

DISABLED ACCESS FRIENDLY CAMPAIGN

www.disabled-accessfriendly.com

Using ELT to raise awareness about issues affecting people with mobility disability.

The campaign's website provides free EFL teaching material and graded reading texts for skills building, projects or examination practice.

This material also stimulates students to put themselves in the shoes of someone with a mobility disability for a better understanding of their needs and feelings.

The best schools and teachers have always done more than just prepare students for tests. They raise awareness of the world in which we live and try to make it a better place.

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BACKGROUND TO THE DISABLED ACCESS FRIENDLY CAMPAIGN

People with mobility issues are disabled more by inaccessible infrastructure and other people's attitudes and behaviour than they are by their own physical situation. Largely through omission and ignorance they are isolated, disempowered and excluded from actively participating in everyday activities.

CAMPAIGN DESCRIPTION

The voluntary Disabled Access Friendly campaign aims to increase awareness about mobility disability among students learning English as a Foreign Language (EFL) and to persuade them that through their own actions they have the ability to bring about change. It paves the way to progress being made both in attitude and infrastructure so that people with mobility disability are less isolated, have improved access to the world, and are empowered to live more independent lives.

THE POWER OF EDUCATION

Teachers are in a prime position to enlighten the younger generation. Nelson Mandela said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" and the teaching of EFL can be a powerful and important vehicle for raising awareness about social issues. However within the confines of the syllabus, the course book and the exams it can sometimes be difficult to find appropriate material that allows you to do this. This is where the Disabled Access Friendly campaign's free EFL teaching resources can help.

DISABLED ACCESS FRIENDLY CAMPAIGN'S FREE EFL RESOURCES

The campaign's free online material facilitates teachers in developing students' social conscience, making lessons meaningful, and encouraging critical thinking through a curriculum of social empathy. The resources consist of lesson plans and graded reading texts at all levels, which can be used as supplementary material, for project work and examination practice. The material provides students with the information necessary to allow them to put themselves in the shoes of someone with a mobility disability and stimulates them to explore how others feel and to understand others.

EXAMPLES OF THE CAMPAIGN'S EFL RESOURCES

At A1 level

A lesson on 'can/can't' uses the familiar pattern of whether Helen can or can't play various sports or do various activities. The only difference here is that Helen is a wheelchair user. Helen can do lots of challenging activities:

She can play basketball.

She can play tennis.

After all these activities when Helen would like to chill out with her friend Jenny at Jenny's house:

Helen can't go to Jenny's house.

The picture shows that Jenny's house has steps.

At B1 level

A picture of a kitchen effectively practices the second conditional, whilst at the same time prompts students to think about the countless difficulties faced by wheelchair users, which go way beyond just being unable to negotiate steps. The students are asked to think about how this kitchen could be improved so that a wheelchair user could use it more easily. The language is contextualised, and sentence patterns emerge naturally.

If the cooker were lower, the person would be able to see what he was cooking.

SUPPORT US AND BECOME A TEACHER WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE

- Use our material
- Contribute material of your own
- Spread the word through networking
- Become an ambassador for the campaign at EFL events you attend
- Volunteer your expertise and experience

CONTACT US

Website: www.disabled-accessfriendly.com
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