



Free online EFL resources raising awareness about mobility disability

by Katie Quartano

Teachers are in a prime position to enlighten the younger generation. Nelson Mandela said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world", and the teaching of EFL can be a powerful and important vehicle for raising awareness about social issues. However, within the confines of the syllabus, the course book, and the exams it can sometimes be difficult to find appropriate material that allows you to do this. This is where the Disabled Access Friendly campaign's free EFL teaching resources can help!

The campaign's free online material available on www.disabled-accessfriendly.com aids teachers in developing students' social conscience, making lessons meaningful, and encouraging critical thinking through a curriculum of social empathy. The resources consist of lesson plans and graded reading texts at all levels, which can be used as supplementary material, for project work and examination practice. The material provides students with the information necessary to allow them to put themselves in the shoes of someone with a mobility disability and stimulates them to explore how others feel.

For example, a lesson plan at B1 level shows a picture of a kitchen and effectively practices the second conditional, whilst at the same time prompts students to think about the countless difficulties faced by wheelchair users, which go way beyond just being unable to negotiate steps. The students are asked to think about how this kitchen could be improved so that a wheelchair user could use it more easily. The language is contextualised, and sentence patterns emerge naturally. The two-page worksheet, contributed by Nikoletta Rapti, can be found on the organization's website at:

[http://www.disabled-accessfriendly.com/pdf_daf/B1.%20Rapti,%20Nikoletta.%20An%20accessible%20kitchen%20\(updated\).pdf](http://www.disabled-accessfriendly.com/pdf_daf/B1.%20Rapti,%20Nikoletta.%20An%20accessible%20kitchen%20(updated).pdf)