

Gender equality in language education

Workbook

Your reflective journal
and additional learning
resources



This is a
TeachingEnglish
resource

Forward

We're delighted you've chosen to continue your professional development with TeachingEnglish training and look forward to learning with you over the coming weeks.

In this workbook you'll find additional learning materials to complement your course, places to note ideas of interest, encouragement and guidance in applying them within your teaching practice. Whether you prefer to save and update it on your device, to keep handwritten notes, or use it as a prompt for your on-the go reflection, do what works for you. We hope you and your learners find it beneficial.

Happy learning.

The British Council open learning team.

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Your learning goals

Your course

This course will help you to recognise the different kinds of gender bias and stereotypes which exist in language education. You'll explore some of the barriers people face in terms of gender equality and equity, and how these can be overcome.

During this TeachingEnglish training, you'll engage with learning content in four modules, supported by a series of live online community events. You'll find practical support and encouragement from course tutors and other members of the [British Council courses for teachers global learning community](#) as you work to introduce new teaching ideas within your classroom.

Just as every classroom is unique, so is your learning journey. Ensure you're heading in the right direction by reflecting upon and noting your reasons for taking this course and learning goals. Keeping these in mind will help you focus on the most beneficial content and discussions for you.

Your goals and reasons for learning

Why are you taking this course? What do you want to be able to do?

Your learning tools

Online learning modules



After gaining confidence using your online learning platform and exploring effective learning strategies in the introductory Getting started module, you'll work through three further modules, each exploring a different area of teaching and learning. Involving an average of 12 hours of study, you will find a blend of theory, practical teaching suggestions and case studies that explore new ways of teaching. Repeat activities until you feel ready to move on. Return and review them as often as you like before the end of your course.

Learn how to access the online learning modules by visiting your course's page at <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/training>.

Courses for teachers community



Join course tutors and other educators working on their professional development in our supportive, Facebook-based learning community. You'll gain access to a wide selection of additional learning resources, you'll also have the opportunity to engage in developmental discussions while getting the support and encouragement you need to successfully bring ideas from the course into your classroom. Access all the discussions and content related to your specific course in [the Guides section](#).

Find the community at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/coursesforteachers>

Live events



Attend live community events and webinars led by expert educators. These sessions are focused on different aspects of your course and provide you with an opportunity to seek answers to your questions - and share your own expertise and insights with other community members. Recordings of all live sessions are available on-demand. For more details, check the Events section on your online course platform.

Workbook



Use this workbook to keep a record of useful course and community content, questions you'd like to ask in the community, links to resources, or to note ideas from any of the live events. You can save a version online or print the workbook - or both.

Module 1

Gender representation in teaching materials



Overview

This module provides a general introduction to the topic by exploring the different kinds of gender bias and stereotypes which exist in language education – and will help you to recognise and evaluate these issues so that you can respond to them effectively in the classroom. By the end you'll be able to:

1. describe the difference between sex and gender
2. explain the meanings of gender bias and gender stereotypes
3. consider how gender stereotyping in textbooks can affect people
4. evaluate gender representations, stereotypes and bias in textbooks
5. use a framework to analyse gender balance and gender representation in textbooks
6. explore how teachers can respond to gender bias and gender stereotypes in textbooks.

Further reading, teaching, and learning resources

Resource description (tap/click to open)	Type
100 Women: 'We can't teach girls of the future with books of the past'	Read
11 children's books that challenge gender stereotypes	Read
5 keys to challenging implicit bias	Read
Gender-inclusive language	Read
The Difference myth by Alfie Kohn	Read
Article about an award for conferences that address gender balance for speakers at UK ELT events.	Read
Gender checklist for content creators	Use
Lesson plan: Taking liberties — for secondary learners — theme of gender stereotypes and equality.	Use
Joanne Roxburgh discusses gender representation in teaching materials	Watch

Your learning

This is a space to record ideas from the course. You may have lots to write in some sections, less in others. The important thing though is to note some ideas that may be useful for you and your learners.

Describe three things you learned from...

Your online module

Live community events

Discussions and learning resources shared here and in the course community

Plan it

Describe one thing you will change in your teaching. Why have you chosen it?

What challenges might arise when you try to make this change?

What could you do to meet those challenges?

Teach it

Try it out and come back here to reflect on the experience. What did you learn?

Module 2

Gender equality in teaching practice



Overview

This module focuses on ways we often perceive gender differences in the classroom. It's aimed at breaking down common assumptions about the differences between gender in education, so that you can help all your students achieve success. By the end you'll be able to:

1. describe the differences between the ways boys and girls learn
2. outline some of the challenges associated with educating both girls and boys
3. examine female and male roles in group work
4. identify when gender bias results from using gender labels
5. debate whether girls and boys should be taught separately due to learning differences
6. observe gender patterns in teacher–student interactions
7. reflect on the pros and cons of using gender to decide seating arrangements.

Further reading, teaching, and learning resources

Resource description (tap/click to open)	Type
5 questions to ask your child's teacher	Read
How to approach teaching gender equality to boys and girls	Read
Mythbusters Addressing Gender and Achievement: Myths and Realities	Read
6 ways you can promote gender equality in your classroom - a checklist	Use
Gender equality lessons for schools	Use
Lesson plan: She's a policeman (primary)	Use
Lesson plan: Unsung heroes (secondary)	Use
Lesson plan: Women and girls in science (secondary)	Use
Lesson plan: Women in science (secondary)	Use
Random group generator	Use
Tell it Again! The Storytelling Handbook for Primary English Language Teachers	Use
An activity that helps you combat gender bias at work	Use
Joanne Roxburgh discusses gender equality in teaching practice	Watch
Webinar on non-gendered language: how to teach it, should we teach it?	Watch

Your learning

Which new ideas in Module 2 are most useful for you? Note them here together with any questions you'd like to ask in the [British Council courses for teachers](#) learning community.

Describe three things you learned from...

Your online module

Live community events

Discussions and learning resources shared here and in the course community

Plan it

Describe one thing you will change in your teaching. Why have you chosen it?

What challenges might arise when you try to make this change?

What could you do to meet those challenges?

Teach it

Try it out and come back here to reflect on the experience. What did you learn?

Module 3

Working with gender equality in education



Overview

This final module of the course explores some of the progress that has been made, as well as some of the barriers people face in terms of gender equality and equity. You'll consider how these issues can be overcome and worked with on an individual as well as a global scale. By the end you'll be able to:

1. summarise progress towards gender equality in education
2. identify barriers to gender equality
3. examine initiatives designed to promote gender equality – and discuss the positive role language education has to play
4. discuss how language education promotes gender equality
5. describe gender parity within the teaching workforce
6. identify ways of teaching about gender equality and women's rights.

Further reading, teaching, and learning resources

Resource description (tap/click to open)	Type
Everyone misplaces my keys - about third person singular, gender-neutral pronoun	Listen
The Problem with Boys	Listen
This link leads to 2022 Gender Gap Calculator	Read
Article about EVE: Equal Voices in ELT	Read
British Council research and reports on gender equality	Read
Reports and research detailing benefits of educating girls	Read
Research: Promoting gender equality in education	Read
Well-being and education of women and girls are best predictor of peace	Read
An example of a project that supports girls' education in science	Watch
Education exchange webinar: International Women's Day	Watch
Joanne Roxburgh explores gender equality in education	Watch
Plenary session by Ann Cotton: tackling the issue of girls' exclusion from education	Watch
Plenary talk: Knowledge is power - access to education for marginalised women	Watch

Your learning

Note any ideas you found particularly interesting and might like to bring into your classroom. Why not share them with other members of the [British Council courses for teachers](#) learning community?

Describe three things you learned from...

Your online module

Live community events

Discussions and learning resources shared here and in the course community

Plan it

Describe one thing you will change in your teaching. Why have you chosen it?

What challenges might you face when making this change?

What could you do to meet those challenges?

Teach it

Try it out and come back here to reflect on the experience. What did you learn?

Your action plan

Make an action plan focused on applying learning from this the course. Complete any sentences that help you do this. Come back and check your plan now and then.

In the next two weeks, I am going to...

Over the next two months, I'm going to...

Before the end of the school year, I'm going to...

Next school year, I want to...

What do you want to learn about next? Explore our [framework for teacher knowledge and skills](#) for inspiration, support and materials.



Well done - you've made it to the end of the course! We hope you've found it useful, and will join us on another very soon. Learn more about free teacher training courses with the British Council at:

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/training>