

Lesson Function 1: Explore the grammar and vocabulary of 'political correctness'.

Lesson Function 2: Create opportunities to practise fluency.

Level: Intermediate to Advanced.

Time: 60 – 90 minutes

Preparation: Photocopy 1 worksheet per student.

To start: Ask the students what they understand by the phrase 'political correctness'. Explain the concept to them, if necessary.

- > A Students work alone or in pairs. Monitor. Stop the activity. Elicit feedback.
Answers: Female = niece sister wife aunt she daughter bride her. Both = sibling man his he cousin child spouse him (some of these may surprise the students but all will become clear when they get to >D.) Male = husband man his groom he son master nephew uncle brother him.
- > B Students work in pairs. Monitor. Stop the activity. Elicit feedback. Answer: The surgeon is the child's mother.
- > C. Students work alone before checking their answers together in pairs. Monitor. Stop the activity. Elicit feedback.
Answers: fire fighter police officer actor flight attendant chair server
- > D. Students work alone before checking their answers together in pairs. Monitor. Stop the activity. Elicit feedback.
Suggested answers: 1. All exam candidates must switch off their mobile phones. 2. Let me introduce you to my new neighbours. 3. If the consumer is not satisfied with the product they may return it within 28 days. (Yes, a singular subject – the consumer - with a plural pronoun – they - ! Grammar purists dislike this but it is in common usage nowadays and is becoming more and more accepted). 4. Leopards cannot change their spots. 5. I hope the police arrest them/the thief soon. 6. Children cannot usually write until they are approximately 5 years old.
- > E. Students work in pairs. Monitor. Stop the activity. Elicit feedback. Answers: 1. True. George Eliot was actually Mary Ann Evans (1819-1880). In those days women authors were frowned upon so they often adopted male pseudonyms. (Charlotte Bronte originally published under the name Currer Bell, which sounded more manly.) 2. b) 3. True 4. True (about 10% larger) 5. c) 6. b)
- > F. Students work in pairs. Monitor. Stop the activity. Elicit feedback.
- > G. **N.B. This activity contains the phrasal verb 'to turn someone on' (meaning 'to sexually arouse someone'). This may not be appropriate for all students.**
Follow the instructions on the worksheet. Students work in pairs. Monitor. Stop the activity. Elicit feedback. Suggested answers:
The word 'computer' should be female because: no one understands their internal logic / as soon as you choose one you have to spend a lot of money on accessories for it / no one understands the language they use to communicate with each other / when you make a mistake it is stored in the memory for ever
The word 'computer' should be male because: they can store a lot of data but are still unable to think for themselves / they are meant to help you solve problems but usually they are the problem / as soon as you choose one you invariably find a better one / in order to make them do anything at all to help you, you have to turn them on.
- >H. You could do this as an open class discussion or possibly set it for homework. Students could either write a short article about it or prepare a one-minute speech on the subject.