

What is critical thinking and how can we integrate it into English language teaching?

Teaching English with the British Council: Series 3, episode 7 overview

This week, Chris and We'am discuss critical thinking – what does it mean, why is it important and what role does it have to play in English language teaching? Chris and We'am start by talking about critical thinking as a mindset rather than as a skill separate to other learning. First up, they talk to **Paul Dummett**, who helps define what we mean by 'critical thinking' before going on to discuss its practical role in ELT. In our second interview, Chris and We'am talk to **Graham Crookes**. They discuss how small changes can be made within the language classroom to make room for critical thinking. We also link back to a previous episode where Chris and Rose Aylett look at the role of micro-resistances in a classroom setting.

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

Detailed notes

Introduction	
mindset	Definition: a person's way of thinking and their opinions
deepfakes	Definition: a video or sound recording that replaces someone's face or voice with that of someone else, in a way that appears real
AI	Have a listen to our episode on using AI in English language teaching here
21st-century skills	Read more about 21st-century skills
Interview 1	
Paul Dummett	For more information on Paul and How to write critical thinking activities
zeitgeist	Definition: the general set of ideas, beliefs, feelings, etc. that is typical of a particular period in history
media literacy	What is media literacy and why does it matter? Read on!
digital literacy	You can read all about digital literacy here
rankings	An example of one such ranking system in the UK
Bloom	A reference to Benjamin Bloom and his taxonomy of

	critical thinking – see here for more details
syntax	Definition: the grammatical arrangement of words in a sentence
Padlet	Here's a link to Padlet
Interview 2	
Graham Crookes	Professor at the University of Hawai'i
Paulo Freire, Brazilian educator and philosopher	Paulo Freire Have a listen to Teachings on ELT here
banking model of education	As in a form of education where the teacher 'deposits' information into students, like bank clerks, rather than drawing out knowledge from them
micro-resistances	Definition: incremental daily efforts to challenge bias or privileges
Rose Aylett	This audio clip is from a previous episode, TeachingEnglish Series 2: How can we teach difficult or taboo subjects?