

TeachingEnglish

Understanding Learner Motivation: Strategies for encouraging engagement and participation

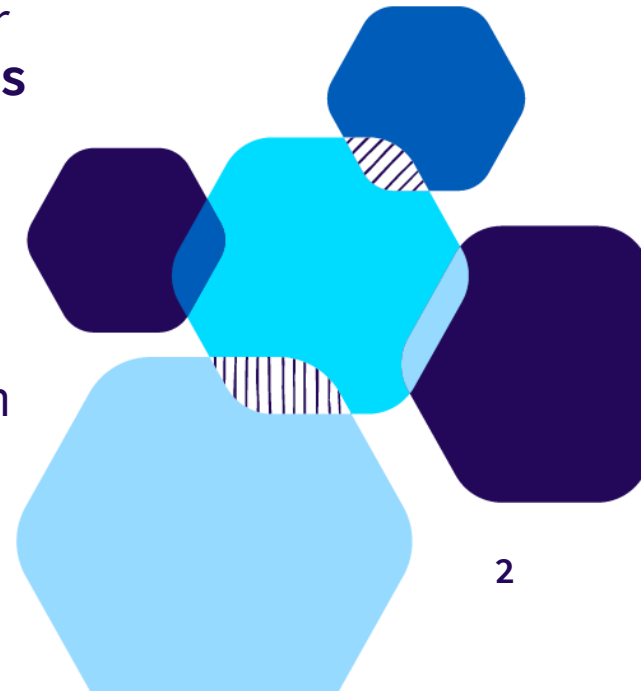
By Blessing Epum

Saturday 12 April 2025



Housekeeping

1. **Please be respectful** at all times to other participants and the presenter. Our webinars are **freely available** to attend by participants in all countries. Please be aware that **comments** you make in the general chat may have a **negative impact** on other participants and their enjoyment of the webinar.
2. **Do not share any personal information** in the general chat that may result in other participants contacting you. This includes **addresses, phone numbers** and **email addresses**.
3. **Do not share links** to your website or any websites that you are promoting for the purposes of making money. Comments that include links to **paid-for websites** for the purpose of promotion will be deleted and you may be removed from the webinar.
4. Please use the general chat to **ask the presenter questions** that are related to the **theme** or **topic** of the webinar only. If participant responses to questions are permitted, you should only make comments that are **relevant** to the question being asked.



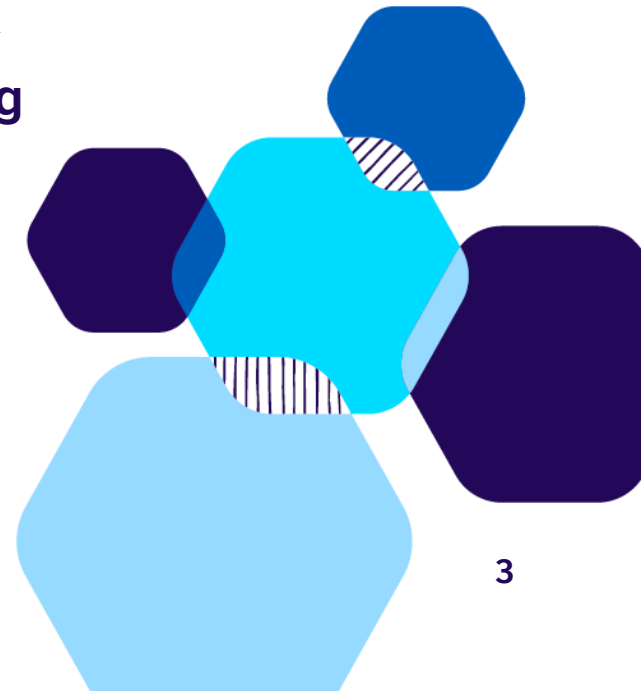
Housekeeping

5. The British Council is committed to providing a **safe environment** for everyone we work with so that they are able to participate to their fullest.

If you have any **comments, complaints** or **concerns** related to safety, please contact our **focal point** for this event/training session **Michelle Thiongane** at michelle.thiongane@britishcouncil.org

Alternatively, you can report any **concerns, issues** or **complaints** that you have by email, letter or telephone. Please write to Englishconnects@britishcouncil.org

These will be dealt with in the **strictest confidence** in line with our **safeguarding policies** for children and adults.



About the speaker

Blessing Epum is one of the British Council's social media consultants for Sub-Saharan Africa where she moderates posts on the Telegram Teachers CoP and the English Connects Teacher-educator CoP. She is passionate about enhancing the literacy skills of young learners in Africa and has pioneered a free virtual reading club for learners across Africa and Asia. She is a strong advocate of home-school collaboration and has created platforms aimed at uniting the home and school by organising frequent webinars and conferences for both teachers and parents. As a presenter, she has appeared in several webinars and conferences both locally and internationally.



Pre-webinar polls

What are your goals for this webinar?
(Select all that apply)

- A. Learn new strategies for encouraging learner engagement and participation **78%**
- B. Understand the importance of learner motivation and its impact on learning outcomes **57%**
- C. Share best practices with other educators **42%**
- D. Network with other professional in the field **57%**

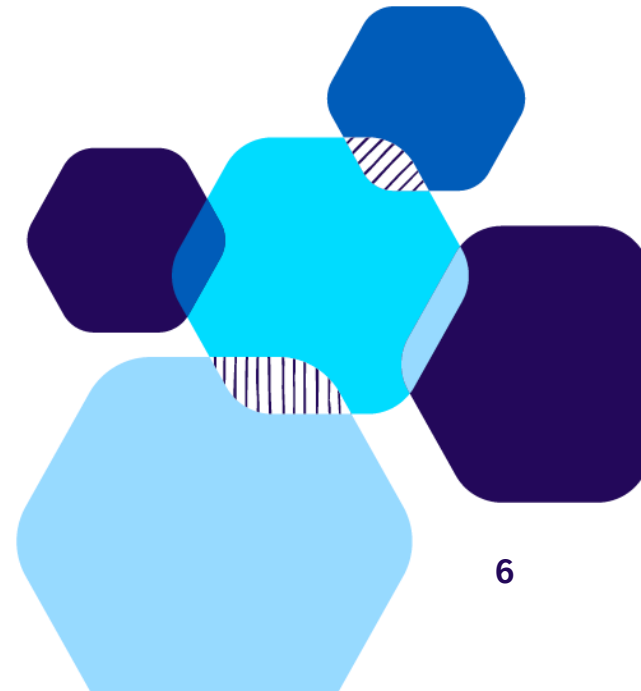
What is the biggest challenge you face in motivating your learners?

- A. Lack of interest in the subject matter **36%**
- B. Limited resources and support **28%**
- C. Collaborative learning and group work **31%**
- D. Difficulty in engaging learners with different learning styles **5%**

Pre-webinar polls

Which of the following strategies do you currently use to encourage learner engagement and participation? (Select all that apply)

- A. Gamification and rewards **31%**
- B. Real-world applications and examples **50%**
- C. Collaborative learning and group work **62%**
- D. Personalised learning and feedback **31%**
- E. Technology-enhanced learning **37%**



Objectives

- **Understand the underlying motivations and drivers of learner engagement.**
- **Learn how to create an autonomy-supportive learning environment.**
- **Discover strategies for developing learner competence and confidence.**
- **Explore techniques for building relatedness and fostering a sense of community.**
- **Gain practical tips for applying these strategies in your teaching practice**

What is motivation?

Motivation has been generally viewed as energy or drive that moves people to do something by nature. It is the driving force that sustains behaviour.

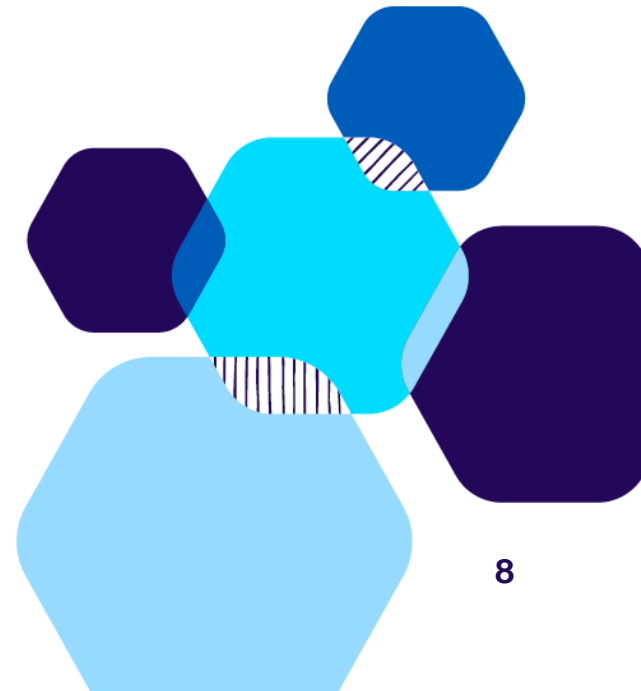
Motivation can be:

Intrinsic motivation

Stems from personal desires, interest, enjoyment, and satisfaction.

Extrinsic motivation

Engagement due to rewards, grades, or social pressure

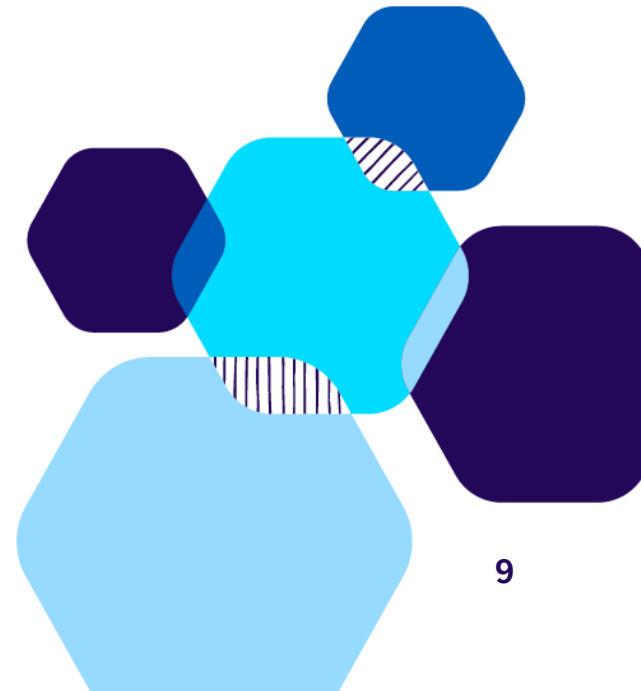


QUIZ

Which of these scenarios (A or B) depicts intrinsic or extrinsic motivation?

A. Studying a new topic for the sake of learning a new topic.

B. Studying to brush up on a topic to earn certification.



Intrinsic motivation Vs Extrinsic motivation

SCENARIO	INTRINSIC MOTIVATION	EXTRINSIC MOTIVATION
Primary School (Young Learners)	A child reads a book because they enjoy the story.	A child reads a book to earn a gold star from the teacher.
Secondary School (Teenagers)	A student participates in a science experiment out of curiosity.	A student participates to earn extra credit.
Tertiary Education (University/College)	A student researches a topic deeply because they find it intellectually stimulating.	A student researches a topic to complete an assignment for a grade.
Classroom Participation	A student answers questions because they enjoy discussions.	A student answers questions to avoid losing participation marks.
Homework & Assignments	Completing an assignment because they love problem-solving.	Completing an assignment to avoid penalties for late submission.
Exams & Tests	Studying because they enjoy gaining knowledge.	Studying to pass the exam and get a high GPA.
Group Projects	Working on a group project because they enjoy teamwork and creativity.	Working on a group project to avoid a low grade or peer pressure.

SELF DETERMINATION THEORY (SDT)

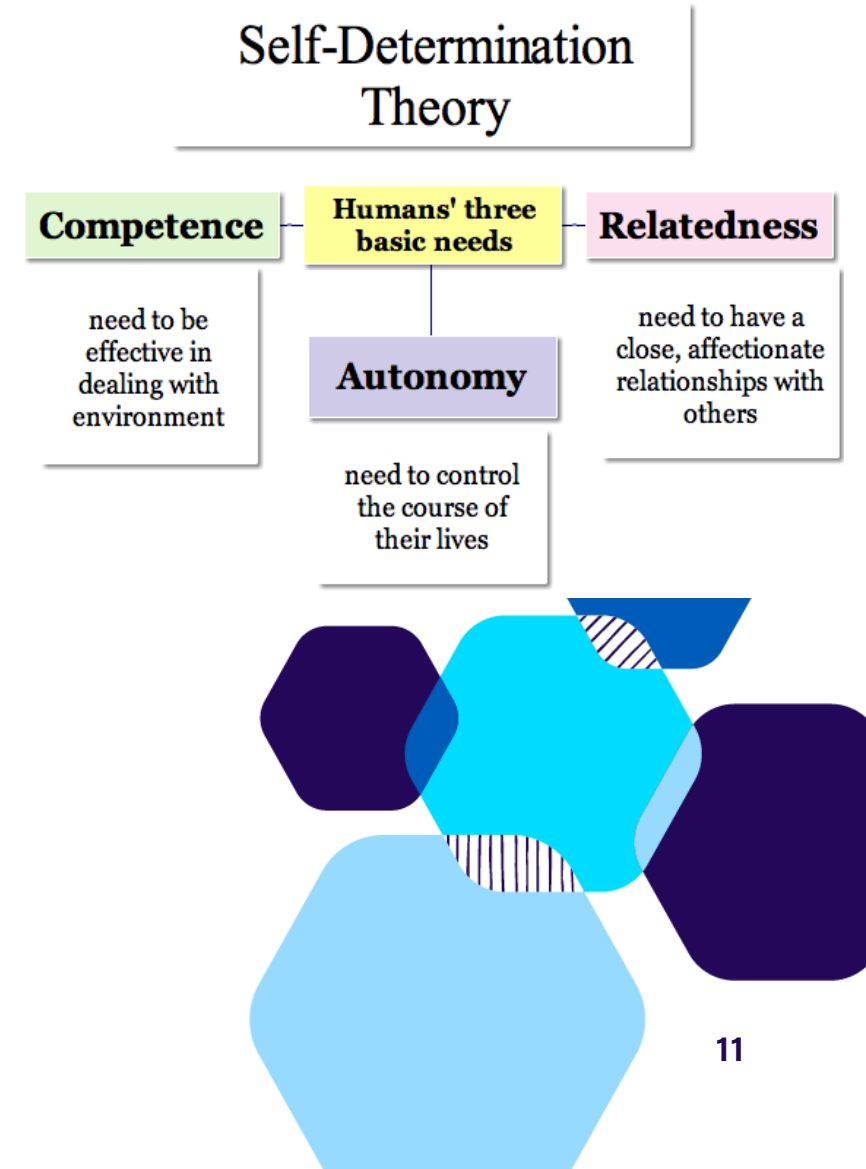
The **Self-Determination Theory (SDT)**, a psychological framework was developed by psychologists Edward Deci and Richard Ryan to explore human motivation and behaviour.

SDT suggests that all humans have three basic psychological needs—autonomy, competence, and relatedness—that underlie growth and development.

- A. Autonomy:** the need to feel in control of one's actions
- B. Competence:** the need to feel effective and capable
- C. Relatedness:** the need to feel connected and valued

TEASER: How would you describe your psychological need from the above?

- i. A**
- ii. AB**
- iii. ABC**



Challenges of keeping learners motivated

A. Internal Challenges: Lack of interest, low self-esteem, the fear of failure or distractions and procrastination.

B. External Challenges: Poor instructional design and materials or methods may not be engaging, relevant, or effective enough, lack of feedback and support, unrealistic expectations, and environmental factors.

C. Psychological Challenges: A fixed mindset, anxiety and stress, lack of autonomy, cultural or social barriers.

D. Technological Challenges: Technical issues, digital literacy, information overload, distractions and multitasking.

Strategies for encouraging learner engagement and participation

Creating an autonomy-supportive learning environment: by allowing learners take ownership of their learning, we can help foster autonomy and motivation. For example:

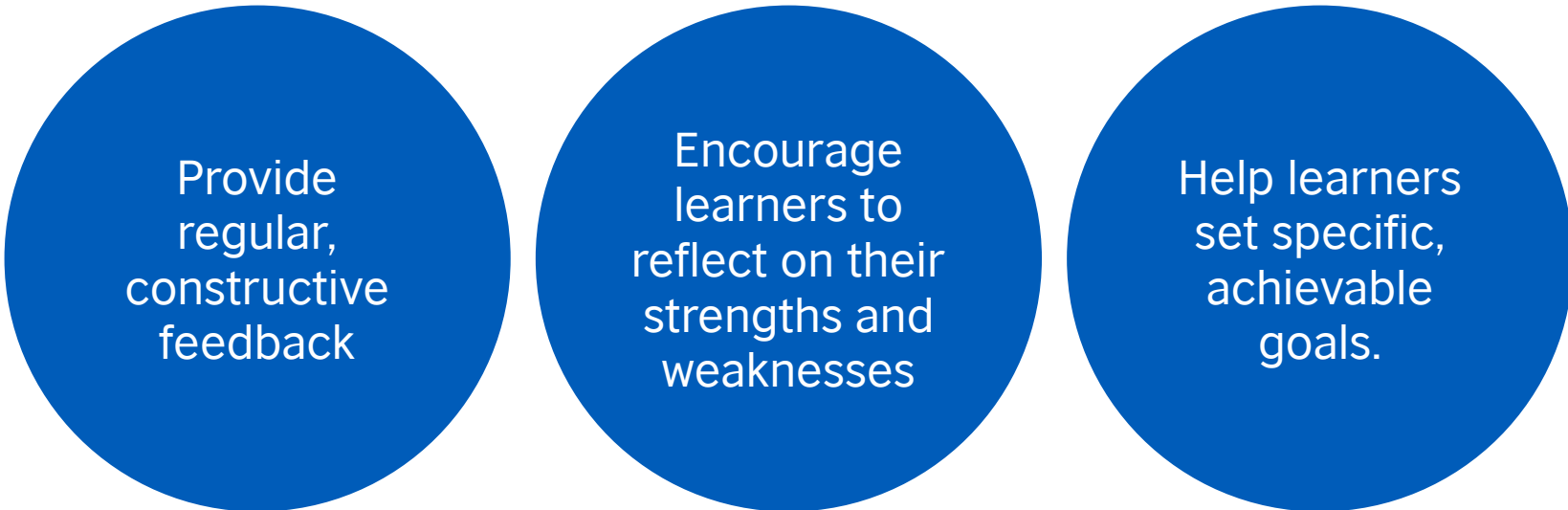
Offer choices
in topics,
activities, or
assessments

Allow learners
to work at
their own pace

Provide
opportunities
for learners to
reflect on their
learning

Strategies for encouraging learner engagement and participation (cont.)

Developing competence through feedback and reflection: encouraging learners to reflect on their learning can help develop competence and motivation. For instance:




Provide regular, constructive feedback

Encourage learners to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses

Help learners set specific, achievable goals.

Strategies for encouraging learner engagement and participation (cont.)

Building relatedness through community and social interaction:
encouraging social interaction can help build relatedness and motivation by:



Encouraging
collaboration
and group
work

Providing
opportunities
for social
interaction,
such as
discussions
and debates

Foster a sense
of belonging
and
community

TEASER

During our **February 12th mini-event**, Gabriel Díaz Maggioli talked about giving feedback to our students and he says; "Show that you CARE" is an the acronym to put into perspective when giving feedback to our students.

<https://youtu.be/550iYXz4qCM>

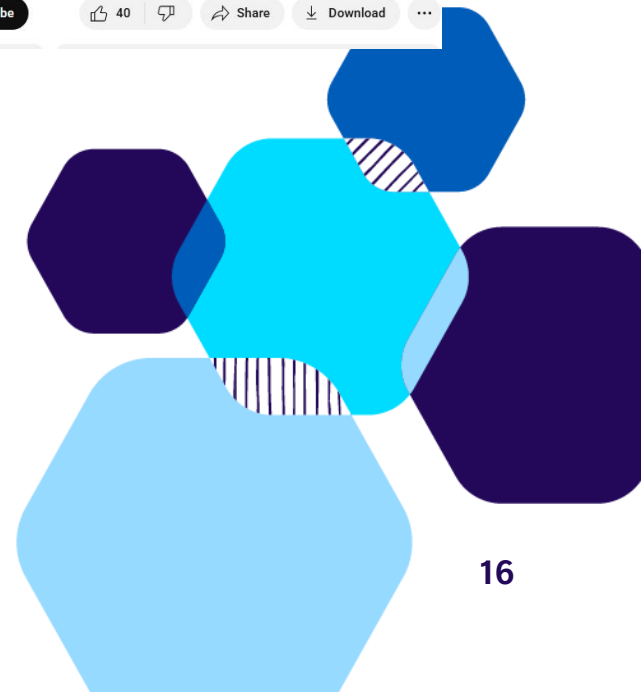
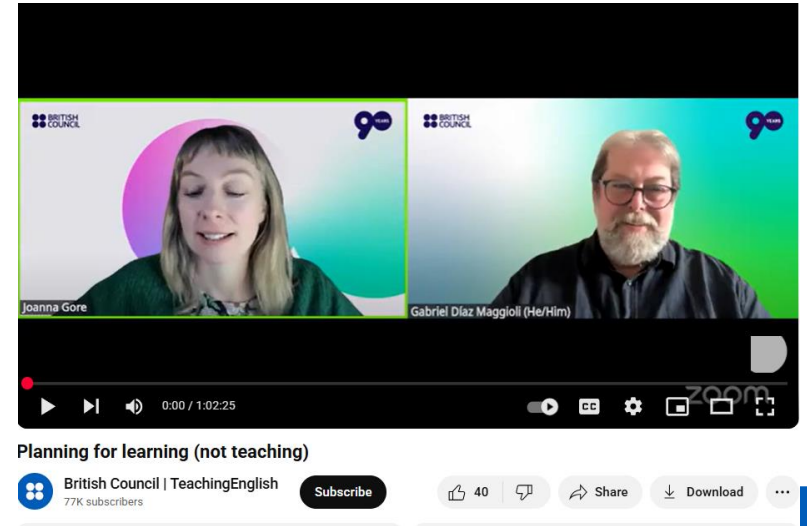
Now, what does CARE represent?

C -

A-

R-

E-



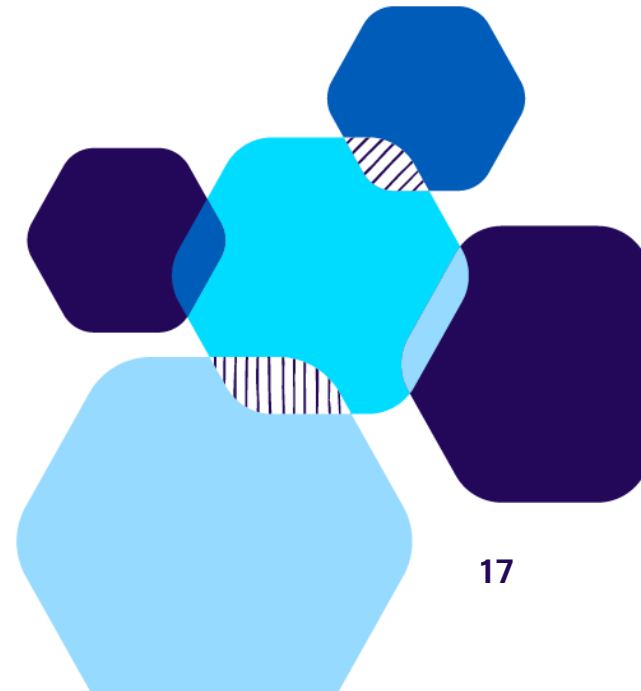
Acronym for giving feedback

C - Clarity

A- Appreciate

R- Reflect

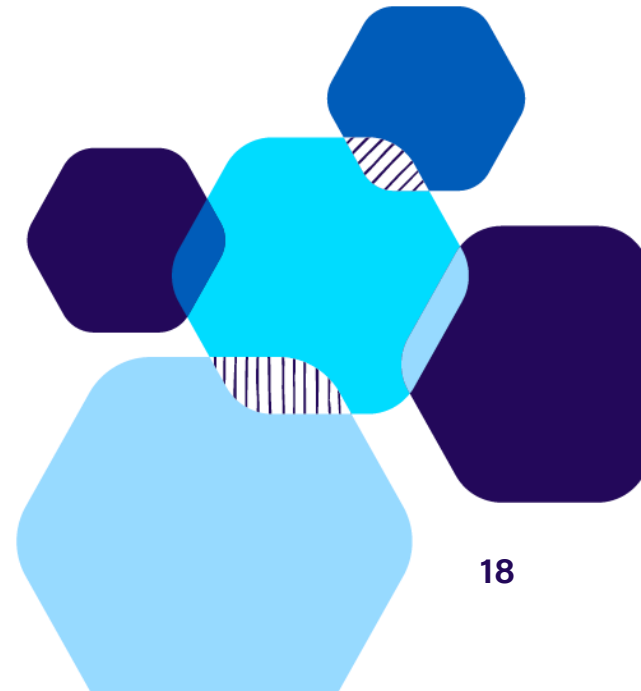
E- Empower



Learner motivation case study

“Laura is a teenage English learner who lacks motivation. She rarely participates in class and finds grammar lessons boring.”

Question: "What strategies would you use to increase Laura's motivation? Share your ideas in the chat."



Suggestions to help Laura stay motivated

1. Find out Laura's **interests** e.g in music, movies, or hobbies and integrate them into lessons.
2. Use **real-life examples** that she can relate to in grammar exercises.
3. Use **games** e.g., Kahoot, Quizlet, Duolingo to make grammar practice engaging.
4. Incorporate **role-playing** or **storytelling** activities where she can apply grammar naturally
5. Encourage **group work** to create a supportive learning environment in your classroom.
6. Assign **peer teaching** activities where Laura can explain a grammar rule to a classmate.
7. Incorporate **videos, podcasts, and interactive grammar apps** instead of traditional exercises.
8. Encourage Laura by setting **small, achievable goals** and celebrating her progress (e.g., 'Today, let's try using three new verb tenses in conversation').
9. Use **reward** systems (stickers, certificates, or extra privileges).
10. **Show her** how grammar helps in texting, emailing, or social media posts.

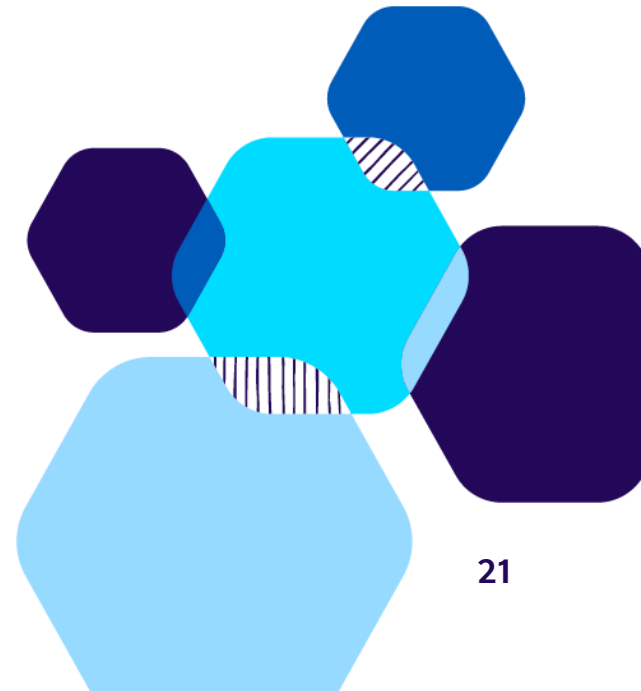
QUIZ

Can you think of a time when your students were so eager to learn a particular topic or subject in class? What factors would you say contributed to their motivation? Were these factors majorly intrinsic or extrinsic?

Share your thoughts in the chat.

Key Takeaways

1. Start small
2. Collaborate with colleagues
3. Be patient and persistent
4. Conduct regular feedback sessions
5. Use varied instructional strategies
6. Encourage learner autonomy
7. Foster a growth mindset
8. Use technology strategically
9. Celebrate successes
10. Continuously reflect and improve



British Council's ongoing training on the topic of Understanding Learners' Motivation

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/training/teachingenglish-motivating-activities-primary> - Engage your primary learners with songs, games, chants and vocabulary activities that will make learning memorable. Motivating activities for primary is open now – enrol until 17 June 2025.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/training/teachingenglish-motivating-learners> - Get learners actively involved in your lessons with effective, engaging learning activities they want to do. Motivating learners is open now – enrol until 17 June 2025.

Home > Training

TeachingEnglish: Motivating activities for primary

Engage your primary learners with songs, games, chants and vocabulary activities that will make learning memorable. Motivating activities for primary is open now – enrol until 17 June 2025.



TeachingEnglish

How can you enrol on TeachingEnglish: Motivating activities for primary?
Log in to your TeachingEnglish account and click the button below to enrol on this free course.

Courses
Find an online teacher training course

Home > Training

TeachingEnglish: Motivating learners

Get learners actively involved in your lessons with effective, engaging learning activities they want to do. Motivating learners is open now – enrol until 17 June 2025.



TeachingEnglish

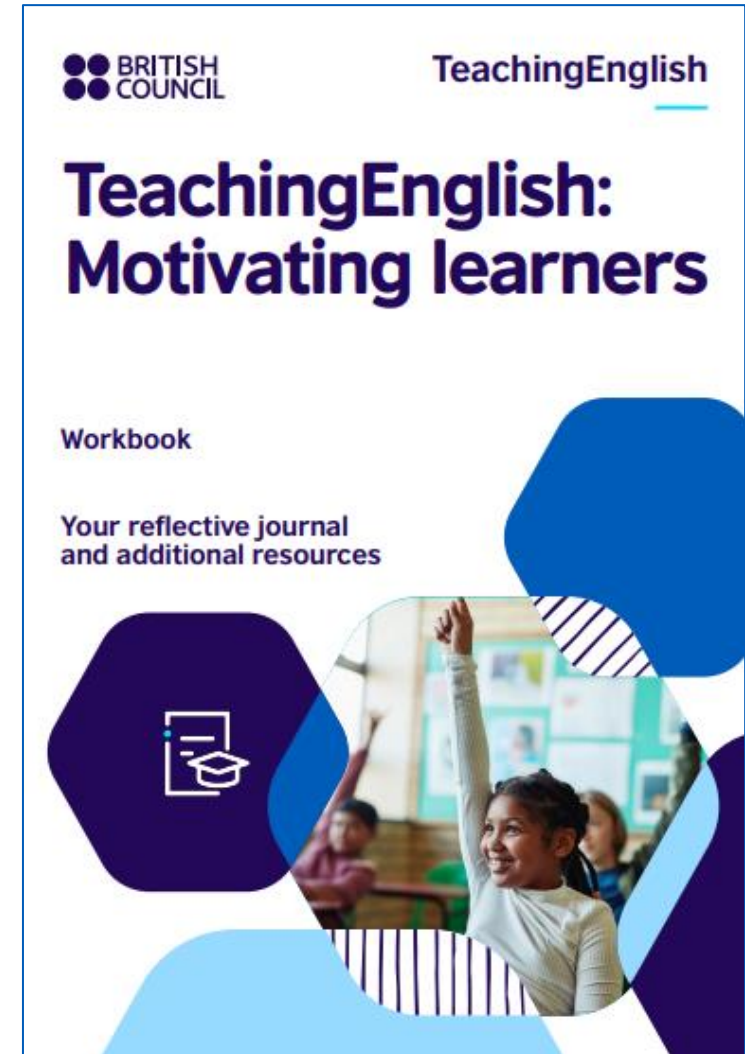
How can you enrol on Motivating learners?
Log in to your TeachingEnglish account and click the button below to enrol on this free course.

Courses
Find an online teacher training course

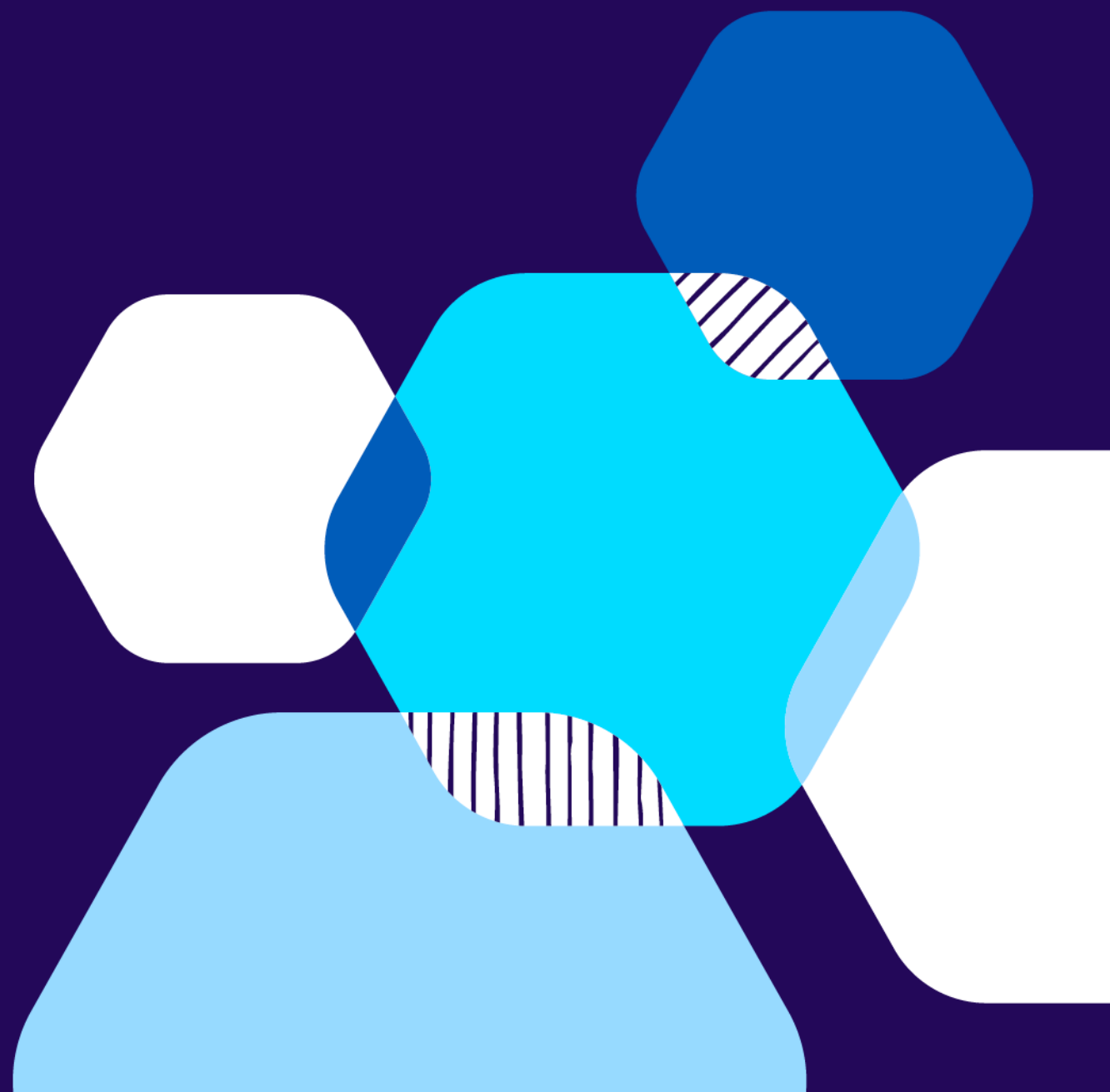
Takeaway Task

Download the free reflective journal workbook on Motivating Learners here;
https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/sites/teaching/files/2025-03/Motivating_learners_workbook_2025.pdf

Let's discuss about your reflections during our next Friday's Telegram discussion.



Thank you
Any questions?



Unlock your professional growth with the English Connects Community of Practice

Join our lively community of English language professionals on **Telegram**, where collaboration, inspiration, and ongoing learning thrive.

Connect with fellow teachers, share ideas, exchange resources, and engage in enriching discussions to enhance your teaching skills and improve student outcomes. Whether you're an experienced teacher seeking new approaches or a newcomer looking for guidance, our welcoming community provides a space to connect with like-minded professionals, gain fresh insights, and elevate your practice.

Be part of this dynamic network dedicated to advancing English language education. Join us today: <https://bit.ly/4lgZMm8>

Register for our next webinar

Saturday 26 April 2025

from 16:00 GMT

Matching the right assessment tools with learner needs

Join Abel Ochika to explore how to choose the right assessment tools to match your learners' needs and improve engagement, feedback, and learning outcomes.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/4ljB1FY>



TeachingEnglish

Matching the right assessment tools with learner needs

Join Abel Ochika to explore how to choose the right assessment tools to match your learners' needs and improve engagement, feedback, and learning outcomes.

You need to register to attend. Please check your email including junk email after registering for the confirmation email including the Zoom link and password. Participants who fill in the feedback form up to 3 hours after the webinar will receive a certificate.

Click on this link to register:
<https://bit.ly/4ljB1FY>

Unable to connect via Zoom?
The webinar is also backed up via the Telegram app.
To join our Regional Community of Practice on Telegram, apply here:
<https://bit.ly/4lgZMm8>

Saturday
26 April
2025

16:00 GMT
17:00 Lagos
18:00 Khartoum
18:00 Pretoria
19:00 Addis



Scan the QR code to register

Copyright: Abel Ochika