BRITISH COUNCIL

TeachingEnglish

Planning lessons

Workbook

Your reflective journal and additional resources

Foreword

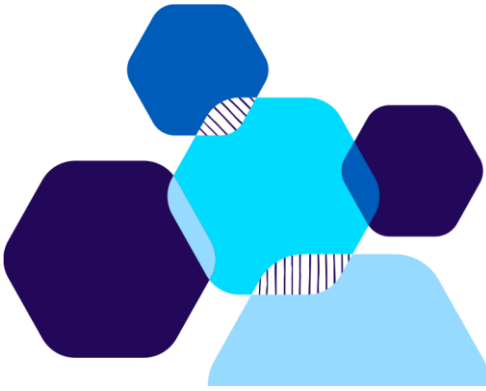
We're delighted you've chosen to continue your professional development with TeachingEnglish training and look forward to learning with you over the coming weeks.

In this workbook you'll find additional learning materials to complement your course, places to note ideas of interest, encouragement and guidance in applying them within your teaching practice. Whether you prefer to save and update it on your device, to keep handwritten notes, or use it as a prompt for your on-the go reflection, do what works for you. We hope you and your learners find it beneficial.

If you haven't signed up for the free course, go to the course training page to enrol.

Happy learning.

The British Council open learning team.



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Your learning goals, your course

Learn how to plan engaging language and topic-based lessons by identifying and applying commonly used lesson models. Explore techniques for introducing new language, writing achievable learning outcomes, and planning warmers and lead-ins.

During this TeachingEnglish training, you'll engage with learning content in four modules, supported by extra learning content in our Facebook community. You'll find practical support and encouragement from course tutors and other members of the British Council courses for teachers global learning community as you work to introduce new teaching ideas within your classroom.

Just as every classroom is unique, so is your learning journey. Ensure you're heading in the right direction by reflecting upon and noting your reasons for taking this course and learning goals. Keeping these in mind will help you focus on the most beneficial content and discussions for you.

Your goals and reasons for learning

Your learning tools

Online learning modules

After completing the introductory Getting started module, work through three modules, each exploring a different area of teaching and learning. Involving an average of 12 hours of study, this course blends theory, practical teaching suggestions and case studies that explore new ways of teaching. Repeat, return to and review activities as often as you like before the end of your course. Learn how to access the online learning modules by visiting the courses page on TeachingEnglish.

Courses for teachers community

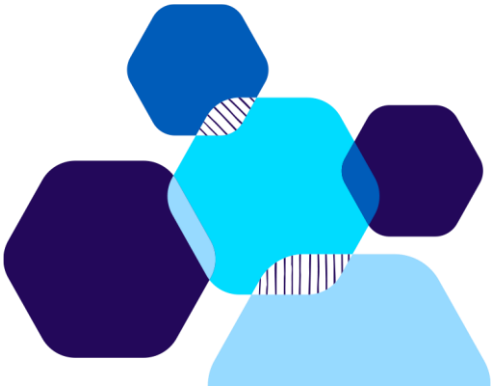
Join course tutors and other educators working on their professional development in our supportive, Facebook-based learning community. Gain access to a wide selection of additional learning resources and engage in developmental discussions while getting the support and encouragement you need to successfully bring ideas from the course into your classroom. Access all the discussions and content related to your specific course in the Guides section on the community Facebook page.

Workbook

Use this workbook to record useful course and community content, questions you'd like to ask in the community, links to resources, or to note ideas from any of the extra resources or recorded events. Save a version online or print the workbook - or both.

Extra resources and recorded events

Access extra resources and recorded events through the links in this workbook. Search TeachingEnglish for other resources and more recorded events about planning lessons.



Module 1: Engaging with lesson planning – models and frameworks

Overview

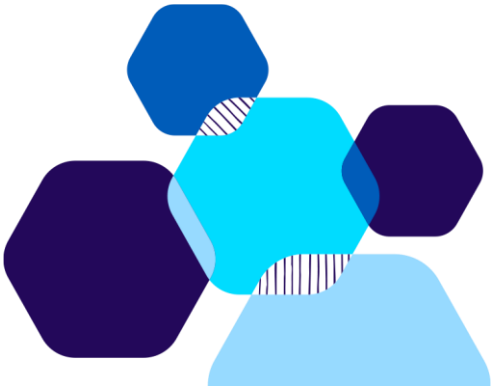
The aim of this module is to identify some commonly used lesson models that will assist with planning and to provide practical ideas for planning language skills and topic based lessons.

By the end of this module, you will be able to:

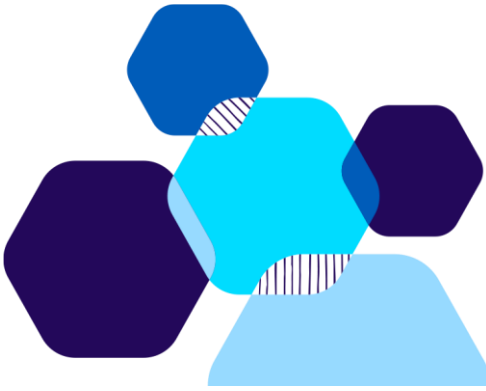
- identify some commonly used lesson models and use a lesson framework to plan classes
- analyse and apply models for planning language skills lessons
- categorise the stages needed to use projects for topic based lessons
- plan and consider resources needed for projects

Further reading, teaching, and learning resources

Type	Resource description (tap/click to open)
Use	Project work with teenagers - why do it, what to do and how
Use	Refugee poster project for secondary learners
Read	An overview of task-based learning and its advantages
Read	An article exploring what the 'PPP' model is
Read	An opinion piece questioning whether teachers follow models of planning
Read	Glossary entry for 'Test teach test'
Read	Criteria for identifying tasks for task-based learning
Read	A discussion of different types of tasks for task-based learning



Read	An article explaining task-based and project-based learning (to compare with the PPP model)
Read	Glossary for the term input
Read	Article covering what texts are for - three kinds of input and three kinds of output
Read	Explanation of the role of texts in language learning
Read	A framework for planning a listening skills lesson
Watch	How to engage our learners with a reading text
Watch	Suggestions for building self confidence in elementary reading
Watch	Ideas for planning a writing lesson
Watch	A webinar about being able to improvise from your planned lessons
Watch	Insights from online immersive task-based innovative teaching (Mini event session 3)
Watch	Conference talk: Moving beyond a simple understanding of input-output
Watch	Video of ideas for planning communicative speaking activities



Your learning

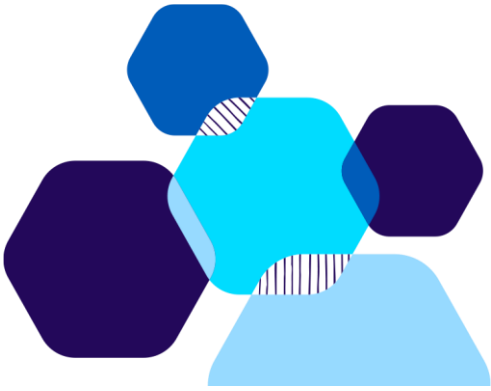
Which new ideas in Module 1 are most useful for you? Note them here together with any questions you'd like to ask in the *British Council courses for teachers learning community*.

Describe three things you learned from…

Your online module

Resources you found and discussions in the course community

Extra resources and recorded events



Plan it

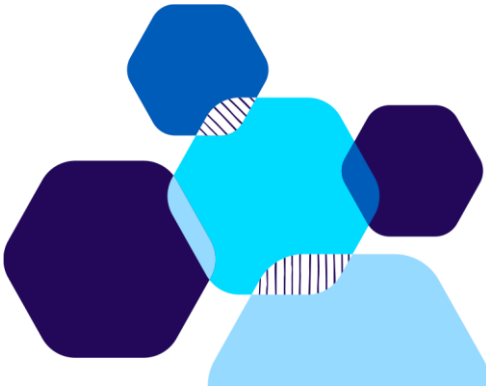
Describe one thing you will change in your teaching. Why have you chosen it?

What problems might happen when you try to make this change?

What could you do to solve those problems?

Teach it

Try it out and come back here to reflect on the experience. What did you learn?



Module 2: Engaging with lesson planning – introducing new language

Overview

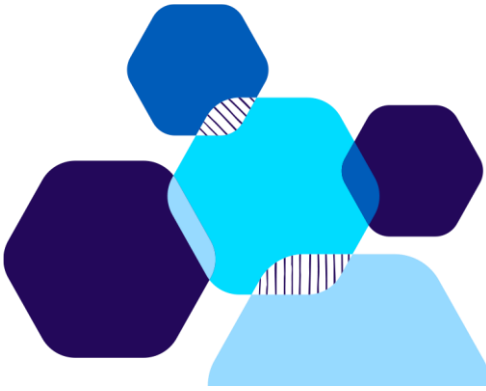
This module explores a range of techniques for introducing new language and looks at warmers and lead-in activities for starting lessons.

By the end of this module, you'll be able to:

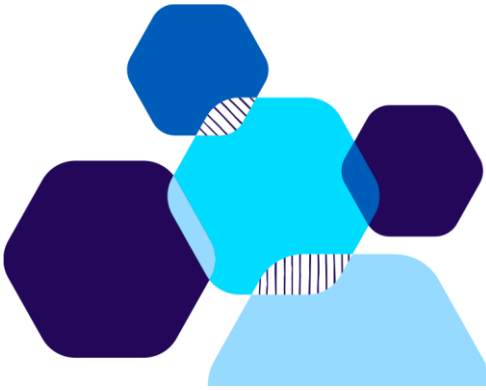
- differentiate between warmer and lead-in stages
- summarise the advantages and disadvantages of different techniques for presenting new language
- choose an appropriate technique for introducing new language to learners
- plan a lesson using that technique.

Further reading, teaching, and learning resources

Type	Resource description (tap/click to open)
Use	Booklet with ideas for warmers and fillers
Use	Classroom warmers activity booklet
Use	Activity to use as an 'ice-breaker'
Use	Article with ideas for 'getting to know each other'
Use	Ideas for 'circle games'
Use	Mini Talks - a lesson idea following 'Test, teach, test'
Use	Lesson plan for primary to raise awareness of the importance of forests



Use	Lesson plan for secondary students to look at links between sports and the climate crisis
Use	Speaking activity for older learners - a night out
Use	Find lesson plans for your secondary learners here
Use	Find lesson plans for your primary learners here
Use	Lesson plan for primary to raise awareness of the importance of forests
Read	Practical help on starting to plan lessons
Read	Article to help planning courses
Read	An explanation of how to check understanding in a presentation of language
Read	Ways of thinking about planning lessons
Watch	Planning for inclusion: Being updated to face any challenge (Session 1 in the mini event)
Watch	Planning for creativity: Getting creative in low-resource contexts
Watch	Empowering learners through sustainable development goals (Mini event Session 3)
Watch	A personal view of the importance of lesson planning (Part 1 - the introduction to a series of videos)
Watch	Video of ideas for planning communicative speaking activities



Your learning

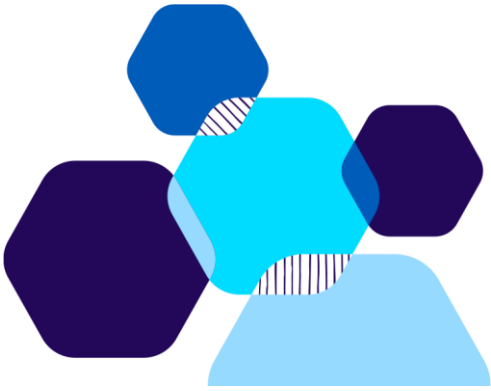
Which new ideas in Module 2 are most useful for you? Note them here together with any questions you'd like to ask in the *British Council courses for teachers learning community*.

Describe three things you learned from…

Your online module

Resources you found and discussions in the course community

Extra resources and recorded events



Plan it

Describe one thing you will change in your teaching. Why have you chosen it?

What problems might happen when you try to make this change?

What could you do to solve those problems?

Teach it

Try it out and come back here to reflect on the experience. What did you learn?

Module 3: Engaging with learning outcomes

Overview

This module defines learning outcomes and equips you with the skills to evaluate, write, and combine effective learning outcomes.

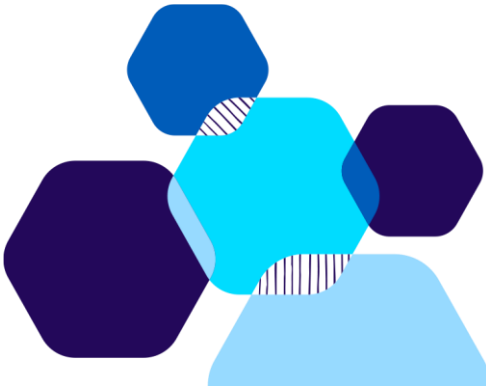
By the end of this module, you'll be able to:

- define a learning outcome
- list the characteristics of well-written learning outcomes
- use appropriate verbs for a learning outcome
- integrate different levels of thinking skills within a set of learning outcomes
- align assessment with learning outcomes
- write clear, achievable learning outcomes for your own context(s).

Further reading, teaching, and learning resources

Type	Resource description (tap/click to open)
Use	Planning a listening lesson
Use	Planning to make reading communicative
Use	An activity to help learners predict listening texts
Use	An activity to encourage language prediction
Listen	How raising student learning outcomes can benefit education systems
Read	A self study booklet about planning lessons and courses
Read	Elements to consider when planning a lesson: aims, concepts, contexts and marker sentences
Read	A framework for lesson planning
Read	Making lesson targets clear for students

Read	An article on using prediction to help reading
Watch	Including homework in planning: Should homework be humdrum?
Watch	Planning for assessment: Assessment for learning, the road to improvement (session 1)
Watch	'Why am I doing this'? Matching learning outcomes to the components of lessons
Watch	Lesson planning helps keep the learner at the centre of the lessons



Your learning

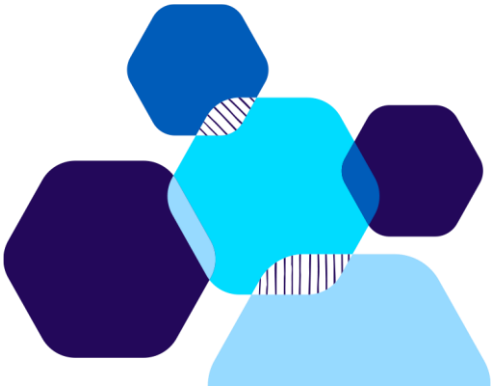
Which new ideas in Module 3 are most useful for you? Note them here together with any questions you'd like to ask in the *British Council courses for teachers learning community*.

Describe three things you learned from…

Your online module

Resources you found and discussions in the course community

Extra resources and recorded events



Plan it

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What problems might happen when you try to make this change?

What could you do to solve those problems?

Teach it

Try it out and come back here to reflect on the experience. What did you learn?

Your action plan

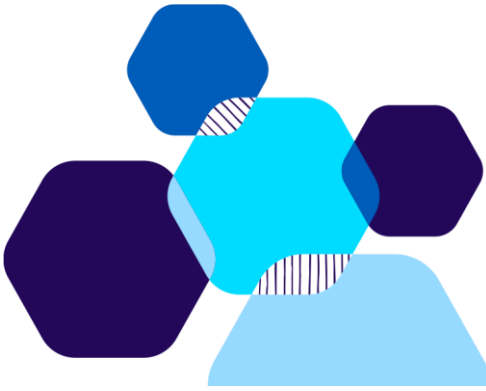
Make an action plan focused on applying learning from this the course. Complete any sentences that help you do this. Come back and reflect on what happened in class.

In the next two weeks, I am going to...

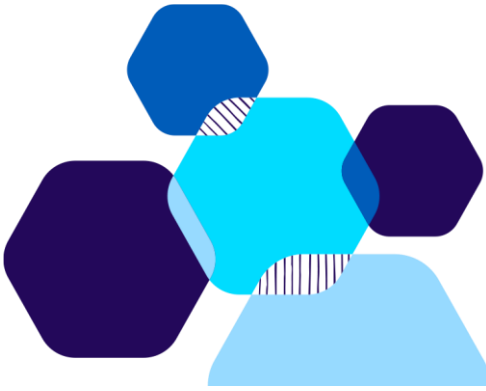
Over the next two months, I'm going to...

Before the end of the school year, I'm going to...

Next school year, I want to...



Well done — you've made it to the end of the course! We hope you've found it useful, and you'll join us on another very soon.

Learn more about other free teacher training courses with the British Council at: https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/training

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