

MODULE 1

1.1 – INTRODUCTION TO MODULE 1

Welcome to Module 1, an introduction to non-formal approaches to foster language learning. My name is Vidjaya, and I am a trainer in non-formal education

I am Mutindi, a teacher of English as a second language. Together we will go through this module. But first, what is this module about?

This module is going to introduce you to some of the core concepts that you will see further on in this mooc, so we will talk about non-formal education, we will talk about language teaching, we will talk about the methodology Task-Based Language Teaching and we will talk about language awareness. These concepts will help you to understand the base-line for language teaching and how to use the TBLT methodology. So now, let's get started!

This module will help you to understand the principles and the importance of using non-formal methodologies within the frame of Task-Based Language teaching, or what we will refer to afterwards as TBLT

That means that by the end of this module, you will be able to Firstly understand the concept of non-formal education, and how it can benefit language teaching; Secondly, you will understand the basics of TBLT and its main characteristics; Thirdly, you will understand the concept of language awareness and use it your preparation as a language teacher

But before we get started, perhaps you can give us a brief definition of what non-formal education is

Yes of course, non-formal education is about learning, outside of schools, however still intentionally. It includes things like learning by doing, learning from others, a group feeling but at the same time it can respond to the learners' needs.

As you will see in this module, language teaching and non-formal education go hand-in-hand and obtain great results! Once we understand what non-formal education is and how it relates to language teaching, we will go from language teaching in general, to a particular methodology that is called Task-Based Language Teaching. This methodology, the main concept of the MOOC, uses many aspects of non-formal education and therefore fits perfectly to a non-formal setting. You will be introduced you to some of the basic concepts of the methodology that you will develop further in the rest of the MOOC. Finally, we will focus on you as a language teacher, and how you can improve your teaching by knowing first of all, the importance of language awareness.

This will be covered by 3 topics; non-formal education, TBLT and Language Awareness. In these topics you will find mini video-lectures and small activities and

quizzes. Most of the methodology of TBLT will be explained to you by an interview with a language teacher who is specialized in TBLT. Furthermore, you will also find a glossary and “tips and strategies” page.

The glossary page will indicate the most important or new concepts of the module. You will have to find the definitions yourself in the videos. The “tips and strategies” page functions as a reminder and summary of the important concepts, strategies and practical tips.

By the end of this module you will have to do a test. This is a final test to show what you have learned and also to get recognition for the new knowledge acquired. Ready? Let’s get started with the first topic of the module which is “non-formal education” but first we will ask you to do a short introductory quiz to test your knowledge that you might already have on the topic