

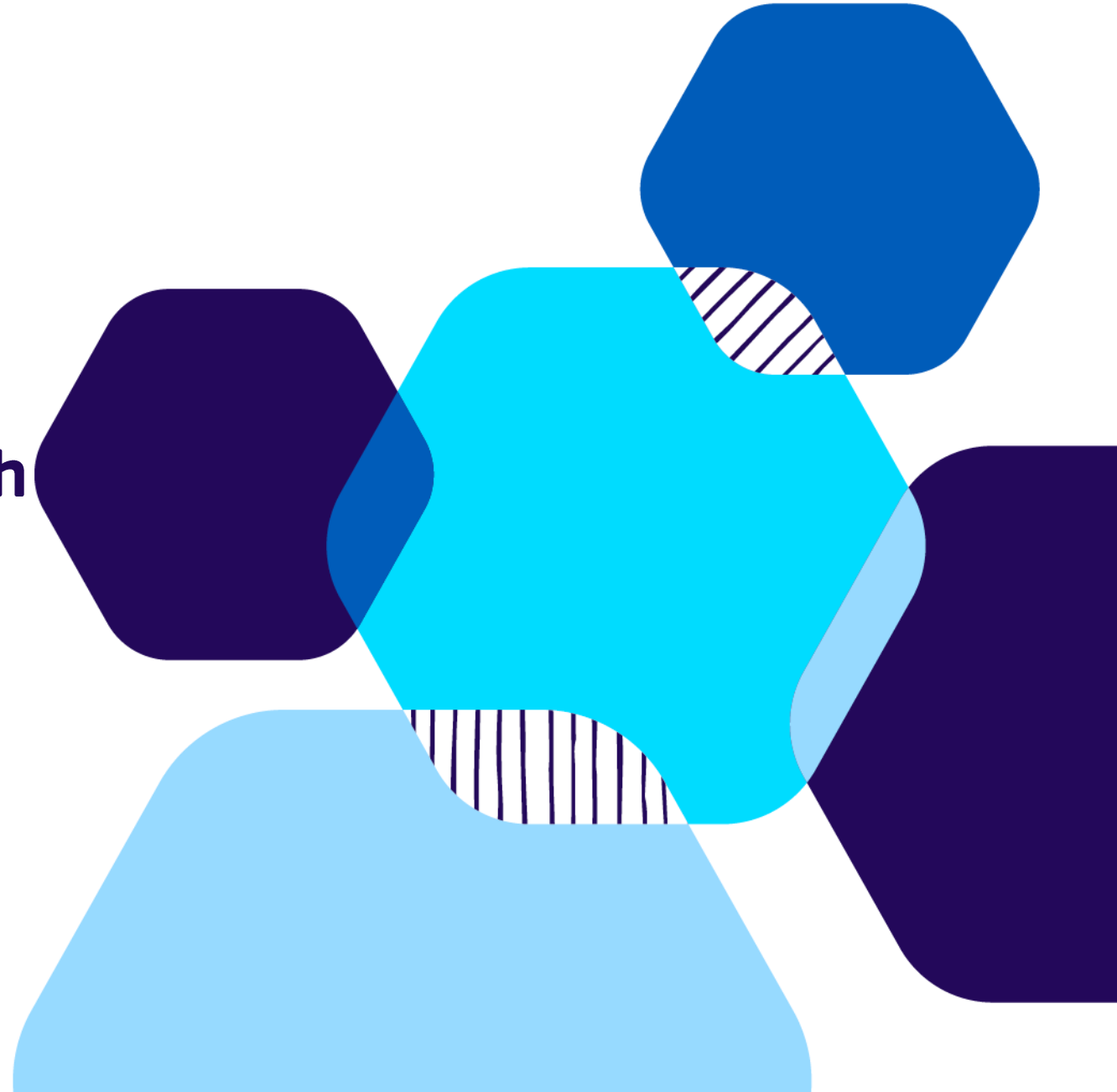
TeachingEnglish

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**Exploring professional  
development opportunities with  
TeachingEnglish**

Steve Diop and Linda Ruas

Saturday 25 January 2025



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## About the speakers

**Steve Diop** is the Open Learning Manager for the English Connects programme in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Steve manages the TeachingEnglish Africa website and is responsible for the promotion of the TeachingEnglish offer to teachers and teacher educators in Sub-Saharan Africa.

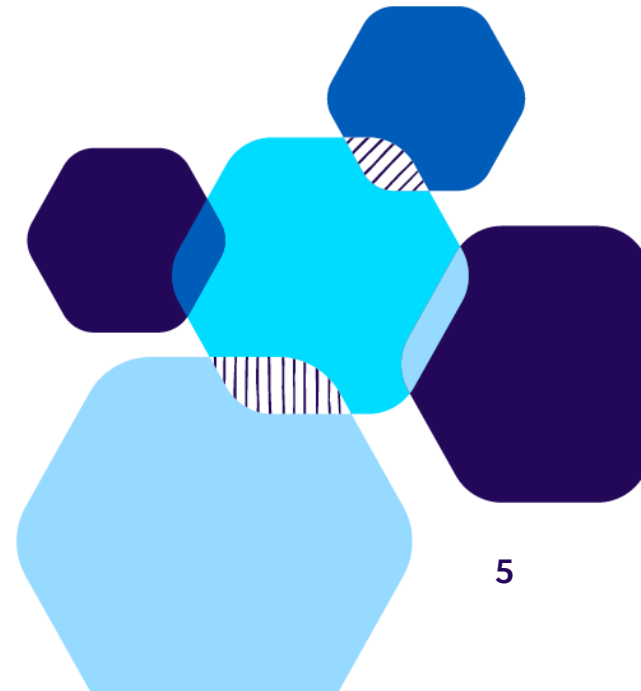
**Linda Ruas**, MA, has over 35 years' experience as an English teacher and teacher trainer, in the UK, Brazil, Japan and Guinea Bissau. She is now a consultant working with ELTAs in SSA and Wider Europe, often presents at international conferences, and her main interest is bringing global issues into class.

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# Outline

By the end of the session, you will:

- Gain insights into the opportunities available from April 2025 from the TeachingEnglish global and regional offer.
- Learn actionable ideas to maximise the benefits of these opportunities for professional development.
- Understand the process for applying to become a regional webinar presenter



# Pre-session polls

1. Which of our current themes for teachers has had the biggest impact on your teaching practice?

- A. Managing resources 12%
- B. Understanding educational policies and practice 12%
- C. Integrating learning technologies 29%
- D. Knowing the subject 12%
- E. Taking responsibility for professional development 29%
- F. Planning lessons and courses 5%

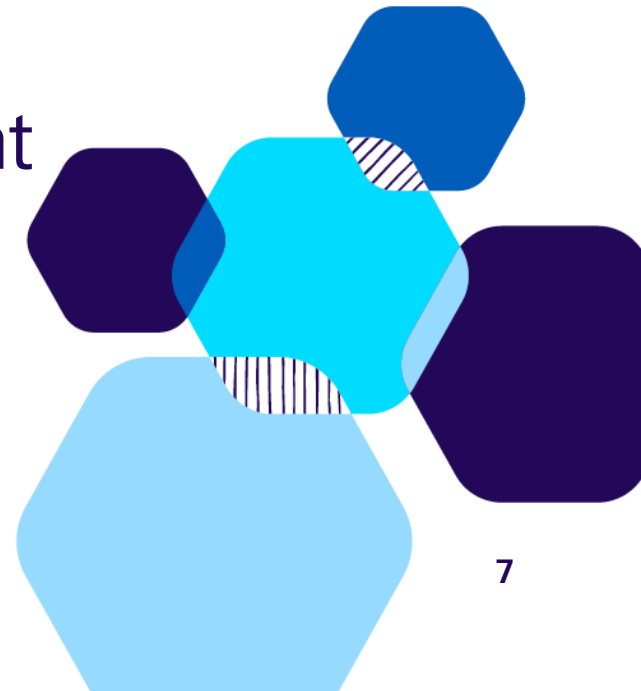
2. What do you think our themes for 2025-26 will be?:

- A. Exactly the same (repetition makes you go deeper in the topic) 0%
- B. Totally different (we need variety) 29%
- C. Some similar themes and some new ones (which new ones??) 71%

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**Here are our current themes for teachers. Which one has had the biggest impact on your teaching practice?**

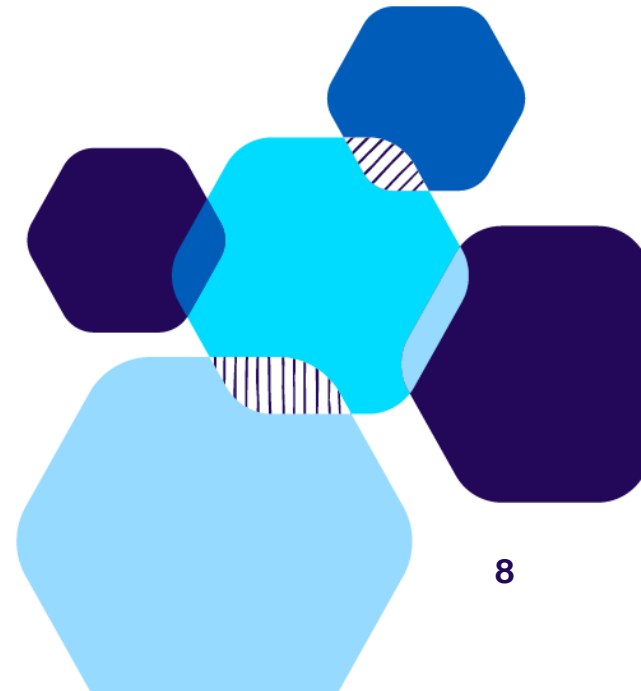
- A. Managing resources
- B. Understanding educational policies and practice
- C. Integrating learning technologies
- D. Knowing the subject
- E. Taking responsibility for professional development
- F. Planning lessons and courses



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**Here are our current themes for teacher educators. Which one resonates most with your current role or challenges you as a teacher educator?**

- A. Supporting ongoing teacher professional development
- B. Adopting inclusive practices
- C. Supporting remote learning
- D. Knowing the subject
- E. Understanding teacher learning
- F. Planning teacher learning



# Our themes from April 2025

	April-June 2025	July-Sept 2025	October-December 2025	January-March 2026
Teacher educator professional practice	Understanding teacher learning	Understanding the context	Supporting Ongoing Teacher Professional Development	Managing teacher learning
Teacher professional practice	Understanding and developing my learners	Assessing learning	Planning lessons and courses (informed by Understanding my context and understanding my learners)	Managing the lesson

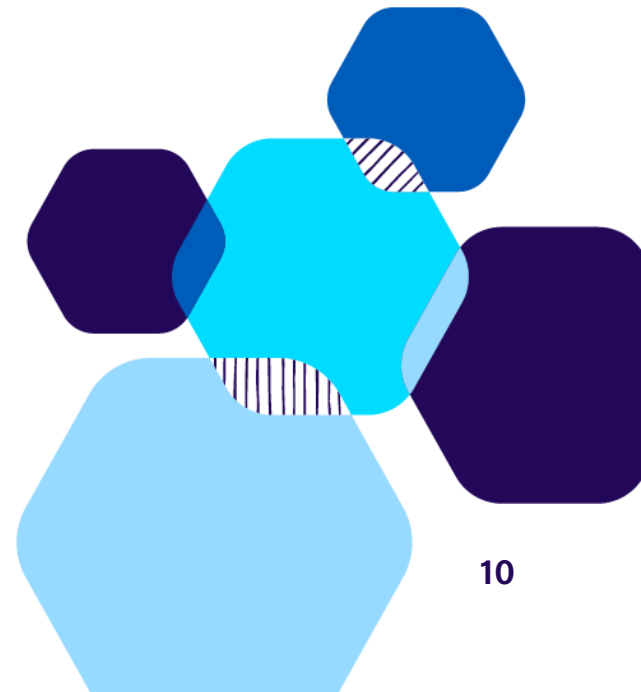
## Evergreen themes throughout the year

- Using multilingual approaches
- Using inclusive practices
- Using transferable skills / 21C skills for learning and life
- Using digital technologies
- Knowing the subject
- Empowerment
- Gender
- Climate

**If you could achieve one goal related to your chosen theme, what would it be? Write it down in one sentence.**



# Which element of the offer would you like to explore as a priority, and what are your expectations?





# Examples from our offer

Online  
training  
courses

**Planning course** – free course (open from 4 February 2025)  
<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/training/planning-courses>

Online  
events

**Planning lessons: using AI to help** (webinar for teachers) – will be presented by Amade Baraza and Auzinda Domingos (8 February 2025)  
<https://africa.teachingenglish.org.uk/events/planning-lessons-using-ai-help>

Online  
resources

**How can I empower learners through a project-based learning approach?** – article on TeachingEnglish  
<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/community/magazine/how-can-i-empower-learners-through-project-based-learning-approach>

# Actionable ideas on how to make the most of the offer

## Alone:

Plan each week to look up, try out or think about:

- One new lesson plan
- One article / activity / podcast / publication / activity

Keep a diary of resources used and what you've learnt

[www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

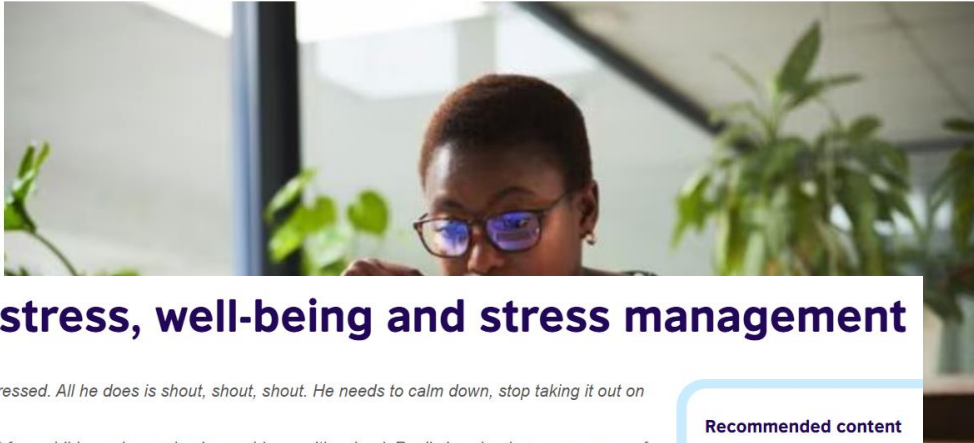
## With others:

- Each teacher gets familiar with one podcast / publication chapter / lesson plan / article / webinar recording, then all meet (f2f or online) to share
- Watch the recording of a webinar and pause every 5 minutes to discuss the points and adapt
- Adapt lesson plans and activities according to the traffic light system
- Share what you've learnt (articles / short videos) in a newsletter / WhatsApp group

# The current theme: Taking Responsibility for Professional Development – how can we use or adapt these?

## Ceri Jones: Reflecting on reflecting

Reflection is a slippery beast. It happens in the most inconvenient places and at the most inconvenient times. Washing up, walking the dog, waiting for a bus.



## Teacher stress, well-being and stress management

'Our teacher is always stressed. All he does is shout, shout, shout. He needs to calm down, stop taking it out on us'

I often hear this comment from children who are having problems with school. Pupils in school are very aware of the mental and physical state of their teachers. They seem to recognise the importance of well-being and stress management in learning. Do we?



### Recommended content

- Task-based speaking
- ESOL
- Tiny Cinderella Somewhere (higher level)
- Families
- Lies in Shakespeare's Othello

### Courses

- Find an online teacher

## Introducing a mentoring model in a large-scale teacher development project in India

In this article, Simon Borg and Jon Parnham write about the benefits of mentoring schemes in the context of a large-scale teacher development project in India.



Simon Borg and Jon Parnham

ELISS mentors celebrating their achievements

### Introduction

There are approximately 1.3 million secondary schools in this scale, State Education Departments are developing various models of professional development wh

### Recommended content

- Task-based speaking
- ESOL
- Tiny Cinderella Somewhere (higher level)

## Putting Teacher Action Research Into Action

Much has been written about Teacher Action Research.



Larry Ferlazzo

Personally, I just view it as a teacher systematically putting a simplified version of the Scientific Method to use in his/her classroom:

1. Formulate a hypothesis
2. Experiment
3. Analyze the data collected from the experiment.
4. Form a Conclusion

### Recommended content

- Task-based speaking
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- Tiny Cinderella Somewhere (higher level)
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### Courses

- Find an online teacher

# How could we adapt this lesson plan?

## Tiny Cinderella Somewhere (lower level)

Use this lesson with secondary and adult students at CEFR Level A2 / B1. Students will practise listening and speaking activities related to a photograph.



<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/teaching-resources/teaching-secondary/lesson-plans/intermediate-b1/tiny-cinderella-somewhere-lower>

- Context: traffic lights?
- Technology restrictions: screen / phone?
- Cultural references: Cinderella?
- Part or all?: visual /listening?

How else can we adapt the resources to suit our learners?

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# What makes a good webinar, in your opinion? What do you like most about our global/regional webinars?

Rank these and put your order in the chat:

- a. Interacting in the chat
- b. Asking questions
- c. Learning new facts
- d. Learning new practical classroom activities
- e. Being inspired to think in new ways
- f. Hearing about teaching in other countries / contexts
- g. Links to lead you to further learning later



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# What makes a good webinar proposal? Do's and don'ts

## Writing a good title

Keep your title clear, engaging, and concise using no more than ten words. Aim to highlight the key benefit or focus of your session.

For example: *'Engaging learners with multilingual approaches'* or *'Practical strategies for managing lessons'*.

Here are two examples of titles that are not effective:

- *'Teaching Strategies for Classrooms'*
- *'How to do lesson planning and manage time effectively for teachers in different contexts'*

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# What makes a good webinar proposal? Do's and don'ts

## Writing a good abstract

Participants will read your abstract to decide whether to attend your webinar, so please write in English and please include information about what they will learn.

Example sentences:

This workshop will start by taking a look at ...; I will show you how to ...; The next stage of the workshop will look at ...; You will learn how to ...; Finally, we will... ;This workshop will give you practical ideas to help you ...

Write enough to be convincing ie. approaching the word limit.

*While ChatGPT and similar tools can be helpful for generating ideas, avoid relying on them for writing your outline or content.*

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# Guidelines for submitting a webinar proposal

## Who can apply

- We welcome collaboration. You can apply as an individual presenter or in collaboration with one co-presenter.
- Please submit only one proposal form per webinar.

## Webinar format

- The webinars will take place on Zoom and are backed up on our regional Telegram group for teachers
- Total duration: 1 hour (please allow 40–45 minutes for the presentation and 10–15 minutes for audience questions)

*Watch a few recordings to get a feel of how our webinars are delivered*



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# Guidelines for submitting a webinar proposal

## Copyright and safeguarding

- Ensure your content complies with copyright laws and intellectual property rights.
- Do not use images or videos of students, colleagues, or others without permission.
- Obtain consent from adults if sharing their persona or personal stories during the webinar.

## Planning a successful webinar:

- Focus on practical applications for teachers and teacher educators.
- Ensure your session includes practical examples from your experience.
- Plan for audience interaction and participation throughout the webinar.

# Takeaway tip:

- Select one article / lesson plan / activity / publication etc from the TeachingEnglish resources and adapt it for your class / context / country:  
<https://africa.teachingenglish.org.uk/classroom>
- Be ready to report back in the EnglishConnects Telegram group discussion on Friday!



## Develop teaching skills

Find out how you can develop your teaching skills.



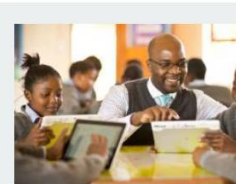
### Teaching tips

Read these tips for simple and straightforward guidance that you can use in your classrooms every day.



### Webinars

Watch videos presented by experts in the field and learn about a wide range of topics.



### Teach English in the classroom

