




**DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING IN A2
ENGLISH LESSONS.**

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Critical thinking skills, according to the many existing definitions, include observation, interpretation, analysis, inference, evaluation, explanation, and metacognition. Many teachers now believe that a curriculum aimed at developing thinking skills in general may benefit the learner, the society and the world at large. Language and critical thinking grow together and nurture each other's development. As students engage in critical thinking, their language skills expand and this will help in the acquisition of a better language level. Critical thinking is important because it relates to nearly all tasks, situations, topics, careers, environments, challenges, and opportunities for the students in the process of learning a foreign language. Teaching students how to think critically helps them turn information into knowledge and knowledge into wisdom. That's why; **the objective** of this paper is to develop critical thinking in the A2 English lessons throughout a set of didactic activities at the Language Center .



HIGHLIGHTINGS

- Lack of recognition between logical and critical thinking
- Both are essential to learn a language
- Critical thinking pays attention to logical thinking processes yet allows for less rigid evaluations while remaining analytical While the terms logical thinking and critical thinking are often used interchangeably
- Prepares them for their future in solving problems and situations by fostering thinking, reasonable, critical and reflective beings



HIGHLIGHTINGS

- Critical thinking provides a kind of shelf to order the great masses of information and data to which we are exposed, and strengthens memory.
- Planting the seed of logic and critical thinking is the best way for the plant of future education to have strong roots. (Gödel, (1978),)
- Use the rational capacity to analyze, understand and solve problems effectively. It uses deduction to establish precise conclusions and also allows us to abstract to anticipate and think about situations and objects that are not in front of us. We are all born with the ability to develop it, but whether or not we do so will depend on its stimulation.



HELPFUL CRITICAL THINKING EXERCISES

- **Helpful Critical thinking exercises**
- **Ask questions.** Asking questions, especially open-ended questions, gives students a chance to apply what they've learned and build on prior knowledge. It also allows them to problem-solve and think on their feet, and boosts self-esteem by providing an opportunity for students to express themselves in front of their peers.
- **Encourage decision-making.** Since a large part of teaching critical thinking skills revolves around applying knowledge and evaluating solutions, teachers should encourage decision-making as much as possible. This enables students to apply what they've learned to different situations, weigh the pros and cons of a variety of solutions, then decide which ideas work best.
- **Work in groups.** Group projects and discussions are another excellent way for elementary school teachers to encourage critical thinking skills. Cooperative learning not only exposes students to the thought processes of their classmates, it expands their thinking and worldview by demonstrating that there's no one right way to approach a problem.
- **Incorporate different points of view.** Some of the very best critical thinking exercises for students involve exploring a concept from multiple perspectives. This tactic not only establishes that an idea should be assessed from different points of



- **Connect different ideas.** Connecting different ideas is key to teaching critical thinking. For example, teachers can ask students if they know anyone who has to take a bus to work, and if so, why it would be important for that person to also have a truck schedule. Questions like these help children consider different situations (delayed buses, for example) and potential solutions (taking the truck or a taxi instead), helping them apply prior knowledge to new contexts.
- **Inspire creativity.** **Imagination** is key to teaching critical thinking in the school. Teachers should seek out new ways for students to use information to create something new. Art projects are an excellent way to do this. Students can also construct inventions, write a story or poem, create a game, sing a song—the sky's the limit.
- **Brainstorm.** Brainstorming, a time-honored tradition in elementary education, is an excellent learning tool. It's also an excellent critical-thinking exercise, especially when paired with visual elements that bring original thinking and classroom discussions to life.



FACE2FACE & CRITICAL THINKING

UNIT TOPIC	ACTIVITIES
1 Personal Information	<p>Discovering the facts. Find out why your parents named you like this.</p> <p>Decide on significance: Find the meaning of your name .</p> <p>Challenge the biases: Change your name , Give reasons.</p>
2 Family	<p>Problem Solving: dealing with family problems or conflicts, and come up with possible solutions. Role Play</p>
3.Free Time and Special dates	<p>Critical thinking Charade. Use a short story, ask students about their opinions of the characters, then discuss with the whole class whether they agree or disagree asking why?</p>
4. Eating out / Breakfast timr	<p>Meal and Snack Planning pros and conts Making Better Choices when Dining in Restaurants. Ask students: which is different: milk, water, soda, or juice? Why? Which one is better ?</p>
5 Life events /weekend activities	<p>Facts and Opinion. Explain to an extraterrestrial about relaxing options during weekends</p>
6.Technology	<p>Problem solving and classroom debate Computers and Human behavior /Letter x Email, Broom x Vacuum cleaner, Map x GPS</p>
7 . Places in Town/ house description	<p>Compare and contrast, analyze, evaluate, and make judgments about their towns and homes</p>
8 Hollidays	<p>Building awareness: What if you could Visit another country</p> <p>.Predictions and making inference. Gathering information from conflicting sources of information about holidays</p>
9.Health problems	<p>Scenario: Patient/Caregiver Interaction Problem Solving and Intuition</p>

CONCLUSIONS

The integration of learning a foreign language and critical thinking is a necessity task for the students' engagement on the subject matter. During the process of initiating critical thinking has a close connection with reflection as it encourages students to think independently. In addition, the teachers should provide materials which simultaneously promotes critical thinking rather than content coverage. The importance of critical thinking should be highlighted through the Syllabus. Bringing critical thinking in classrooms is helpful as it deals with real life situations. Critical thinking will not only make students intellectual empathys, but it will also help them become aware of their own knowledge and the need to address different ideas constantly – and through research and reasoning, they shall accomplish their tasks with integrity .The series of Face2Face Elementary can provide opportunities to develop critical thinking

