

OXFORD

TAMZIN THOMPSON



Blue Dot



2

Teacher's Guide

with Digital Pack



Blue Dot

Teacher's Guide 2

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Scope and Sequence

UNIT	READING	VIDEO	LISTENING
MODULE 1 RELATIONSHIPS			
1 Page 8 Why are relationships important?	Time with Grandma and Grandpa Realistic Fiction Strategy Predicting from Pictures and Titles Vocabulary grandparents, grandson, granddaughter, cook a meal, tell a story, take a walk, do chores, treats, watering can, card	How We Are Friends Vlog Vocabulary bake cookies, watch cartoons, do puzzles, do karate, forget, alone	On the Farm Story Strategy Visualizing Vocabulary lamb, bark, chase, run away, feed, get dark
2 Page 18 How can we make good relationships?	Better Together Realistic Fiction Strategy Identifying Main and Secondary Characters Vocabulary first, second, spelling bee, project, contest, habitat, pair, unhappy, jellyfish, glue	Sorry, Mrs. Jackson Animated Story Vocabulary afraid, hole, dig, take care of, store, buy	Spring in Japan Story Strategy Identifying Facts Vocabulary cherry, chopsticks, excited, invite, ask, celebration
3 Page 28 What relationships are important in nature?	The Lion Guardians Website Article Strategy Identifying Cause and Effect Vocabulary tracks, cub, dangerous, cattle, helpful, cross, fence, tourist, hundred thousand, surprised	Working Together Explainer Strategy Identifying Facts and Opinions Vocabulary teeth, ostrich, pollen, skin, sloth, algae	Taking Care of the Earth Play Vocabulary smoke, air, breathe, sunlight, pollution, factory
MODULE 2 FORM			
4 Page 42 How does form help us?	Andy and Lisa's Game Children's Magazine Article Strategy Making Inferences Vocabulary guess, round, hard, magazine, flat, drawers, cake, sweet, bounce, sour	Fish, Birds, and Mammals! Explainer Strategy Categorizing Vocabulary mammals, birds, scales, gills, fins, beak	First Trip South Story Vocabulary hill, river, land, gray, trip, smart
5 Page 52 Why do things have different forms?	The City Garage Team Fiction Strategy Comparing and Contrasting Vocabulary heavy, truck, motorcycle, wheel, seats, plane, ship, vehicles, pull, hook	Staying Healthy and Safe Explainer Vocabulary anteater, porcupine, quill, cactus, spine, pineapple	Boxes, Bags, and Bins! Radio Advertisement Strategy Connecting to Self Vocabulary container, backpack, pencil case, pocket, straw, light
6 Page 62 Why do we change the form of things?	Strawberry Sunday Journal Strategy Sequencing Events Vocabulary broken, waste, butter, strawberry, blender, freezer, ice pops, pour, mold, fix	Please Recycle Us! Animated Story Vocabulary can, bat, aluminum, machine, empty, soda	Brilliant Bamboo Presentation Strategy Predicting from Clues Vocabulary centimeter, toothbrush, paper, pajamas, swings, important
MODULE 3 PLACE			
7 Page 76 Why are places special?	My Place in the World Fiction Strategy Activating Prior Knowledge Vocabulary spaceship, astronaut, helmet, sky, moon, continent, planet, solar system, high, part	Our Place Animated Story Strategy Identifying the Main Idea Vocabulary roof, window, look, web, hedgehog, worm	Pete's Favorite Place Conversation Vocabulary school cafeteria, borrow, aquarium, think, geography, lesson
8 Page 86 How do places affect people, plants, and animals?	Habib in Hawaii Realistic Fiction Strategy Comparing and Contrasting Vocabulary surf, sandals, potatoes, ski, camera, mango, sled, desert, island, pear	A Long Winter Sleep Explainer Vocabulary cave, bat, hibernate, fat, slowly, alive	Farmer Figgy's Lesson Story Strategy Identifying Cause and Effect Vocabulary dates, melon, peppers, carrots, sell, sand
9 Page 96 How do places change?	Kids Club Nature Report Interview Strategy Retelling Events Vocabulary volcano, erupt, lava, ash, destroy, hurricane, flood, disappear, coast, wind	Green Seoul Explainer Vocabulary pollute, green space, airport, station, restaurant, parking lot	The Forest Man of India Conversation About Real Events Strategy Sequencing Events Vocabulary elephant, rhino, along, conversation, leave, cotton

GRAMMAR	SPEAKING	WRITING	REVIEW
Take Action pp. 38–39			
PRONOUNS <i>I have something to tell you.</i> <i>Ata carries the bags for her.</i>	Showing Appreciation <i>Oh, no! The paint!</i> <i>It's OK. Let's it clean up.</i> <i>Thank you for helping.</i> <i>You're welcome.</i>	WORD STUDY Words That Are Nouns and Verbs <i>I use paint to paint pictures.</i> paint = noun paint = verb Practice using words that can function as nouns and verbs. (Workbook page 9)	Connect Connect Poster 1 and page 17 Review Workbook page 10
PAST TENSE BE STATEMENTS <i>Nina was second.</i> <i>Nina wasn't happy.</i> <i>Nina and Sergio were grumpy.</i> <i>Nina and Sergio weren't happy.</i>	Inviting Someone Somewhere <i>Would you like to go to the park tomorrow?</i> <i>Sure. What time?</i> <i>One o'clock.</i> <i>Great.</i> <i>OK. See you tomorrow.</i>	WRITING STUDY Punctuation Review <i>I'm Akari. What's your name?</i> <i>Wow! I love it! I love cats, dogs, and fish.</i> Practice applying correct punctuation. (Workbook page 18)	Connect Connect Poster 2 and page 27 Review Workbook page 19
SIMPLE PAST QUESTIONS WITH BE <i>Were there lions in Egypt? Yes, there were.</i> <i>Was there a lion in the village?</i> <i>No, there wasn't.</i> <i>Where were there lions in the past?</i>	Giving a Warning <i>Be careful! There's a jellyfish!</i> <i>Where?</i> <i>Over there.</i> <i>I see it now. Thanks.</i>	WORD STUDY Words That Can Be a Noun and an Adjective <i>This is an orange.</i> <i>The orange bike is small.</i> orange = noun orange = adjective Practice using words that function as nouns and adjectives. (Workbook page 27)	Connect Connect Poster 3 and page 37 Review Workbook page 28
Take Action pp. 72–73			
SIMPLE PAST STATEMENTS WITH REGULAR VERBS <i>Andy and Lisa looked for the magazine.</i> <i>The magazine didn't arrive.</i>	Describing Something <i>I can't find my school bag.</i> <i>What does it look like?</i> <i>It's big and blue and white.</i>	WRITING STUDY Quotation Marks <i>"You're a wonderful daughter," says Mom.</i> Practice using quotation marks. (Workbook page 36)	Connect Connect Poster 4 and page 51 Review Workbook page 37
SIMPLE PAST QUESTIONS WITH REGULAR VERBS <i>Did you help the bus, Toni? Yes, I did.</i> <i>Did you help a train? No, I didn't.</i> <i>What did you help? I helped a bus.</i>	Buying Something <i>Excuse me. How much is this toy bus?</i> <i>It's \$10.</i> <i>OK. Here's \$10.</i>	WORD STUDY Compound Words <i>play + ground = playground</i> <i>finger + print = fingerprint</i> Practice identifying and using compound words. (Workbook page 45)	Connect Connect Poster 5 and page 61 Review Workbook page 46
SIMPLE PAST STATEMENTS WITH IRREGULAR VERBS <i>Mom told us to eat the strawberries.</i> <i>The ice pops didn't freeze.</i>	Asking for Something at the Table <i>Please pass the fish.</i> <i>Here you go. Do you want rice, too?</i> <i>No, thank you.</i>	WRITING STUDY Adjective Order opinion size age shape color + noun <i>a beautiful small old round red ball</i> Practice using adjectives in the correct order. (Workbook page 54)	Connect Connect Poster 6 and page 71 Review Workbook page 55
Take Action pp. 106–107			
SIMPLE PAST QUESTIONS WITH IRREGULAR VERBS <i>Did you see our house? Yes, I did.</i> <i>Did you see my continent? No, I didn't.</i> <i>What did Sandra see? She saw the sun.</i>	Asking for an Address <i>What's your address?</i> <i>It's 24 Sunset Street.</i> <i>Could you spell Sunset, please?</i> <i>Sure. S-U-N-S-E-T.</i>	WORD STUDY Synonyms <i>smart → intelligent</i> <i>Earth → world</i> Practice identifying and using synonyms. (Workbook page 63)	Connect Connect Poster 7 and page 85 Review Workbook page 64
POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS <i>That's my surfboard. It's mine.</i> <i>Whose surfboard is that? It's his.</i>	Asking How Someone Goes to School <i>How do you go to school?</i> <i>I go to school by subway. It takes 30 minutes.</i>	WRITING STUDY Apostrophe for Possessive <i>The bat's cave. [1 bat] The bats' cave. [2+ bats]</i> Practice using apostrophes to show possession. (Workbook page 72)	Connect Connect Poster 8 and page 95 Review Workbook page 73
CAN AND MAY <i>Can we take a walk?</i> <i>Yes, we can. / No, we can't.</i> <i>May I ask you some questions?</i> <i>Yes, you may. / No, you may not.</i>	Talking About the Weather <i>What's the weather like?</i> <i>It's raining.</i> <i>Oh, no! I want to go for a walk.</i> <i>You can wear your raincoat.</i>	WORD STUDY Antonyms <i>hard ↔ soft</i> <i>light ↔ dark</i> Practice identifying and using antonyms. (Workbook page 81)	Connect Connect Poster 9 and page 105 Review Workbook page 82

UNIT		READING	VIDEO	LISTENING
MODULE 4 TIME				
10 Page 110 How can we tell the time?	Time on the Farm Realistic Fiction Strategy Making Inferences Vocabulary sunrise, sunset, turn, noisy, gate, east, west, evening, shut, man-made	What's the Time? Animated Story Strategy Using a KWL chart Vocabulary shadow, invent, second, minute, hour, wrong	Calling California Conversation Vocabulary time zone, call, map, get up, asleep, awake	
11 Page 120 Why is understanding time important?	Down by the River Fiction Strategy Identifying the Beginning, Middle, and End Vocabulary plan, mud, finish, branch, join, calendar, busy, underwater, stick, beaver	Robbie's Planner Conversation Vocabulary organize, late, spelling test, grade, practice, study	Schedules Dialogues Strategy Connecting to Self Vocabulary schedule, movie theater, popcorn, alpaca, snack bar, candy	
12 Page 130 How can we learn about the past?	A Long Time Ago Realistic Fiction Strategy Identifying the Main Idea and Details Vocabulary great-grandmother, computer, post office, mall, subject, drive, bored, phone, letter, email	Our Class Time Capsule Animated Story Vocabulary time capsule, sweater, menu, technology, date, badge	Luna's Visit Story Strategy Visualizing Vocabulary vegetables, milkshake, guide, robot, extinct, nurse	
MODULE 5 DEVELOPMENT				
13 Page 144 Where can we see development?	Ava's First Year Journal Strategy Skimming Vocabulary hold, crawl, wave, neck, spoon, clap, stand, sit, stretch, roll over	Developing Computers Explainer Strategy Summarizing Vocabulary engineer, weigh, kilogram, bank, popular, laptop	All About Joeys Conversation Vocabulary marsupial, jelly bean, tail, fur, eyes, legs, fruit, grass	
14 Page 154 What do people and animals need to develop skills?	A Violin for Ramon Realistic Fiction Strategy Identifying Cause and Effect Vocabulary concert, skill, tired, famous, bowling, promise, patient, fingers, terrible, drums	Forest School Explainer Vocabulary orangutan, rainforest, open, swing, coconut, meter	Meet Dottie Talk Strategy Activating Prior Knowledge Vocabulary service dog, train, visually impaired, year, puppy, leash	
15 Page 164 Why are small ideas important?	A Clean, Safe Town Poem Strategy Rhyming Words Vocabulary trash can, throw out, wrapper, carton, clean, feel, street, film, principal, whole	Boat School Video Call Vocabulary stop, architecture, presentation, design, solar panel, school bus	Delicious Spoons Conversation Strategy Identifying Facts and Opinions Vocabulary reduce, vanilla, chocolate, chickpeas, natural, fantastic	
MODULE 6 SYSTEMS				
16 Page 178 What does a system need to work?	The Broken Bike Chain Realistic Fiction Strategy Scanning Vocabulary frame, chain, pedals, brakes, handlebars, path, parts, tire, check, pump	Subway Adventure Animated Story Vocabulary dragon, ticket, festival, platform, get on, get off	Snack System Story Strategy Comparing and Contrasting Vocabulary market, flour, sugarcane, wheat, oven, bakery	
17 Page 188 Why are natural systems important?	The Food Chain Nature Magazine Article Strategy Using a KWL Chart Vocabulary fly, grasshopper, raccoon, herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, berries, nuts, hawk, food chain	The Water Cycle Explainer Strategy Using Diagrams Vocabulary cycle, precipitation, evaporation, condensation, gas, liquid	All About Honeybees Nature Magazine Article Vocabulary sting, honey, pollinate, nectar, female, male	
18 Page 198 Why do people make systems?	Pipes and Faucets Fiction Strategy Identifying the Main Idea and Details Vocabulary turn on, turn off, faucet, waterworks, shower, wash, pipe, sink, remove, easy	Esma's Library Story Vocabulary box, decorate, list, title, cover, return	The Flying Doctors Report Strategy Predicting from Clues Vocabulary fall off, ambulance, helicopter, emergency, checkup, mechanic	
Page 210 Time to Spot				

GRAMMAR		SPEAKING	WRITING	REVIEW
				Take Action pp. 140–141
ADVERBS OF TIME <i>Later, I see the sun in the west.</i> <i>When does the mouse see stars?</i> <i>It sees stars every night.</i>	Talking About Time and Activities <i>What time is it?</i> <i>It's 5 o'clock.</i> <i>Oh! I need to go. I have a piano lesson.</i> <i>OK. Bye!</i>	WRITING STUDY Pronouns <i>The mouse lives on a farm.</i> mouse = noun <i>It likes sunflower seeds.</i> It = pronoun Practice using the correct pronoun references. (Workbook page 90)	Connect Connect Poster 10 and page 119 Review Workbook page 91	
PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE <i>across from, above, below, behind, in front of, near, next to</i>	Asking About Schedules and Times <i>What time does the movie start?</i> <i>It starts at 2:30.</i> <i>It's 1 o'clock now.</i> <i>The bus takes 30 minutes to get there.</i> <i>Let's go.</i>	WORD STUDY One- and Two-syllable Words One-syllable words map gate Two-syllable words eve / ning sha / dow Practice identifying and using one- and two-syllable words. (Workbook page 99)	Connect Connect Poster 11 and page 129 Review Workbook page 100	
QUESTIONS WITH PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE <i>Where was the school?</i> <i>It was next to the post office.</i> <i>Was there a school next to the post office?</i> <i>Yes, there was.</i>	Asking About Free-time Activities <i>What did you do on Saturday?</i> <i>I baked cookies. It was great. What did you do?</i> <i>I played soccer. It was a lot of fun.</i> <i>Cool!</i>	WRITING STUDY Verb Tenses to Show Time <i>We listen to music.</i> listen: usually happens <i>We are listening to music.</i> are listening: happening now <i>We listened to music.</i> listened: already happened Practice using correct verb tenses to show time. (Workbook page 108)	Connect Connect Poster 12 and page 139 Review Workbook page 109	
Take Action pp. 174–175				
COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVES <i>Ava is stronger than she was last month.</i> <i>Ava is stronger now.</i> <i>Is Ava stronger than she was last month?</i> <i>Yes, she is. / No, she isn't.</i> <i>Ava's sight is better now.</i>	Refusing an Invitation <i>Can you play soccer this afternoon?</i> <i>I'm sorry, I can't. I want to teach my brother to ride a bike.</i>	WORD STUDY Homophones where wear one won hear here be bee Practice identifying and using words that are homophones. (Workbook page 117)	Connect Connect Poster 13 and page 153 Review Workbook page 118	
SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVES <i>Ramon is the youngest student in the class.</i> <i>The violin is the best instrument of all.</i> <i>Is Ramon the oldest student in his class?</i> <i>No, he isn't.</i>	Complimenting a Skill <i>You play the piano really well. Do you practice every day?</i> <i>Yes, I do. I practice for fifteen minutes every day.</i>	WRITING STUDY Comparative and Superlative Endings <i>young → younger → youngest</i> <i>heavy → heavier → heaviest</i> Practice forming comparative and superlative endings. (Workbook page 126)	Connect Connect Poster 14 and page 163 Review Workbook page 127	
SHOULD / SHOULDN'T <i>People should throw trash in the trash can.</i> <i>They shouldn't leave trash on the ground.</i> <i>Should we pick up trash?</i>	Giving Reasons <i>Jack's project was better than my project.</i> <i>I don't think so.</i> <i>Really? Why?</i> <i>Because your project was more fun.</i>	WRITING STUDY Phrasal Verbs Look after: Amin looked after his baby sister. Practice identifying and using phrasal verbs. (Workbook page 135)	Connect Connect Poster 15 and page 173 Review Workbook page 136	
Take Action pp. 208–209				
LIKE, WANT, NEED + INFINITIVE <i>Laura likes to ride her bike.</i> <i>Do you want to help me?</i> <i>All of the parts of the bike need to work.</i>	Asking for and Giving Directions <i>Excuse me? Can you tell me how to get to the museum?</i> <i>Sure. Turn right here. Walk past the park.</i> <i>It's on your left.</i>	WRITING STUDY Subject-verb Agreement <i>An apple is from an apple tree.</i> <i>Cookies are not from a cookie farm.</i> Practice correct subject-verb agreement. (Workbook page 144)	Connect Connect Poster 16 and page 187 Review Workbook page 145	
QUANTIFIERS <i>A lot of living things need plants.</i> <i>Some people think snakes are scary.</i> <i>There isn't any rain in a drought.</i> <i>There aren't any plants on an iceberg.</i>	Giving Advice <i>What's the matter?</i> <i>My throat hurts.</i> <i>Oh, no! You should drink some water.</i>	WORD STUDY Review of Verbs, Nouns, Adjectives, and Pronouns verb: eat noun: system adjective: natural pronoun: you Practice using verbs, nouns, adjectives, and pronouns correctly. (Workbook page 153)	Connect Connect Poster 17 and page 197 Review Workbook page 154	
QUESTIONS WITH QUANTIFIERS <i>How many times a day do you turn on faucets?</i> <i>How much water do you use?</i> <i>Does the garden need any water?</i>	Talking about Future Jobs <i>I want to be a police officer one day.</i> <i>Really? Why?</i> <i>I want to keep people safe.</i> <i>What about you?</i>	WRITING STUDY Articles A, An, and The <i>That is a library. The library is big.</i> Practice using the articles <i>a, an, and the</i> correctly. (Workbook page 162)	Connect Connect Poster 18 and page 207 Review Workbook page 163	

Print Components

FOR STUDENTS



Student Book

- Six modules of three units
- Six module opener lessons
- 18 units focusing on concept and language development
- Six *Take Action* project lessons



Workbook

- Nine pages of activities for each unit
- 18 end-of-unit review pages
- Grammar section for reference and extra practice
- Writing resource section, including checklists, graphic organizers, and verbs list

FOR TEACHERS

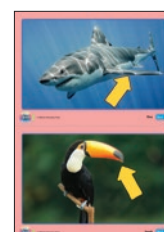
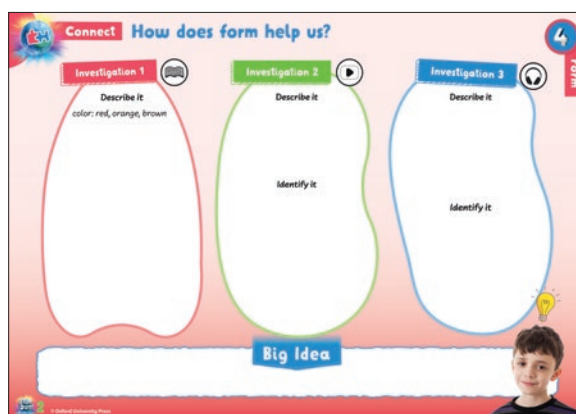


Classroom Resources Pack

- Flashcards to present key vocabulary
- 18 Connect Posters (one per unit)
- One Oxford Learner Profiles Poster

Teacher's Guide

- An overview of the course and its methodology
- A tour of a unit outlining the function of each lesson, resources available, and teaching steps
- Detailed lesson plans with notes, answer keys, and audio and video scripts
- Access code for Oxford English Hub



Digital Components

on Oxford English Hub

The digital materials and resources for this course can all be found at oxfordenglishhub.com

FOR STUDENTS

Student e-book

- A digital version of the Student Book, with audio, video, and interactive activities

Workbook e-book

- A digital version of the Workbook with interactive activities

Student Online Practice

- Interactive grammar presentation and practice

Student Resources

- Course audio and video to view or download



FOR TEACHERS

Teachers can access additional digital resources by logging in to www.oxfordenglishhub.com, where they can switch between Teacher and Student view.

Teacher's Guide

- Color PDF version

Teacher Resources

- Course audio and video
- Downloadable flashcards
- Worksheets: grammar and vocabulary practice, Expand, Spelling Bee, wordlists, writing resource, reading comprehension, graphic organizer templates, Concept Portfolio cover, Oxford Learner Profiles, *Take Action* Project Planning
- Phonics (Levels 1, 2, and 3) worksheets

Classroom Presentation Tools

Student Book

- Interactive presentation materials including audio and video content
- Vocabulary, grammar, and strategy presentations

Workbook

- Digital version of the Workbook

Course Assessment

- Downloadable tests: entry test, unit tests, review tests, final test, and skills tests
- Downloadable assessment for learning worksheets

Teacher Online Practice

- Extra homework practice to assign to your students, enabling them to carry on learning outside the classroom

Professional Development

- Methodology support, bite-sized training, and more to maximize your teaching

Letter to Teachers

Dear Teachers,

As fellow educators, we are grateful for this opportunity to welcome you to an exciting new approach to English-language education. We have created **Blue Dot** to be exceptional, to push the boundaries of what your students are capable of learning, of understanding and becoming.

Blue Dot is based on the firm belief that children have the ability to understand challenging ideas. They can think logically and critically, ask meaningful questions and seek answers, make connections, and arrive at greater understandings about our world. Each module in **Blue Dot** explores the deeper meaning of concepts such as well-being, choice, order, and function. Students explore each concept through a series of investigations designed to provide interesting case studies and key takeaways. Students make connections among these investigations to arrive at conceptual understandings that can inform them now and in the future.

As students explore each concept, they develop essential English-language skills. Each reading, video, and listening presentation introduces new vocabulary that is learned through the context of the investigation. **Blue Dot** follows a progressive grammar syllabus that infuses new grammar into every unit. As students read, view, and listen, effective strategies are introduced to help them acquire and retain information efficiently. Students learn to read between the lines, to infer, and to come to their own conclusions as they build conceptual understanding. Many activities involve students sharing their ideas with each other, building upon their listening and speaking skills. Students also develop strong writing skills as they produce a variety of text types throughout the course.

Blue Dot motivates students to be changemakers, to use their conceptual understandings to make the world a better place. Each module concludes with a call to action, presenting ways in which students can make a difference. Students are asked to bring their creativity, values, and strengths to the table. They are motivated to collaborate with each other to find solutions to global problems.

As teachers, you play an essential role in your students' development. Your influence extends well beyond their hours in the classroom. We believe that **Blue Dot**, with your guidance and support, will inspire your students to become the leaders, problem-solvers, and changemakers of tomorrow. Thank you for joining us on this exciting journey!

Sincerely,

Charles Vilina and **Kathleen Kampa**

Authors

Blue Dot Student Books 3 and 4

Welcome to *Blue Dot*

Introduction

Blue Dot is an innovative six-level course, designed to challenge your students and inspire them to become active and empowered global citizens.

Blue Dot employs an inductive approach to language learning, which enables students to learn high-level vocabulary and grammar within relevant contexts. This provides a solid linguistic foundation and robust language exposure for students to not only learn English but remain engaged throughout the process.

Through its concept-based inquiry (CBI) approach, *Blue Dot* inspires students to make connections between different content, arriving at transferable generalizations and deeper meanings. Through the development of these generalizations, students will be better able to navigate the complex world they live in, equipped with the knowledge they need to become successful students and engaged citizens, and be inspired to make the world a better place to live.

The CBI approach has the added advantage of placing students at the center of their education, shifting the ownership of learning from teachers to students. The emphasis is on students becoming empowered inquirers. This is achieved through a process of asking questions, giving opinions, taking risks, adapting, and persevering. Placing the focus on students in this way helps them to realize how valuable they are within society and why it is important for them to be heard. Within every lesson in *Blue Dot*, students are given choices, enabling them to make meaningful decisions and see the results.

The CBI approach shows students that they can make a difference through their individual actions, as well as by working together. Collaborative work and discussions are an essential part of *Blue Dot*, establishing a culture of open-mindedness, diversity, and respect for multiple perspectives.

Blue Dot enables you to:

- make learning meaningful by inspiring your students to learn about the world through stories, videos, and listening texts
- develop your students' thinking skills to enable them to make connections between ideas inside and outside the classroom and become global citizens
- empower your students to understand the impact they can have on the world around them through *Take Action* projects
- help your students to achieve their goals by applying assessment for learning principles
- build a solid foundation in English to prepare your students for test success, with a carefully staged grammar and vocabulary syllabus
- find support through comprehensive teaching notes and suggestions that help you make the most of the materials
- feel confident that materials developed by Oxford University Press are underpinned by research and best practice

Teaching with *Blue Dot*

In *Blue Dot*, the core lesson content is delivered via a unique combination of digital and print materials. Lessons are easy to follow, integrating these core components: Classroom Presentation Tool (CPT), Student Book, Workbook, and Teacher's Guide. By following the content as presented in each of these components, students are systematically taken through presentation, practice, and consolidation stages for new language and conceptual ideas.

Classroom Presentation Tool

The CPT is fully integrated with the Student Book, offering video, audio, images, and interactive activities. It presents and practices vocabulary, grammar, and learning strategies, and provides engaging concept development activities. The CPT delivers content that develops students' concept-based thinking skills and provides essential English language support to empower students to express their ideas with confidence.

The CPT includes:

- a range of activities to excite and engage learners at the start of each module
- reading, video, and listening strategy presentations
- vocabulary presentations and practice
- grammar presentations, practice, and animations
- an engaging video for Investigation 2 of each unit
- a thought-provoking listening track for Investigation 3 of each unit
- Expand activities for each investigation, which challenge students to experience and expand their understanding of the concepts
- all of the course audio
- module song audio and videos

Student Book

The Student Book guides the class through the CBI stages, posing challenging questions and generating engaging discussion.

Each module contains:

- **a module opener:** a high-impact, double-page spread that introduces the module concept
- **three units:** each unit aims to expand students' understanding of the module concept
- **a *Take Action* project:** an opportunity for students to transfer their understanding to a real-world initiative in response to their Big Idea

Each unit contains:

- **three investigations** containing multimodal input types: reading, video, and listening
- **a Communication page** for developing productive speaking and writing skills
- **a Connect page** where students capture their ideas before articulating their own Big Idea

Workbook

The full-color Workbook provides solid foundations for reinforcing and strengthening students' English language skills, while also offering opportunities for review and self-assessment. Each unit contains:

- vocabulary practice
- grammar practice and review
- reading practice: an additional reading text with strategy and comprehension activities
- writing practice: further activities to practice the writing skill presented in the Student Book

Vocabulary

Students learn new vocabulary through a CPT presentation and practice activity at the beginning of each investigation lesson. They encounter these new words again through the context of a reading, video, or listening input.

Every investigation page includes a glossary with images for reference and a dictionary with definitions at the back of the Student Book. For classes that require extra challenge, teachers may choose to expose students to the vocabulary through the input before using the glossary to teach the new vocabulary. For classes that require extra support, teachers may choose to focus on the vocabulary ahead of the input, using the CPT, glossary, and flashcards.

The Workbook and worksheets found in the Teacher's Resource Center provide additional practice for all new vocabulary.

Grammar

Students encounter new grammatical structures naturally through the context of the reading text in Investigation 1. At the end of the investigation, examples are given on the Student Book page and grammar presentation and practice is available on the CPT.

The Workbook and worksheets found in the Teacher's Resource Center provide additional practice for all new grammar, along with optional grammar animations. For extra grammar support, students can use Online Practice at home, which includes fun presentation videos and interactive practice activities.

Approach to Multimodal Literacy

Since contemporary communication is much more than writing and speech, the *Blue Dot* investigation lessons provide a wealth of material in different media types and genres, all of which will be familiar and relevant to students within their daily lives. These inputs aim to promote multimodal literacy skills through rich and engaging content and prepare students to become effective communicators.

The strategy presentation and practice on the CPT and in the Student Book provide students with the tools they need to access the information from the investigations.

Project Work

The *Take Action* pages in the Student Book encourage students to think creatively about how they might use what they have learned to make a positive difference to the people around them and to the planet.

Project work gives students the opportunity to personalize the language they have learned and apply it to a real-life task. It is motivating, as it offers students the chance to find out about interesting topics, to be creative, and to talk about themselves.

The benefits of project work go beyond language learning. By working together, students learn to communicate and collaborate with others, to share responsibility, and to work as a team. Project work gives students a sense of purpose and achievement and provides a bridge to independent learning as students investigate information, make their own choices, and present information in their own way.

In a mixed-ability classroom, project work has the additional advantage of being flexible for different levels, abilities, and learning styles, as the output can be adapted to suit different learners, and individual students can take on different roles with varying degrees of challenge.

To support project work, Project Planning worksheets are available in the Teacher's Resource Center. These are templates for groups to use when planning various projects, either as part of the *Take Action* lesson or at other points during the year. For more information, see page 221.

Assessment

Assessment for learning (AfL) is a way of teaching and learning that enables students to become motivated and independent learners. (See pages 16–17 for more detailed information about the principles of AfL.)

Blue Dot supports AfL by giving students the opportunity to evaluate their own learning in the reflect and review stages. The self-evaluation section at the end of each Unit Review page in the Workbook encourages students to look back through the unit and decide how well they think they met each lesson objective. The Portfolio assessments include a summary of *can do* statements for students to assess their language and skills development, while the SOLO taxonomy rubrics are focused on students' understanding of the concept.

When teachers are able to assess their students' progress and understanding of what they have learned, they can provide reinforcement and any necessary additional support to help students attain their learning goals.

Blue Dot offers a comprehensive range of course assessment, including:

- suggestions for ongoing classroom assessment
- suggestions for encouraging students to self-assess
- suggestions for using the Concept Portfolio as a means to capture students' developing ideas
- entry test, unit tests, review tests, final test, and skills tests

Posters

In *Blue Dot*, there is an accompanying Connect Poster for every unit. These posters should be displayed in the class throughout a module, so that students can add to them and refer to them where needed. The purpose of each Connect Poster is for the class to record their thoughts following an investigation, which will then help when agreeing on a generalization (Big Idea) at the end of each unit. The posters are wipeable, and offer flexibility in how they can be used. There are no right or wrong answers; however, we have provided example filled-in posters on pages 203–220, which can be used as a guide.

Alongside the Connect Posters, there is a Learning Profiles Poster, which can be displayed in your classroom or school. You can use the poster to explore the different ways of thinking, being, and acting in order to solve everyday problems or situations. Ask students to identify which of the profiles best reflects them, and which other profiles they would like to incorporate more into their learning. For more information about the Oxford Learner Profiles, please see pages 34–35.

Songs

For Levels 1–3, there are a variety of songs on the CPT for classes to enjoy.

Module songs are provided at the end of every module as a celebratory moment to be shared together. All the songs and accompanying videos are inspired by modern music that should be enjoyable for students and teachers alike.

For Levels 1 and 2 only, Routine songs provided in the Teacher's Resource Center can be used for classroom management and brain breaks at any point when the class needs a change of pace. The accompanying videos are a combination of mixed-media and a live-action performer, whose moves can be copied by the students.

Inclusive Practices

Inclusive practices allow all learners – including learners with special educational needs – to participate fully and achieve success. Inclusive practices can be implemented at a general level, providing an accessible learning environment, and at an individual level, recognizing and embracing the individual differences that occur in any group. *Blue Dot* encourages students to accept and understand differences through the presentation of real-world texts and through the Think and Discuss activities. The course also aims to include all learners by:

- providing a range of interactive and participatory activities and projects
- including activities and projects that allow students to demonstrate their learning in different formats
- offering a variety of multisensory activities, enabling students to learn through seeing, hearing, doing, and touching
- providing clear and explicit instructions for all activities

Parental Involvement

Being able to share their learning with family members is highly motivating to young learners, and support from parents is vital to students' progress.

You can encourage students to sing the module songs and read the stories to their families at home. Also share the idea of the Concept Portfolio with parents and encourage them to support their children in collecting ideas from their home lives to put in it. These can be physical items, drawings, or cuttings from magazines.

School blogs can be an effective way to keep parents up to date. If your school does not have a blog or website, you can send a regular newsletter home, detailing what the class has learned and what they are learning about now. This will give students a sense of achievement and show parents how far they have progressed in their English learning.

Blue Dot Methodology Introduction

Dear Teachers,

In our dynamic and intricately interconnected world, the need to equip students with the ability to transfer and apply their learning to diverse and ever-evolving situations has never been more important. The pace of change and the complexity of challenges demand that our educational focus extend beyond learning facts to fostering students' thinking skills. **Blue Dot** does just that by using rich factual examples from around the world to illustrate concepts and intentionally help your students build an understanding of bigger conceptual ideas.

While supporting language acquisition, concept-based inquiry (CBI) also has a transformative impact on making learning relevant and transferable. It encourages your students to question, analyze, and synthesize information, fostering a classroom culture that promotes exchanging ideas and unpacking diverse perspectives on different issues.

As you dive into the **Blue Dot** materials, you will notice a shift in the way your students approach learning, as the questions invite them to become more independent, critical thinkers who can see the relevance of their learning and make connections to the world around them. Your goal is to foster an environment that encourages exploration, pattern recognition, and creative problem-solving.

Fluency in a language is developed through immersive experiences with rich texts, stories, and videos. The CBI approach leverages meaningful case studies, encouraging learners to identify patterns and construct understanding. **Blue Dot** uses carefully curated examples that enable your students to link their developing language proficiency to practical situations, providing exposure to authentic and meaningful language use.

Moreover, respectfully acknowledging cultural similarities and differences is vital. Students benefit greatly when concepts and ideas are connected to their cultural experiences and expanding worldviews. This cultural integration ensures learning is relevant and helps students relate conceptual ideas to their own and other contexts.

As you delve into this Teacher's Guide and accompanying student resources, you may recognize certain learning engagements that feel familiar to you and your students. However, the expectation to think beyond the information in the text to observe patterns and establish connections to broader concepts is a significant shift.

If students are focused on right or wrong answers, they may initially find it challenging to embrace conceptual learning, where different big ideas are possible and diverse thinking is celebrated. It may take some time for your students to build confidence, but persevere. The objective is to shift from a mindset focused on seeking validation through teachers' grades towards fostering the confidence to express ideas and justify thinking, and the results are worth it. The most exciting part is the joy we witness from those "Aha!" moments, when it all comes together for each student, and they own that learning. The joy and empowerment that come from thinking for themselves is one of the greatest gifts a teacher can give a child.

Give your students the time and space to build confidence in their ideas. They will grasp the subject matter and develop a deep, transferable understanding that extends beyond the case studies we share in this series. Allow your classroom to become a collaborative learning hub where students inquire, explore, and construct meaning together, setting the stage for a lifelong love of learning.

The impact of CBI is far-reaching, cultivating a growth mindset among both educators and students. As you embrace the principles of CBI, you will find yourself adapting and evolving your teaching strategies, continually seeking opportunities for improvement. This growth mindset becomes contagious in the classroom, inspiring students to approach challenges with resilience and believe in their ability to learn and overcome obstacles.

As you explore this Teacher's Guide and the resources in this series, remember that you are not alone in this journey. Educators worldwide are unlocking the power of CBI in their classrooms, embarking on this exciting learning journey, facing many of the same challenges, and celebrating learning. I encourage you to reach out and connect with this global community, exchange ideas, and collectively contribute to the advancement of education on a worldwide scale.

Whether you are a seasoned CBI enthusiast or just starting out, reach out to your fellow educators, engage in collaborative discussions, and celebrate the collective wisdom of a community committed to transformative teaching practices.

Warm regards,

Rachel French

Educational Consultant specializing in Concept-Based Inquiry

Director of Professional Learning International

Blue Dot Methodology Walkthrough

Blue Dot combines tested ELT methodology with concept-based inquiry (CBI) in a ground-breaking approach to learning English. It encourages questioning, critical thinking, problem-solving, reflection, and action.

CBI methodology brings together two distinct pedagogical practices: inquiry-based learning and concept-based learning. Inquiry-based learning focuses on students taking an active role in asking and answering important questions. Concept-based learning focuses on students making sense of information, and organizing and categorizing it. When these practices are combined, students can transfer their understanding to new situations or contexts, seeing patterns for themselves, making connections, and ultimately making sense of the world in which they live.



Concepts

At the heart of CBI is a focus on universal concepts: ideas that are not constrained by particular subject areas, cultures, or periods in time, but which can be transferred to new situations and contexts. In *Blue Dot*, each module explores a different concept, and each of the three units within a module investigates the concept from a different angle. The concepts have been carefully chosen to align appropriately with students' interests and cognitive ability levels and to provide a range of engaging contexts in which students can explore new ideas and practice English language skills.

Generalizations

Generalizations are transferable statements that describe the relationship between concepts. In each unit of *Blue Dot*, students are gently guided towards a generalization about the module concept. For students, we call these generalizations the "Big Idea." Each unit of *Blue Dot* presents three different investigations designed to help students make connections, generalize, and broaden their knowledge base.

Forming generalizations and articulating them is the most critical stage of the CBI process. It builds agency by providing students with the tools they need to make an impact in the world around them.

At the end of each module in *Blue Dot*, students put their generalizations into practice by taking action in a real-world initiative. Providing a space for students to explore the module concepts and the relationships between them nurtures students' innate curiosity about the world, and provides an opportunity for sharing ideas and perspectives, creating a classroom environment where discussions are rich and understanding deepens over time.

Stages of Inquiry

There are seven key stages of teaching and learning that reflect how students' conceptual understanding forms through concept-based learning. A brief description is provided below of how each of these stages is incorporated in *Blue Dot*. (See also the full Tour of a Unit on pages 20–33.) Although the stages are presented as a sequential list, it is important to note that they need not be completed in a linear way; the stages may be returned to multiple times to support student understanding.

Module Opener

Engage: In *Blue Dot*, the module opener is the starting point to engage students emotionally and intellectually with the key concept of a module. The video and provocation activities on the CPT and the photos on the Student Book pages provide stimulating contexts for students to see, think, wonder, and share their ideas and any initial questions they might have about the key concept. The module opener also provides an opportunity for students to activate their prior knowledge around a concept, while providing the teacher with a valuable opportunity to observe and assess students' understanding: Do students have a shared understanding of the concept? Are there any misconceptions? What knowledge do students already have? What would they like to find out more about?

Students should be encouraged to express themselves in L1 (i.e., their first language) if they have more ideas about the concept than they can express in English. The priority of this stage is to have an engaging discussion and to establish a shared understanding of the concept. Teachers and students should feel comfortable with using more than one language during this stage according to the needs of the classroom.

Encourage students to record all their ideas and questions in their Concept Portfolio. A cover sheet for the Concept Portfolio is provided in the Teachers Resource Center that can be found on Oxford English Hub. Students can use their Concept Portfolio to write down ideas or questions, to draw pictures of the ideas about the concept, or to collect other examples that they find inside or outside of school that help to develop their conceptual understandings. Each student's Concept Portfolio will be unique. Encourage them to take pride in this piece of work and ask parents to provide support with collecting ideas for it. Students can add to their Concept Portfolio at any point during the module.

A See–Think–Wonder routine gives students space to observe and think more deeply about the connections between the things they see. (See Visible Thinking Routines, pages 36–37.)

A Reflect activity provides an opportunity for students to think about their understanding of the concept at this early point in the module.

Focus: The module opener also starts to focus students on developing a shared understanding of the key concept of the module, preparing them for the thinking to come.

Investigations 1, 2, and 3

Investigate: During the investigate stage, students explore factual examples or case studies that connect with the module concept and Big Idea for that unit.

Each unit contains three investigations:

- Investigation 1: a reading text (fiction or non-fiction), ten new vocabulary items, grammar presentation
- Investigation 2: a video (live-action, animation, explainer), eight new vocabulary items
- Investigation 3: a listening (dialogue, podcast episode, interview, news report, story, presentation), six new vocabulary items

Each unit is framed by an inquiry question that students will aim to answer with the Big Idea at the end.

Through each investigation, students acquire factual knowledge about the topic. In addition, concept-building activities in the Student Book motivate students to think beyond the factual to a conceptual level.

CPT Time Expand activities on the CPT allow students to apply their understanding to a new or personalized context. These activities provide further examples that can be drawn out at the end of the investigation and on the Connect page.

Organize: A variety of graphic organizers help students to start to structure their thinking and organize the information gathered from each case study.

Students are encouraged to articulate their new ideas by thinking and speaking about the unit question, simultaneously demonstrating their newly acquired language and their understanding of the module concept. They further explore their understanding on the Connect page and on the Connect Poster where students write down the key ideas to support the development of the Big Idea during the next stage.

Communication

The Communication pages in *Blue Dot* offer students the opportunity to focus on their speaking and writing skills in the context of the unit theme in preparation for the final stage of developing the generalization.

Dialogues model good communication skills and enable students to communicate effectively in real-world settings, giving them a motivating context for their language learning. Being able to apply what they have learned to a real-world situation gives students a sense of achievement and shows them how their learning can be used in their own lives.

Writing skills are developed in each unit through a focus on a specific useful writing point, a writing model text, or a word study. The writing activities in the Workbook provide further practice for students to develop their writing skills.

Connect (Student Book and Poster)

During the Connect lesson, take time to review all the information students have recorded for each investigation on both the Connect page and the Connect Poster. Using the poster is a key part of the *Blue Dot* methodology. At the end of each investigation, it is important to capture students' ideas so that a knowledge bank is built up over the course of the unit. Ask students if there is anything else they would like to add.

Generalize: The generalize stage is key to ensuring that students have fully developed their conceptual understanding. Use the guiding questions in the Teacher's Guide to help students see patterns in the information on the poster and make connections between the ideas. Take this opportunity to check in with students about their level of understanding and ask them to demonstrate it through their own Big Idea.

Together, formulate the Big Idea in English and try to express it in one sentence. It might take more than one attempt for everyone to agree on a single sentence, and this discussion about how to structure the Big Idea is an important part of the process. Once everyone is happy, write the Big Idea on the Connect Poster and have students record it in the Big Idea box on the Connect page of their Student Books.

At the end of this stage, encourage students to continue to add ideas to their Concept Portfolio as further evidence to support their Big Idea.

A NOTE ON USING THE CONNECT POSTER

Throughout the unit, encourage students to add other ideas to the poster. This may be in the form of drawings, doodles, pictures they stick on, or ideas written on sticky notes.

Keep all the unit posters on display through the course of the module so everyone can see the wonderful discoveries and meaningful understandings that have developed as a result of the investigations.

A NOTE ABOUT GENERALIZATIONS

The Big Idea should not be shared with students at the start of the module or unit.

Students should articulate the Big Idea in their own words. The aim is not to reproduce exactly what is given in the Teacher's Guide, but students should approximate the same level of understanding.

Celebrate students' ideas. Students may need to express their ideas about the Big Idea in L1. Help recast the sentence in English for them to record. The Big Ideas can be recorded, revisited, updated, and improved upon.

Reflect: Embedded throughout each module and unit in *Blue Dot* are opportunities for students to reflect on what they have learned and how their mindset or perspective has changed, thereby investing students in their own learning. The SOLO (structure of observed learning outcomes) taxonomy checkpoints built into the lesson notes serve as an opportunity for students to monitor and plan their learning progress.

The reflect stage is really important for students to assimilate their new learning and for teachers to assess the level of conceptual understanding that each student has reached.

How do I use the SOLO Taxonomy checkpoint?

SOLO taxonomy is a strategy to help students reflect on their learning journey and see where they are on the path to understanding and to watch it grow.

Using the CPT, show the SOLO taxonomy pictures. Read the captions below each picture as you demonstrate the gesture.

Check that students understand the meaning associated with each picture, and practice the gestures as a whole class.

Next, show the symbol that reflects your understanding of the concept.

Ask students to think about their own understanding of the concept or the topic in focus. Ask them to choose one picture that best represents their current understanding and to make the associated gesture. Make a note of the responses so that you can compare them to how the students respond to the same task at the end of the unit.



- 1 I can't say anything about the concept.
- 2 I can say one thing about the concept.
- 3 I can say more than one thing about the concept.
- 4 I can connect what I know about the concept.
- 5 I can connect, create, and take action with what I know about the concept.

For more information on SOLO taxonomy, see the information in the assessment for learning materials on Oxford English Hub.

Songs

At the end of each module there is a song with an accompanying video. Use the song to celebrate all the challenging thinking the students have done through the course of the module. All of the song lyrics can be found on page 200.

Take Action

Transfer: The culmination of each module is the *Take Action* project. This provides a practical opportunity for students to apply, test out, and transfer their knowledge, skills, and conceptual understanding. The *Take Action* pages also allow teachers to assess students' understanding of the concepts in a holistic manner.

Students engage with issues in their world today and strive to be changemakers and leaders by applying their conceptual understanding and language skills to create new ideas, products, and projects that will have a meaningful impact on their community.

The *Take Action* pages in the Student Book show example projects to inspire students to think creatively about how they might take action. They are encouraged to come up with their own ideas, thereby fostering learner autonomy.

Assessment for Learning

What is assessment for learning?

Assessment for learning (AfL) is an approach that builds formal and informal assessment practices into everyday classroom activities to directly encourage learning. It is recognized by educators around the world as a way of improving students' performance and motivation and promoting high-quality teaching.

Assessment for learning relies on a constant flow of information between you and your students. Students demonstrate their knowledge, understanding, and skills as they learn. Meanwhile, they receive specific and constructive feedback on their performance and progress, which helps them to move forward in their learning. This creates an ongoing cycle of gathering information, identifying next steps, and supporting learners in achieving the set objectives.

In an assessment for learning approach, it is not only the teacher who gathers and interprets evidence about what students know and can do. Students are also encouraged to do this for themselves and for each other through self-assessment and peer assessment. This helps deepen their understanding of what they are learning, why they are learning it, and what successful performance looks like.

While grades and scores inform assessment for learning, you are encouraged to collect evidence from other less formal activities. Often, you will collect quick insights from a warm-up activity that will inform the rest of your lesson; or you will offer a brief comment about a student's performance on a particular task. Assessment for learning should not focus only on aspects that students need to improve. It is just as important to highlight what students have achieved and are already doing well. One way of doing this is to focus feedback on "stars" and "wishes" – what students have done successfully and how they can move their learning forward.

Once students have received feedback, they need time and opportunities to act on it. It is by putting feedback into action that students can close the gap between their current performance and their desired performance.

Why is assessment for learning useful?

For Students

- It improves performance. Receiving effective feedback has a positive impact on students' achievement.
- It deepens learning. Students understand not only what they are learning, but also why they are learning it and what success looks like.
- It is motivating. Assessment for learning emphasizes progress rather than failure, encouraging students to set goals, recognize their achievements, and develop positive attitudes to learning.
- It prepares students for lifelong learning. By making students more responsible and self-aware, assessment for learning equips them to learn independently and proactively in the future.

For Teachers

- It informs teaching decisions. Assessment for learning provides valuable information about students' needs, allowing you to decide what to prioritize in your teaching.
- It develops skills and confidence. Assessment for learning can give you a clear sense that you are helping your students succeed.
- It allows you to teach more inclusively. By providing more tailored support to individual students, you can feel more confident that no one is being left behind.

How can I implement assessment for learning in my teaching?

Assessment for learning is based around three key classroom practices: diagnostics (where the learner is), learning objectives (what the learner needs to learn next), and success criteria (what success looks like).



Diagnostics

To be able to provide effective feedback, you need to find out what students already know. Gathering insight during the lesson allows you to see what students have learned and where they are struggling. This allows you to provide extra support, as necessary, to enable students to succeed.

You can gather this evidence in a variety of ways – not just through the formal tests that come with this course, but also through classwork and homework activities, including those that incorporate peer assessment and self-assessment. After teaching a new piece of language, check students' understanding. For example, say *Time for feedback! How do you feel about (the new words we have learned)?*

Below are a couple of suggestions for diagnostic tools you could try.

Traffic Light Cards: Each student has a red, yellow, and green card. Red means they do not understand, yellow means it is not totally clear or they feel a bit unsure about it, green means they fully understand. Ask students to hold up the card which best shows how they feel about their learning.

Thumbs Up: Students can use their thumbs to show their level of understanding.  means that students have a good understanding.  means that students are not confident. Holding their hand flat, facing down, and wagging it from side to side means they feel a bit insecure about it.

It is important to emphasize that students are not doing anything wrong if they do not understand something. In some instances, students might feel embarrassed to say they do not know something. Creating a culture in the classroom where students feel comfortable saying that they do not understand is critical for the success of assessment for learning.

Thinking Time: It is important to build thinking time into standard classroom practice. Always give students time to think of their answers before you continue, or before providing the correct answer yourself. You could use a timer to ensure that you give enough time for students to think.

During thinking time, encourage all students to consider their answer. You could allow them to work in pairs, or you could ask them to write their answer down. If your students have mini-whiteboards, they can write their answer on their whiteboard and then hold it up. This is a good way to establish how many students have not understood. If necessary, you can then supply extra practice or work through the teaching point again.

No Hands Up: To ensure that all students use their thinking time constructively, it is useful to employ a “no hands up” approach in the classroom. By nominating a student at random to answer the question, the teacher can ensure that all students are encouraged to share their ideas. There are various methods you could try to make this fun. For example, at the start of the year, students could make a name card or decorate a lollipop stick with their name on it. Choose a student to answer at random by pulling out a name card or lollipop stick.

Alongside this, there needs to be a culture of tolerance for incorrect answers. Use incorrect answers as informal feedback and try to understand what might have caused the mistake. If someone gives an incorrect answer, ask other students for an answer, then check the answer with the rest of the class.

Students should be encouraged to talk to their partners as a way of self-assessing. They can work with a partner to discuss what they have learned and whether they have any areas they do not feel confident about. They could refer to their partners in thinking time, discussing what they think the answer is. Working together could help students to come up with more answers. Pairwork can also be used to check instructions. They could discuss the instructions with their partner, and then come back to the teacher with any queries.

Learning Objectives

Students learn better if they have a clear idea of what the end goal is. Establish a classroom routine, where the learning objective is introduced at the beginning of the lesson in simple, easy-to-understand language. Write the objective on the board, for example, *Today, we are learning about food*. Encourage students to engage with the objective so that they are aware of what they are learning and why. How you do this will depend on the age of the students. For higher levels, you could ask students to write down the objective in their notebooks. For lower levels, you could ask students to read it out, or talk to their partner about it. With very young learners, you may choose to discuss the objective in L1.

At the end of the lesson, remind students of the learning objective. Ask them to self-assess their progress with reference to the learning objective. You could ask them to decide with their partner if they have achieved the objective. Use the record sheet for each unit so that students can quickly and easily self-assess their work. You might like to provide a folder for each student to keep their record sheets in, as well as any extra worksheets or handouts. Over the course of the year, these folders will be valuable evidence of the students’ progress.

Success Criteria

In order for students to make sense of learning objectives, these need to be linked to clear success criteria. If students understand and recognize what successful performance looks like, they will be better able to set clear goals, make use of feedback, and measure their own progress. This Teacher’s Guide contains many useful tips for how to focus on success criteria.

One useful approach is to discuss and agree on success criteria with your students. For instance, if they are learning to write an email, you could elicit the key features of a successful email. You can then add in any key ideas students have missed. Similarly, if they are giving a verbal presentation of a project, you could elicit the elements they should include, and also elicit suggestions for best practice in delivery, for example, making eye contact with their audience, speaking slowly and clearly, using varied intonation. Create a checklist and ask students to assess whether they have successfully achieved all the points listed and to note where they could improve. This assessment is best achieved using peer assessment as well as self-assessment so that students can check their own impression of their performance against their classmates’ opinions.

Giving Feedback

Feedback from teachers to learners can have a significant impact on teaching and learning. Providing high-quality, focused feedback and allowing learners the time and opportunity to act upon it are essential. Effective feedback needs to be specific and clear. It should provide strategies, rather than just supplying the correct answers. Focus on one change that will improve your students’ performance and relate this to the success criteria.

Encourage your students to reflect on and evaluate their own performance. Students are more likely to learn if they are encouraged to correct their own mistakes. It is therefore a good idea to underline mistakes when marking work, but not supply the correct answers. In order to get real value from homework and other written activities, allow time for students to go back and correct their mistakes. At higher levels and in longer pieces of work, give suggestions for how to improve and allow time for students to implement these changes. Students should be encouraged to use a special color pen for corrections so they can see where they have responded to feedback.

Is assessment for learning a new approach?

In many ways, assessment for learning reflects what most teachers have always done in the classroom. However, in an assessment for learning approach, the teacher consistently ensures a cycle of goal setting, reviewing success criteria, gathering information, and providing constructive, supportive feedback with time for reflection.

In what contexts can I use assessment for learning?

Assessment for learning can be used with students of all ages, and it is compatible with different approaches to language teaching, from grammar-based to more communicative methodologies. Research indicates that assessment for learning can also be beneficial in exam-oriented contexts. Students are likely to perform better in exam tasks if they understand which skills each task is assessing, why those skills are being assessed, and what a successful task response looks like.

More Information

Download our position paper *Effective Feedback: the Key to Successful Assessment for Learning* from www.oup.com/elt/expert

Professional Development

The digital materials and resources for this course can all be found at oxfordenglishhub.com

See the Digital Components overview (page 7) for a full list of resources and materials available on Oxford English Hub.

Methodology Support on Oxford English Hub

Blue Dot is informed by research and best practices from leading experts and practitioners in English language teaching and learning at Oxford University Press. To help deepen your understanding of the core methodology of the course, the *Blue Dot* team has selected a range of professional development topics:

- self-regulated learning
- concept-based inquiry
- visible thinking

Built on research and classroom practice, our position papers offer practical guidance on the major issues shaping language education today. Our shorter focus papers offer insights and tips on specific topics for the classroom.



The professional development modules consist of short introductions to topics relevant to *Blue Dot*, as well as practical ideas on how to implement these topics in your daily practice. Each module is no more than 30 minutes long.

To access these resources, visit Oxford English Hub.



Explore Further

If you would like to develop your skills and knowledge beyond the content offered with this course, you can find a range of options available at:

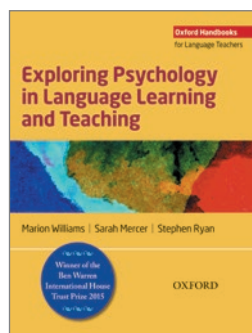
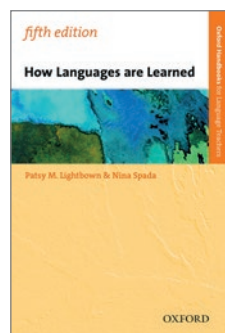
www.oup.com/elt/professionaldevelopmentonline

This includes a range of materials from further reading to live professional development events.

Professional Development Books

Keep up with the latest insights into English language teaching through our professional development books.

Find out more: www.oup.com/elt



Oxford Teachers' Academy

Advance your teaching with online professional development courses certified by Oxford University Department for Continuing Education.

Supplementary Resources

We suggest the following graded readers to best complement the reading instruction in *Blue Dot*.

Oxford Read and Imagine and Oxford Read and Discover

Oxford Read and Imagine invites young readers into an exciting world of great stories. Follow Rosie, Ben, Grandpa, and his robot Clunk on their adventures in Grandpa's fantastic van. This series provides a motivating way to increase contact time with English, both in and out of class.

Oxford Read and Discover is perfect for CLIL (content and language integrated learning). Cross-curricular topics and color photos bring excitement to learning English through other subject areas.

- Stories connect to non-fiction readers
- Picture dictionaries and glossaries help build vocabulary
- Projects develop critical thinking skills
- Activities support Cambridge English Qualifications
- Audio provides examples of American and British English

Find out more: www.oup.com/elt/gradedreading



Oxford Reading Club

Oxford Reading Club is a digital library from Oxford University Press that offers a smart way to read digital graded readers.

Students can:

- choose from hundreds of titles covering all levels
- use an interactive five-step reading process that helps improve all areas of language learning including listening, speaking, reading, and writing
- use a variety of interactive features and activities including word cards, audio with adjustable speed, and voice recording
- look up definitions for vocabulary development
- track their progress in a monthly report and earn study badges the more they read

Teachers can:

- create classes for learners depending on their level of English and schedule reading assignments for them using the Learning Management System
- track individual student activity and progress with: the five-step reading process; number of books read; total words read; time spent reading
- download reports summarizing learners' reading activities

Find out more: www.oxfordreadingclub.com

Readers on Oxford Learner's Bookshelf

Over 400 e-books to choose from. Students can:

- slow down audio for easier listening
- record their voice to practice pronunciation
- make notes and highlight on screen
- synchronize across devices

Oxford Readers Collections

Collections of 25 graded readers available on the Oxford Learner's Bookshelf.

- Choose from four Levels from A1–B2
- Track reading progress in the reading diary

Reading Diary

Measure reading progress and award certificates to students. Track the number of books read, words read, and time spent reading.

Find out more: www.oup.com/elt/gradedreading

Dictionaries

Oxford's dictionaries are world-famous. Oxford Learner's Dictionaries are written specifically for learners of English and provide complete vocabulary support, whatever your level.

- Updated with the latest vocabulary
- New Oxford 3000™ and Oxford 5000™ wordlists show you the most important words to learn
- Skills support helps learners improve their writing and speaking and prepare for tests

Find out more: elt.oup.com/cat/subjects/dictionaries

Visit our FREE online dictionary with vocabulary learning support at:

oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com

Oxford Phonics World

Oxford Phonics World is a five-level supplementary course that guides students through all 44 sounds using a variety of songs, games, presentations, and practice.



For Students:

- Student Book
- Workbook
- Phonics readers
- e-books

For Teachers:

- Teacher's Guide
- Classroom Presentation Tool
- Phonics cards

Tour of a Unit

Classroom Presentation Tool

Oxford's new Classroom Presentation Tool (CPT) sits at the center of learning for *Blue Dot*. All of the presentation material, Student Book content, and Workbook content are available as interactive activities to display at the front of the classroom. The CPT guides you through each step of the lesson, making it easier to follow all of the stages in the *Blue Dot* methodology.

CPT Time is marked on the Student Book page where there is additional material on the CPT which is not also in the Student Book or other print components.

The Tour of a Unit shows the route through the content with the key features of the CPT, Student Book, and Workbook.

Every Module has its own title screen, which signifies the start of a new concept.



The module opener is the starting point to engage students emotionally and intellectually with the key concept for the three units that follow.

It starts to focus students on developing a shared understanding of the key concept of the module, preparing them for the thinking to come via a carefully scaffolded question.

Embedded within each module are opportunities for students to reflect on their mindset and how it changes.



The See-Think-Wonder thinking routine gives students space to observe and think about the things they see. It also motivates students by encouraging them to start asking thoughtful and engaging questions.

The module opener video engages students with the key concept.

CPT Time *Explore* activities enable students to focus on the module's key concept in an interactive and collaborative way. The provocation-style activities challenge students' ideas.

At this stage, the teacher has an opportunity to observe and assess students' understanding of the module's concept: Do students have a shared understanding of the concept? Are there any misconceptions?

TEACHER'S TIP Some students may engage with the concept more confidently if they can discuss their ideas in L1 first.

Using the Concept Portfolio enables students to personalize the key concept for each module and supports reflection on it once students have completed the three units.

