

UNLOCKING COMPREHENSION: USING BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE TO BOOST ESL READING SKILLS

Reading comprehension becomes meaningful when learners are able to connect a text with what they already know. Drawing on the concept of Schema Theory, this webinar will explore how activating learners' background knowledge can significantly improve comprehension in ESL classrooms. When students relate new information to their prior experiences, they engage more actively with the text and develop deeper understanding.

This session will discuss practical strategies teachers can use before, during, and after reading to activate learners' background knowledge. Participants will also see examples from classroom practice with Year-1 students, demonstrating how familiar contexts, guided questioning, and interactive tasks can support comprehension. The session aims to provide teachers with simple and adaptable techniques that make reading lessons more engaging, meaningful, and effective for young ESL learners.



***Mehwish Fatima** is an English language teacher based in Karachi with over 10 years of teaching experience. She is an Associate Fellow (AFHE) of Advance HE, the UK. Her professional interests include reading pedagogy, learner engagement, interdisciplinary approaches to language teaching, and practical strategies that support ESL and EAP learners in developing stronger comprehension skills.*

SCAN TO REGISTER

Day, Date

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Time

12:00 to 1:00pm



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88083602388?pwd=Z6TUZq4bIs5UjTfat36mOUdwogRAtV.1>

Meeting ID: 880 8360 2388

Passcode: ACD-498

Sobia Begum

Associate Chair,

Professional Development Council (2024-26)

sobyaaahsanalikhana@gmail.com

spelt.org.pk

www.facebook.com/headofficespelt

www.linkedin.com/company/headofficespelt

<https://www.instagram.com/speltheadoffice/>

HEAD OFFICE

SPELT House: No. 101 First Floor Plot No. C-28 Kh-e-Ittehad, Lane 12 Phase II Ext. D.H.A, Karachi.

Mobile No. 0333-3754250 - 0349-8390837

E-mail: speltheadoffice@gmail.com