
Creating your own learning materials – six easy steps

Webinar handout

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Introduction

I believe that preparing our own learning materials can be easy and enjoyable. I think there are six points that teachers should consider when creating learning materials.

In the webinar we looked at various examples of what counts as “learning materials” in ELT. We also discussed reasons why we feel the need to escape from the course book from time to time, and talked about differences between adapting and creating own materials.

The six easy steps

The six easy steps ... are in fact **six questions** to ask yourself before you start creating materials.

Question 1 - Why am I doing it? If you can't answer it, just focus on the numerous options your course book is offering. There are plenty, check out the teacher's book and the accompanying web resources. Remember: *We need a real purpose to invest extra time and effort.*

Question 2 - Who am I doing it for? Think about your learners' profile, specific needs, interest, etc. Remember: *Our time is valuable and we want to invest it for the right cause.*

Question 3 - What am I aiming to achieve? Having a clear idea of your aims will help you make the right choice of tasks, authentic materials to work with, etc. Remember: *Even*

the fanciest learning material won't help you or your students if you don't know why you are using it.

Question 4 - How much time do I need to prepare the material? Some materials need time to prepare: e.g. a reading task based on an article, extra grammar practice worksheets, video tasks. More experienced teachers will be able to create a learning material on the spot if necessary. With AI it is now much easier and faster. Remember: *Look at Questions 1 and 3 again if you are planning to invest more time.*

Question 5 - Do I plan to reuse the materials I've created? Even if your answer is no, it is still a good idea to keep a record somewhere. With time texts become outdated, video links disappear but the rationale behind the learning task can be reinforced. If you are confident and like sharing, you can also start a blog or a site (CoP) where you can store and share your materials with the world. *Remember: Any material we have prepared may come handy one day. We just don't know when yet.*

Question 6 - Can I really do it? When you get as far as this step, there is only one possible answer: "Of course, do you need me to show you how?" 😊 Remember: *You are a teacher and you can do anything! And you can do it well.*

Good luck with creating your own learning materials!

A recording of Desislava's webinar can be watched here:

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/news-and-events/webinars/webinars-teachers/planning-activities-and-lessons-mini-event>