

ELT Forum

Welcome to the first ELT Forum Newsletter! ELT Forum is based in Cluster Mitte, Austria, though we welcome all current and future ELT teachers. This newsletter will provide updates on professional development and networking opportunities, publications and teaching resources throughout the school year. We're open to any tips and feedback as we get started!

Professional Development Opportunities

Explore these offerings to enhance and expand your teaching practice:

NILE @ PHDL

This semester, the PHDL hosts the renowned teacher education institute NILE, offering a series of online seminars for teachers. These seminars can be accredited as 'Fortbildungen'.

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| Nov. 28, 2024: 16:45-18:30 | <i>Navigating Diversity in English Classrooms (L047)</i> |
| Dec. 12, 2024: 16:45-18:30 | <i>Making Learning more Accessible to Dyslexic Students (L057)</i> |
| Jan. 30, 2025: 16:45-18:30 | <i>Teaching the Curriculum Creatively (L081)</i> |
| Feb. 6, 2025: 16:45-18:45 | <i>CLIL in the Primary Classroom (L087)</i> |

Sign-up for teachers: <https://shorturl.at/AmY5m> Sign-up for students: <https://shorturl.at/bo8Cf>

Turning problems into action!, Helbling series

Helbling Verlag is offering a free webinar series on teaching in lower secondary, led by renowned author and teacher trainer Herbert Puchta. Sign up for the sessions here:

<https://events.helbling.com/at/>

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| Nov. 13, 2024: 17:00-18:00 | <i>Constructive ways of dealing with reading problems</i> |
| Nov. 20, 2024: 17:00-18:00 | <i>What learners can learn from how 'real' writers write</i> |
| Nov. 28, 2024: 17:00-18:00 | <i>Creating a positive classroom culture</i> |
| Jan. 15, 2025: 17:00-18:00 | <i>All they need is words – well, almost!</i> |
| Jan. 29, 2025: 17:00-18:00 | <i>Grammar can be a pain – but it doesn't have to be</i> |

The 14th Biennial English Teachers' Day in Vienna (6624SVL200)

Nov. 27, 2024, PH Wien

Teachers from across Austria are invited to join this event designed for secondary English educators. Participate in workshops, network with peers, and discover new teaching strategies. Highlights include a keynote by Thomas Strasser, interactive workshops, a book fair, and a raffle. Attendees will gain insights into AI integration, share experiences, and leave with fresh ideas to enhance their English teaching practices.

[https://www.ph-online.ac.at/ph-](https://www.ph-online.ac.at/ph-wien/ee/ui/ca2/app/desktop/#/slc.tm.cp/student/courses/304692?scrollTo=overview)

[wien/ee/ui/ca2/app/desktop/#/slc.tm.cp/student/courses/304692?scrollTo=overview](https://www.ph-online.ac.at/ph-wien/ee/ui/ca2/app/desktop/#/slc.tm.cp/student/courses/304692?scrollTo=overview)

ELT Teacher Talks: Cluster Mitte will be hosting regular ELT Teacher Talks and the next one will be announced soon. In our first, three middle school English teachers presented their reading projects which aimed to enhance English reading skills at the lower secondary level (A1-A2) while introducing critical topics such as racial injustice, inclusion, and rainbow families. Watch the recording here: https://udele2023.univie.ac.at/?page_id=1464.

Networking Opportunities

Check out the following teacher networks:

Lehrer:innen Österreich

This Facebook page serves as a community for Austrian teachers, providing updates, resources, and discussions relevant to the teaching profession in Austria.

<https://www.facebook.com/lehrerinnenoesterreich>

Schulgschichtn: Meinung macht Schule

The website "Schulgschichtn" shares personal stories from people involved in schools, such as teachers and students, to provide insights into everyday school life and broader educational challenges. It aims to foster dialogue and raise awareness about the education system through these real-life narratives. <https://www.schulgschichtn.com/>

Schule im Aufbruch

This project promotes transformative school development, empowering students to become active and responsible members of society. It focuses on holistic education, emphasizing creativity, self-efficacy, and community. The goal is to make schools spaces for personal growth and social contribution. You can subscribe to their newsletter here: <https://www.schule-im-aufbruch.at/> or sign up for their upcoming events and webinars! (<https://www.schule-im-aufbruch.at/termine/>)

Book Launch Invitation

You are invited!

Dec. 10 2024: 16:30-18:00, PHDL library

NEW PATHWAYS IN TEACHING ENGLISH - Exploring Challenges and Innovations from Elementary to Tertiary Education

This book explores key issues in teaching and learning English as a foreign or second language (EFL/ESL), offering practical and theoretical insights for creating supportive and equitable learning environments. Topics include easing the transition from kindergarten to primary school, motivating young learners, using songs effectively, and understanding how teacher qualities impact learning. It also addresses educational equity in Austrian ELT, examining ways to support diverse learners. Additional topics cover the role of peer feedback, the pros and cons of AI tools like chatbots, and how fostering creativity and collaboration can help educators address AI-related challenges in higher education. Our authors provide answers and invite discussion on these topics.

Our Recommendations

Film: *Favoriten* by Ruth Beckermann : This film offers an authentic look into a linguistically diverse Volksschule classroom in Vienna, where one inspiring teacher shines despite major resource challenges. A must-watch for all educators (to be)! <https://filminstitut.at/filme/favoriten>

Podcast: *Talking ELT* by Oxford University Press: This podcast series makes it easy to stay up-to-date on the latest ELT trends and explore fresh, innovative approaches: <https://shorturl.at/aBjJ5>

Online Teaching Material: Check out our colleague Elisabeth Schober's Instagram account on teaching literature and media in ELT: <https://linktr.ee/elschob>

New Books:

The Twenty Most Effective Language Teaching Techniques by ISP Nation <https://shorturl.at/pfreH>

Compassion-based Language Education by Sarah Mercer <https://shorturl.at/vfdmQ>

Article: "A Methodological Framework for Using Pop Songs in the EL2 Classroom" by Harald Spann <https://shorturl.at/Sualq>

Feel free to share this newsletter with others who might be interested and send us any entries for the next one. To subscribe, sign up here: <https://forms.gle/tkTgMYEbfCx5DgF47>. To unsubscribe, email: hannah.schneeberger@ph-ooe.at