

## Case Example from HKBU

### Subject area: English language

**Related courses:** University English, Comprehension of Modern Spoken English: Culture and Context, Learning English Through Songs, Pop Artists and Modern English, Real English Through YouTube Clips, Intermediate Listening and Speaking, IELTS Preparation Courses

The teacher follows two principles to leverage diversity in the classroom and foster student integration in his courses which broadly cover General English, Academic English, and English for specific purposes.

**Using experience of diverse students as learning resources:** In a listening class, the teacher invited students of various cultural backgrounds (e.g. Finland, Germany, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Kazakhstan, Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong) to share how English idioms were expressed in their home cultures. This activity allowed students to identify the commonality and untranslatability of language while enhancing their ability to understand English conversations.

**Creating a peaceful and mutually respectful atmosphere for ideas exchange:** The teacher was mindful that he would always encourage but not force his students to form culturally mixed groups for activities and assignments. He also brought global and cultural topics, such as gun control in America and fast-food expansion, into the classroom for discussion, through which students used language in a more authentic way as they engaged in these topics that were both interesting and significant. Meanwhile, the teacher was cautious about choosing topics, especially avoiding overly controversial or challenging topics that students might not feel comfortable discussing in their second or third language.



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