Complex thinking skills

Ask your learners open questions.

Why? Open questions encourage learners to explain and justify their thinking, while closed questions check whether learners know a particular fact or idea.

Rather than asking a closed question like this...	Instead, try...
Is your answer correct?	How did you arrive at your answer?
Is this source reliable?	How can you tell whether this source is reliable?

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Self-management skills

Think aloud when you demonstrate tasks/activities or when managing challenges.

Why? This makes your invisible self-management skills visible to learners.

Example:

> "We're running out of time to complete this activity so let's focus on briefly noting down all of our ideas before we forget them, and we can write them up neatly in the next lesson."

Extra tip: Try questions that develop self-management skills, such as metacognition and time management:

- How are you planning to approach this task?
- How much time do you think this task will take?

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Interpersonal skills

Create a supportive environment where all learners feel able to express themselves freely.

- Agree discussion rules with learners from the start, such as listening without interrupting and respecting different viewpoints.
- Choose group sizes that allow everyone to take part.
- Use structured turn-taking or assign roles within the group

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Why? Through effective groupwork, learners develop communication, collaboration, empathy, perspective-taking and conflict resolution skills in meaningful contexts.

Extra tip: Try questions that develop interpersonal skills, such as collaboration and communication:

- How can you encourage others to contribute?
- How can you show that you have understood their viewpoint?

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Digital skills

Using realistic scenarios helps learners think about how to protect their personal information and make safe, responsible decisions online.

- **Younger learners** can identify simple personal information such as their full name, address, or passwords, and practise deciding what information should be kept private and what can be shared safely.
- **Older learners** can evaluate more complex scenarios involving privacy settings, online scams, data sharing and the long-term consequences of sharing data online.

Why? This helps to create a culture where learners understand that staying safe is everyone's responsibility and establishes clear expectations for respectful online behaviour.

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Creative skills

Encourage learners to explore possibilities, generate multiple ideas, experiment and learn from mistakes. Give them opportunities to respond to feedback, and adapt and refine their thinking.

Questions to ask your learners:

- How many different ideas can you think of?
- Which ideas have the greatest potential? Why?
- Which idea would you like to develop further? Why?
- How has your thinking about your idea changed during the process?

Why? By showing that the creative process is valuable as well as the outcome, learners recognise that effective creative work often develops through trial and improvement.

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