

A quick intro to
Graphic Facilitation
for
English Language Teaching
Professionals



Includes BONUS demo - How to draw ELT icons!

Emily Bryson ELT

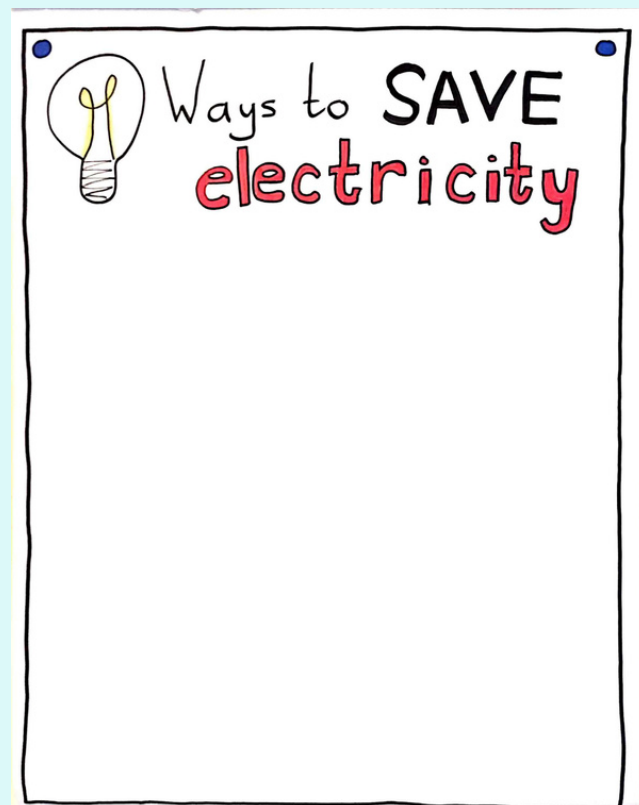

What is graphic facilitation?

Graphic Facilitation is the use of simple, hand-drawn, graphics to support groups or individuals towards their goals. Traditionally, Graphic Facilitators use large sheets of paper, flipcharts or whiteboards and markers to engage participants.

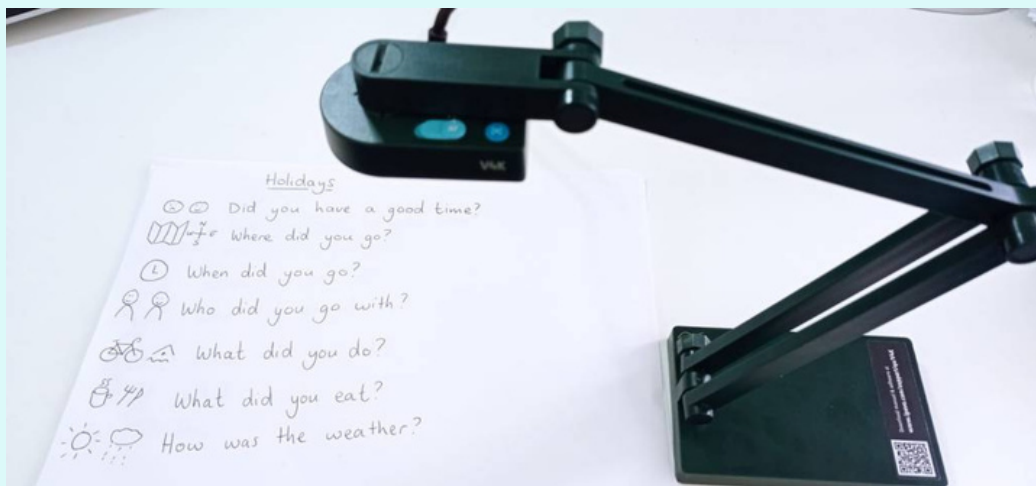
For example, here is an example of a visual template I drew on a flipchart. It's a great way to guide a conversation, generate ideas or plan an piece of writing.

In class, students could first read about climate change and the importance of saving electricity, then discuss ways to save it. They can add their ideas to the visual template (e.g. using post-its), and discuss them as a class. As an extension, they could write a report or a bulleted plan.

This is a simple task. The visual template can be inspiring for learners and is simple to draw. Drawing around the flipchart to give it a border and adding a couple of drawing pins and a simple lightbulb icon immediately makes the activity instantly more engaging and fun.



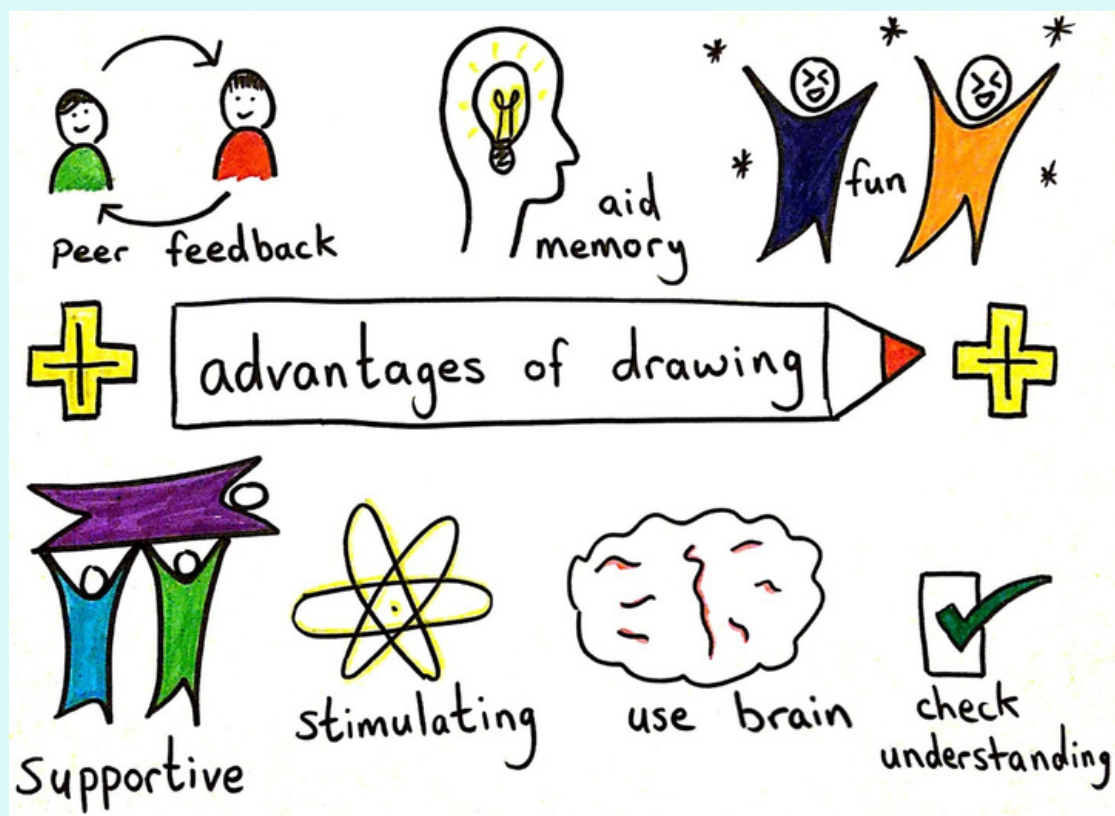
In an online class, you can do similar activities using pre-drawn visuals, a graphics tablet, drawing software or a visualiser. I use an Ipevo visualiser, but there are plenty available to choose from. You could also try using interactive whiteboards such as Jamboard, Miro or Mural. These platforms allow you to move virtual post-its, draw or add images and icons.



You may already be familiar with some graphic facilitation techniques which are common in English Language Teaching:

- graphic organisers
- infographics
- mind maps
- Venn diagrams
- sketchnotes

What are the benefits of Graphic Facilitation?



There are many benefits!

It's a superpower

It's revolutionised the way I teach, run my business and observe the world. It also rejuvenated my teaching mojo after twenty years in the classroom!

It's multisensory and aids critical thinking.

I also love it because it's multisensory and aids critical thinking. Learners can observe the visual, listen and understand its explanation or instructions, analyse it, apply it, share their interpretations, write about it, or create their own.

It aids memory.

It makes things memorable. The drawing effect refers to research carried out by Wammes, Meade and Fernandes (2016). It found that drawing aids vocabulary retention. Participants who drew a list of words recalled more of those words than those who simply wrote them.

It makes information more accessible.

Simple drawings make pages of notes, resources and materials more distinct, which in turn makes them more accessible. They also help students process information. I am certainly more focused on a talk or webinar when I sketchnote it. I'm also more likely to return to my notes in the future and remember what the session covered. I'd also much prefer to read a quick infographic than a lengthy text.

Here's a sketchnote of a webinar Marek Kiczowski, one of the other authors of Voices, did about teaching pronunciation for global communication.

Would you rather read this visual summary or a page full of text?

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LEARNING

How to teach pronunciation for global communication

Marek Kiczowski Ph.D.

Global pron focuses on intelligibility

IMPORTANT	UNIMPORTANT
★ long vs short vowels	▲ Vowel quality
★ /3:/	▲ word stress
★ consonants	▲ sentence stress
★ aspiration	▲ intonation
★ consonant clusters	▲ weak forms
★ nuclear stress	▲ connected speech
★ adopting your pronunciation	

TEACHING TIPS

- ✓ focus on clear pron
- ✓ use variety of models
- ✓ distinguish productive vs receptive
- ✦ explain how sounds made
- ✦ draw attention to important sounds
- ✦ increase difficulty

80% of English language users are 'non-native' speakers

YET

16% of language models in business coursebooks are 'non-native' speakers

Generally in ELT coursebooks:

- ▲ 'native speaker' models
- ▲ 'foreign accent' = low proficiency
- ▲ focus on:
 - intonation
 - word stress
 - connected speech

→ NGL Voices has **global** approach.

* 'non-native' speaker in inverted commas — who is a 'non-native' speaker?

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It aids understanding.

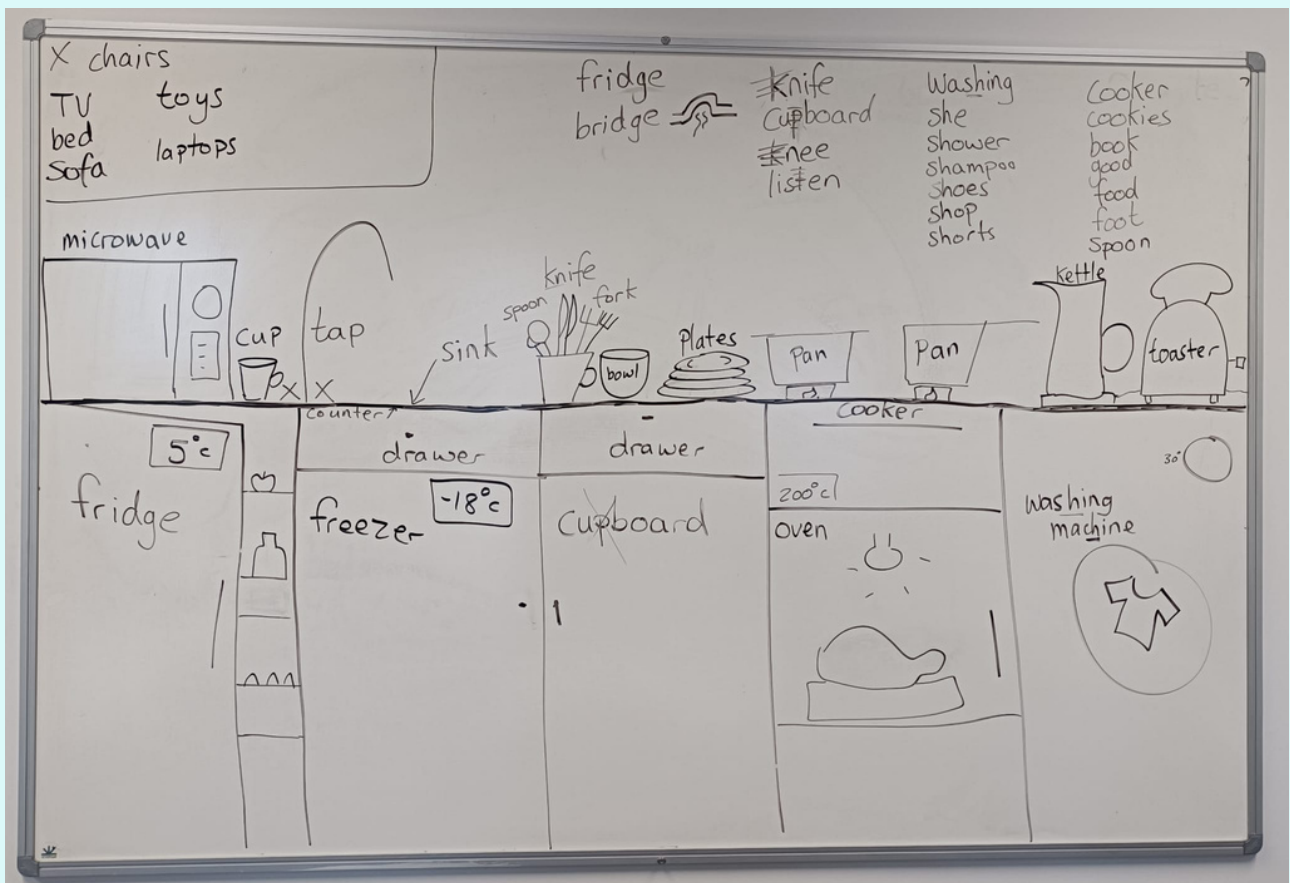
Adding a quick drawing, asking your learners to draw or using a visual as a concept check is an excellent way to find out if they have understood.

It's versatile.

It can be used to teach grammar, vocabulary, reading, writing, speaking, listening and pronunciation. You can use it to plan out lessons, curriculums or meeting agendas.

It's zero prep AND zero tech!

One day I got to class to discover I'd been locked out of the college computer system. I didn't panic. I used my graphic facilitation skills to teach the whole three hour lesson! Here's what I drew. We practised spelling, speaking, reading, writing and listening.



It's quick and copyright free.

The visual template on page 2 took about ten minutes to draw. The same document would probably have taken me about an hour fiddling about in a word document or Canva and searching for copyright free stock photos.

Granted, it took me a while to learn to draw those icons quickly, but it's a bit like learning the alphabet; it takes a time to learn but once you know it, you wonder how you ever lived without it.

The icons are simple.

Graphic facilitation is NOT ART. It's communication. A few years ago, I wouldn't have had the confidence to draw any of these in class or deliver training courses. Like learning a language, swimming or riding a bike, drawing is a skill. It takes time and practice to develop. Each icon you learn to draw builds your visual vocabulary. The more icons you can draw the more sophisticated and fluent you can communicate using them.

How to draw ELT icons

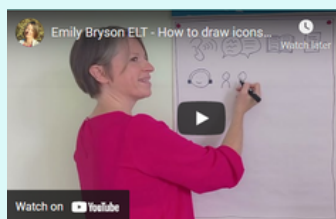
I am so blown away by how graphic facilitation has enhanced my teaching, training and outlook on life that I'd like to share some of the secrets with you.

Here's a 'cheatsheet' on how to draw simple icons commonly used in ELT. Why not have a go copying them? As with learning any new vocabulary, repetition is the key.

I recommend copying these a few times and starting your own 'visual dictionary'. Treat yourself to a new notebook and add any new visual vocabulary you learn.



If you'd prefer a video demonstration, you can find it on my YouTube channel, my website or scan the QR code



Video demonstration: <https://youtu.be/gHhbAK8NIU>

Thanks for downloading this guide. I hope it inspires you to draw.

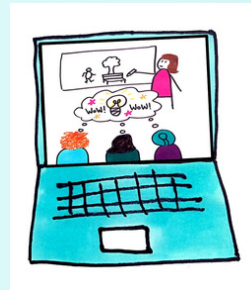
If you'd like more support and practice, why not join one of my online courses? Here's what some of my course participants have said:

Testimonials

'Emily's course resides at the nicest corner of the internet. The participants are incredibly supportive with one another and it's nothing but inspiration.' Annette Flavel, ELT Author

'I'd say this course has a lot to offer to all. Feeling inspired will stay with you well after the final session is done. Highly recommended.' Charlotte Giller, teacher & teacher trainer

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You can also follow me on social media:

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