Roadmap futures

Introduction

This activity is designed to help students think about why they are learning English and goals they want it to help them achieve.

Once they have established their goals, students have to think about steps they can take to make their dreams a reality. They do this by drawing a graphic version of their roadmap, which helps them visualize their goals.

Webinar time reference: 36:31 – 38:31

Level: Secondary A2+

Time: 20 – 30 minutes

Aim: To encourage students to think about what they need to do to achieve their goals.

Preparation:

- Make copies of the roadmap visual template for the students.
- Complete your own roadmap template. This could be about something you want to achieve. Try to include 6 to 8 images of the steps you will need to take to achieve your goal.
Procedure

- Show the students your roadmap and use it to tell the students about the things you want to achieve and the steps that you will take to achieve your goal.

- Now give the students a copy of the blank roadmap template.

- Ask them to draw and label a picture of themselves, now in the classroom, at the bottom.

- Now ask them to think about their English learning goal in the future. This could be passing an exam, or it could be further ahead, such as a good job that requires a high level of English or travel or study abroad.

- Ask the students to draw themselves at the top of the roadmap once they have achieved their goal.

- Now ask the students to draw in 6 – 8 things that they will need to do along the way to achieving their goal.

- Give them some time to complete their roadmaps, and then put the students into pairs or small groups of up to 4 to compare and find out about the other students’ roadmaps. Tell the students if they see any good ideas to help with their journey, they can steal them for their own roadmap.

- Monitor while they compare and make notes of any good ideas.

- When they have finished, share some of the best ideas you found from their roadmaps.

Materials:

Roadmap to your goals
Additional resources

Simple drawings to support life skills

- One fun activity is to create a five-year plan with students. Making plans for the future is a common tool for professionals wishing to enhance their careers, and clarify their goals and plans. In fact, there’s some evidence to suggest that you’re more likely to succeed if you set goals.

  https://emilybrysonelt.com/simple-drawings-to-support-life-skills/

Motivating our learners: actualising the vision

- A vivid vision of their future L2 self is highly motivating for students. Vision alone is not enough however: this practical workshop, based on ideas in Motivation (Hadfield and Dornyei, 2013), will explore four ways to help students turn vision into reality

  https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/motivating-our-learners-actualising-vision

Motivating the students

- Keeping your students motivated to learn is one of the biggest challenges any teacher faces. Here you can find lots of helpful tips.

  https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/vocabulary-activities

Counselling learners

- Counselling involves talking through their strengths and weaknesses. It is an interactive process in which they are able to say how they feel about their learning, the course, and their teacher.

  https://thenounproject.com/