

## How can we assess more fairly and effectively?

### Teaching English with the British Council: Series 3, episode 5 overview

In episode 5 we ask the question: How can we assess more fairly and effectively? We start by discussing the ideas of validity, reliability and accessibility in assessment. Then we talk to **Professor Barry O'Sullivan**, Head of Assessment Research and Development at the British Council. Barry explores current issues around fair assessment and how it might change in the future. Finally, we talk with **Massamba Seck**, a teacher and trainer from Senegal. He explains practical ways to make assessment fair and effective and how this can help learners to succeed.

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

#### Detailed notes

<b>Introduction</b>	
Welcome to episode 5!	You can catch up with earlier episodes in this series <a href="#">here</a> , including discussions around AI in ELT and native speakerism in ELT.
validity	A test's validity refers to how good it is. Read more <a href="#">in this definition</a> from the British Council.
reliability	Reliability refers to whether an assessment instrument gives the same results each time it is used in the same setting with the same type of subjects. Reliability essentially means consistent or dependable results.
<b>Interview 1</b>	
Professor Barry O'Sullivan	<a href="#">Professor Barry O'Sullivan</a> OBE, Head of Assessment Research and Development
jargon	Definition: special words and phrases that are used by particular groups of people, especially in their work.
accommodation	Definition: a special arrangement that is made for a person or group that has different needs from others.
minority group	Definition: any small group in society that is different from the rest because of their race, religion or political beliefs, or a person who belongs to such a group.
EDI	Equality, diversity and inclusion. Find out more

	in <a href="#">this statement from the British Council</a> .
The comprehensive learning system	You can read all about 'The comprehensive learning system' and the triangle of the curriculum <a href="#">here</a> .
the tail wagging the dog	Definition: <i>idiom</i> a situation in which a large group has to do something to satisfy a small group.
AI	Artificial intelligence. You can <a href="#">listen</a> to our previous episode which is all about AI in ELT.
projects within the British Council	<a href="#">Read</a> the British Council article on how AI can affect ELT.
Global report on teachers	You can read the full UNESCO report <a href="#">here</a> .
humanise	If you're interested in humanistic language teaching, <a href="#">read on!</a>
pre-industrialisation	Definition: Before the process of developing industries in a country.
AI-driven auto-scoring	
vested interest	Definition: a strong personal interest in something because you could get an advantage from it.
head above the parapet	Definition: <i>idiom</i> to be brave enough to state an opinion that might upset someone.
IELTS	See <a href="https://ielts.org/">https://ielts.org/</a> for more information about this assessment.
massive divide	You can read more about the digital divide and the impact of technology on language education <a href="#">here</a> .
<i>Tipperary Star</i>	The <a href="#">newspaper publication</a> that Barry referenced.
<b>Discussion</b>	
cloze activities	A cloze is a practice exercise where learners have to replace words missing from a text. You can find an explanation and example on <a href="#">this British Council page</a> .
personalised feedback	Feedback which refers to the specific needs,

	interests or aptitude of a learner.
<b>Interview 2</b>	
Massamba Seck	<a href="#">Teacher</a> and trainer in Senegal, West Africa.
instructions	For further reading <a href="#">see</a> this handbook.
constructive feedback	Definition: a type of feedback aimed at achieving a positive outcome by providing someone with comments, advice or suggestions that are useful for their development.
differentiated instruction	You can read all about differentiated instruction <a href="#">here</a> .
peer assessment	There is a helpful guide about peer and self-assessment from the British Council <a href="#">here</a> .
pedagogic cell	Definition: a type of in-service training where teachers can share ideas and information with each other and support professional development.
21st-century skills	Definition: 21st-century skills refer to the knowledge, life skills, career skills, habits and traits that are critically important to student success in today's world.  <a href="#">Promoting 21st century skills</a>
pre-assessments	Definition: Pre-assessment is a test taken by students before a new unit to find out what the students need more instruction on and what they may already know.
formative assessment	Definition: The purpose of formative assessment is to monitor student learning and provide ongoing feedback to staff and students. It is assessment for learning.  <a href="#">Formative assessment</a>
concept-check questions	Read all about concept-check questions <a href="#">here</a> .
Wolof	Wolof is the most widely spoken language in Senegal, spoken natively by the Wolof people (40 per cent of the population) but also by most other Senegalese as a second language (source: Wikipedia).

lingua franca	Definition: a language used for communication between groups of people who speak different languages.  Read more about <a href="#">Senegal</a> .
<b>Discussion</b>	
Well, you can go to the show notes to find the link.	As promised, click <a href="#">here</a> to find out about how to post your questions for episode 10 of the podcast!