

TeachingEnglish – South Asia regional
webinar

Teaching functional language

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Functional language and learning

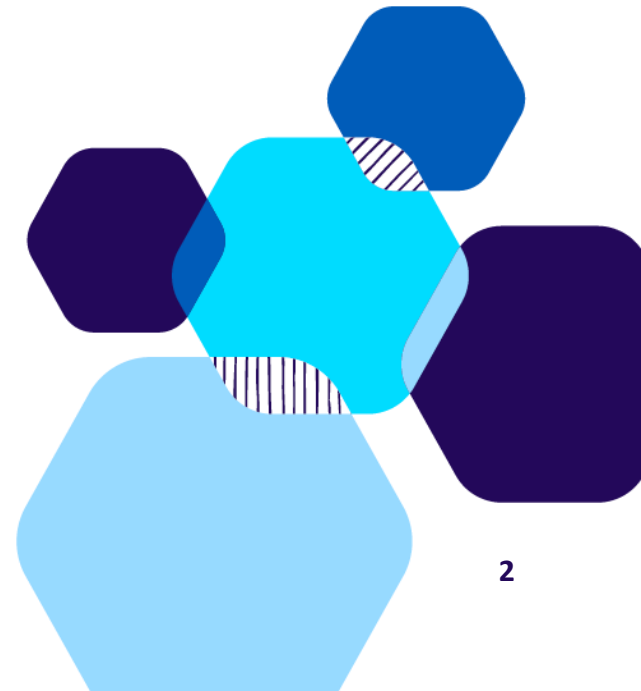
Functional language are phrases or chunks of language that we use to perform particular functions.

This may include language we use for example in:

- the classroom
- restaurant situations
- to give advice

We find functional language in textbooks in:

- phrases
- language chunks
- dialogues



Benefits of functional language teaching

- Students can begin communicative activities quickly
- Shifts dynamic from teacher-led to student focussed classes
- Emphasis shifts from forming correct sentences to producing language
- Promotes easy recall of phrases for specific situations.

Strategies for teaching functional language

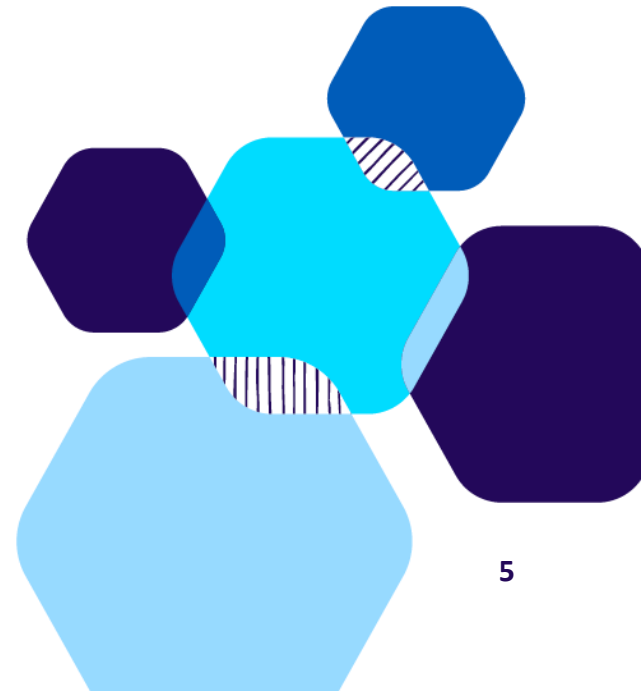
- Phrases can be elicited using pictures
- Using various drilling techniques to practice pronunciation e.g. girls then boys, loud and quiet or fast then slow
- Written records of the language can be stuck around the classroom to recycle the vocabulary
- Functional language is also a key feature in writing tasks. Highlight fixed phrases in models for writing e.g. in letters, notices, essays



Continuing Professional Development

Panelists discussed:

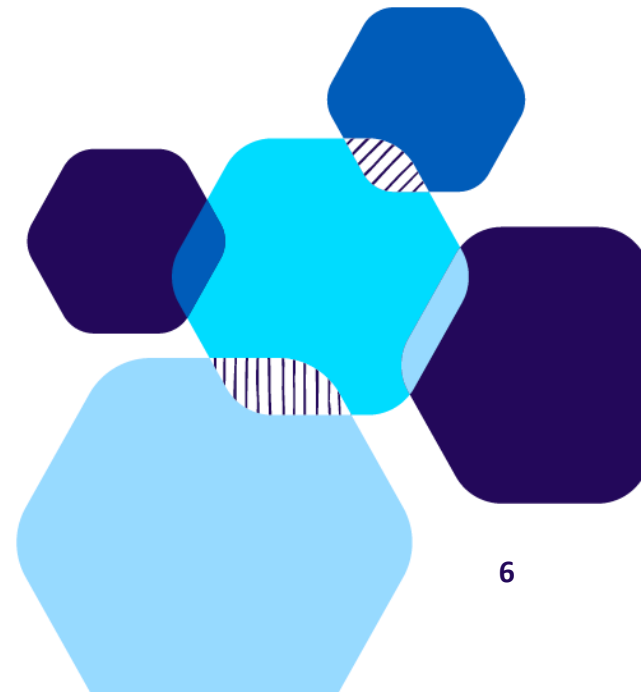
- Formal training
- Training courses, such as TKT
- Development opportunities in school, e.g., developmental conversation with colleagues, sharing resources with colleagues, peer class observations
- Joining the local associations for teachers of English
- Personal research of new concepts
- Personal reflective journal



Useful links and resources

Resources highlighted in the webinar

- Teaching functional language Youtube video: <https://www.esikai.com.np/2019/09/how-to-teach-language-functions.html>
- Resources, learn English Kids: <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/>
- English language association of India: <https://www.eltai.in/>
- [TKT \(Teaching Knowledge Test\) | Cambridge English](#)
- British Council training course: [Understanding language systems | TeachingEnglish | British Council](#)
- British Council Mini event 13th November: <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/news-and-events/webinars/webinars-teachers/teaching-four-skills-mini-event>
- Find more information about a variety of free training courses in this link: [Training courses | TeachingEnglish | British Council](#)
- FAQs about our training courses can be found on this link: <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/training/training-courses-faqs>



Thank you

