one-third of that supply sourced from China, according to the Alliance for Automotive Innovation. Proximity to semiconductor chip manufacturing also gives China an edge. "The U.S. and Canada are basically trying to cut off the **11) \_\_\_ (depend)** on China, but it's easier said than done," said Xing.

... "We have a lot more laggards, versus early **12) \_\_\_ (adopt)**," said Shahidi, who also serves as an adviser to the Biden administration on EV charging infrastructure policy. ... But he believes more can be done to reward companies focused on the supply train and logistics side, something China has done with flying colors. "We need to **13) \_\_\_ (incentive)** and reward the ancillary **14) \_\_\_ (economic)** tied to electrification," Shahidi said.

For the U.S. to get a leg up, Cola, who runs Carbice, said the U.S. needs to make more **15) \_\_\_ (invest)** in robotics and automating assembly, invest in advanced materials and shore up **16) \_\_\_ (produce)** of critical mineral supply to reduce **17) \_\_\_ (rely)** on China.

**8. Pre-watching activities:** introducing key vocabulary and preparing students for the video.

**T:** Look at the words and think about their meanings. tariff; disruption; disregard; deal; impose; prejudice; futile; erode.

**T:** Name the words mentioned above using the definitions given below.

- 1) an agreement or arrangement, esp. in business
- 2) the fact of showing no care or respect for something
- 3) an interruption in the usual way that a system, process, or event works
- 4) having no effect or achieving nothing
- 5) a tax on goods entering a country
- 6) an unfair and unreasonable opinion or feeling formed without enough thought or knowledge
- 7) to introduce a new law, tax, rule, or punishment
- 8) to slowly reduce or destroy something

**9. Watching video 2:** improving listening skills and critical thinking, keeping students involved.

**T:** Watch the video "China Vows to Fight 'to the Very End' in Escalating Trade War".

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWmvcg8z73U>)

**9. Discussing video 2:** discussing, analyzing and expressing opinions.

**T:** Answer the questions.

- 1 What caused the U.S.- China trade war? Who is winning?
- 2 What does the Chinese official think of the measures taken by the American administration?
- 3 Why isn't China afraid of losing the American market?
- 4 Is China prepared to fight to the very end?

5) How did the Chinese official respond to the offending words of American Vice-President JD Vance?

6) Who do you think have more chances to win in this trade war or there no winners?

**10. Summary:** engaging in a discussion, using information from the videos and the article, and presenting their own opinions in writing.

**T:** *As we can see, the two giants are fighting for supremacy. This battle is far from over. Working in constantly evolving landscape, facing tough competition, will require from rivals to stay innovative and robust. We, consumers, are certain that only competition will result in better products. We hope that this economic clash between China and the Western world over the global influence will not escalate and lead to a new Cold war, and we will see constructive dialogue between the U.S. and China. Do you think we deeply looked into the issue?*

**T:** *Write an essay of 200-220 words for your homework discussing the fierce battle for global supremacy.*

#### Конфлікт інтересів

Автор не має потенційного конфлікту інтересів, який би міг вплинути на рішення про опублікування цієї статті.

#### Використання штучного інтелекту

Не використовувався.

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