



# The Climate Connection

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# Episode 5: Greenhouse classes

#TheClimateConnection  
[www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection](http://www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection)



## Episode overview

In episode 5, our attention shifts away from the 'macro' to focus more on the 'micro'. In a double-length interview with Stephen Heppell, a world expert in online education and learning spaces, we explore how classrooms themselves can become more environmentally-positive spaces. He shows how small environmental changes can have a big impact on the learning experience and learning outcomes – and why every child should bring their own plant to school.

*From the Field* takes us to Palestine, where we see how different approaches to language education – in the case the Hands-Up Project's innovative use of drama and remote teaching – can empower young people to learn more about the climate crisis whilst also developing their English skills. In *The Green Glossary*, we examine one of the most common climate-related compounds in English, 'carbon footprint', as well as many other collocations of the word.



Stephen Heppell

## In this episode

Learning's escaped that's what's happened, it's sneaked out under the door and the kids have gone with it.

A positive thing that has come out of this global crisis is that there's so much more collaboration between students and teachers around the world.

They've been looking at rocketry, and they're doing baking, they're doing living history talking to their grandparents more than they've done for a long time they're, you know, they've really thrown themselves into their learning.

Any impact that happens on the Amazon, or in Antarctica and the Arctic is going to affect all of us in the whole world, whether we live in rich nations or poorer nations, or whoever we are, we are going to be affected by these global issues.







# Teaching ideas

Why not use extracts from the podcast in your classroom? Here are some ideas of how you can use the interview with Stephen Heppell in episode 5.

## Interview: Stephen Heppell

### Before listening: Introductory discussion task

1. Students work in groups of 5. Ask them to briefly discuss the following questions:
  - Why is the classroom environment important?
  - What can teachers and students do to improve the classroom environment?
  - Do you ever feel tired in your classroom? Why? When?
  - What are the best environmental conditions for doing exams?
2. Give each student a number (1, 2, 3, 4 or 5). They should now form new groups (1s, 2s, 3s, 4s and 5s) and share what they discussed.
3. Take feedback.
4. Tell students to listen to what Stephen says about each of these issues in his interview.

### While listening: Notetaking task

1. In the first half of Stephen's interview, he uses lots of abbreviations. Write the following list on the board:
  - BYOP
  - NASA
  - ADHD
  - CO2
  - PPM
  - TVOC
  - PhD
  - MRI
  - STEM
  - GCSE
2. Tell students to note down what each of these abbreviations refers to, and what Stephen says about them.

### After listening: Critical analysis task

1. Students should work in groups and conduct a survey of their classroom environment. Encourage them to use some of the techniques and strategies which Stephen outlines in his interview. They could look at issues such as:
  - The light levels
  - The noise levels
  - The carbon dioxide levels
2. Together they should write recommendations about how the classroom environment can be improved.
3. Try to implement these changes – if possible!



# Glossary

The following words and phrases appear in episode 5. You may wish to look them up if you are unfamiliar with any of them.

- aggregation
- assignment
- carousel
- concrete
- fascinated
- fidget
- prestigious
- propel
- humidity
- membership
- muggy
- placeholder
- reverberations
- rhythm
- significant
- snowdrift
- somersault
- soporific
- springboard
- ventilation
- volatile
- yawn
- zombie

## Bonus material

Visit the podcast website, [www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection](http://www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection) for bonus material.

You can find a link to the podcast and the transcript of this episode at <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/professional-development/podcast>

## Social media

Please share your views about this episode, and the series as a whole, on social media using the hashtag **#TheClimateConnection**.

## Podcast feedback survey

Please tell us what you thought about this episode of the podcast and our podcast show notes by completing this short online survey.

Survey link: <http://bit.ly/PodcastFeedbackSurvey>



## Links



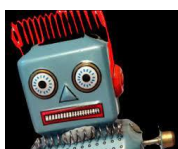
British Council TeachingEnglish  
[www.teachingenglish.org.uk](http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk)

OxfordLanguages

Oxford Languages, the home of language data  
[languages.oup.com](http://languages.oup.com)



Hands Up Project  
<https://www.handsupproject.org>



Stephen Heppell  
<https://www.hepell.net>



# Detailed notes

Use these notes to find out more about the contents of episode 5.

Phrase	Explanation and Further Information
<b>Interview: Stephen Heppell (Part 1)</b>	
The Internet of Things	The Internet of Things describes the network of physical objects – ‘things’ – which contain sensors, software and other technologies. Through this, it’s possible to connect and exchange data with other devices and systems over the internet. Examples include smart home security systems and wearable health monitors.
Cloud-based information	Information / data which exists online in a digital ‘cloud’.
Literature survey	Research which includes reading and analysing lots of academic articles and papers in order to reach a general conclusion.
Atlanta Olympic Games	The four-yearly athletics and sports tournament was held in Atlanta, USA, in 1996.
Sitting down sports	A joking reference to sports such as cycling, rowing, sailing and horse-riding in which Britain did well (and all of which you have to sit down in!)
Marginal gains	Marginal gains states that in any area of a given sport – no matter how small or seemingly insignificant – you should look to make all possible improvements. A large number of small improvements can make a big difference. See <a href="#">this article</a> , for example.
OMG moment	An “Oh my God” moment – when you see, read or hear something which is amazing or incredible.
Parts per million (PPM)	Find out more about how much carbon dioxide is in the Earth’s atmosphere by <a href="#">clicking this link</a> .
BYOP (Bring Your Own Plant)	You can find out more about the BYOP programme in Episode 6 of The Climate Connection. You can also read more on Stephen’s <a href="#">own website</a> about this programme.
NASA	The <a href="#">National Aeronautics and Space Administration</a> which is the space agency of the USA.
ADHD / Ritalin	ADHD stands for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. In a classroom situation, children with this condition have short attention spans. They may also find it difficult to self-regulate. Ritalin is a drug which is used to treat ADHD.
Agency	When somebody has control or power over what they want to do, they have agency.



STEM	STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics and refers to any subjects that fall under these four disciplines. Some good STEM resources can be accessed <a href="#">here</a> . When language is taught at the same time as STEM, it is something described as CLIL (see episode 4 of The Climate Connection).
GCSE	The General Certificate of Secondary Education. This is the main school exams which British students take when they are 15/16 years old.
Lightmeter	Lux Light Meter & Tools – Photometer PRO or Light & Exposure Meter are good apps for measuring light.
Decibel meter	Decibel X is a good app for doing this.
CO2	Carbon Dioxide is a heavy gas. It is produced when fossil fuels such as oil and gas are burnt.
<b>Vox Pop</b>	
Our principal	You can find out more about Asha Alexander – the principal who is mentioned – in Episode 6 of The Climate Connection.
<b>From the Field</b>	
Recent report by the United Nations	See <a href="#">this report</a> , for example.
The Hands Up Project	The Hands Up Project ( <a href="https://www.handsupproject.org/">https://www.handsupproject.org/</a> ) is a charity trust which, through its network of volunteers, connects children around the world with young people in Palestine. By means of online interaction, drama and storytelling activities, it enables the use of creativity and self-expression to promote mutual understanding, personal growth, and the development of English language skills.
Gaza	Gaza, also known as ‘The Gaza Strip’, is a self-governing Palestinian territory on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The territories of Gaza and the West Bank are separated from each other by Israeli territory.
British Council ELTons	The <a href="#">ELTons</a> celebrate the most original courses, publications, projects, apps, platforms and more, which are finding new ways to help English language learners and teachers around the world achieve their goals. The awards also recognise the organisations, teams and individuals whose original approaches are helping to shape the future of English language teaching and learning.
UNRWA	The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East. <a href="#">UNRWA</a> human development and humanitarian services encompass primary and vocational education, primary health care, relief and social services, infrastructure and camp improvement, microfinance and emergency response, including in situations of armed conflict.



Nablus	Find out more about this city <a href="#">here</a> .
Askar refugee camp	Askar camp was established in 1950 and borders the Nablus municipality. The population density of the camp is around 150,000 people per square kilometre. According to UNRWA, '...Askar camp is among the most densely populated West Bank camps. Overcrowding and unemployment are among the most serious issues. Poor shelters and cramped living conditions offer no privacy for residents in their personal lives, adding to the residents' physical and psychological strain' (you can find more information on <a href="#">UNRWA's</a> website)
YouTube channel	<a href="#">Click here</a> to access the Hands Up Project's YouTube Channel.
<b>Interview: Stephen Heppell (Part 2)</b>	
Long COVID	A medical condition which people suffer in the months after having Covid-19, including headaches, breathing challenges, tiredness and muscle weakness.
Outdoor learning	A broad term that includes discovery, experimentation, learning about and connecting to the natural world. You can read an article on <a href="#">Stephen's website</a> about outdoor learning.
Brightlingsea	A coastal town in the county of Essex in the UK.
Equity issue	An issue of fairness and justice.
Batch processing	Jobs which computers can run without the direct / continued involvement of the user. These jobs can often be very large.
Vivienne Westwood	An English fashion designer and businesswoman who was heavily involved in taking punk mainstream.
Paul McCartney	An English singer, songwriter, musician and record and film producer, best known for being one of The Beatles.
Colin Chapman	An influential English design engineer, inventor and car creator.
Collective noun	A word used to describe a group or collection of something (e.g. a herd of cows, a fleet of ships).
Rate of return	The amount of money which you get back from an investment.
The Global South	A term often used to identify lower-income countries on one side of the so-called global North–South divide. It is generally considered a more appropriate term than 'third world'.
Oprah Winfrey	An American talk show host, television producer, actress, author and philanthropist.
Flora and fauna	Plants and animals.





1870 Education Act	The first piece of legislation to deal specifically with the provision of education in Britain. It demonstrated a commitment to provision on a national scale. Find out more from the <a href="#">UK Houses of Parliament website</a> .
1944 Education Act	The act ensured that post-war secondary education in Britain would remove the inequalities which remained in the system.
I sail a hundred-year-old boat	Discover more about Stephen's boat <a href="#">here</a> .
Longitude and latitude	Angles measured with the centre of the Earth as an origin. Lines of longitude run through the poles. Lines of latitude run around the Earth, parallel to the Equator.
Mandarin	The most widely spoken form of Chinese. Discover more about it <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Green Glossary</b>	
BP	Formerly known as British Petroleum, BP is a large, global energy company.
A genitive construction	A type of grammatical construction used to express a relationship between two nouns such as the possession of one by another (e.g. 'France's capital city' or 'the capital city of France').

