

Teaching English Africa webinar

Motivating learners in ESL Classes

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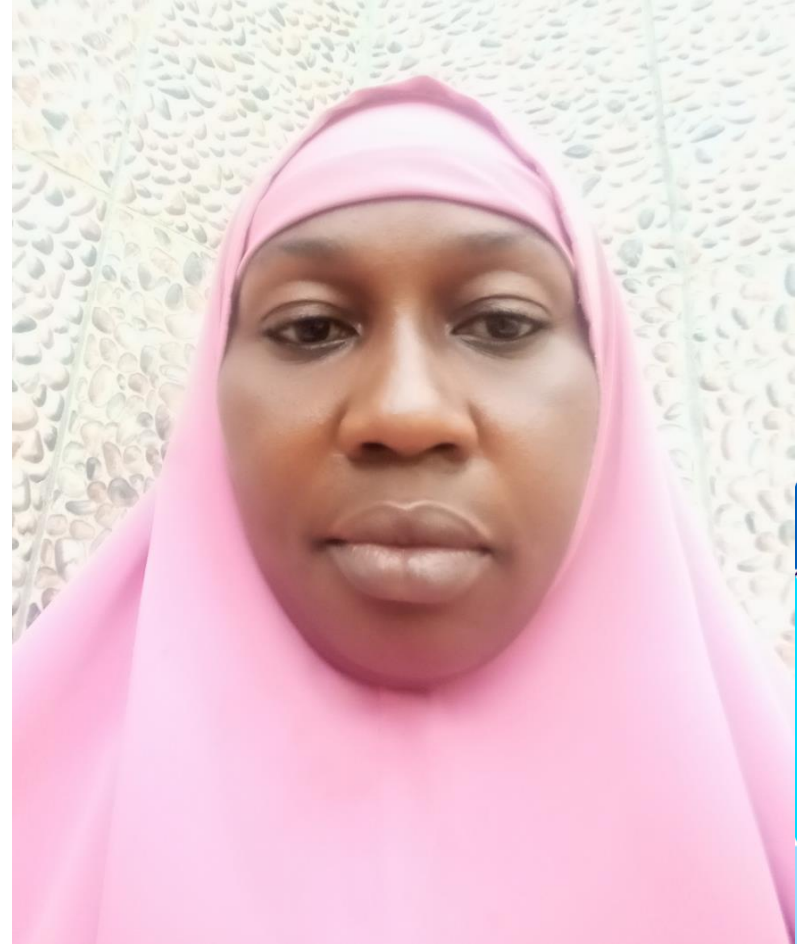
About the speaker

Aminat Baruwa-Ashafa is a goal-driven and enthusiastic teacher with diverse experience.

She holds a BA and MA in English language from Lagos State University, Nigeria, and is a licensed teacher with a Diploma in Education (PDE) from Adeniran Ogusanya College of Education.

Aminat has fifteen years of experience teaching English language and Literature-in-English to high school students in the Ministry of Education.

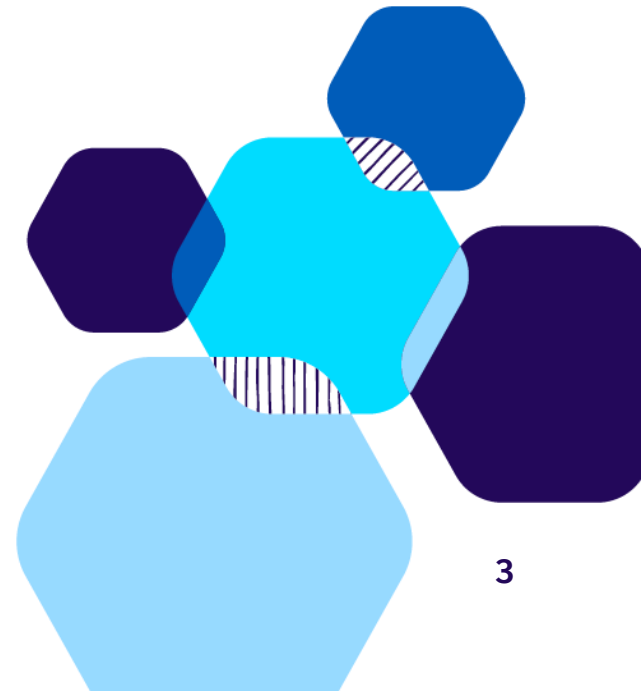
Throughout her career, she has demonstrated strong problem-solving skills and a talent for motivating her learners.



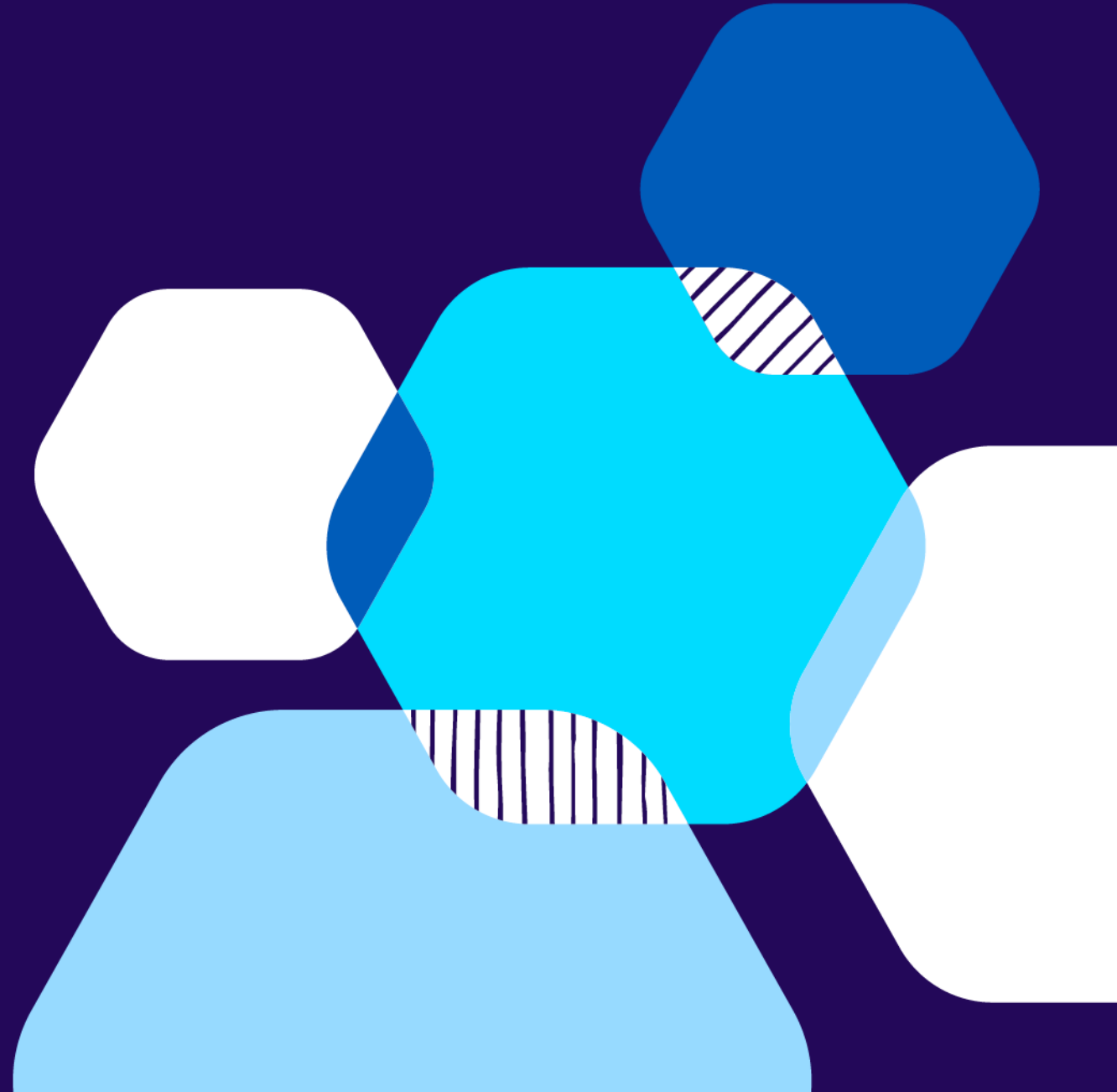
Objectives

By the end of this webinar, participants should be able to:

- Identify and understand the challenges students commonly face in ESL classes
- Recognise the key components of motivation in language learning
- Explore effective strategies to motivate learners in ESL classes
- Gain practical insights and examples of how to apply motivational techniques in the classroom



Challenges students face in ESL classes

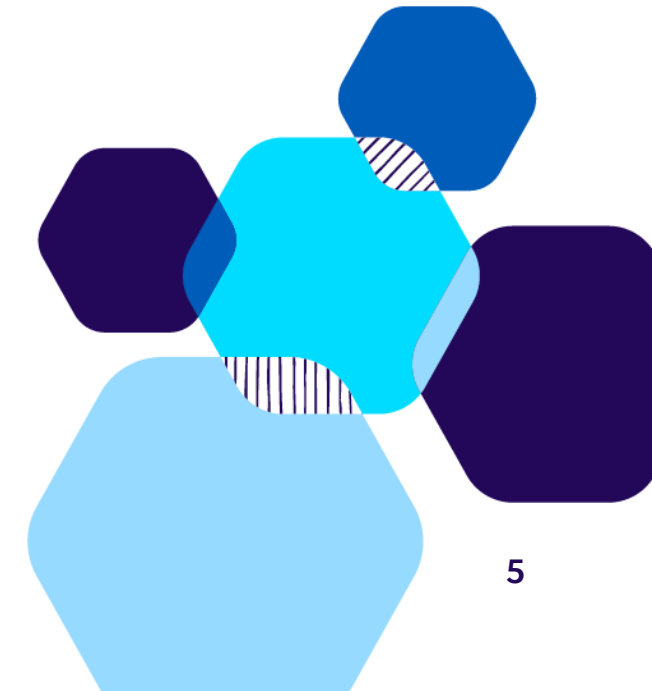


What are the challenges students face in ESL classes?

In the chat box, type in challenges learners face in ESL classes



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Challenges of Learners in ESL classes

- Fear of making mistakes
- Potential language barriers
- Desire to be adjudged smart
- Lack of perceived success



Challenges of Learners in ESL classes

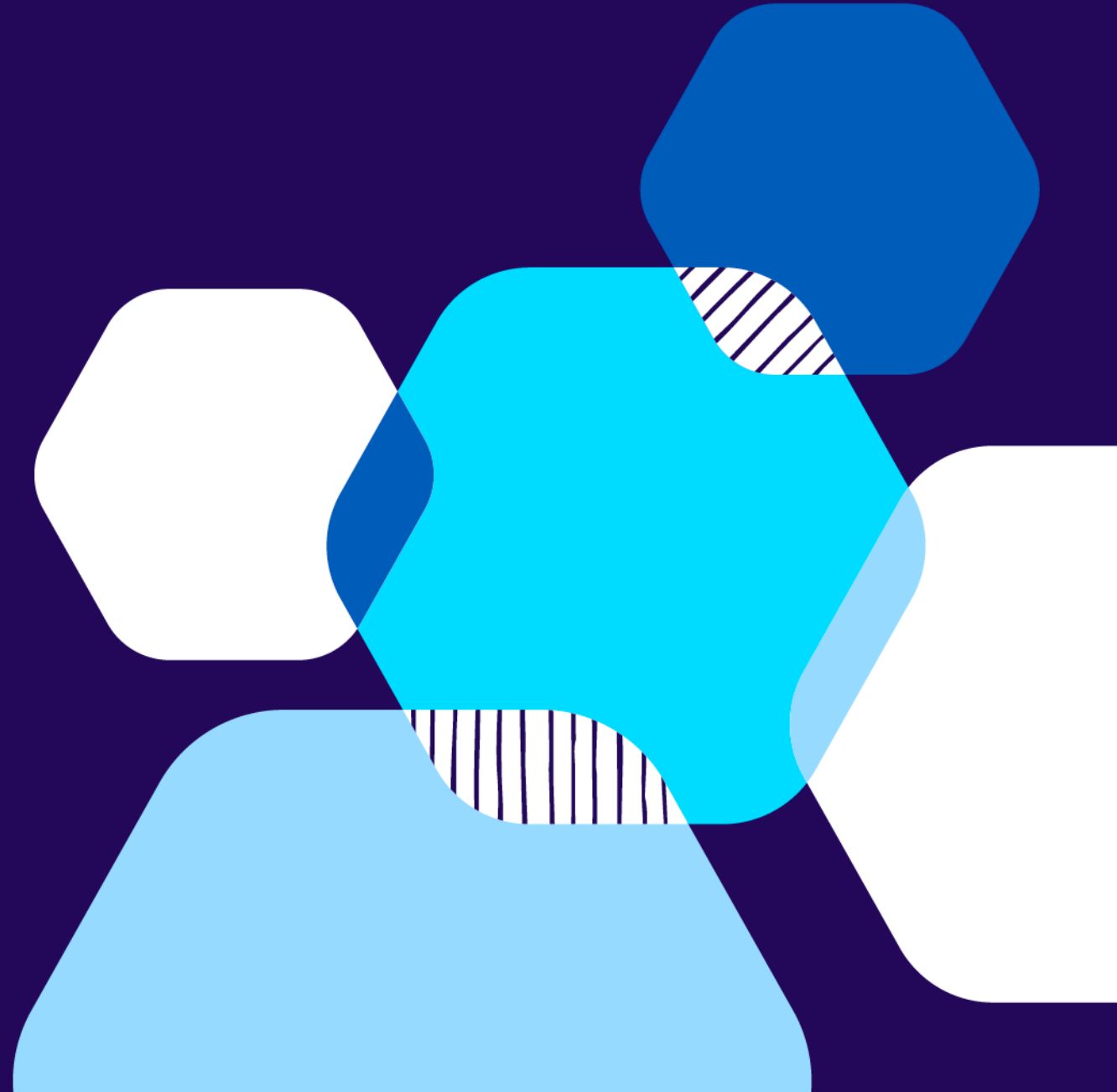
The teacher continues to spin his/her wheel, if these challenges are not well managed

Motivation becomes a vital tool in the hands of the teacher



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Components of Motivation

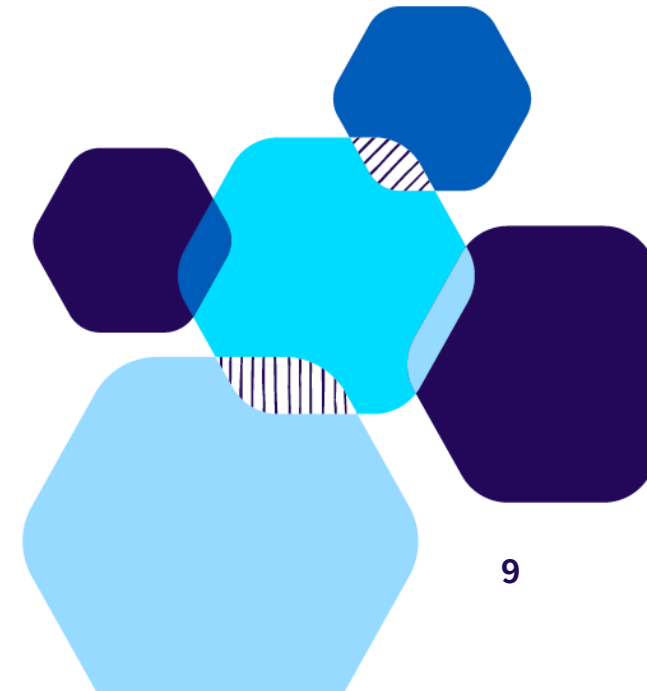


How do you know if learners are motivated?

Quickly type in your response into the chat box



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How do you know if learners are motivated?

- They pay attention
- They begin working on tasks immediately
- They ask questions and volunteer answers
- They appear to be happy and eager

(Palmer,2007)



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How do you know if learners are motivated?

In addition,

- They do not seek to distract others
- They are eager to submit assignments
- They exhibit positive reactions to assessment
- They cooperate, participate and remain active throughout the lesson

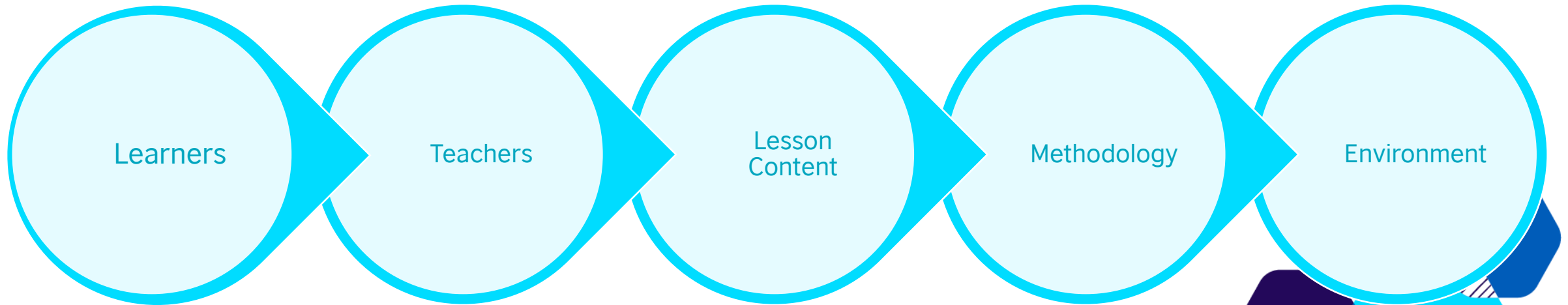


Components of Motivation

- Motivation is not just the ability to arouse the interest of learners, it entails sustaining it until the end and making them look forward to another class
- Unarguably, a number of components have to be put in place to achieve this



Five components of motivation



Five components of motivation

In the chat box, which of the components is the most important?

- 1 – Learners
- 2 – Teachers
- 3 – Lesson content
- 4 – Methodology
- 5 – Environment

Arrange them in order of importance.

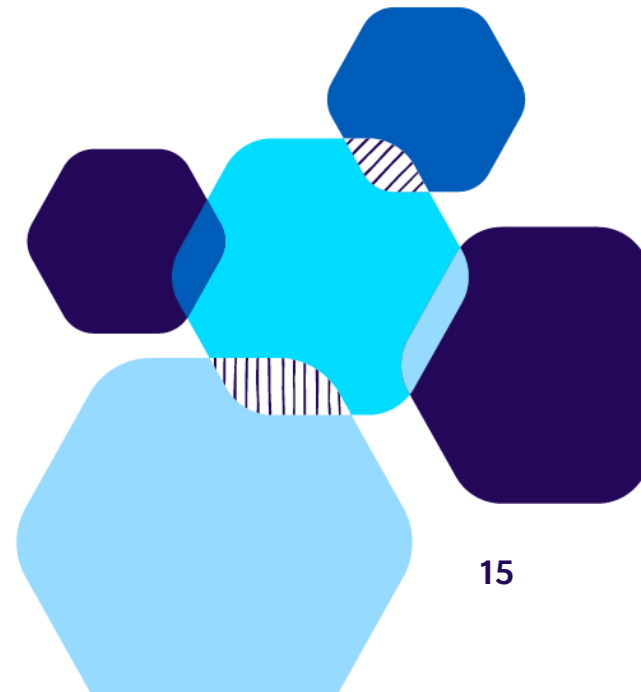
For example: 3,1,2,5,4.



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***Well, none is superior to the other
The teacher is however the one to coordinate all other
components, in order to achieve the best outcome.***



How does each of these components promote ESL learners' motivation?

The Teacher

- Be enthusiastic, goal driven and motivated.
- Have a good mastery of the subject
- Ready to deploy different strategies to make the class engaging.
- Be up to date
- Be empathetic towards learners and be observant enough, to know when any learner is not motivated
- Deploy varieties of assessment procedures that yield positive results
- Think about the needs of the learners and how they might learn



How does each of these components promote ESL learners' motivation?

Content

The content should be:

- relatable to real life
- be age appropriate
- be creative and relevant to students' experience
- should be up to date



How does each of these components promote ESL learners' motivation?

Method

- Diverse method, particularly an engaging style
- Warm up activities that make students mentally alert
- Guided discussion
- Games
- Story telling
- Incentives
- Use of humour not sarcasm



How does each of these components promote ESL learners' motivation?

Environment

- Fascinating arrangement
- Flexible seating
- Safe and comfortable
- Team spirited
- Promote feedback



How does each of these components promote ESL learners' motivation?

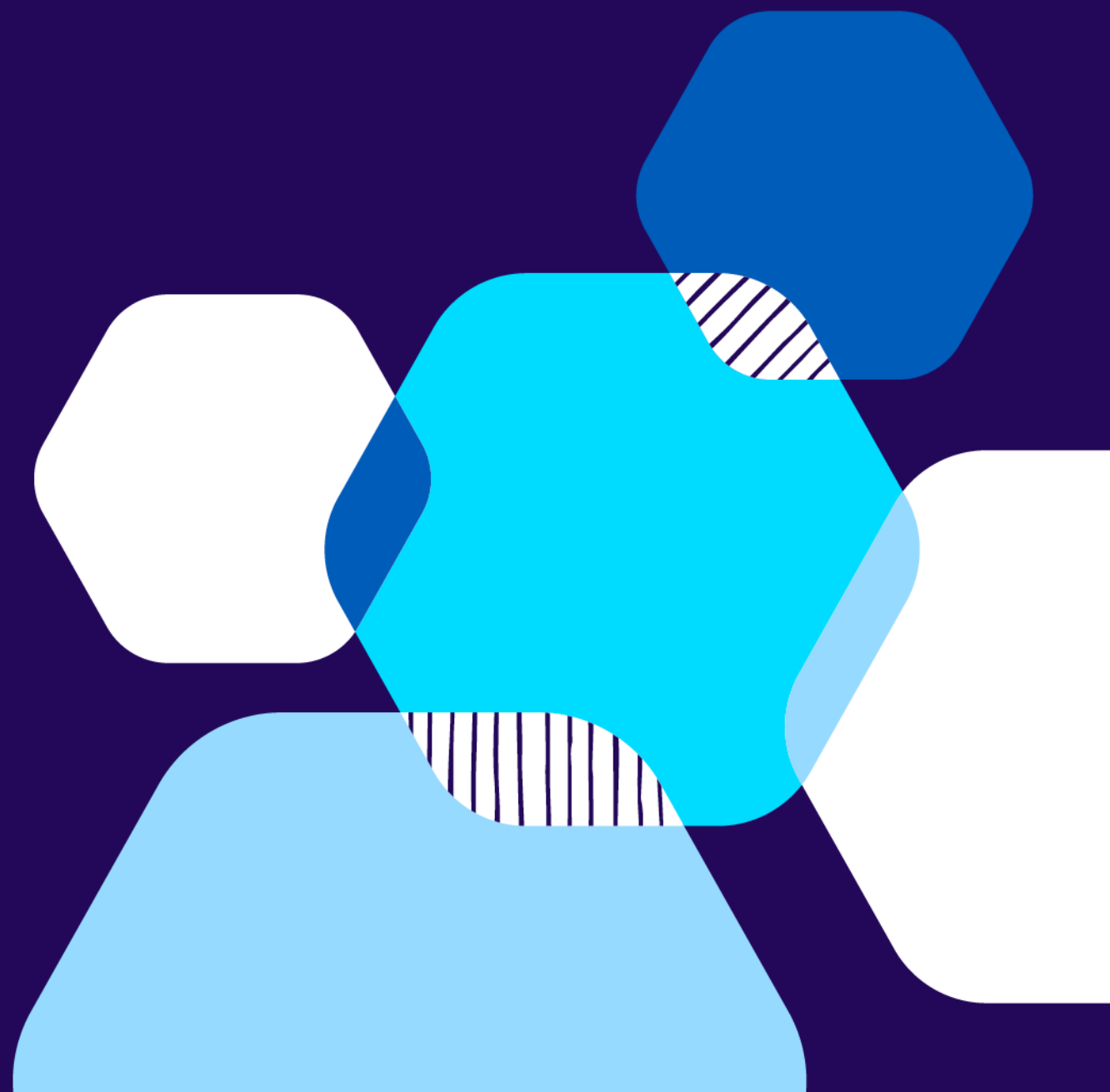
Learners

- Intrinsically motivated
- Sense of belonging
- Perceived progress and success



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Strategies to Motivate Learners



Strategies to Motivate Learners

Interest Arousal Strategies

- Use creative introduction e.g. Introduce your topic with a puzzle or teaser
- Use warmers and ice breakers
- Set learning objectives with learners
- Exhibit enthusiasm



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Attention Retention Strategies

- Connecting language learning to students' interest
- setting up healthy competition as learning progresses
- Utilising technology and media resources
- Promoting peer mentoring, group work and project work

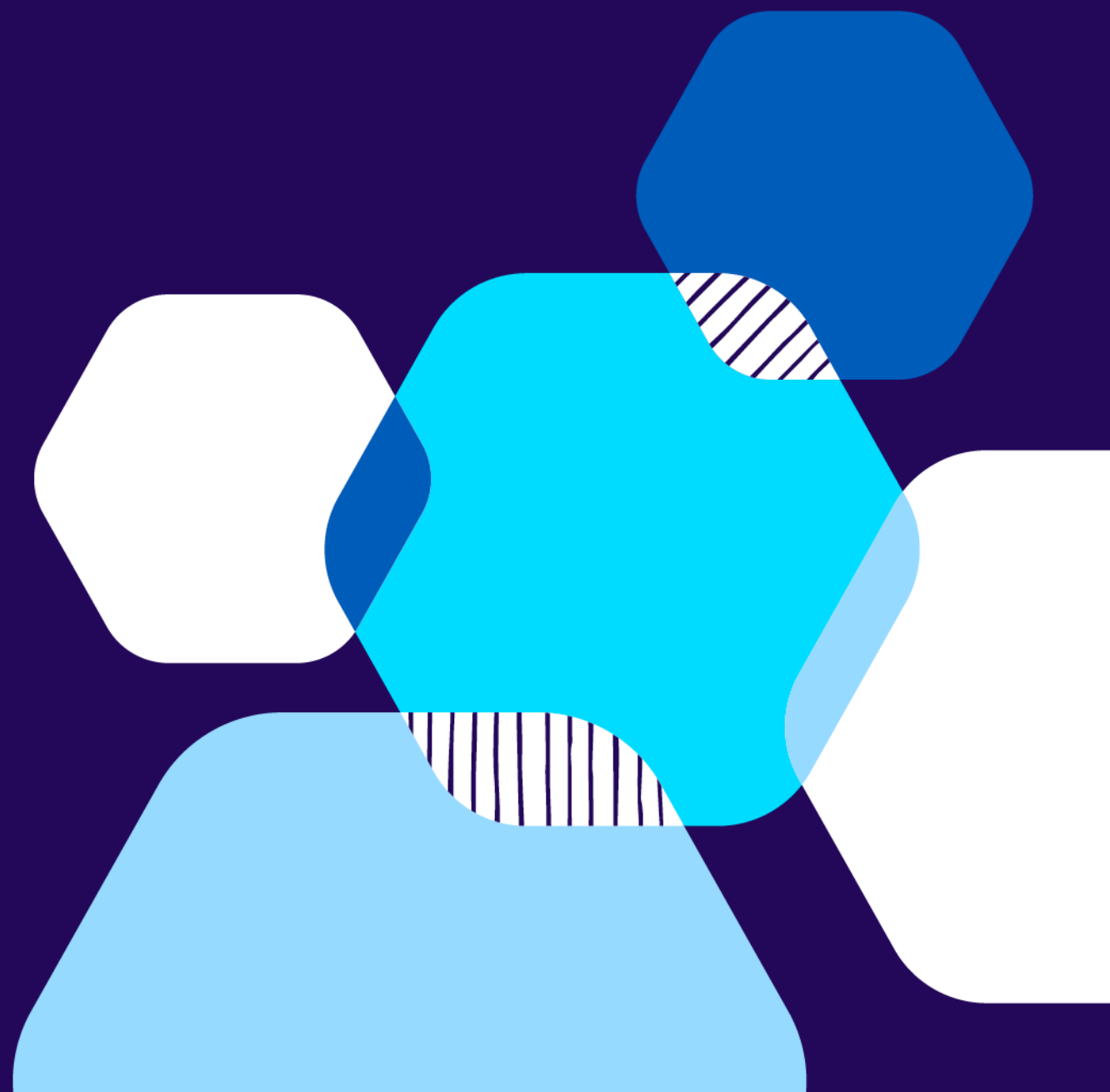


Beyond lesson Delivery

- Assessing learners with empathy
- De-emphasising grades and celebrating progress and achievements
- Giving creative homework



Practical Classroom Applications



Practical Classroom Applications

Grammar

- Don't just make them memorize rules
use a communicative approach
- Put answers in cross word puzzles, e.g.
synonyms and antonyms
- Use songs
- Give lively tasks



Speech work

- Acknowledge cultural background differences
- Encourage learners to speak out
- Make it fun and creative e.g. use audio visuals
- Avoid excessive corrections
- Boost their confidence



Writing

- Give age-appropriate tasks
- Don't be too quick to guide
- Allow for progression
- Celebrate learners' progress and achievement
- Encourage peer assessment.
- Use guided discussion



Comprehension and vocabulary development

- Be the first to read
- Relate content to real life experience
- Get creative
- Encourage group discussion
- Drill as learners read



Literature in English

- Relate content to learners' experience
- Encourage collaborative reading
- Get creative
- Let them see the plays ,watch novels that have been adapted into film
- If possible, move from text to tech. For example, ask learners to make a video on their favourite character or better still, on given character
- Invite an author to the classroom



Thank you

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