



Sensations
E N G L I S H

**Webinars
for teachers**

November 2021



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Sensations English

**Cultural festivals,
intercultural communication
and ELT**



Overview

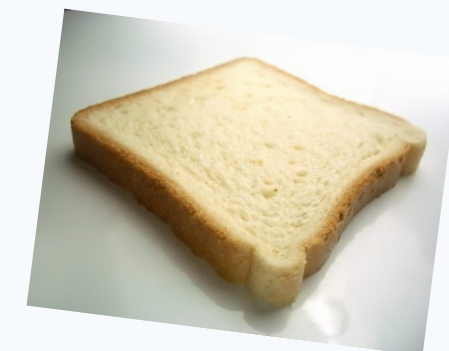
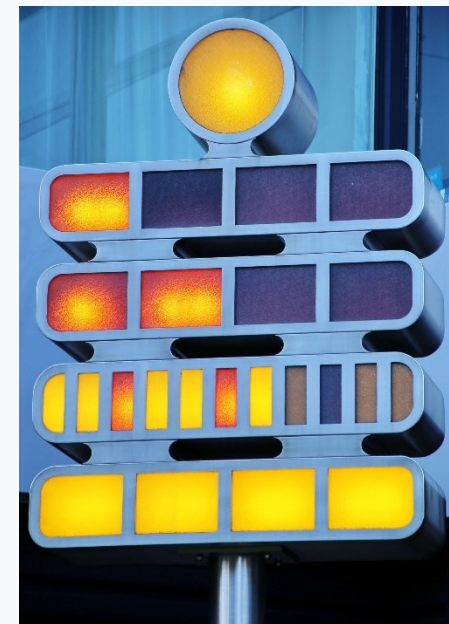
What is intercultural communicative competence?
What does growing ICC mean?
What concerns do religions and cultures bring in?
How/why do person-centred approaches work?

Key principles for developing ICC
Approaches for developing ICC
Benefits from developing ICC



Intercultural communicative what?

- Supports communication across cultures
- Puts our assumptions a little distance away
- Our cultural assumptions are guiding lights
 - e.g. bread
- Lack of ICC is responsible for ...
 - Business failures
 - Interpersonal misunderstandings and frustrations
 - Relationship breakdowns
 - Social conflict





What does growing ICC mean?

- Questioning
 - Why am I thinking XYZ about them/that?
 - Creating some inter-subjectivity
- Exploring through other eyes
 - Expecting different perspectives/opinions
 - Others' ideas are equally valid, but not yours
 - Managing and enjoying this variety
- Being person-centred
 - Co-constructing understanding
 - Checking and reflecting on your assumptions





Why grow ICC?

Not for the sake of it!

- Develop interpersonal skills
- Facilitate successful intercultural contact
- Life beyond the language classroom

Enrich learners' abilities

- In language learning
- In translanguaging
- In self-expression around their beliefs

How we interact and share connections

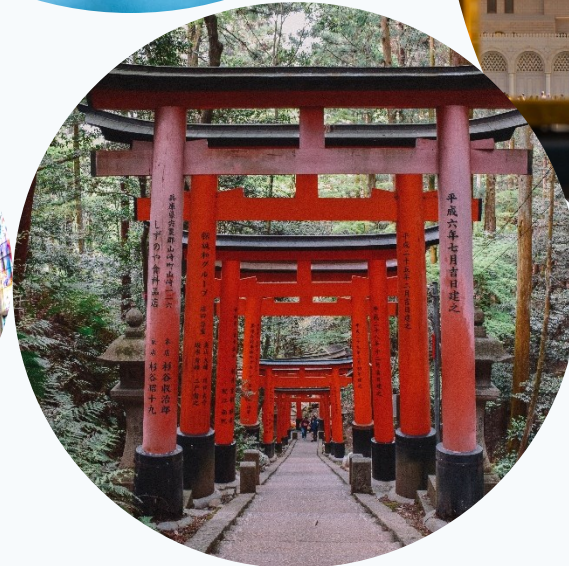
- As part of a religious/cultural/sub-cultural group
- As part of the global group of Lingua Franca English users





Concerns on religions and cultures

Focusing on religions and cultures can be problematic





Concerns on religions and cultures

- How to be respectful to ... ?
 - Different cultural customs
 - Different religious beliefs
- Uncertainty over ...
 - Learners' cultural beliefs clashing
 - Historical and cultural backgrounds
 - Cultural and religious practices
- Desires to ...
 - Be inclusive and welcoming
 - Avoid (unconscious) bias or lecturing





Person-centred approaches

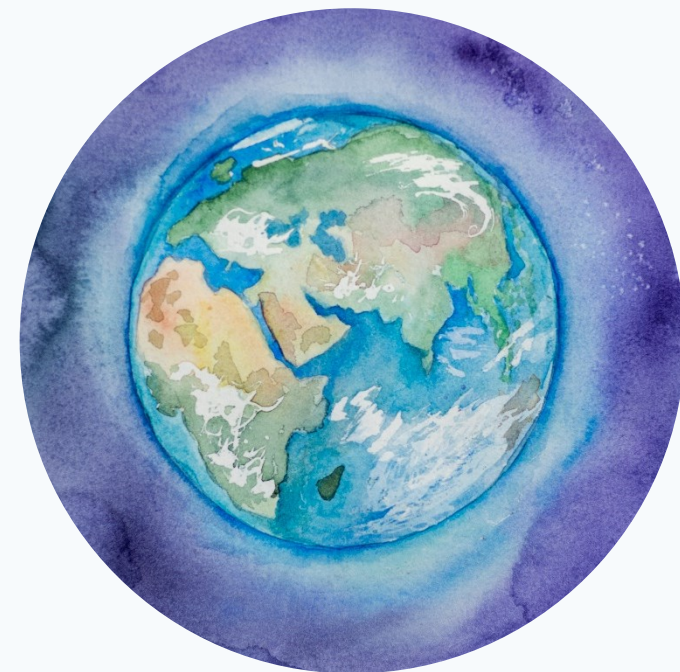
- Emphasise our common humanity
- Use religion/culture as the background
- Approach sensitive customs via people
- Present a lived experience, not rules
- Focus on the ways humans ...
 - Show the value of life
 - Give meaning to life
 - Combine customs with their lives





Key principles for developing ICC

- Entering a world of wonder
- Growing intersubjective perspectives
- Discovering, understanding, sharing
- Building connections
 - Between people(s) and groups
 - Across cultures and beliefs
- Valuing 'existential' competences – “savoir être”
 - Building a pluricultural repertoire
 - Mediating cross-cultural communication





Approaches for developing ICC

- Using people as the starting point
 - “Otherness” as a human quality
- Sharing learners’ own perspectives
 - Noticing differences in other’s impressions
- Setting small group tasks
- Exploring commonalities
 - Similar actions across festivals
 - Similar meanings across festivals
- Valuing, accepting and being open to difference

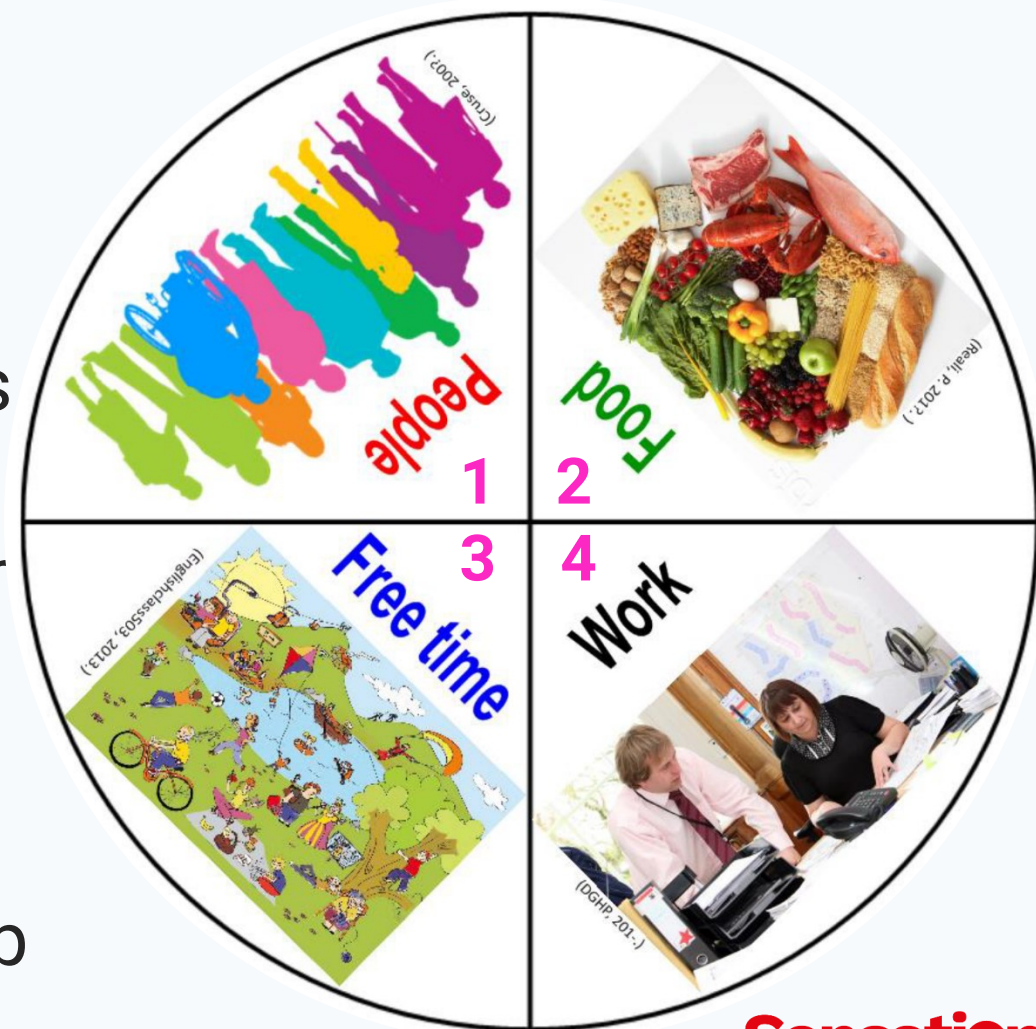




The culture wheel

Learners take turns to share ideas

- Perspectives on a cultural area/event
 - e.g. Habits at Christmas and Eid
 - e.g. Habits in Britain and your country
- The first learner spins the wheel/throws a dice to choose the topic
- The learner shares their perspectives or similarities and differences
 - Other learners listen but **can't** comment
 - Other learners can ask extra questions
- After all learners have spoken, the group discusses anything surprising to them

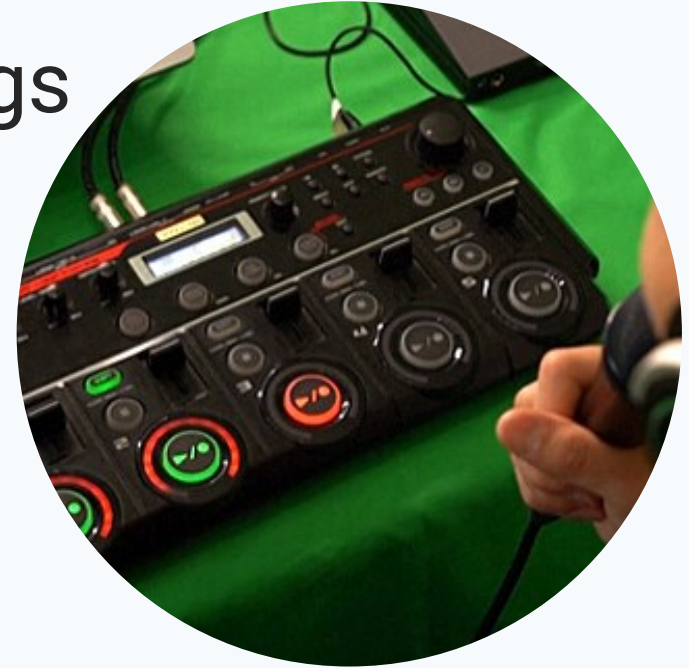


Inspired by Tomalin and Stempleski (1993)



Benefits from developing ICC

- Co-constructing situated understandings
 - More relaxed about differences
 - Open to differences in opinions
 - More developing translingual practices
 - Mediating understanding, collaborative working
- Able to share more of themselves
 - Offer personal perspectives
 - Find connections between cultures/people
 - Give intersubjective assessments of situations





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1

Choose your goals with a Learning Journey

2

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