

What is the impact of artificial intelligence on English language teaching?

Teaching English with the British Council: Series 3 episode 4 overview

In this episode, we discuss the impact of artificial intelligence on English language teaching. We start by discussing what AI is and its potential to make our lives as teachers easier. We talk to **Svetlana Kandybovich**, an AI educator and expert from Montenegro, about the pros and cons of AI. Svetlana emphasises the importance of human reasoning and the role of the teacher in the learning process. We then talk to EdTech expert **Raquel Ribeiro**, who shares her experience and practical tips to help teachers integrate AI and develop AI literacy in their students.

Show notes and transcripts in English and Arabic are also available to download.

Detailed notes

Introduction	
Welcome to episode 4!	If you missed episode 3 – Do I need to sound like a 'native speaker'? – you can listen here
Further reading on this topic	Artificial intelligence and English language teaching: Preparing for the future
	An AI experiment to boost international language take-up in Wales – watch the video here
Interview 1	
Svetlana Kandybovich	Follow Svetlana on Twitter/X Or read and listen more about her work with the British Council
Bananarama	1980s British girl band
ChatGPT	Open source, popular chatbot and AI assistant
text-to-image software	Where AI can turn written descriptions or prompts into pictures. Here's a rundown of text-to-image software and apps for 2024.
text-to-voice software	An example of text-to-voice software for you to try
Al having human biases	Shedding light on Al bias with real-world examples
guardrails	Definition: Guardrails serve as creative constraints, or boundaries, that enable educators to operate from a place of co-



	creation rather than following a set of predetermined rules and regulations. Source: LinkedIn
software that can operate in real-time	See this video for more information
nuanced	Definition: Made slightly different in appearance, meaning, sound, etc. Source: Cambridge Dictionary
future of language assessment	UK Parliament look at the use of Al and the future of language assessment
crystal ball	Definition: A transparent glass ball used by someone who says they can discover what will happen to you in the future by looking into it Source: Cambridge Dictionary
Noam Chomsky	On What ChatGPT is really good for
monotonous	Definition: Not changing and therefore boring Source: Cambridge Dictionary
Interview 2	
Raquel Ribeiro	Read more about our second interviewee here
Google Bard	Now called Gemini – Google's Al software
Google Translate	Google's translation AI
generative AI	Definition: The use or study of artificial intelligences that are able to produce text, images, etc. Source: Cambridge Dictionary
social justice	Definition: The idea that all people should have the same rights and opportunities and that a country's wealth and resources should benefit everyone in that country Source: Cambridge Dictionary
write a poem about an asylum seeker arriving in the UK	This is the poem that Chris refers to:
	ChatGPT prompt = 'Write a sonnet with an asylum seeker as the hero'
	Amidst the stormy seas and endless night, An asylum seeker sailed to unknown lands, With dreams of freedom, hope and future bright,



	And hopes that destiny would be in his hands.
	He left behind his home, his friends, his kin, And all he knew, for fear and war had come, To tear apart the life he'd lived within, And leave him with a fate that was undone.
	But in his heart, he held a light that shone, A flame of hope that could not be denied, For in his quest, he knew that he had shown, The courage that could break through fear and pride.
	And so he sailed on, with hope and grace, A hero of a world that needs more space.
language is going to the doctor's or dentist's	This is the script that Chris refers to:
	ChatGPT prompt = 'Write a dialogue between a doctor and a patient who speaks poor English'
	Doctor: Good morning! How can I assist you today? Patient: Hello, I have a problem with my chest. Doctor: Alright. Can you please tell me more about your symptoms? Patient: (looks confused) I no speak English good. Doctor: That's okay. Do you have any pain in your chest? Patient: Yes, pain. Doctor: Okay. Does the pain come and go, or is it constant? Patient: Constant. Doctor: Do you feel any shortness of breath or difficulty breathing? Patient: Yes, sometimes. Doctor: Alright. I would like to do an examination to check your heart and lungs. Is that okay?
Goldilocks from the perspective of the three bears	This is the start of the story that Chris refers to: ChatGPT prompt = 'Write Goldilocks from the perspective of the three bears'
	Papa Bear: When we got back home from our morning walk, we found our front door open.



	My immediate thought was that someone had broken in, but upon entering the house, we found the living room in complete disarray. Chairs overturned, cushions scattered everywhere, and my porridge, which I had left to cool, was half-eaten. I was furious at the thought of someone breaking into our home and eating my food. But then I noticed that my wife's and my son's bowls were also half-eaten. We realized that someone had been in our house, and that's when we heard a noise
	our house, and that's when we heard a noise coming from upstairs. We cautiously climbed the stairs and found a little girl sleeping in my bed.
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