



Why LGBTQIA+ in ELT matters

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16 February 2023



Outline

- What is LGBTQIA+?
- Section 28 (UK)
- LGBTQIA+ global facts
- Growing up LGBT+
- What LGBTQIA+ in ELT is not
- What LGBTQIA+ in ELT could be
- But how?
- An example - *The place where* (B1 / B2)
- If time, another example
- Links and suggestions
- Any questions

What is LGBTQIA+?

- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Trans
- Queer
- Intersex
- Asexual
- Plus identities not under the heterosexual umbrella, e.g. genderfluid, pansexual, etc.



Image from Disabled and Here



Section 28 (UK, 1988-2000/2003)

- “A local authority shall not-
 - intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality;
 - promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship.”

LGBTQIA+ global facts

69

countries that criminalise private, consensual same-sex sexual activity (approx. number)

41

countries that criminalise private, consensual sexual activity between women

11

countries that have the death penalty for private, consensual sexual activity

14

countries that criminalise the gender identity of trans people

www.humandignitytrust.org/lgbt-the-law/map-of-criminalisation/

Growing up LGBT+

(Just Like Us, 2021)

17%	46%	48%	68%
LGBT+ pupils heard negative language about LGBT+ people on a daily basis	LGBT+ pupils have seen homophobic bullying in their school	Pupils have had little to zero positive messaging about being LGBT+ in their school	LGBT+ young people have contemplated suicide (29% for non-LGBT+)



Image by Jiang Xulei on Unsplash

What LGBTQIA+ in ELT is not

- A debate on the existence of LGBTQIA+ people
- Sex education
- Conversion
- A taboo
- Political
- Visible

Online examples

Discussion question: Is it easier for a gay to live in a village or a city?

Discussion question: Are there certain jobs that tend to be dominated by gay people? If so, why is that?

In a well-used resource book: Do you think that there are any jobs which homosexuals should not be allowed to do?

In the same book: Would you employ a gay person? Why? Why not?

What LGBTQIA+ in ELT could be

- Usual / usualised (ref: Prof. Sue Sanders, Schools Out, LGBT+ History Month UK)
- Intersectional
- A true representation
- Life-affirming
- Visible

Image by PNW Production on Pexels



Image from Gender Spectrum



Image by Rodnae Productions on Pexels

But how?

- By including LGBTQIA+ identities in materials, resources and course books
- By using supplementary images and materials
 - The Gender Spectrum
 - LGBT+ History Month
 - Stonewall
 - Just like Us
 - The Proud Trust
 - Twinkl
 - Schools Out
 - LELM Education



Image from Gender Spectrum

An example – The place where

Existence:

The place where (B1+/B2, relative clauses)

1 Work on your own. You have a limited amount of time to write down as many activities connected to the sea, rivers or lakes. Your teacher will tell you when to start.



2 Work in pairs. Compare your lists.
Do you do any of these activities? Would you like to do any of these activities?

usualised

intersectional

target grammar

followed by
grammar and
vocab exercises,
discussion,
writing and
research on
disability and
LGBTQIA+
people

The surfer



Vicente lives near the sea in Nuquí, Colombia. When the weather is good, he goes to the beach which is near his place. He only goes to the beach when he's not working, of course. Vicente, who works as a photographer, lives on his own in a small apartment. He moved to his apartment last year after he broke up with his partner. His partner, whose name was Alberto, decided to move to a bigger city after the breakup. The house where Vicente and Alberto lived was too big for Vicente on his own. Vicente isn't looking for love at the moment, but if a special man comes along, he'd be open to a new relationship.

Surfing has always been a big part of Vicente's world. He learned to swim at an early age and first used a surf board at the age of eleven. He used a board that soon became too small for him, so he had to get a bigger one. Now he uses a board which he designed himself. He also designed a skateboard for his best friend, Daniela. Daniela's wife, who comes from Mexico, prefers to watch Vicente and Daniela do their sports but they would rather read a book on the beach instead.



Existence:

Then and now (A2) Past simple affirmative / negative



Lead in

1 This is Sandy. Her life now is different to ten years ago.

a Work with a partner. Look at the photos. What do you think they say about Sandy's life ten years ago?

b Read the text and check. Were you correct?



5 Look at the photos which are connected to Sandy's life now. What do you think is different?





CONCLUSION



LINKS AND SUGGESTIONS

- QR code for my ELT resources shop,
plus a links page

Thank you

