



Sensations *monthly* Webinars
ENGLISH for teachers

October 2022



**Colette
Thomson**

Director of Media
Sensations English

Handling ELT PARSNIPS using teacher and producer expertise

All attendees will receive a certificate of attendance and slides via email link 24 hours after the webinar.









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Sensations *monthly* Webinars E N G L I S H for teachers

October Handling ELT PARSNIPS using
teacher and producer expertise



Colette Thomson
ELT and MFL
producer, director,
writer and journalist

We will explore:

- benefits of including topics often seen as 'problematic'
- skills for selecting suitable materials for learners
- sensitive classroom use of materials to align with British Council guidance on EDI

27th October • 2pm UK time



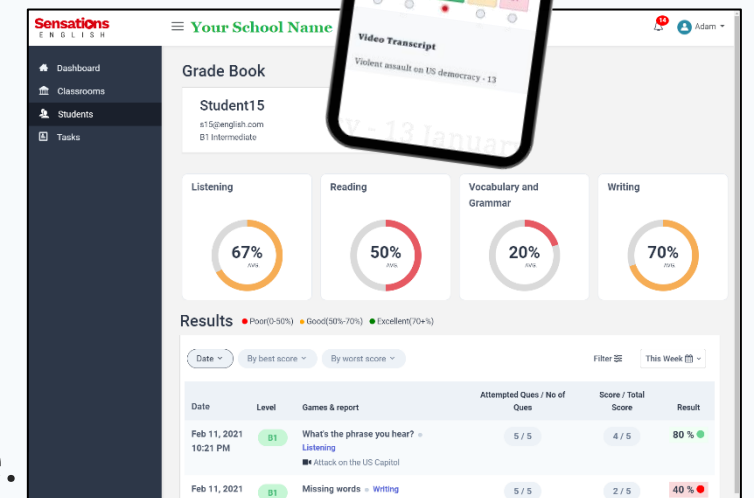
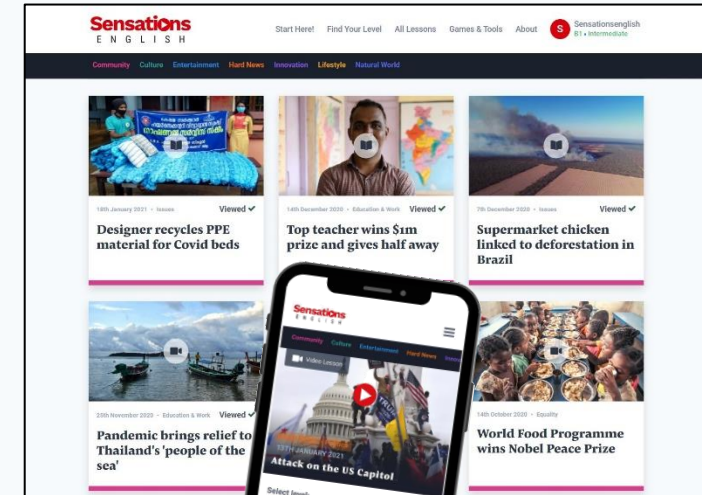
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ENGLISH for teachers

October 2022

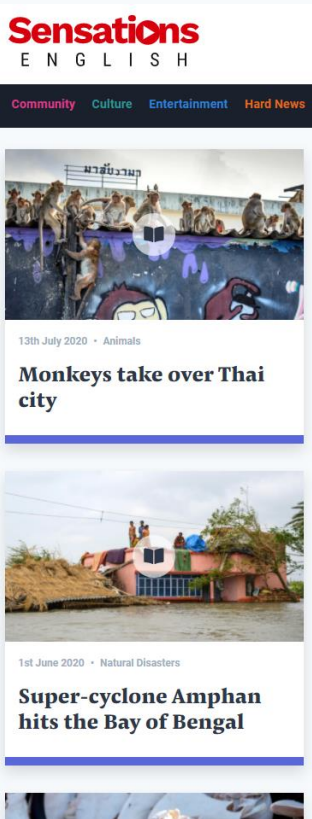


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Thinking about PARSNIPS
Look at each of the PARSNIPS
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
Key points





Get involved in this session!

Please use the **chat box** to share ...

- Your experience of bringing PARSNIPS into lessons
- Any ideas you have for using the reports we see today
- Problems (and solutions!) for any situations you've encountered

- There's also the **Q&A box** for questions at the end as usual.



My producer perspective

Creating language programmes for broadcasters and publishers for over 30 years

Nurturing my passion for languages, I've acquire a number of languages along the way

Getting real life access to languages is essential

A born linguist!





Was I born a linguist?

Questions:

- ‘Who decides “a door” is “une porte”? Why is it that word!?’

Perception:

- I always loved the news not as a traditional journalist.
- I loved how news opened doors to language.

Content:

- There are always phrases, vocabulary and ideas
- They are memorable and stay with you over time.
- “en flagrant delit” → “caught red-handed”
- news about a bank robbery.



Fertile ground for PARSNIPS

Politics

Alcohol

Religion

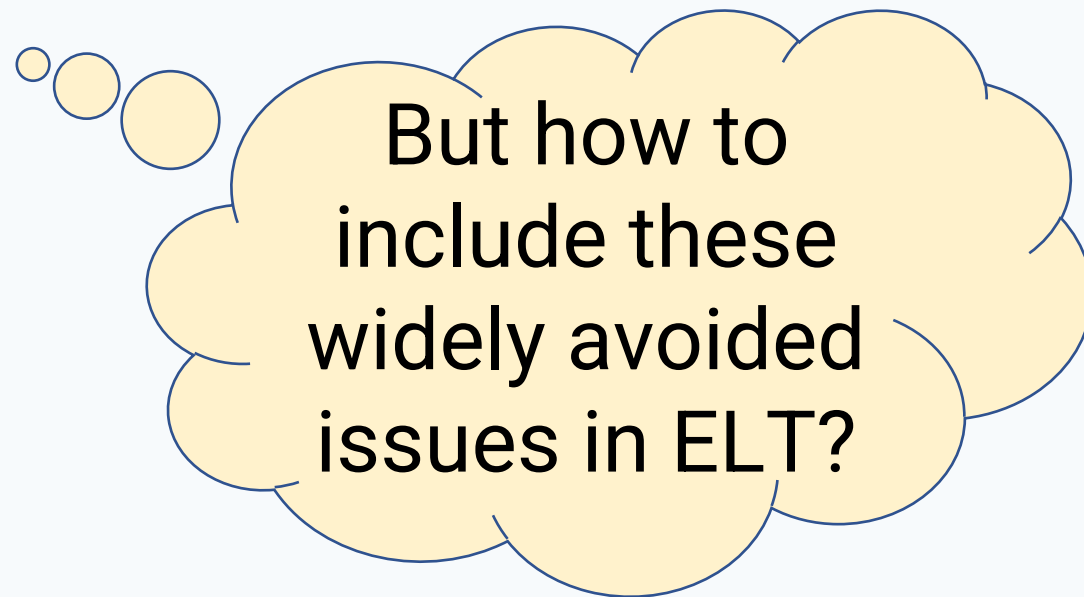
Sex

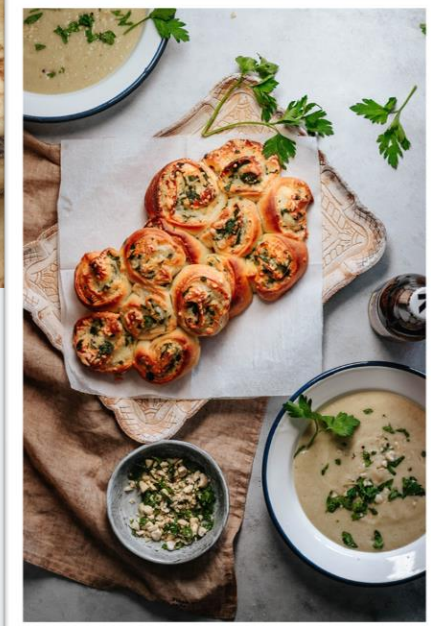
Narcotics

Isms

Pork

Sexual and gender identity



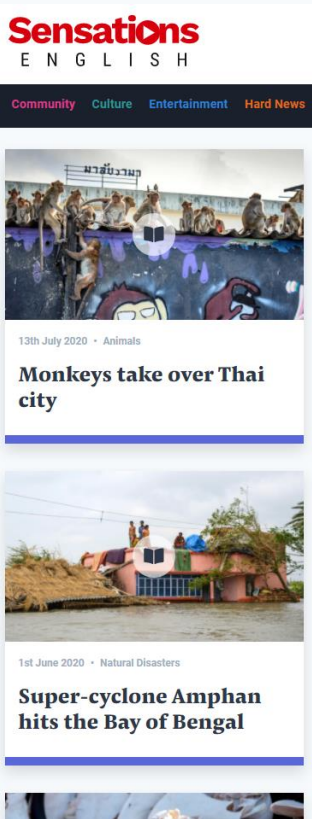




How to include avoided topics?

FACTS!

- reach for the 'objective'
- know and understand your sources
- watch out for fake news
- find level appropriate reports
- bring in real voices
- be mindful



Politics

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Politics

An obvious news topic

- Boring?
- Divisive?

Include diverse voices

Show many dimensions

Facilitate calm discussion



12th October 2022 • Politics

Lesotho votes for change



5th October 2022 • Politics

Protests for Iran



7th September 2022 • Politics

Soviet leader Gorbachev dies



13th July 2022 • Politics

Sri Lankan protesters storm president's residence



29th June 2022 • Politics

US court takes away women's rights



1st December 2021 • Politics

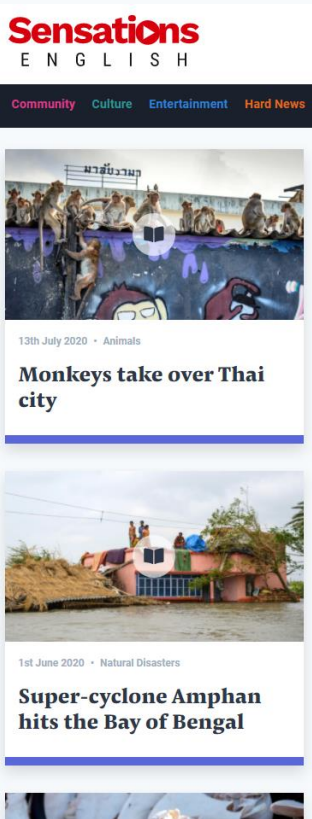
Migrant tragedy in the Channel



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RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE
B2 | CONFLICT | 2nd March 2022

<https://sensationsenglish.com/video/IBWMKQ/4>



Politics

Alcohol

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Alcohol



Lifestyle • Food & Diet

27th May 2022

Singapore's new tofu wine



Lifestyle • Food & Diet

23rd July 2020

Wine-making sisters in Thailand

Not about your favourite tippie!

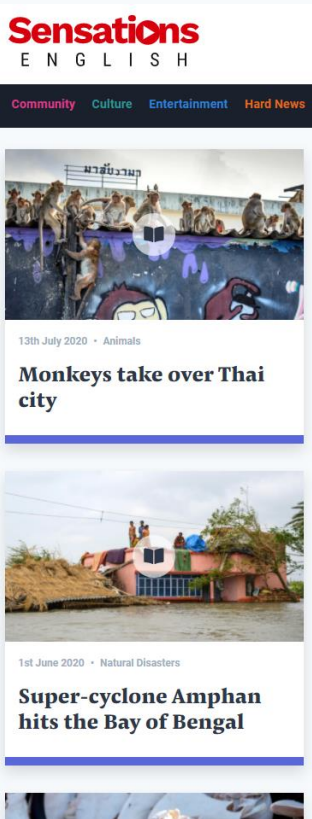
Part of a wider focus

- Business, lifestyle,
- Production challenges
- Social and economic issues
- Environmental innovations
- An incidental feature – or not



Wine-making sisters in Thailand

<https://sensationsenglish.com/video/bCXISU/3>



Politics
Alcohol
Religion
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Beatboxing Buddhist monk

<https://sensationsenglish.com/video/lfpw1c/1>





Religion

Not indoctrination or religious education

- Avoid the “rights or wrongs” of a religion
- Don’t create conflict between ideologies

Show common cultural elements

- People’s skills and habits
- Find the emotional and cultural common ground

Festivals and celebrations

- Events common to all faiths, and none.



Viewed ✓

Community • Religion

14th August 2020

Beatboxing Buddhist monk



Viewed ✓

Culture • Festivals & Events

16th December 2020

Dubai welcomes Festival of Light



Viewed ✓

Culture • Festivals & Events

18th November 2020

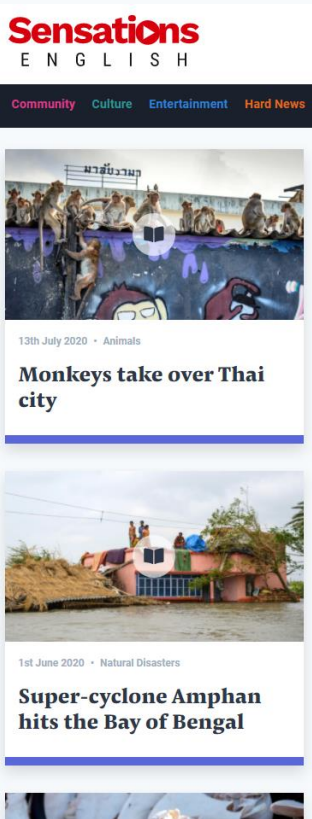
Covid dims Diwali celebrations



Culture • Festivals & Events

10th July 2020

Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival



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Sex



Culture • Fashion

24th January 2020

Dior Men's Paris fashion show



Innovation • Science

17th February 2020

Drug that heals a broken heart



Community • Issues

24th March 2021

South Africa mourns late Zulu king



Culture • Fashion

24th October 2022

Bella Hadid's spray on dress

What is "sex"?

- Nudity?
- Romantic relationships?

Nudity

- Traditional ceremonies – body positivity

Romantic relationships

- Broken heart drug

Fashion

- Paris men's fashion show



South Africa mourns late Zulu king

<https://sensationsenglish.com/video/dbtvHF/5>



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Community Culture Entertainment Hard News



13th July 2020 • Animals

Monkeys take over Thai city



1st June 2020 • Natural Disasters

Super-cyclone Amphan hits the Bay of Bengal

Politics
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Narcotics

Difficult topic to address

- Avoid sensationalism
- Avoid glamourising
- Avoid preaching

Don't avoid it on principle

- Incidental coverage
- Waiting for the right story to come along

Is this a topic that you have ever tackled with students?

What has been your route into the topic?

What might be “the right story” for some of your learners?



Discussion

- Article
- Irresponsibility
- Environmental damage
- Invasive species
- Management strategies

Escobar's hippos loose in Colombia

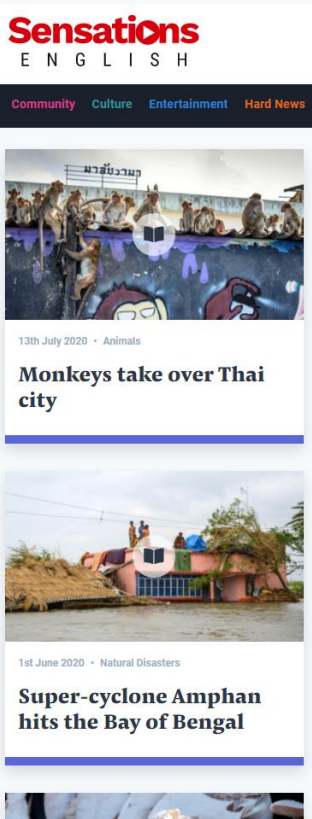
<https://sensationsenglish.com/article/35rsGy>



Natural World • Animals

21st February 2021

Pablo Escobar's hippos loose in Colombia



Politics
Alcohol
Religion
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Isms



26th May 2021 • Issues

Viewed ✓

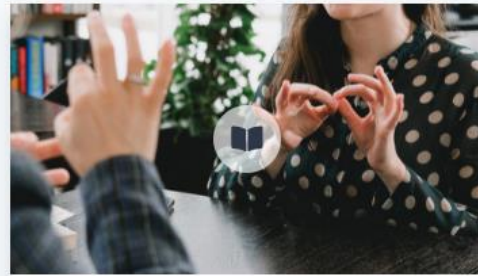
Shanghai's wheelchair users want change



7th May 2021 • Issues

Viewed ✓

Pakistan's Hazara women strike back with martial arts



21st February 2022 • Equality

New rules for sign language



10th June 2020 • Issues

Black Lives Matter protests



13th May 2022 • Equality

Indonesia's amputee football team



2nd May 2022 • Equality

Uganda: Boda boda rider breaks taboos

Promote inclusivity

- Use positive language
- Focus on the person
- Reflect your audience ... or your learners' potential audience.

Issues that they care about

- Make events personal and manageable.

A woman with dark hair in a ponytail, wearing a pink puffer jacket, is seated in a wheelchair on a city street. She is holding a large purple umbrella over herself. The background shows a blurred city street with a metal barrier and a person in a white puffer jacket walking past. The scene is captured in a cinematic style with soft lighting.

Wheelchair users battle barriers

<https://sensationsenglish.com/video/VxMm8v/4>



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Community Culture Entertainment Hard News



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PIG HEART SAVES MAN
B1 | SCIENCE | 28th January 2022

<https://sensationsenglish.com/video/ZHvkNA/2>



Pork

Specific market needs

Raises all sorts of discussions

- Cultural respect
- Personal voice

Context specific focuses ... e.g.

- Furthering science
- Meat replacements
- Dietary requirements

Trigger warnings



Innovation • Science

28th January 2022

**First pig to human
heart transplant**



Lifestyle • Food & Diet

27th May 2022

**Singapore's new
tofu wine**



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E N G L I S H

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Politics
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Sexual and gender identities



Lifestyle • Family

4th December 2020

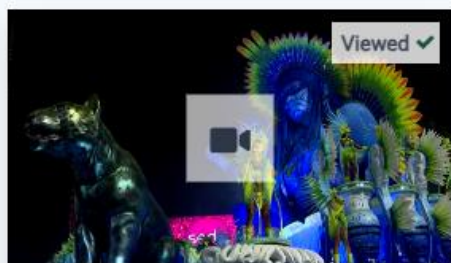
Covid-cancelled weddings head to Gibraltar



Lifestyle • Family

28th June 2021

Czech Republic women aim for equality



Culture • Festivals & Events

4th March 2020

Rio Carnival takes a stand



Community • Equality

2nd November 2020

Pope backs LGBT civil unions

Usualisation and disruption approaches

Identity

- Sexuality
- Gender identity

Focus

- Sometime the main focus
- Sometimes an awareness within a piece of news

EDI is part of a global language

Global couples wed in Gibraltar

<https://sensationsenglish.com/video/DnVCsH/3>



Czech Republic gendered surnames

A lot of women would prefer to have a non-gendered surname. They wish to have the same form as their male relatives.

Neighbouring Slovakia, which was previously one nation with the Czech Republic, has given women the right to choose.

Surnames in Czech aim for equality

<https://sensationsenglish.com/article/Mb0H9j/3>



British Council requirements

Gender

Race, ethnicity, culture

Age

Disability

Religion or belief

Sexual and gender identity

Socio-economic background

Urban and rural realities

Linguistic diversity





Conclusions – key points

- **Be aware of the news source.**
- **How objective is it?**
- **How does the context support the content?**
- **Look for representation of the learners.
(You can't be what you can't see!)**
- **Ways in which the report will promote
higher-order thinking.**
- **Find level appropriate material to cover topics.**



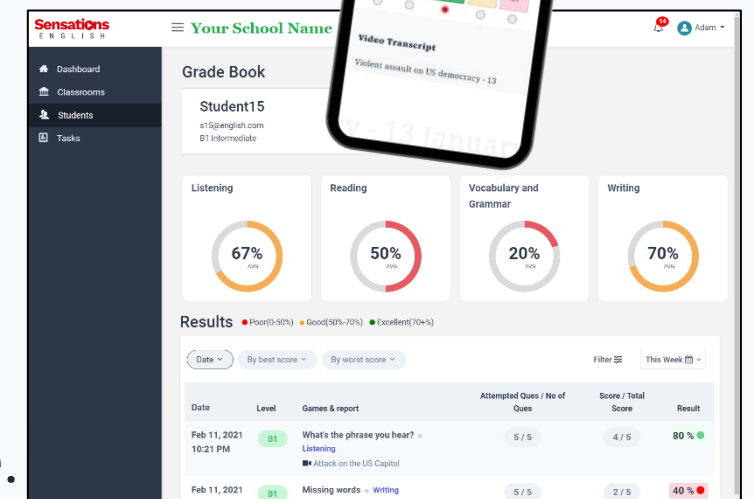
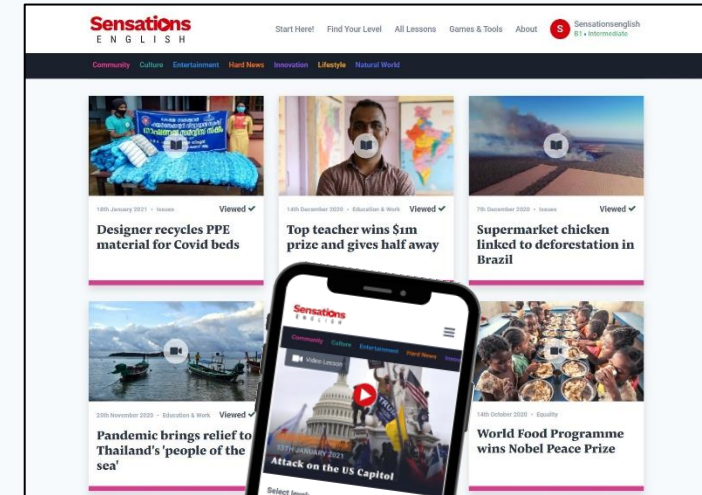
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