



Learning Circles - what to expect on a course:

- An opportunity to study together with other people of a similar language level.
- Many people achieve a good level of English through formal learning and through cultural products - but their language still remains quite passive and routine. The classes will be a place where there will be a variety of inputs - articles, documentaries, poems, drama - with a chance to stop and identify / clarify language use, and see how you could use forms in different contexts.
- Will grammar be taught? If it seems useful. There is a lot of research to suggest that once people have studied the basics, constantly reiterating grammar points has limited value. People learn in different ways and some issues are idiosyncratic, some are first-language specific. Reading and Listening are good ways to absorb better English; trying to speak and write is what uncovers issues and challenges. We can construct exercises as we go along.
- In general, these classes will privilege meaning, content, expression over constant language points. Being interested in a subject, in ideas, in a discussion will drive the language experience. Humour, enjoyment, the stimulation of a group.
- There is no programme content established in advance. We will generally come upon a board theme at the beginning of the course that evolves through our discussions. I'll constantly be finding things that interest me that I'll bring to the class to develop the theme. From time to time, you will too. When people actively contribute their train of thought, there'll be lots of tangents and connections.#
- If you choose to write, you'll be encouraged. It doesn't always work well to bring your texts to the group for correction, and I won't always have the time to correct them.
- It's best to enjoy the course for what it is than to focus on what it isn't.
- We'll use Google Jamboard to take notes and remind ourselves of the directions we've taken. There are plenty of examples on the website from various online classes I've taught (intermediate-advanced) to get a flavour. Of course, every group of people is different,
- The course for French speakers will naturally draw upon that commonality, looking at cultural and political issues through that lens; the course for political organisers will be a space for debate, theory and inspiration based on what we all bring to the table.
- If you find it's not for you, you can have a refund for the whole course at any point.