



Jeanne Perret's 5 tips for putting challenge at the heart of your lessons

- 1** Making lessons challenging doesn't mean making them difficult. Language teaching should still be clear and patient; always explain, revise and remind.
- 2** The challenge is in the topics and thinking about and around them. Thinking deeply helps our children to make their own, informed decisions and develop their own opinions.
- 3** Ask the students questions and then ask them to explain their answers. Ask 'Why do you think that?' Ask them again the next day; 'Have you changed your mind? Or do you still think that is true? Has anything else occurred to you?'
- 4** Being accepting of people changing their minds is at the heart of healthy, interesting discussion. One day we might think one thing and the next we will have thought about it some more. Being free to not be sure of something is more important than being absolute in our opinions. The phrase 'an open mind' has become such a cliché that we sometimes forget what it really means. But that is what we are aiming for, in ourselves and in our students.
- 5** Mental effort can be as tiring as physical effort. When you have had a challenging lesson, reward yourselves. Have a break, play a game, have a snack and some water, get some fresh air; do whatever makes you feel comfortable and happy.

