

Professional Development Unit's Mission

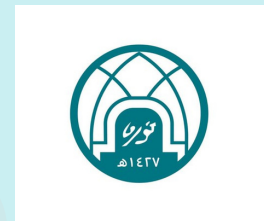
PDU aims to provide ongoing support to our teachers to strengthen their practice and expand their knowledge of current international best practices in the field.



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THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT AT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (ELI) IS PLEASED TO PRESENT

MID-YEAR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK

DECEMBER 28TH - 30TH

FOCUSING ON COMMUNICATIVE PRACTICES

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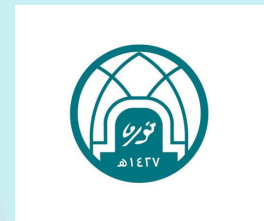
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Monday, December 28th

- 09:00 **Opening Remarks**
09:15 **Head of Professional Development, Hanadi AlShogiran ***
- 09:20 **Speech**
10:00 **Dean of the ELI, Dr. Hessah Abaalaala ***
- 10:00 **The Student Cycle at the ELI ***
10:50
- 11:00 **Disruptive Innovation**
11:50
- 12:00 **Importance of the Students Involvement in Extracurricular Activities ***
12:50
- 01:00 **Engaging Students through the Use of Technology I**
01:50

Tuesday, December 29th

- 09:00 **Learning objectives: Why Are They Important?**
09:50
- 10:00 **Stepping Outside the Coursebook ***
10:50
- 11:00 **Communicative Listening Tasks**
11:50
- 12:00 **Decoding Listening**
12:50
- 01:00 **Communicative Writing Tasks**
01:50

Wednesday, December 30th

- 08:00 **Engaging Students through the Use of Technology II**
08:50
- 09:00 **Communicative Reading Tasks**
09:50
- 10:00 **Communicative Speaking Tasks**
10:50
- 11:00 **Teaching Language within Context ***
11:50

*** Mandatory Sessions**

Sessions Abstracts

The Student Cycle at the ELI

Abeer AlAhmadi, Head of Support Unit

This session will take you through the procedures and details of the services provided by the student support unit. As language instructors are vital pillars of the ELI, helping them to understand the steps involved in the services provided, and on which bases are the students set on the level they are in now, exemptions,..., and many other procedures that give you a holistic view of the students' cycle at ELI .

Disruptive Innovation

Dean of the ELI, Dr Hessah Abaalaala

This session is going to explore the concept of disruptive innovation within an educational setting and define key concepts related to it.

Importance of the Students Involvement in Extracurricular Activities

Monirah Alhelwah, Head of Learning and Resource Centre

This session focuses on the importance of extracurricular activities as an important tool in foreign language teaching. It focuses on the club at the ELI aiming to deliver excellent English language education through arranging sessions, activities, and events to provide learners with much-needed skills that are not taught in classrooms. The club welcomes students from all departments to put into practice the English they later use in their future careers. The session highlights the teacher's role in encouraging students to participate in students club and it opens the door for teacher's suggestions and participation.

Engaging Students through the Use of Technology I

Amani Bobah, E-Learning Coordinator

PowerPoint, sounds familiar, right! As we have moved to an asynchronous teaching world, using visuals have become a requirement that teachers cannot escape. Microsoft PowerPoint is one of the most common, powerful, and user-friendly applications that teachers around the world use for their class presentations. Most of us, if not all, are familiar with the main features of it. However, creating basic slides can be truly boring, not only for students, for teachers too. So, can we make our PPTs look more awesome and trendier? In this workshop, we will look at some tricks and techniques that can enhance your PPTs' look and help you create fancier and much more attractive presentations easily. Join me in this workshop and be ready to take your PPTs to a further level.

Learning objectives: Why Are They Important?

Stavvi Adamopoulos, Academic Manager, English Proficiency Program

Learning objectives form an integral part of English language learning. They assist in lesson planning, creating assessments and designing curriculum as well as in the evaluation of student performance, instruction and the success of a course. The ABCD approach (Audience – Behaviour – Condition – Degree) and Bloom's revised taxonomy will be presented as core tools for the creation of learning objectives. Session participants will have the opportunity to analyze examples of learning objectives and incorporate learning objectives into past lesson plans for the purposes of comparison and practice. Finally, session participants will be able to include the methods presented herein their pedagogical tool kit to enhance the learning process.

Stepping Outside the Box: Using more than the coursebook

Ashwaq AlJahlan, Vice Dean of Academic Affairs

This workshop is intended to raise teachers' awareness of one of Equals' recommendations for a better learning environment. The workshop also points to some important factors and tips for having a more creative lesson that relies on student autonomy to take control of their own learning. We hope that the

trainer's input along with teachers' discussions enables you to explore more into this topic and action that into your lessons.

Communicative Listening Tasks

Aya Al-Somaida'ay, Head of Test Administration Unit & Dr Maha AlAsmi, Trainer

In ESL classrooms, students can improve their language skills effectively through Listening. However, ESL students often feel bored in listening tasks because they mostly do monotonous activities. Thus, teachers should make a lively listening lesson atmosphere through interactive and communicative tasks for the students. Through these communicative listening tasks, students will not only listen but also interact with either the teacher or the other classmates so that they feel as if they do the real-life listening. They will also help students to improve both their proficiency in language components (vocabulary and pronunciation) and in language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). Always remember, Listening is the foundation of good communication.

Decoding Listening

Selem Habtezion, Observer

Listening is a highly important receptive skill for the learners to improve and yet it is one that is difficult to master as it is often more tested than taught. The challenge for learners is that what they hear is often 'mush' to them whereas '...expert hearers hear full words' Richard Cauldwell et al. How do we address this challenge? It is no longer enough to just follow the regular sequence of a listening lesson. As important as listening for comprehension, gist, detail, and inference are, if our learners are having difficulty with the sounds of the language, they will find listening lessons difficult and demotivating. In this workshop, we will attempt to address this challenge. First, we will put ourselves in the shoes of the learners and look at practical ways in which we can implement decoding strategies in the class. These strategies have been placed in the context of the online lesson as that is the world we find ourselves in currently. Through a combination of breakout rooms, polls, and google sheets we will look at how we can help our learners decode the sounds that they hear in order to make meaning out of the mush in a collaborative and communicative way.

Communicative Writing Tasks

Eseel Alsammarraie, Teacher

Among the higher education learning processes and strategies investigated in the last two decades (Coombe & Al-hamly, 2014), the composition remains a hot topic. Writing in L1 or L2 is an extremely challenging skill to acquire

(Humphreys, 2004). In addition to common writing errors, Arab EFL apprentices', specifically, face difficulties expressing their own thoughts in English writing. This could be related to cultural and educational factors (Raza, 2018) Writing Process Approach (WPA) is an approach ELL students can handle with a communicative element, i.e., in a set of communicative activities. Research and personal experience both indicate successful outcomes to such a methodology. This session elaborates on the writing process using communicative activities. It then outlines the steps of a model writing lesson.

Engaging Students through the Use of Technology II

Eman AlShami, Academic Coordinator

Using modern technology in teaching English as a second language is an essential element in the classrooms. However, current classroom settings can limit students' engagement. This presentation aims to introduce a tool that would help in making the lesson active, fun, and engaging. Pear Deck is a powerful tool to ingenerate technology in every lesson and it is an easy assessment tool that adds an interactive and fun atmosphere to the class. Teachers can use it to engage learners and let them interact through media as they go. As fun as it might sound, Pear deck helps both students and teachers in achieving the objectives of the lesson in so many ways such as creating multiple-choice, open-ended questions and much more.

Communicative Reading Tasks

Dania Abdullah Albasiri & Fatima Habib, Trainers

Reading practice can often elicit yawns, heads descending to desks, or eyes ascending heavenwards. Many students do seem to regard reading as a waste of class time but how many of these students will read outside class without encouragement inside? Therefore, this workshop will try to consider a few approaches to making classroom reading tasks more communicative, which means integrating it with other skills work so that students can see its value. Reading is essential for many aspects of our personal and academic life. Therefore, if our students do not have the knowledge and practice of reading skills, they cannot be expected to be successful in their studies. This session aims at presenting different practices teachers can use at the ELI to promote communicative reading practices. In conclusion, In To read or not to read (2007), the National Endowment for the Arts stated that: "Leisure reading makes students more articulate, develops higher-order reasoning, and promotes critical thinking." Therefore, we believe that this skill should be practiced in order to provide our students with comprehensive tools they can use throughout their academic life at PNU.

Communicative Speaking Tasks

Dr Marie Noonan, Assessment Unit Member

This session will focus on the techniques used to implement communicative speaking activities. The session includes a PPT, an attachment of communicative speaking tasks/activities and a list of reference sites, and a communicative speaking task checklist. The session aims to provide an explanation of communicative speaking, why and how it's used, as well as the benefits and challenges of doing communicative Speaking Tasks. Details about what should be included in these tasks/assignments is also given. The challenges of doing communicative speaking tasks online will be examined and discussed.

Teaching Language within Context

Hanadi AlShogiran, Head of Professional Development

When it comes to language teaching, educators aim to teach keeping their learners in mind. We make it a priority to teach language meaningfully to achieve the sought after language goals for our students. This session aims to explore the notion of teaching language within context illustrating practical ways to provide students with the language they will need in the classroom and life. Teachers will understand how to help

students access meanings created through a variety of mediums (written, spoken, visual, multimodal) while providing explicit support to develop students' overall skills.

