

Teaching international students and diversity

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Effective Teaching of Economics in HE, Residential Workshop for New and Aspiring Lecturers, University of Bristol

Motivating International Students. A practical guide to aspects of learning and teaching.

<http://www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/handbook/international>



"It is relevant for lecturers of other disciplines and covers a range of topics including cultural diversity, language and cultural references, and reflective practice." (1)

"most of the issues raised and teaching contexts addressed are relevant across disciplines." (2)

(1) Bond, K and Scudamore, R (2010) Working with International Students: a Guide for Staff in Engineering on Engineering Subject Centre
(2) Engineering Subject Centre, <http://www.ensc.ac.uk/index.php?view=322-315-5524-485-1026-4&resources&book=working-with-disabled-students&tp=80>

Teaching International Students

Visible and invisible
Language
Attention Span
Cultural references and
humour

Visible and invisible

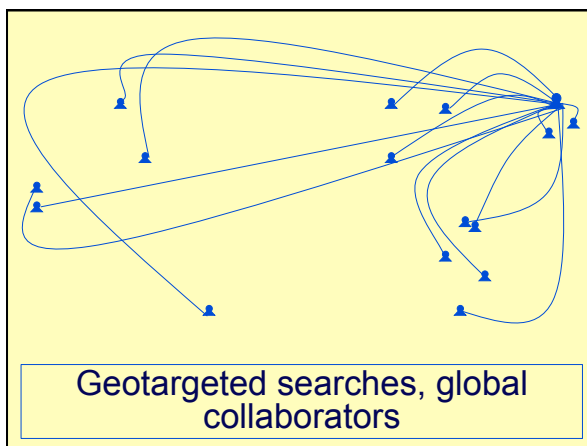
Write your name on the map

Put a cross where you come from

Ask two people sitting close to you where they come from and put corresponding crosses on the map

“My world is not here”, PhD Candidate from Kenya

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:World_pacific_centered.svg



Economics 1516
INTRODUCTION
First Semester 2009

What you need to do this week...

- Familiarise yourself with CECIL (www.cecil.edu), there is a pamphlet available in commerce student centre (Level 0 of OGG) or phone ext. 85993
- **Make sure to buy a copy of the course-book from the Commerce Bookshop (Level 0 of OGGB)**
- Introduce yourselves on CECIL and form a study group if you are interested.
 - It is a good idea to include people from different faculties if possible.

6

Students: You are here to learn from international perspectives- part of the curriculum. Interact: learn!
Staff: are we mixing and learning???

Language

In groups of three, estimate:

The number of words known by a native English speaker;
The number of words known by a proficient non-native English speaker

How do you feel 1 month; 1 week; 1 minute before giving a presentation?
2 Groups:

	International + UK	International only
1 month	7 words/expressions	1 word
1 week	5 words/expressions	2 words
1 minute	8 words/expressions	no answer

International: postgraduates recently arrived in the UK

Average vocabulary

- 40,000 words "sufficiently large for native English speakers"
- 10,000 words "generally considered large for second language learners entering university"



- 4,594 words "university-aged English language students from a wide variety of countries"

Schmitt, D. (2005) 'Writing in the international classroom', in J. Carroll and J. Ryan (eds), *Teaching International Students Improving Learning for All*, London: Routledge.

Games and Case Studies

- meaningfulness->student motivation
- Aspects of the Economics degree that could be improved:
- ↑interactive elements (games, experiments and role-play). National Economics Student Survey 2008 Report

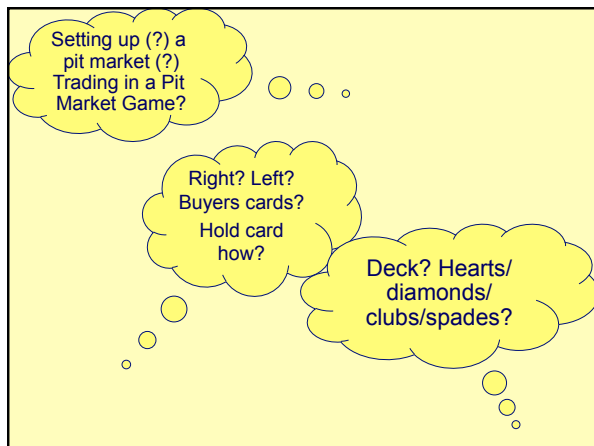
Example: Supply and Demand Model

Setting up a pit market/Trading in a Pit Market Game

"We are going to set up a market in which the people on my right will be the buyers, and the people on my left will be the sellers.

"I will now give each buyer and seller a numbered playing card. Some cards have been removed from the deck(s), and all remaining cards have a number. Please hold your card so that others do not see the number.

"The buyers' cards are red (hearts and diamonds) and the sellers' cards are black (clubs or spades). Each card represents one "unit" of an unspecified commodity that can be bought by buyers or sold by sellers"



How can we help?

Show a photograph of a pit market.
Keep instructions (keywords) visible
Use mnemonics (memory helpers)
Enrich verbal instructions with visual or auditory cues:

Buyers' cards are black
Sellers' cards are red

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Paying Attention

Attention span

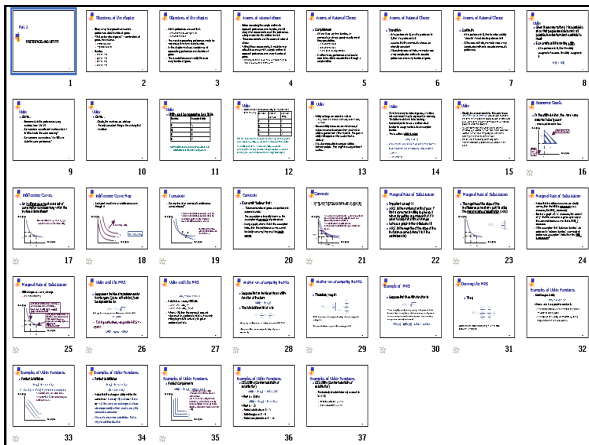
You are blocking the projector

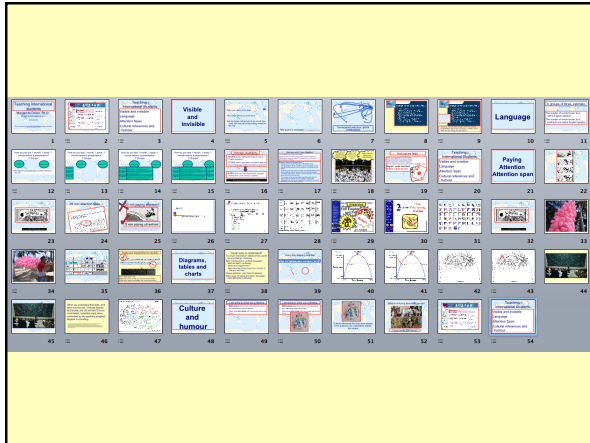
Cham, J. (1999) Day dreaming
<http://www.phdcomics.com/comics/archive.php?comicid=127>

~~20 min paying attention?~~

✓ 5 min paying attention!

Add variety to your presentation





Seeing your presentation in one slide

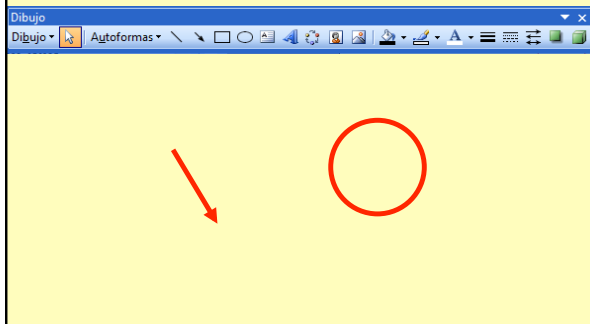
 A screenshot of a presentation software interface in slide sorter view. The interface is similar to the previous image but with a zoom level of 50% indicated in the toolbar. A red circle highlights the 'Vista Clasificador de diapositivas' button in the top-left corner of the toolbar. Another red circle highlights the zoom level '50%' in the toolbar. A red arrow points to a keyboard icon in the bottom toolbar. Below the screenshot, there are instructions: 'Go to slide sorter view', 'Adjust the zoom so that you can see all the slides', and 'Press print screen and paste into a word document'.

Go to slide sorter view
Adjust the zoom so that you can see all the slides
Press print screen and paste into a word document

Diagrams, tables and charts

Visual=easy to understand?
Too much information= distracts from points we are making= confusing
Sets of instructions: unusual language?
Said too fast?= confusing
Dotted line? Dashed line?
Right hand top corner (logical but not easy to follow in real time)
Vague gestures- over there=confusing
Many ways of saying the same: decrease= drop=fall=slide=confusing

Using the drawing tool bar



'When we understand that slide, we'll have won the war,' General Stanley McChrystal, the US and NATO force commander, remarked wryly when confronted by the sprawling spaghetti diagram in a briefing.

http://www.google.es/imgres?imgurl=http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/2/2e/Neo-Laffer-Curve.svg/663px-Neo-Laffer-Curve.svg.png&imgrefurl=http://www.democraticunderground.com/discuss/duboard.php%3Faz%3Dview_all%26address%3D103x532681&usq=_6H54TxsQNTVEEx2quSrepurCURk=&h=600&w=663&sz=131&h=es&start=7&itbs=1&itbnid=0n0cyT6NNdHEIM.&itbnh=125&itbnw=138&prev=images%3Fq%3Dwhen%2Bwe%2Bunderstand%2Bthis%2Bside%2Bwill%2Bwin%2Bthe%2Bwar%2Bh%3Des%2Bgv%3D2%2Bbs%3Disch.1

Culture and humour

I am going to show you a drawing

- **Write down** what occurs to you when you see it
- Any information might be relevant
- Share what **you wrote** with two people sitting next to you



Cultural references that only some people in the audience can understand- explain the context

What is so funny about this picture?

1 image worth 1000 words?

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