

MODULE 1

1.2 - BENEFITS OF NON-FORMAL EDUCATION FOR LANGUAGE TEACHING

Non-formal education has **3 advantages** for language teaching.

1. Non-formal education is **active**: we can do **practical activities** instead of reading lots of pages of grammar. There is an English expression that teachers use to talk about practical activities. This expression is '**learning by doing**'.

For example, you can ask two students to imagine a conversation between a customer and the manager in a clothes shop. With this activity, the students practise the language and simulate (=reconstruct) **a real communicative situation**, i.e. a moment in everyday life when they have to communicate with others. This makes it easier to be ready to use the language in real life!

2. Non-formal education is **flexible**: it means that the **learning content** (= *the things we learn*) changes according to the interests and needs of the learners.

In non-formal education, teachers and students must have a good relationship. To do this, teachers must listen to students' needs and interests. For example, you can use your student's favourite song to increase his interest, to help him study a grammar rule or to make him learn some words.

3. Non-formal education is **accessible**: it means that it is open to everyone. Non-formal education is open to people big and small, rich and poor, Italian and foreign. In this way, non-formal education allows **intercultural exchanges** (= *exchanges between different cultures*) between students, who work together.

For example, you can ask your students to talk about a typical dish from their country. That way everyone learns something new!

To sum up, we can make **4 statements** about the **link between language teaching and non-formal education**:

1. Students are more **motivated** (= *are happy to learn*) because they are at the centre of the course;
2. The teacher can help the students learn new topics through **practical activities** that the students enjoy;
3. Through practical activities, students are prepared to use the foreign language in **real life**;
4. The teacher listens to the students' interests and needs, so the **course programme can change**.

Do the activity. Then, in the next video, we take a look at how TBLT works.