

Courses and Resources

People often ask me which courses they could follow to learn more about dyslexia and other Specific Learning Differences (SpLDs). So I thought now would be a good time to give a brief overview, because there are a couple which are starting in April.

Courses

So first up is my online course '**Understanding Neurodiversity**'. It starts on **April 12th** and it looks at several different SpLD - the key characteristics and also, how they overlap. So, if you're a teacher, or a parent, or family member, of someone who is neurodiverse - or maybe you're just very interested in how different the human brain can be - this could be a good course for you.

It's a **10-week supported self-study course**, which means, basically, that you work on your own, at your own pace, but alongside others who are also on the course, so there's plenty of opportunity for discussion. I am also available at any time, if you want to email to ask questions, or whatever, and we also have a couple of group meetings built in. So you're not entirely on your own.

It costs **£150**, and for that you get two great resources. You get the activity collection 'Raising Awareness of SpLDs' and also the comic about the neurodiverse friends. And you can use these to raise awareness with your colleagues or with your students after the course has finished.

You can find out more information at the ELT well website – the address is at the bottom now.

<http://eltwell.com/training/on-line-courses>

Dyslexia and Foreign Language Teaching

Then we've got the really popular Future Learn and Lancaster University MOOC which is back for its 7th year, starting on **April 19th**. This is a **4 week course**, and again it's supported self-study, usually with a really lively discussion board - thousands of participants all sharing their ideas - as well as mentors and educators who will be around and answer any questions in the discussion forum. It's free to join that one, but if you want a certificate, it's going to cost you a little bit more. Again, I've put the website at the bottom of the screen here.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/dyslexia>

Assessing Multilingual Learners,

Now, if you're working with multilingual learners, and wondering if maybe one of your students has dyslexia, there is now an online course which will take you through the process of using the CAML assessment kit (that's the 'Cognitive Assessments for Multilingual Learners'). That's the adult version and the young learners' version. It's again online, it's self-study – it's about **5 hours of study** - and you just enrol whenever you are ready, and you work at your own pace – but you need to finish within about 2 months.

If you are looking for SASC accredited CPD, this has got 5 hours of SASC accreditation. But the best thing is that when you sign up, you actually get a CAML kit, whichever one you prefer. So after the course is finished, you will have the materials to do as many assessments as you need to do, whenever you need to do them. Now, of course, you can buy the CAMLs on their own, but actually the course costs **£180.00** and that represents really good value for money when you think that you get the training as well as the materials. Again, more information at the website.

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Resources

Perhaps you're looking for classroom resources, so I've got a couple of collections of activities here. This one is the '**Including Dyslexic Language Learners**' collection. It's got activities in there to develop, for example, memory strategies, to develop better organization, phonological processing – the kinds of things that neurodiverse learners typically need a bit of explicit support in. And of course you can use it with all your learners, everybody in the class will benefit, but it is designed specifically to support those neurodiverse learners. And it follows on from the CAML assessment, so you can identify what their areas of challenge are, and then you can start to work on them in class.

Language Learning and Musical Activities

And if you're looking for something a bit different, you might consider making more use of music in your teaching. Now you might already be using songs – and that's great. Songs are a great way of helping us to remember new words. I always have trouble finding exactly the right song, which is why I got together with a community musician, Matthew Evens, and we put together this collection of activities. It actually goes beyond just the use of songs. There is a lot that music can do for us, for example, helping students to develop a sense of rhythm which helps with word stress and sentence stress, tuning in to pitch changes, and what that means in the English language, even thinking about the impact that tempo and volume has on your listener. So all these musical elements within the language, you can start to develop using this activity collection.

<http://eltwell.com/resources>

And finally ...

And all of these links – the course and resources I have talked about here – will be going into the post on the ELT well website. Which brings me to my final suggestion. Because I do understand that sometimes it's just not possible to commit to a course. But - dipping into some short, thought-provoking posts might just help you to develop some new ideas about your teaching.

So, this post – with all the links to all the resources that I've talked about - will be joining the rest of the collection on the ELT well website. This year we've covered topics like working with mature learners, identifying neurodiversity, using multisensory activities – quite a range of things – and you'll find all of those posts on the ELT well website, at this site here:

<http://eltwell.com/2021/03/03/march-2021-mature-learners>

And if you want to get in touch, of course, from the ELT well website you can contact me directly. I hope you enjoy your professional development!