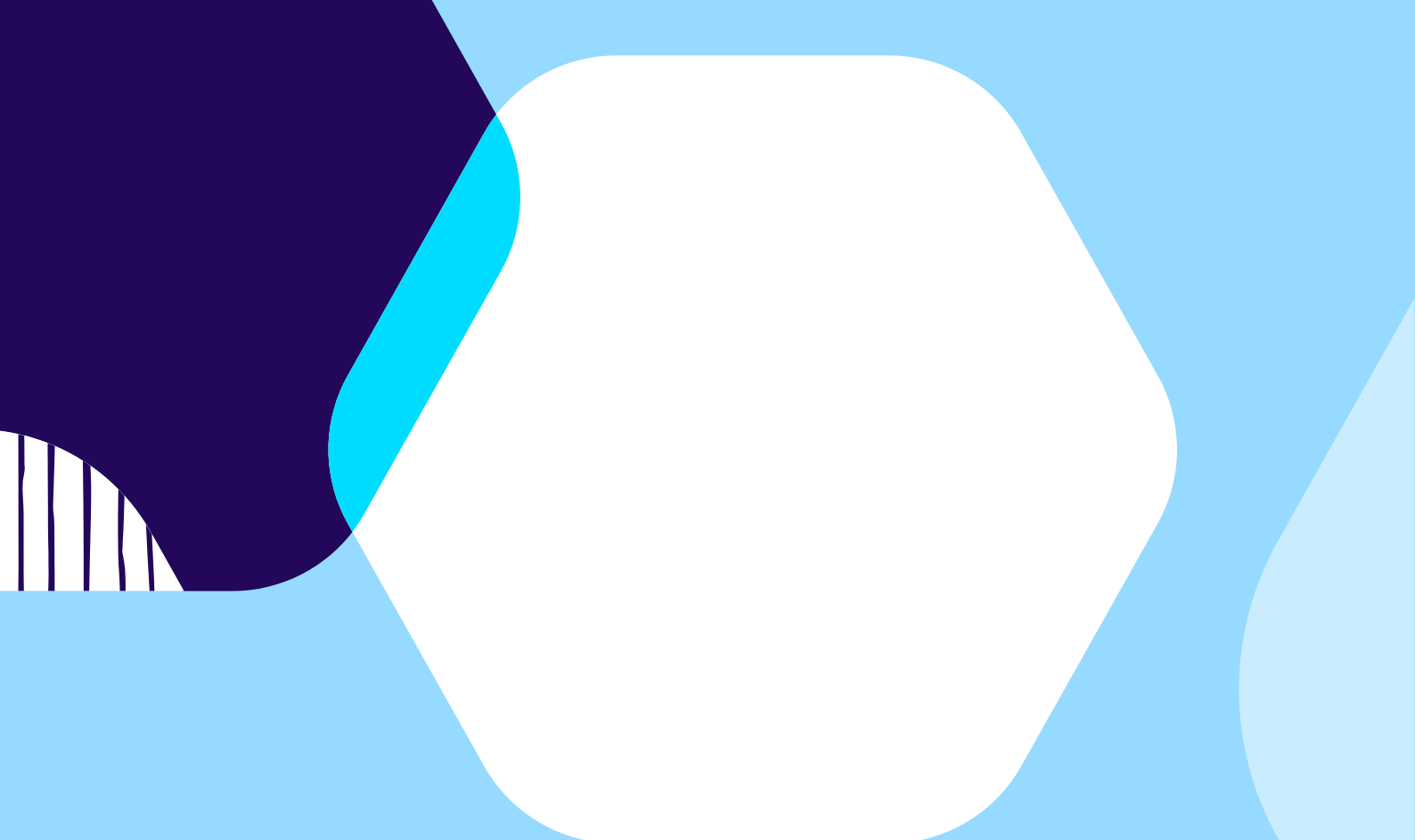


What are your top tips for teaching English?

Show notes





In this podcast series from the British Council, we try and provide solutions to some of the key questions being asked by English teachers around the world.

Each episode explores a specific topic through interviews, a focus on recent developments or reports on British Council initiatives in English language teaching. Practical show notes, classroom activities and transcripts are available to download for each episode.

Episode overview

In this final episode of series 2, we ask 19 experienced ELT professionals to give us their top tips for teaching English effectively. These tips cover five key areas, namely: the importance of personalisation and context; criticality; humanistic approaches to teaching language; using social media; and general pedagogy. These concise, focused suggestions will hopefully maximise the learning experiences and learning outcomes in your classes and make your own ELT journey more pleasurable.

In this episode



If we're not really listening to what students are saying, they're going to not be motivated next time to actually say what is on their mind.

Trust the learners. Trust that they understand more than you think they do.

Not all students need to learn in the same way.

There is nothing more authentic than that short, concise and straightforward language the learners read on Twitter.

Listen very, very carefully to your learners. And don't just listen to the errors.



Detailed notes

Additional information about particularly interesting, relevant, or challenging terms are given in the table below.

Phrase used	Explanation and further information
Bhavna Gupta	Bhavna's personal website which details her ELT background, and also provides some materials full of charge, can be found at: https://thelearningsutra.com/ and https://youtube.com/@StoryLandByLearningSutra .
Climate Action	The British Council has a huge range of ELT resources about Climate Action on its Climate Connection website, https://www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection
Inclusion	Materials about using inclusive practices for teaching can be found on the British Council website: https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/professional-development/teachers/inclusive-practices . You can also listen to episode 3 of Series 1 of the <i>Teaching English</i> podcast, which is about this issue: https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/professional-development/podcast/teaching-english/teaching-english-podcast-how-can-i-ensure-my
Gender equality	Episode 2 of Series 1 of Teaching English talks about how to make your teaching 'gender fair' - https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/professional-development/podcast/teaching-english/teaching-english-podcast-how-can-i-make-my . It looks in particular at the British Council's 'EDGE' programme, which focuses on gender empowerment - https://www.britishcouncil.org/society/womens-and-girls-empowerment/our-work/edge .
Airport travel	Episode 2 of this series of <i>Teaching English</i> shows how virtual reality can be used to teach about airport travel (and many other 'real life' situations as well) – https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/professional-development/podcast/teaching-english/teachingenglish-podcast-how-can-we-use-virtual .

For a lot of students there its simply not possible for them to travel on an aeroplane.

In Gaza, Ramallah, and many other parts of Palestine, people are unable to leave the area in which they live.

In episode three, Laura there she said that beginner learners are not beginner thinkers

This episode can be accessed at <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/professional-development/podcast/teaching-english/teaching-english-podcast-how-can-we-teach>.

Rose Aylett

More information about Rose and her work can be found here: <https://www.nile-elt.com/catalog?pagename=Rose-Aylett>

Critical literacies

Critical literacy is a central thinking skill that a tertiary education seeks to develop in students. Read more about it in [this article](#).

Scott Thornbury

More information about Scott and his work can be found here: <http://www.scottthornbury.com/>

Humanistic approaches to teaching language

According to [the British Council](#), “Humanistic language teaching is an approach based on the principle that the whole being, emotional and social, needs to be engaged in learning, not just the mind.”

Buzzwords

You can find out more about buzzwords and jargon in ELT from [Scott Thornbury's blog](#).

Risktakers

“Risk-taking is an important characteristic of successful learning of a second language. Learners have to be able to gamble a bit, to be willing to try out hunches about the language and take the risk of being wrong” (H. Douglas-Brown). Read more about this quotation and why taking risks is so important in [this article](#).

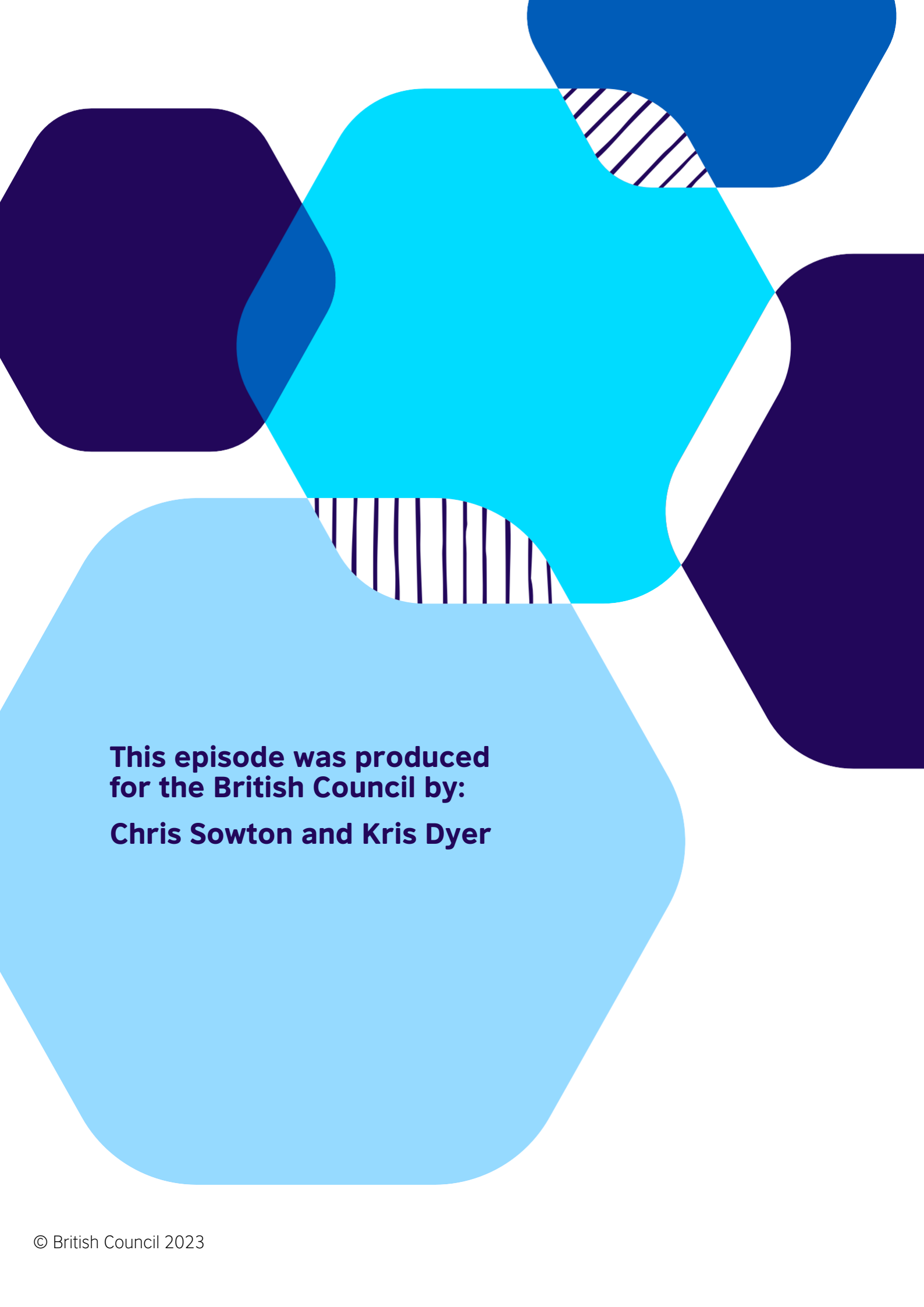
Use more photographs in class

As [this article](#) argues, “In a world where images are present all around us all the time, teachers can easily use photographs to motivate students and make the classroom experience so much more rewarding.”

Using this podcast for lessons or training

- You can download a transcript of the episode from the podcast homepage. To help you and your learners with preparation and language analysis, all words at the B2, C1 and C2 CEFR level have been highlighted.
- The British Council have produced an 'activity pack' for this episode, which contains activities which you can use in your classroom. The activities focus on speaking, listening, grammar and language. They are available in both pdf and in editable PowerPoint format, in case you wish to edit them to make them more relevant for your specific classroom.





**This episode was produced
for the British Council by:
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