

Basic Education Teacher Survey Response Webinar Series

#EmergingEnglish British Council China

Q&A List

Webinar #1

Date: 14th July 2020

Time: 16:00 – 17:30 (Beijing time)

- **Note: Views expressed below are those of event participants only and do not necessarily represent those of the British Council**

Questions (from audience)	Answers (from speakers)
Could you please explain more about online interaction patterns?	In general interaction patterns online tend to vary and are very different from the normal f2f ones. The first two I have mentioned are more appropriate for synchronous tasks and the last two are for asynchronous tasks. You can experiment and use different interaction patterns to provide variety during a lesson but always remember that a task can sometimes take longer to complete when delivering online
How does the Students in UK study online?	The language students in the UK tend to be organised in groups of 20-25 at most and from my experience the levels of participation tend to vary. They prefer synchronous to asynchronous activities (at least my current groups!). Hope this is of help.
Is there a video about the online discussion of how it can be carried out?	I have recorded discussions in the past but as they tend to be long or take place in breakout rooms when the students work in groups
Why are critical thinking questions important?	This is important where you teach classes where ideally you would like your students to be able to develop their own opinions and eventually produce writing where this is reflected. It really depends on the level of the students; these tasks are usually more appropriate for advanced students.
Do student have trouble following during cooperative learning?	Yes in some cases they do. This might be because a group could have some students who tend to dominate discussions and talk a lot compared to more shy students. In this case, cooperation issues could arise but they can be overcome if clear guidelines are provided to students.
Would you be so kind to give us some strategies to work on Listening and Reading skills in online settings?	Thank you for your question. In terms of listening strategies, I would encourage listening for specific information by exposing students to short clips online, depending on the level of your students. In terms of reading, I have found that with my learners skimming and scanning tasks work well online too. It helps when the reading passages are short as we tend to prefer to read no more than 500 words online.
How to manage students' group works online?	It really depends on their level, age and the number of students. I like asking students to work in groups and I moderate their work more easily online.
In case students prefer writing more, what do you suggest teachers do if we don't want to keep others online waiting?	In this case having extra tasks that fast finishers could do would be very helpful.

Thank you for your speech. I would like to know how a teacher know students are engaged.	This can be monitored by checking the chat box, the students posts on forums, their work on any online quizzes, on any shared documents where they had to produce a piece of writing, etc.
How does group work benefit learning?	It can help when learners are shy and feel more confident to communicate with their peers before reporting back to the group. Then, while working in groups, the students have the chance to discuss any problems but also to exchange views on the task they have to complete. Group work has a communicative character but it is not always appropriate. It really depends on the skills you would like your learners to develop.
Could you please suggest any websites or apps that provide services for teaching and assessing students online?	I use lots of different ones, Google classroom, then Moodle but the latter is for university students.
What is the manageable number of members in a group?	I would say usually 15-20.
We have different teamwork activity like forum and workshop. Which one is suitable for the younger kids? What if kids (may be shy or don't like it), they don't want to join the forum or workshop, how can we encourage them? Thank you!	With younger students I would use apps like Kahoot for online quizzes. I would not encourage them to participate in forums but you could create a blog for them for example so that they could work on a project.
What shall I do to handle the situation when naughty kids disturb the class from time to time?	That can be tricky, try to set some rules for working online and perhaps to mute them for a while if the situation does not improve.
How do you deal with parents when teaching children online? It will get me embarrassed and nervous	Do you mean that parents observe during the lesson? Unfortunately, in some cases where the sessions are recorded this is something that happens...
How to motivate students to speak English online?	My suggestion would be to encourage them to work in pairs or groups as this would increase the chances to use the language with a classmate. You could also ask them to do roleplays, presentations, etc depending on their level.
Why is important to ask questions in teaching and learning?	Questions can be used for multiple reasons. Perhaps the key aspects with online might include - checking understanding of concepts or instructions, especially as it may be more challenging to monitor for Ss who don't understand. Using questions to build understanding can also promote deeper learning. I.e. moving from closed to open questions can help Ss think more about a concept or

	topic and allow them to make connections between relationships.
What resources can be used in the classroom?	龚亚夫老师主编的《新维度英语》可以作为自己学习的资源，也可以作为教学和教研的资源，与自己的教学内容整合。另外牛津出版社的 ORT 分级读物中提供的教学设计思路，也是一个很好的资源。
Could you please offer some tips on how to design a meaningful task? Thank you.	最简单的初步做法可以尝试：课堂中的每一个问题和课堂指令都问一问自己：我是在和学生交流语言形式还是信息交流？
How to distinguish focused tasks and unfocused tasks? can language learning be separated from language communication?	语言学习和交流是不可分割的，课堂中的每一个问题和课堂指令都是在和学生交流信息交流，而不是语言形式？
How to allocate task and exercise while teaching?	提倡任务，不是不需要练习，您可以根据学生的实际学习能力和教学目标合理分配两类活动的比例，但是课的最后还是要让学生所学语言完成任务。练习只是为完成给到学生的一些语言学习铺垫。
请您将教材解读，课堂任务设计和应试这三方面的关键解释一下，毕竟无论课堂形式再新颖必须落实到看的到的效果上，希望您分享一下任务式教学是如何改善学习效果的，非常感谢	教材解读的关键是完成任务教材可以提供的资源有哪些？所以首先要想好本节课的任务是什么？任务的设计的关键是既要考虑语言的显性目标是什么？也要考虑语言背后的思维，文化和情感，跨学科知识有哪些？应试的关键就是任务设计的显性目标。如果需要进一步探讨交流，可以通过 British Council 联系我。
How to design a task for students in different level ?	您可以（1）用语言形式的任务结果和非语言形式的任务结果控制学生语言输出的难易度（2）所选择的教学资源更多融入学生已知的背景知识，帮助学生听懂和读懂。
I was wondering about the notion of the “correct values”. How do you address this issue in relation to Intercultural competence development, if any?	Most importantly it should deliver positive energy.
Please tell me about a time when a situation tested integrity.	We don't use a test for testing integrity. We create content that encourages students to develop beliefs and patriotism.
I have been wondering what differences and similarities between the TBLT and CLT approaches are. And how do you blend them in class?	My answer might not be direct to the question but hope it could provide more resources for your reference. Below are 2 links of insights on PPP, TTT, TBL and PBL from the British Council Teaching English website. Hope it could be of some use. https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/blogs/james-taylor/james-taylor-ppp-ttt-tbl-dogme ,

	https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/tbl-pbl-two-learner-centred-approaches
What grade is appropriate for this micro-course? For G1 is okay?	我们暂时还未开发针对一、二年级学生的轻课。建议您参考我们的轻课，尝试开发。
I see that the QR code we scanned for the English Primary Wechat account has materials and Micro Classes for Grade 3 and up. Are there any lessons, classes, materials developed for grade 1&2?	暂时未开发针对一、二年级的轻课课程。
Could you give some suggestions on how to do oral English microlearning courses?	这是一个很好的问题，值得我和我的团队一起思考。下学期我们会针对低年级和口语训练，尝试开发轻课，敬请关注和指导。
How to choose the topic of exploring these micro materials	通过平时多看教学资源，特别多读学生读物。可以把分级读物的音频和图画整合成简单的动画。请参考我们开发的六年级轻课。
Are there games, activities, etc. that can be downloaded for free?	可以试试这个网站 https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/six-types-task-tbl . Please try this website: https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/six-types-task-tbl . Thanks.