

# Advice for Teaching Critical Thinking



## ESOL Classroom Ideas and Resources



**These resources are an example to be used by ESOL professionals to develop and adapt to meet their students' needs.**

# ESOL Beginner, Pre-Entry-Entry Level 1

Practice writing the alphabet and numbers.  
Practice writing letters that spell True and False.

Write these sentences below and circle answers.

The sky is green. True or False (share pictures)

The sea is blue. True or False (Share pictures)

The grass is orange. True or False (share pictures)

The sun is pink. True or False (share pictures)

Fire is hot. True or False (share pictures)

$2+2=5$ . True or False





Ask students to write the correct sum in numbers and words;  $2+2=4$  and; Two plus two equals four.



Tell students everyone needs to share true information and Make Sure It Adds Up. They can practice writing Make Sure It Adds Up.



Share full information about Make Sure It Adds Up in your student's language (make sure they can read in their own language).



Share pictures of different people and match them with words describing those people. Ask people to say if the descriptions are true or false.



Use examples of people from the Migrant, LGBTQ+, Muslim and Working Class communities. Tell people we all have equal human rights.



Show people information about Covid-19 in English and their own language using information from the NHS. Ask people to practice copying the information in English. Ask people to tell a partner or read part of the information they have written about.



Tell students if people need medical help they call 999 for an emergency or 111. Use pictures for emergency and non-emergency and share the number.



Write; If someone is being **bad (not good)** about people and they think it is racist, they need to **tell the police on 101**. Ask students to copy this and share in their own language.

## Discuss the scenario below;

Everyone is sharing that the sun is pink because a friend told them it is made of bubble gum. The friend is 4 years old and likes to eat sweets. The teacher told everyone that the sun is yellow because it is a star and is burning gas millions of miles away.

### Who do you believe is correct about the sun, why?

- A** How can you learn more about the sun?
- B** How can you help other people learn more about the sun?

**Can you use the same ways above in A & B to help reduce other rumours being shared about migrants?**



**Share these definitions below in English and also in the student's first language.**

**Rumour**

A rumour is information being shared that you believe is false.

**Critical Thinking**

Critical thinking means thinking about information in different ways.

**Myth-busting**

Myth-busting is telling people they are wrong by giving them an example you think is true.

**Prejudice**

Prejudice is making assumptions about others based on learned behaviour.



**Copy these sentences.**

Being prejudice is wrong.

We do not share rumours.

We do not myth-bust.

We promote critical thinking.



# ESOL Intermediate, Entry Level 2-3

Think about a rumour you have heard, do not tell anyone the rumour.  
**Consider, discuss and write your answers to the below questions;**

How did you feel when you heard the rumour?

How do you think those affected by the rumour felt?

How did you decide if it was not true?

What facts could you share that would help people learn about the topic of the rumour?

Where could other people find information that would help them understand facts related to the rumour?

How would you feel if someone was spreading a rumour about you?



**Write a paragraph or three sentences about each question below and discuss your answers with a friend.**

**1** What is a migrant?

**2** What does LGBTQ+ mean?

**3** What does working class mean?



**Write a paragraph or three sentences about each question below and discuss your answers with a friend.**

**4** What is Islam?

**5** What is Covid-19?

**Where can you find more information about each area you have discussed and how can you check if this is true and a good source of information? What makes this a good source of information?**





# ESOL Advanced, Level 1-2

Why critical thinking and not myth-busting?

**Discuss the example below, which option do you think you might use and why?**

## Example:

**You hear that someone is spreading what you believe to be false information about your friend. You believe that this is false and that you can prove that it is a rumour. You have two choices;**

- A** Tell everyone, even those who might not have heard the rumour, that you have heard this rumour and then explain why it is not true giving examples countering the rumour. You will encounter people who are spreading the rumour and try to convince them they are wrong and you are right, allowing them to explain more about rumour and try to convince others that they are right and you are wrong.
- B** Encourage everyone not to spread any rumour in general because this might hurt or confuse people. Share examples with people you know about how to check if a rumour is true, let them know you understand that people have different opinions and that everyone should check for themselves before sharing information. Tell your friend you care about them and work with them to share information about facts and learning.

**Write about someone you know who is a migrant, LGBTQ+, Muslim or Working Class. Describe this person to a learning partner.**



## General Learning areas to consider in lesson planning:

- How can we promote critical thinking?
- Discuss what is myth-busting and why do you think it might not work?
- How can you find out more about the Anti-Rumour and Critical Thinking Campaign?
- Where can you find information about the same current or historical event from different perspectives?
- How do I check if information is true?
- How can I support the campaign?
- Set up a session to share learning about each of the campaign topics.
- Help people think critically, do not myth-bust.
- Share how you can make sure a source is a good source, and explain what makes it reliable.
- Share what inclusion means and how to promote Human Rights, Intercultural Cities principles or the diversity advantage and Equality, Inclusion and Diversity.

