



Open questions

Thinking and expressing ideas

Open questions will help your learners imagine their own answers and articulate them in their own words. They are extremely useful to encourage independent, critical thinking and getting learners to gain confidence. By thinking about their own answers, your learners will push their reflection and access ideas that they might not have thought of previously. These types of questions will also enable your learners to form their own judgement and construct their own moral system.

preparation

- Always prepare your open questions before delivering your lesson. They should form part of your lesson plan and be linked to your learning objective: you are using open questions to push your learners' thinking, and to enable them to progress towards the best outcome possible according to your learning objective. That is why it is so crucial for those questions to be thought of in advance: they form an integral part of the steps you put in place to help your learners progress. They should also be a regular technique to use in your daily practice.

procedure

- You can ask open questions to the whole class, to start a discussion. You can also ask open questions within a 'Think, Pair, Share activity'. Alternatively, you can ask your learners to answer an open question in the written form; or ask them to take their questions home, for a friend or a family to answer and report on the answer they were given in your next lesson.

- Examples of open questions:

1. What three things have you learnt today?
 2. Have you changed your opinion about a particular animal today?
 3. Explain how your opinion has changed and why.
 4. What animal would you like to be and why?
 5. How do you think it feels for an animal to...?
 6. How do you think the animal/s is/are feeling in this picture? How can you tell?
 7. Have you felt like this yourself before?
 8. How were your facial expressions and body language similar or different to this animal when you did?
 9. How could you help the situation?
 10. What are the main reasons for this animal's suffering?
 11. What would you do if you were this animal?
 12. How could we stop elephants destroying crops without hurting them?
 13. Why is it important to respect the environment?
 14. How are animals, the environment and people all linked?
 15. What would happen if all the rats around a neighbourhood were killed?
 16. Why are human beings responsible for domestic animals?
 17. How are human beings responsible for domestic animals?
 18. How are some animal emotions and human emotions similar?
 19. How do you know that an animal is happy?
 20. How do you know that an animal is in pain?
 21. What should be done to protect animals in your neighbourhood?
 22. What is the difference between wild animals and domestic animals?
 23. What is our responsibility towards wild animals?
 24. How could we help stray animals in our neighbourhood?
 25. What would you do if you saw someone mistreating an animal?
- Etc...