

PROFESSIONAL TEACHER COMPETENCE FOR INTERNATIONALISATION (PTCI)

PTCI Task 1: Vocabulary Explanations

"What are pigeons?"

(learner's question observed during a classroom observation)

Both as teachers and general communicators in international contexts, we are likely to be asked to provide spontaneous vocabulary explanations, and this can prove tricky for both international teachers of English and for non-teaching English native speakers.

Here are some answers from native English speakers to the above question:

1. They're eh big birds.
2. They're disgusting.
3. They're rats with wings.
4. I'd find a picture on my mobile and show them.
5. They're small, grey birds. You find them in London.

- a) Which of these answers would be most or least helpful for learners and why?
- b) Which answer(s) do you think was given by a teacher and why?
- c) What would your answer be?

Now list at least 4 different ways in which you could explain this vocabulary item.

Choose which strategy you would prefer to use and state your reasons.

Individual reflection

What did you learn from doing this task?

Did it raise your awareness of the range of vocabulary teaching approaches?

How confident do you feel about being able to provide spontaneous vocabulary explanations?

Transnational group reflection

1. Share and discuss your responses to the task.
2. Share any experiences you have had of giving spontaneous vocabulary explanations.

