

Look out! Grammar!



#reallyrealgrammar



bruno.leys



@BrunoLeys

bruno.leys@vives.be

katholieke hogeschool
associatie KU Leuven



shop window, Lincoln

Who am I?



- Bruno Leys

- teacher & teacher trainer at



Bruges, Belgium

- coursebook writer
- curriculum development
- in-service trainer

#reallyrealgrammar



bruno.leys



@BrunoLeys

bruno.leys@vives.be

**TO THE
BITTER
END**





Grammar?



Photo by [Julian Howard](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Sentences from coursebook exercises

- 📌 The bag that contained the oranges was yellow.
- 📌 Shoes are things you wear on your feet.
- 📌 The teacher didn't make two big mistakes.
- 📌 The handsome man dates beautiful women.
- 📌 Charles's CD player is new.
- 📌 What has Mike got? - He's got two mothers.
- 📌 What does Nicky cook every evening? - She cooks dinner.
- 📌 Do they walk in the park?
- 📌 Does he read a new book?
- 📌 I buy a new car, don't I?

Jean and Simard (2011)

- "The most revealing result of the study, however, is that these high school learners did not report **liking** learning grammar, but they reported **valuing** it. (...) high school learners and even their teachers perceive grammar as what we would call a mal nécessaire (**a necessary evil**)."
- "Positive feelings about grammar instruction are rather rare. Even more surprising is the fact that **teachers largely share their students' beliefs.**"
- "Should "boring" and "effective" continue to be considered as an inevitable contradictory pair of qualifiers in regard to grammar teaching practices?"

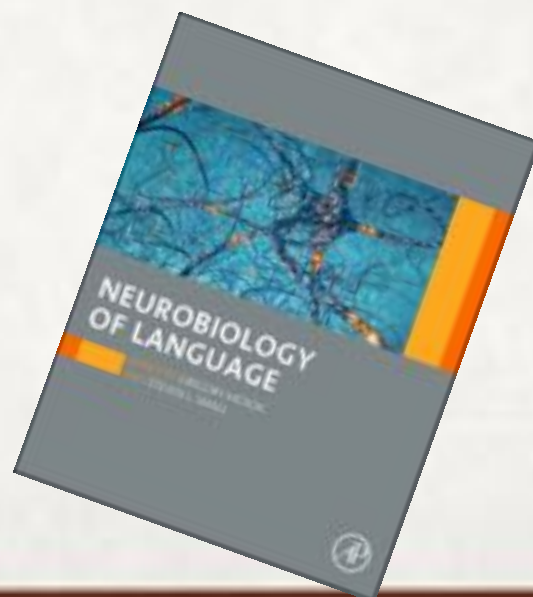
MY TH1RTEEN
R3ASONS WHY...

My thirteen reasons why ...

1. "... increasing evidence that at least some of young children's grammar is **item based**. (...) they produce grammatical structures rather through reproduction and gradual tweaking of constructions that they have taken in from other people's speech "

"... a **law-like relationship between vocabulary size and grammatical complexity**, "whereby total vocabulary size, irrespective of age, predicts grammatical complexity"

Neurobiology of Language (Dick, 2015)

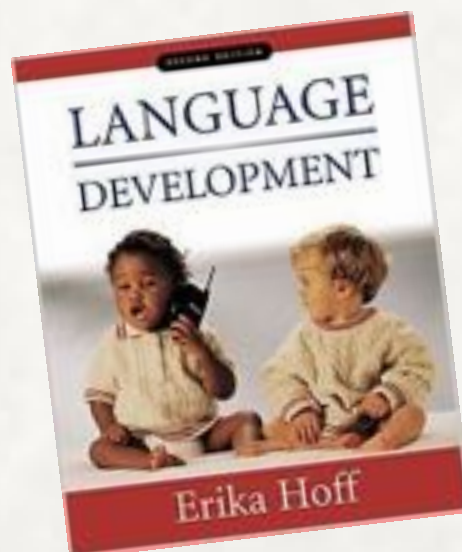


My thirteen reasons why ...

2.

- 📌 linguistic processing in adults **does not require** positing **a symbolic rule system**
- 📌 processing is carried out by a network of elementary units, which are known as nodes.

Language Development (Hoff, 2009)

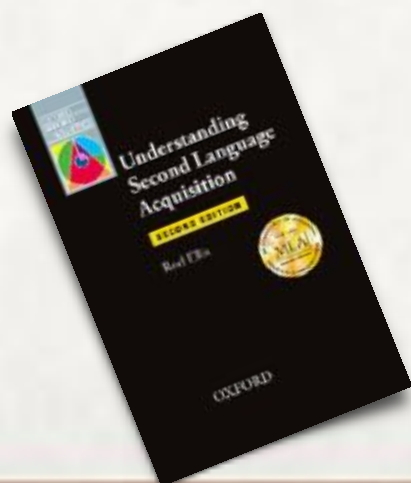


My thirteen reasons why ...

3. "... the learner's second language knowledge **can be both explicit and rule based or implicit and exemplar based** (...) learners may possess a **dual-mode system**.

(...) When they need to **communicate rapidly and fluently**, learners will draw substantially on the **exemplar-based system** which is capacious and easily accessed."

Understanding Second Language Acquisition (Ellis, 2015)



My thirteen reasons why ...

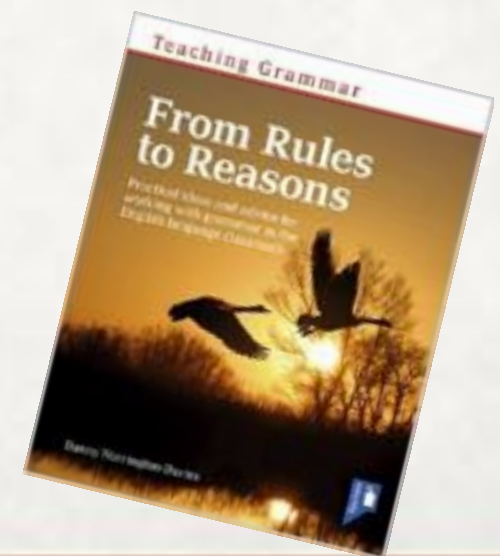
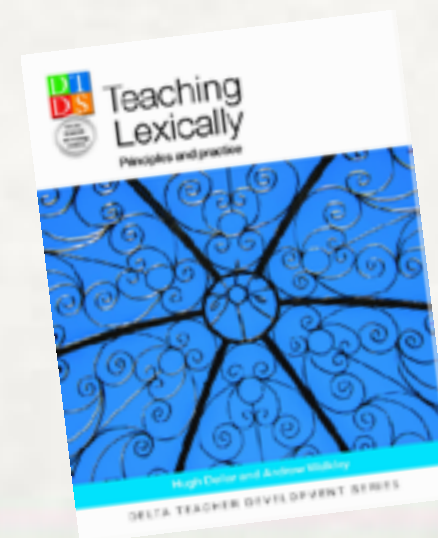
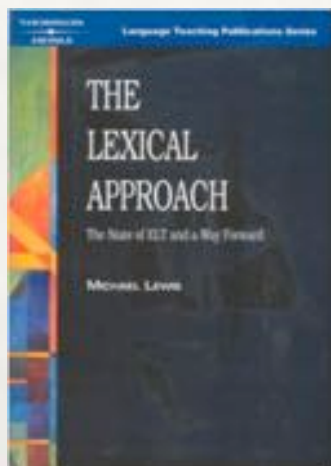
4. The Lexical Approach (Lewis, 1993)

5. Teaching Language: From grammar to grammaring (Larsen-Freeman, 2003)

6. Lexical Priming. A new theory of words and language. (Hoey, 2005)

7. Teaching Lexically (Dellar & Walkley, 2016)

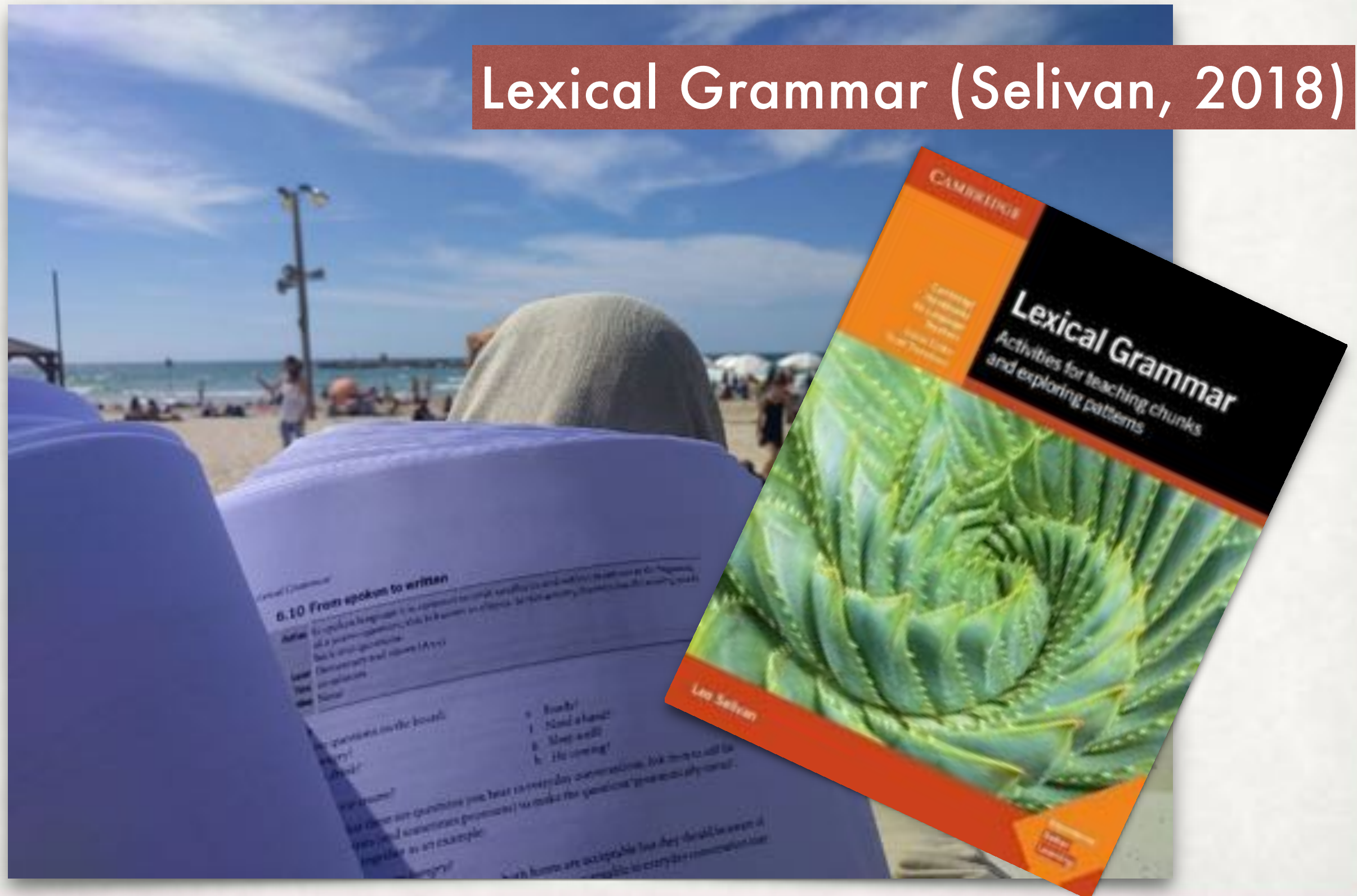
8. Teaching Grammar: From Rules to Reasons (Norrrington-Davies, 2016)



My thirteen reasons why ...

4 to 8 b

Lexical Grammar (Selivan, 2018)



9. Jean (2005)

- study compared a group of students exposed to communicative drills where they had to attend to **both form and meaning** to a group of students who used **mechanical drills** where they just had to attend to the **forms**.
- the group that attended to both form and meaning did as well as the students who went through mechanical drills (knowledge of the formal properties of the targeted grammatical forms), did not feel overwhelmed by the added challenge, and, more important, **showed improved vocabulary knowledge**.

My thirteen reasons why ...

10. "Viewing therefore requires learners to construct meaning by interpreting the parts (images, symbols, conventions, contexts) that are related to a visual text, and to understand not only "**what**" a text says, but "**how**" the text works." (*Donaghy and Xerri*)

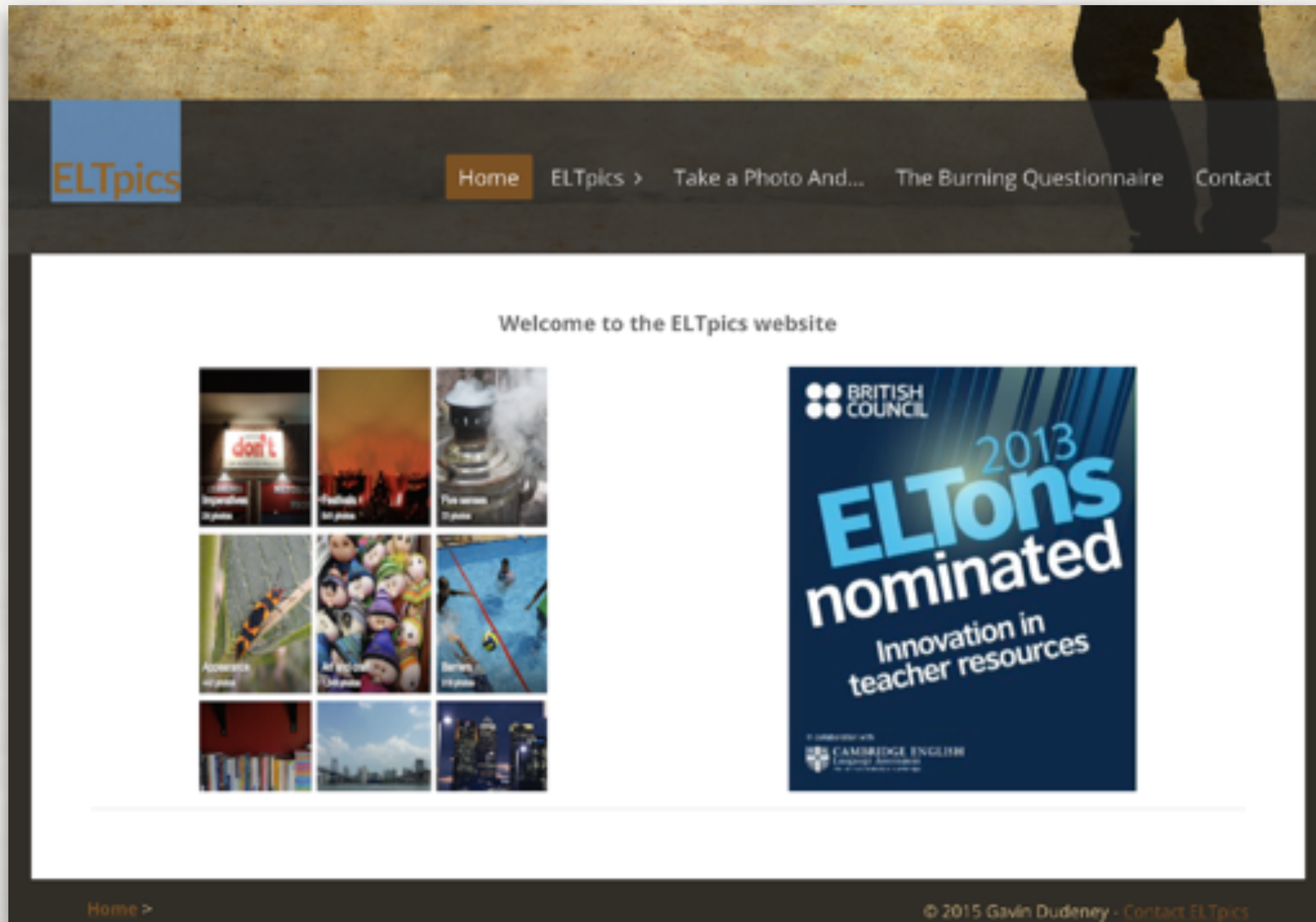
The Image in English Language Teaching (Donaghy and Xerri, 2017)



My thirteen reasons why ...

ELTpics

Victoria Boobyer, Carol Goodey, Vicky Loras, Sandy Millin, Fiona Mauchline ...



My thirteen reasons why ...

11. "Photos should provoke a discussion. They should intrigue, move, and make students laugh. They should surprise students and be complicated, not obvious. Only **when interest is sparked**, can we start working with students." (Wasilewska)

The Image in English Language Teaching (Donaghy and Xerri, 2017)



My thirteen reasons why ...

12. "What happens when you watch a video is that you activate both sides of the **brain** – activating both systems, the logical and the emotional. More areas of the brain firing up **results in better learning**." (Clare)

The Image in English Language Teaching (Donaghy and Xerri, 2017)



My thirteen reasons why ...

13. "The variety of factors which affect vocabulary learning means that there will never be one 'best' teaching methodology, but the meta-principle of maximizing sustained **engagement** with the lexical items which need to be learned appears to underlie all effective vocabulary learning."

Instructed second language vocabulary learning (Schmitt, 2008)





Manchester

- 📌 What is this ad all about?
- 📌 How does it try to motivate you to take part?
- 📌 Which verbs?
- 📌 past/present?

Has anyone ever said you **couldn't do** something?
Did you prove them wrong?



- 📌 get out of bed early
- 📌 swim a distance
- 📌 get my driver's license

Follow-up

Write a facebook/twitter/
instagram/... post about
yourself containing

#ICANIWLL



Which notices are/could be put up in your school?

smoking - mobile phones - bullying - cheating - ...

NO SMOKING!

KIND NOTICE

NO UNACCOMPANIED
CHILDREN

AND

NO TRAFFIC WARDENS
ALLOWED IN THE SHOP

- 📌 Why no unaccompanied children?
- 📌 Why no traffic wardens?



Which question word would elicit the answer
"to allow us to test..."?

"Why?" (to+ infinitive: purpose)

Lifeguard Service

Please look for the flags displayed on the beach



Swim in
Lifeguard
patrolled area



Surf board
and water
craft zone



Do not swim
when red flags
are present



Do not use
inflatables

Lifeguard service during school summer holidays
July – 2nd weekend in September
11.30am – 5.30pm

Rottingdean Beach

(negative) imperative

school / home rules



Beware deep
shelving beach



Beware
submerged
objects



Beware
sudden drop



Beware of
tides



Do not dive



Do not jump



Do not use
personal
water craft



Do not use
inflatables

Lincoln Castle



Kipling Gardens, Rottingdean



Compare "must" & "must not".

Shoreham-By-Sea



- 📌 Do you remember the best burger/meal you've ever eaten?
- 📌 Where and when **was** that?



- 📌 Is this company still moving?
- 📌 Is this information still relevant?
- 📌 What part of the message is still relevant?

What messages could you put up / leave behind?

Glasgow



At home

- 📌 I've left some money on the table.
- 📌 I've broken a vase. Sorry!

Company

- 📌 We've refurbished our store!
- 📌 We've updated our website.
- 📌 We've added another classic to our collection. (Caffè Nero on Facebook)

Brussels Airport

atomium

A LOVE STORY
atomium
60 YEARS
SINCE 1955

HEY MUM!
I'VE ARRIVED
SAFELY
IN BRUSSELS,
THE HOME OF
THE ATOMIUM.

OPEN 365/365 • www.atomium.be

150M FROM
MINI-EUROPE
& ADAM
[BRUSSELS
DESIGN
MUSEUM]

- 📌 Why this message?
- 📌 When is it relevant?

present perfect simple: period up to now - present relevance

Huge rise in 'fat rescues'

THE number of obese people rescued by fire-fighters because they are too large to move has soared 514% in four years.

Rescuers have been forced to use special body slings, lifting equipment and even had to remove windows and walls.

There were 129 cases in Kent last year where fire-fighters had to "extricate" huge residents from homes – up from 21 in 2013.

📌 What is meant by 'fat rescues'?

📌 Huge rise: period?

📌 129 cases: when?

present perfect simple -
past simple - had to

What things have changed for you / in your environment / in your town / country over the past years?

If + present simple / imperative: advice

In case of

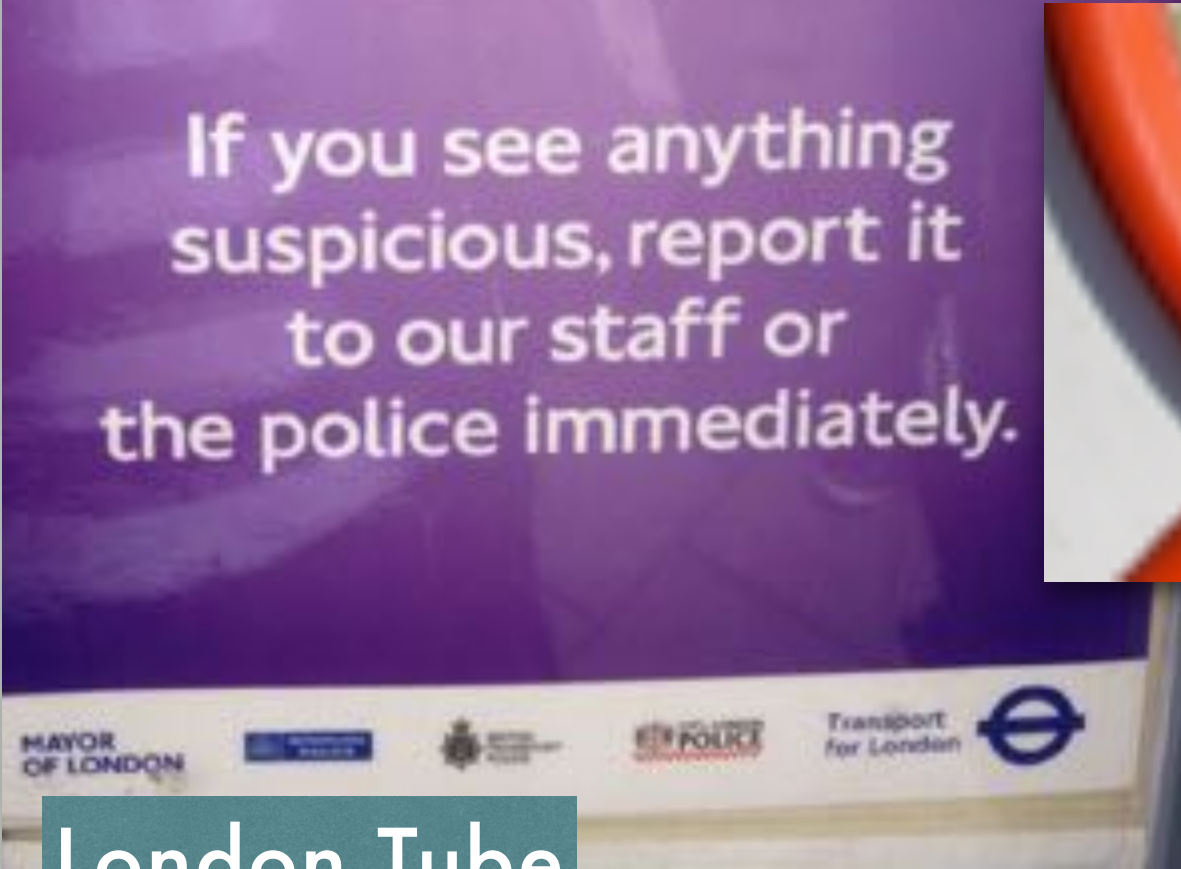
Conditional type (0?)

Formulate similar advice: e.g. (sherry saying)

If it swims... pair with Fino or Manzanilla


If it flies... pair with Amontillado or Palo Cortado

If it runs... pair with Oloroso



If you see anything
suspicious, report it
to our staff or
the police immediately.

London Tube



In case of emergency ring 999.
If you see anyone tampering with
this life saving equipment
please report it to the
Park Rangers or tel.
01625 822944

Rufford Abbey, Country Park

Manchester Airport



Gran Canaria Airport



If + present simple / present simple
zero conditional
factual conditional

Write/Find similar factual conditionals.
e.g. 'If it bends it's funny, if it breaks it's not funny.'
Alan Alda in 'Crimes and Misdemeanors' (Woody Allen)



HM Government

UK LEAVES
THE EU 29.03.19

If I'm travelling to
Europe, do I need to
renew my passport?

You may need to renew your passport
earlier than planned if you travel to
Europe after 29 March 2019.

To check if your passport is still valid
for travel, visit gov.uk/euexit

"I'm travelling"
intention/plan/arrangement?

Three if-clauses in one document
and none of them is traditional
type 1-2-3.

If I'm travelling to Europe, do I need to renew my passport?

You may need to renew your passport earlier than planned **if** you travel
to Europe after 29 March 2019.

To check **if** your passport is still valid for travel, visit gov.uk/euexit

Brexit announcement in newspapers



Conditional type?

If + past simple / past simple
factual conditional
past habit (used to)

'If it rained I went to the museum.
That had a huge impact on my life'

Frances Morris (Tate Modern), The Guardian 16/04/16

Watch and **notice** the **forms** used to refer to the future and what **meaning** these forms express.

They'**ll carry out** their first official engagement together in Nottingham this coming Friday.

They **will get** their first taste, really, of what it **will be** like to

They'**re carrying out** their first official engagement together in Nottingham on Friday.

difference?

ROYAL WEDDING PLANS

Wedding to be held at St George's Chapel, Windsor

BBC NEWS

/// CRAIG PAWSON will referee the League Cup Final and will be able to call upon VAR.

If you are attending, take a book, a blanket and plenty of supplies, it could be a long one.

Daily Mirror 16/02/18

VAR: video assistant referee

- 📌 When?
- 📌 Certain?

future tenses
if-clause

Complete with a piece of advice:
If you are attending / going to ...,
(take) ...

Brussels Airport



"We'll take it!" - "We'll do the dishes."
What's expressed here?

WILL future: promise

LESS & FEWER

"dubious rules such as less and fewer are not tested these days in international exams such as IELTS or FCE, so really there is no reason to keep repeating them and demanding that anyone follows them" (Lexical Lab, 2018)

"the 'rules' for the usage of less and fewer were the result of an "ill-informed pedant" publishing a book about it a very long time ago" (Lexical Lab, 2018)



Costa, Dover



An advertisement

- Think of a product you want to advertise.
(e.g. a new car)
- In what way could the product mean less/
fewer ... (e.g. **less** pollution, congestion,
fuel / **fewer** accidents ...)
- You could also think of what more (e.g.
more comfort, automatic, impressive ...)
- Make an advertisement with the best
phrases.

I've been thinking ...

I've been looking ...

I've been doing ...

I've been trying ...

I've been sitting ...

I've been coming ...

I've been watching ...

I've been meaning ...

I've been talking ...

I've been waiting ...

❖ "I've been waiting for a girl like you to come into my life" (Foreigner - Waiting For A Girl Like You)

❖ "For a thousand years, through a million tears / With a hungry heart, every day apart / I've been waiting for this night" (Donny Montell - I've Been Waiting for this night)

What did the **waiting** feel like in the songs?

Think of a situation where you would use the phrase
"I've been waiting for ..."

London Tube



WE'VE BEEN BOTTLING
SPRING WATER SINCE 1866.
WITH SOME NOTABLE MODIFICATIONS, OF COURSE.

When Jack Daniel discovered a small cave tucked inside a limestone bluff, he knew he had found himself a fine spot for making whiskey. Here, the cool, moist cave spring water flows at a constant 56 degrees, no matter the time of year. And though Mr. Jack ascribed some of his whiskey's character to the minerals in the water, he also maintained that Mr. Jack's whiskey had a character all its own.



- 📌 What brand characteristics does this ad try to establish?
- 📌 Which phrase emphasises that?
- 📌 Which verb form is used?

With which sentence(s) could you point out your experience / skills / ...?

Student posts #reallyrealgrammar

WESTGATE

Male or female
staff may clean
these facilities



Home is where
your family is

McDonald's has been supporting
Ronald McDonald House
Charities for nearly 30 years.

The Charity helps keep families
together when they have a



I'm on the bus

keep the volume down

if you are using
a personal stereo
or mobile phone

There's only
2
times
I drink beer

WHEN IT'S
RAINING
&
WHEN IT'S NOT
RAINING

All things considered ...

- 📌 Images, audio and video can **motivate** learners and can **enhance learning effects**.
- 📌 **Realistic** examples in **real** contexts.
- 📌 A focus on **meaning** before form (grammar as lexis) and (sometimes) **practice** before analysis.
- 📌 **Engagement** with the language
- 📌 Encourage learners to
 - 📌 **notice** language;
 - 📌 **take pictures/make videos** and bring them to the classroom.

Thank you for listening!

Any questions? Comments?



shop window, Brighton

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sign in a restaurant in Den Bommel (NL.)