



# Bringing learning into focus

Vaughan Jones

Georgia, March 2018



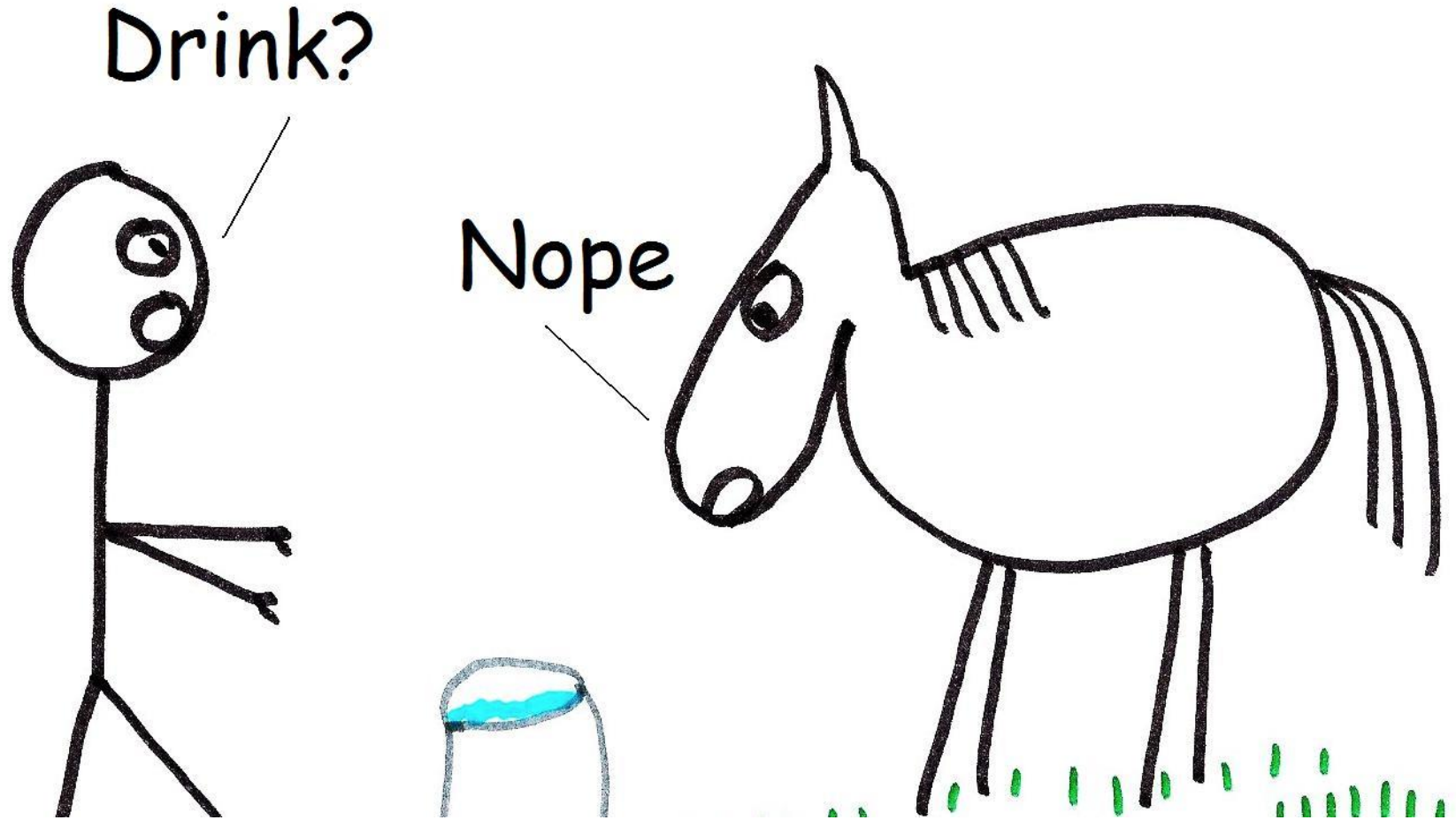
# About me





# Teaching and learning





# The three Ms...

- **M**otivation – Engaging content
- **M**emory – Repeated exposure
- **M**eaning – Meaningful practice

# Motivation – Engaging content

*“The truth of the matter is that about 99% of teaching is making the students feel interested in the material. Then the other 1% has to do with your methods.”*

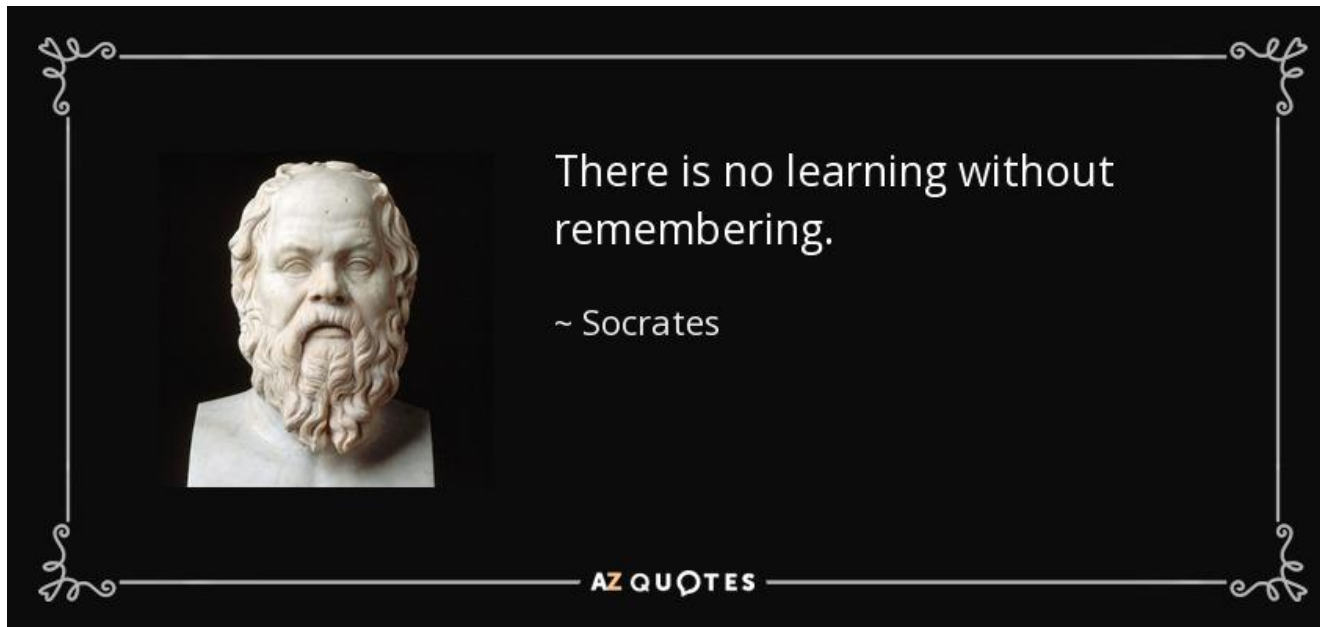
Noam Chomsky



# Memory – Repeated exposure

*“Various studies create a range of 5-16 encounters with a word for a student to truly acquire it.”*

Paul Nation





# Meaning – Meaningful practice

*“It is the need to get meanings across and the pleasure experienced when this is achieved that motivates second language acquisition.”*

Rod Ellis



*“What do you mean, no?”*

# Motivating topics



ELTpics



# Motivating topics – Houses



# Motivating topics – Family





# Motivating topics – Sport



**SPORTS QUIZ**

**1** Which is the biggest?  
 a a football pitch  
 b a golf course  
 c an athletics track

**2** Where will you not see a man with a beard taking part in a competition?  
 a on a motor racing track  
 b in an Olympic swimming pool  
 c in a boxing ring

**3** In which sports do you hit a ball with a racket on a court?  
 a squash and tennis  
 b cricket and table tennis  
 c golf and hockey

**4** Which is made of metal, rubber and sometimes wood?  
 a a golf club  
 b a table tennis bat  
 c a hockey stick

**5** Where is the highest ski resort in the world?  
 a Bolivia  
 b Canada  
 c France

**6** What can you find on the roof of the Burj Al Arab hotel in Dubai?  
 a an ice rink  
 b a tennis court  
 c a cycle track

5-6 correct      3-4 correct      1-2 correct

# Motivating topics – Environment





# Motivating topics – Technology

## THE RISE OF

CD-3.28 MP3-117



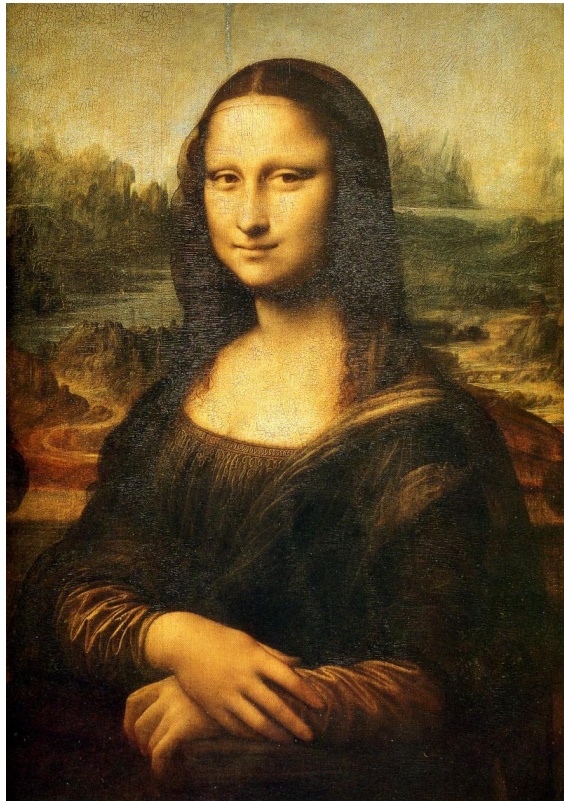
Charlie McDonnell

## THE VLOGGERS



Lex Croucher

# Motivating topics – Culture/The Arts







# Motivating texts





# Motivating texts

## 7.2 Grammar

Reported Speech • statements

*I can report what other people said*

- 1 Look at the painting. Is it possible for a child to paint like this? Read the text to find out.



Marla Olmstead

## They said she was a genius

When Marla was three years old, a woman saw one of her paintings in a coffee shop and asked how much it cost. Marla's mother wanted to keep the painting so she **told** her that it cost \$250. The woman bought it!

After that a gallery owner started showing Marla's paintings. He told her parents that their daughter was a genius. Her paintings began to sell for thousands of dollars. But not all of the attention was positive. Art critics **pointed out** that a child could not produce those paintings. One critic **suggested** that her father had painted them.

A TV channel contacted Marla's parents and told them

that they wanted to film their daughter the following week. They **explained** that they wanted to prove that Marla was not a fake. Marla's parents **said** that their daughter would be uncomfortable in front of the cameras, but the TV director told them not to worry. He **added** that he was going to use a hidden camera.

Over the next few days, Marla did a painting, but it was not as good as her other paintings. Her critics **claimed** that this proved someone else finished her paintings. The customers **replied** that they didn't care who had done them – they liked them anyway.



# Motivating texts

## AND HERE IS THE GOOD NEWS ...

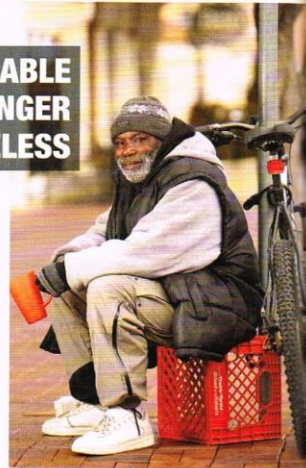
The news is often full of tragedy and disaster. But here are two true stories that will warm your heart and put a smile on your face. They may suddenly inspire you to be kind to someone, even a stranger. Go on, commit a random act of kindness and make someone's day!

### HONEST, HONOURABLE AND NO LONGER HOMELESS

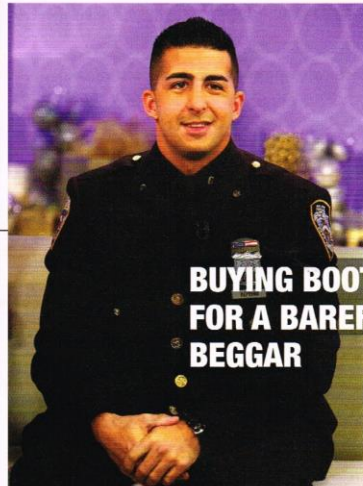
A)

**Homeless** Billy Ray Harris was begging on the streets of Kansas City. Sarah Darling walked past and dropped some coins into his collection cup.

<sup>10</sup> The next day she realised that her diamond **engagement** ring had dropped into the cup with the coins. She went back to find Harris, not feeling very **hopeful**. But she was surprised when he remembered <sup>15</sup> her and returned the ring. A jeweller had offered Harris \$4,000 for the ring. But he was an **honourable** man and he kept the ring in case the woman returned. To show their **appreciation**, Sarah Darling and <sup>20</sup> her husband collected money for Harris. The story went viral online and **donations** <sup>25</sup> arrived from all over the world. The final total was \$185,000. Harris doesn't sleep



rough now and is no longer **jobless**. He has part-time **employment**, has been reunited with his family and has a new **friendship** with the Darlings.



### BUYING BOOTS FOR A BAREFOOT BEGGAR

B)

**Officer** DePrimo was working in the West Village area of <sup>30</sup> New York when he saw some people laughing at a homeless man because he had no shoes on. The officer was shocked by the people's **cruelty** and <sup>35</sup> **stupidity**. It was freezing cold that night, and the officer decided to help the man out. He asked him for his shoe size and went into a store where <sup>40</sup> he bought a pair of boots and some socks, and then gave the man a hand to put them on.

Another police officer was in the **neighbourhood** that <sup>45</sup> night and she was impressed by the officer's **kindness** and **helpfulness**. She took a photo of the officer doing a good deed and sent it to the New York City <sup>50</sup> Police Department. They put it on their Facebook page to show that police officers can be **sensitive** and **sympathetic**. The photo went viral and attracted <sup>55</sup> 500,000 likes and 200,000 shares.

## 6.2 Grammar

### Conditional clauses – alternatives to *if*

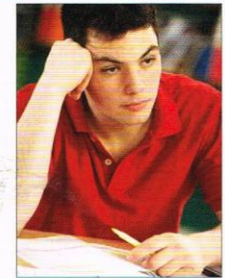
*I can form conditional sentences using if, unless, imagine, provided, suppose and inversion.*

- 'The dog ate my homework' is a typical excuse used by students. In pairs, think of other excuses.
- Read the story. What excuse did the students use for missing their exam? What happened next?

## The Exam Question

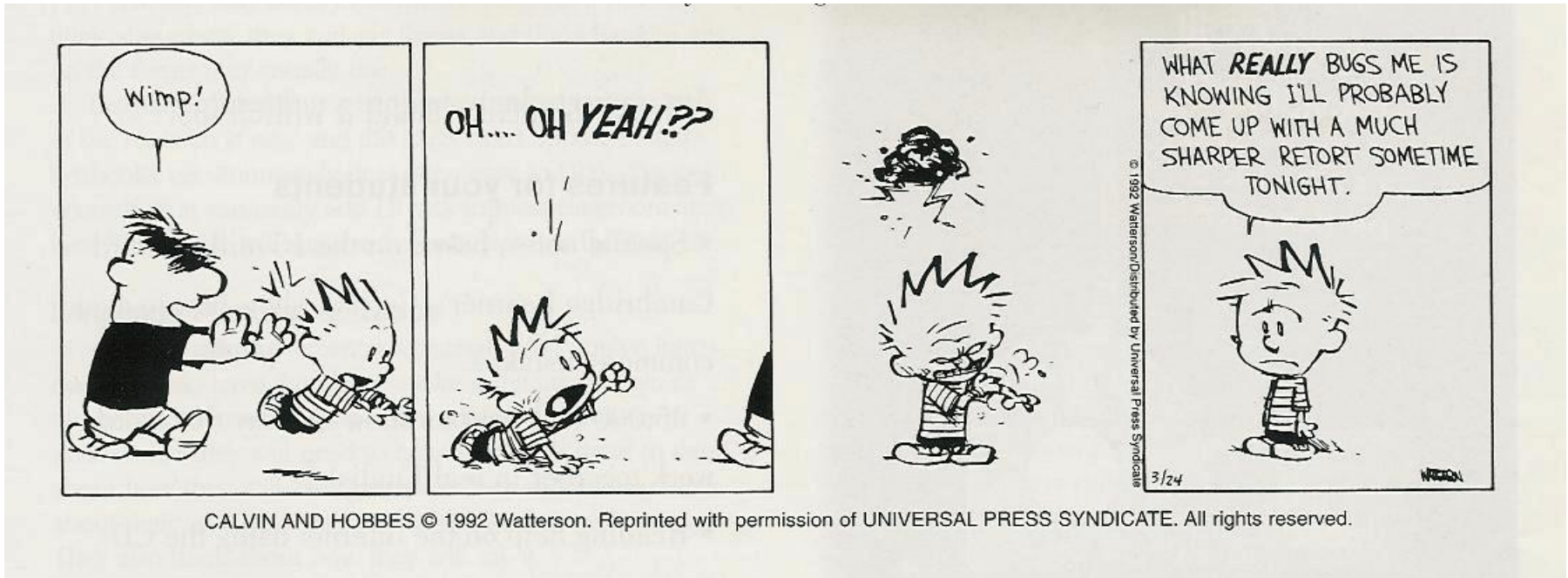
Imagine you were taking an important exam on Monday, what would you do the weekend before? You almost <sup>5</sup> certainly wouldn't do what two Chemistry students did in Kansas, Missouri. They went to a different city and partied all weekend. They had a great <sup>10</sup> time, but they knew that **unless** they got back in time for the exam, they wouldn't be able to take it. So they drove through the night and got back to college in the early hours of Monday <sup>15</sup> morning. Sadly for them, they overslept and missed the exam. When they found their professor afterwards, they decided to invent a story. They told him that they would have got back for the exam **had they not had a flat tyre**. The professor thought about this for a moment and then agreed that, **provided they** <sup>20</sup> **arrived before 9 a.m.**, they could take the exam the next day. He placed them in separate rooms and gave them the exam paper. The first question was simple and worth five points. But they were unprepared for the question on the next page:

**Question 2 (95 points): Which tyre?**





# Memory – Repeated exposure



*Learning is remembering*

# Memory – The WORD STORE

## 1

### WORD STORE 4B

Things inside and outside a house

#### Inside

- 1 bookcase
- 2 carpet
- 3 cooker
- 4 cupboard
- 5 floorboards
- 6 kitchen sink
- 7 shelves
- 8 stairs

#### Outside

- 12 back door
- 13 front door
- 14 path
- 15 patio
- 16 pond
- 17 porch
- 18 shed
- 19 stone wall



2

## Word families

NOUN	ADJECTIVE
1 <u>bravery</u>	<u>brave</u>
2 <u>generosity</u>	_____
3 <u>laziness</u>	_____
4 <u>loyalty</u>	_____
5 <u>modesty</u>	_____
6 <u>responsibility</u>	_____

3

## Collocations

VERBS		NOUNS
<del>find</del> fix	+	crazy events
follow get		your hand home
go raise		a problem <del>a solution</del>

- find a solution
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4

## Useful phrases – shopping

- can't afford it = don't have enough money
- \_\_\_\_\_ = get your money back
- \_\_\_\_\_ = look at things in shop windows but not buy anything
- \_\_\_\_\_ = offer big price reductions on everything
- \_\_\_\_\_ = save the piece of paper which shows you have bought sth
- \_\_\_\_\_ = on promotion at a low price
- \_\_\_\_\_ = find things that cost much less than normal

5

## Adjective antonyms

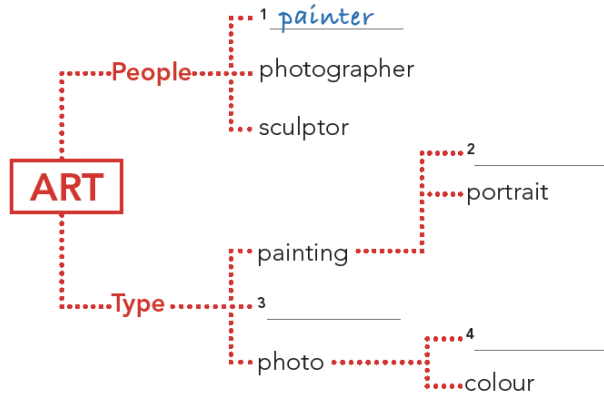
POSITIVE	≠	NEGATIVE
1 <u>caring</u>	≠	selfish
2 cheerful	≠	_____
3 _____	≠	lazy
4 modest	≠	_____
5 _____	≠	shy
6 _____	≠	crazy



6

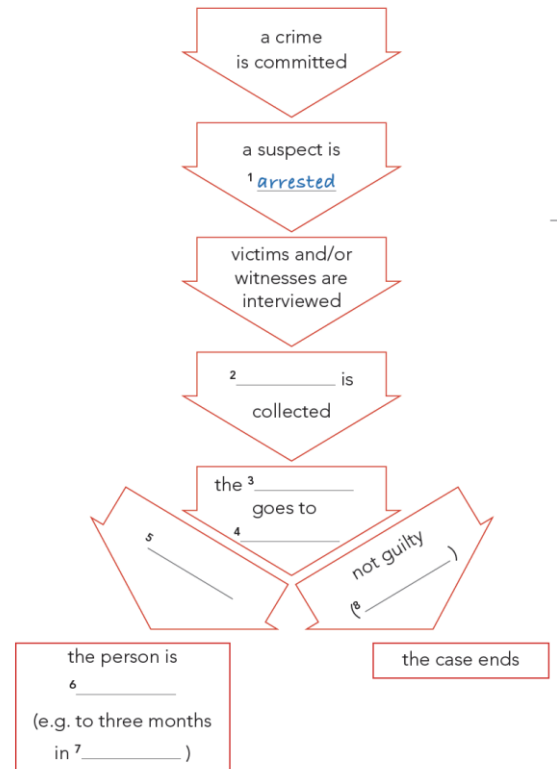
Art and music

[ sculpture black and white song  
painter band singer landscape ]



7

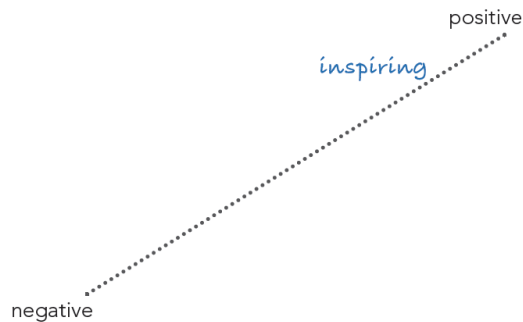
The justice system



8

Adjectives with positive or negative meanings

[ amusing boring emotional  
entertaining funny inspiring  
moving predictable relaxing  
unoriginal unrealistic ]



9

Adjective order

[ cotton lovely old  
single ~~wooden~~ yellow ]

article	opinion	size/age	colour	material	make/type	noun
1 an	-		-	wooden		bed
2 a	-	large			-	duvet
3 a		-	blue	-	teddy	bear

10

## More phrases with get

get a lot out of sth    get a tattoo  
 get ill    get into trouble  
 get nervous    get rid of sth

- 1 *Young people can get a lot out of a gap year. For example, learn a language or learn a new skill.*
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_

11

Confusing words – *job* versus *work*

apply for  
 have  
 look for

1 a \_\_\_\_\_

start  
 finish

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

for a foreign company  
 from home  
 in advertising  
 in an office  
 outside  
 with your hands

12

## Words for free – jobs

- 1 actor = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 DJ = \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 mechanic = \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 model = \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 photographer = \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 secretary = \_\_\_\_\_

13

## REMEMBER THIS

**go shopping** = shopping for pleasure  
**do the shopping** = buying food and things  
 for the house



# Meaning – Meaningful practice

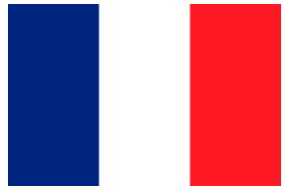


*“Students will best acquire the structures or patterns when they are put into situations that require them to use structures and patterns for some meaningful purpose other than decontextualized or mechanistic practice”*

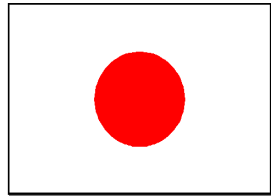
Diane Larsen-Freeman

# Motivating tasks = Meaningful tasks

## Famous textbook beginnings



My tailor is rich



This is a pen



The book is on the table

# Meaning?

Lesson one

3

Number 9 (nine)



*Question:* Is this a tree?

**YES**

*Answer:* Yes, this is a tree.



Number 10 (ten)



*Question:* Is this a ship?

*Answer:* Yes, it is.

Number 11 (eleven)



*Question:* Is this a ship?

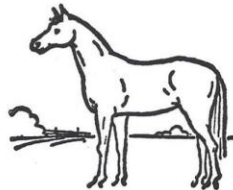
**NO**

*Answer:* No, it is not a ship;



it is a cigarette.

Number 12 (twelve)



*Question:* Is this a cigarette?

*Answer:* No, it is not a cigarette;  
it is a horse.



# Exercise 1 – *make & do*

Complete the questions with the correct form of *make* or *do*.

- 1) How much money does a waitress \_\_\_\_\_?
- 2) Could you \_\_\_\_\_ the washing today?
- 3) Did Tom's new business \_\_\_\_\_ a profit last year?
- 4) Has Dick \_\_\_\_\_ the washing up?
- 5) Were you \_\_\_\_\_ your homework when I called?
- 6) Why did Harry \_\_\_\_\_ a complaint?

**Meaningless**

## Exercise 2 – *make & do*

Complete the questions with the correct form of *make* or *do*.

**Then, in pairs ask and answer the questions.**

- 1) Did you \_\_\_\_\_ your bed this morning?
- 2) Do your neighbours ever \_\_\_\_\_ a noise?
- 3) Do you like \_\_\_\_\_ the washing up?
- 4) Who \_\_\_\_\_ the cooking in your house?
- 5) Have you ever \_\_\_\_\_ dinner for somebody?
- 6) Where does your family usually \_\_\_\_\_ the shopping?

**Meaningful**

# Meaningful tasks

The best role students can play in the classroom is themselves.

- It focuses on the topic they know most about
- It helps facilitate positive group dynamics
- It brings humour into the classroom
- It adds an element of surprise
- It makes language learning memorable
- It mirrors ‘real’ language use outside the classroom



# Meaningful tasks – Ask and answer

9 Read the questions and cross out the injury that is impossible or very unlikely.

Have you ever:

- 1 broken your *leg / chest / toe*?
- 2 burnt your *tongue / fingers / ribs*?
- 3 cut your *teeth / lip / heel*?
- 4 dislocated your *shoulder / eyebrows / thumb*?
- 5 scratched your *knees / neck / hair*?
- 6 sprained your *lips / ankle / wrist*?



# Meaningful tasks – True or false

6 Use the prompts to write about things you will or won't have done by the end of today.

1 eat / pieces of fruit

*By the end of the day, I'll have eaten three or four pieces of fruit.*

2 drink / water

6 go into / shops

3 cook / meals

7 spend / money

4 receive / text messages

8 do / homework

5 speak to / people



# Meaningful tasks – Agree or disagree



6 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

[ aware law peaceful stand strong underlying ]

- 1 **Breaking** the \_\_\_\_\_ is always wrong.
  - 2 It's a bad idea to **make** people \_\_\_\_\_ **of** your political views.
  - 3 Teenagers have no idea what they \_\_\_\_\_ **for**.
  - 4 Street art can be an effective form of \_\_\_\_\_ **protest**.
  - 5 Only experts understand the \_\_\_\_\_ **messages** in modern art.
  - 6 Nobody has \_\_\_\_\_ **beliefs** about anything any more.
- 7 In pairs, discuss whether you agree or disagree with the statements in Exercise 6.



## Meaningful exam practice

### Use of English

#### (True or false)

4 Choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D. Then tick the sentences that are true for you.

1 Dad says it's important to \_\_\_\_\_ high standards for yourself.

A aim            B put            C set            D fix

2 My sister has a \_\_\_\_\_ imagination and draws incredible pictures.

A vivid            B detailed            C sharp            D strong

3 The last film I saw was rubbish. I was \_\_\_\_\_ disappointed.

A totally            B absolutely            C bitterly            D completely

4 Most of my Facebook friends are best described as \_\_\_\_\_ acquaintances.

A occasional            B casual            C nearby            D relaxed

3 For each gap, choose from options A–D to complete the sentences. Which statements do you agree with?

A come    B take    C get    D put

1 Most people enjoy their job and just want to \_\_\_\_\_ on.

2 People always try to \_\_\_\_\_ out of paying their taxes.

3 Do tasks you hate straight away and don't \_\_\_\_\_ them off.

4 On your first day in a new job there's always a lot to \_\_\_\_\_ in.

5 It's important to \_\_\_\_\_ across as confident in an interview.

## Meaningful exam practice

### Use of English

#### (Agree or disagree)

# Focus means...

- **Motivating materials** ✓
- **Memorable materials** ✓
- **Meaningful materials** ✓





**Thank you!**

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## Further reading

- Arnold, J & Murphey, T (2013) *Meaningful Action*. Cambridge University Press
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