

Reddit: understanding through participation

e-lang citizen team

Teacher Sheet

Task

Your students will be given the following task.

You want to discuss a topic or a current social issue that intrigues you (gender equality, schooling, secularism, etc.) with other Reddit users.

On the Reddit.com site, you will ask members of the Reddit community and eventually answer the questions asked, thus participating in the construction of shared information.

You can then, possibly in class, reflect on the discussions that took place.

Website

<https://www.reddit.com/>

Reddit is an online social network available in several languages and covering various themes. To access the different versions, you just have to use the search engine or append the code '/r/' to the URL, followed by the name of the country in English: [reddit.com/r/france/](https://www.reddit.com/r/france/) for French, or [reddit.com/r/spain/](https://www.reddit.com/r/spain/) for Spanish, etc. In order to participate in the discussions, you need to create an account.

To post your remarks or questions, join the AskReddit section. To do so, type "AskReddit" in the Search box on the Reddit site.

You may also use other sites instead of Reddit. The teacher will choose these sites based on their popularity in the given context and their relevance to the learners.

- <https://www.quora.com>
- <https://answers.yahoo.com>

CEFR level - For A2 level and above

Objectives

Digital citizenship and literacy

	Dimensions covered in task	(Potential) specific objectives
Digital citizenship	Critical	Be aware that people have different opinions and approaches (to the same topic). Be aware that in discussions subjective opinions are presented.
	Informed	Be aware that the process of constructing information can be shared on a collaborative site like Reddit.
Interaction literacy	Technologically mediated communication (literacy)	Addressing users of a platform to ask for their feedback.

Main language activity

- Written reception: reading content, selecting specific topics, analysing content.
- Written production: producing content (coming up with a question, constructing an answer).
- Written interaction: answering questions, sharing an opinion, broadening the discussion).

Possible steps

This task can be carried out in several steps:

- Discuss the use of social media and assess who is already accustomed to using Reddit.
- Explain the relevance of Reddit as a social network.
- Help students to set up their accounts by explaining the rules and other important ethical behaviour. This can be a task in itself, as it is an important part of the learning process.
- Engage in discussion with the students to help them choose topics they want to discuss. These topics may or may not be directly related to the topics studied in class (e.g. cinema, school life), if the aim of the activity is more focused on language development.
- Encourage learners to assess their level of presence on the network, the power of their interactions and the influence the task may have on their own language development, cultural perceptions, or values.

Reddit - participate to understand

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Student Sheet

Task

You want to discuss a social issue with Reddit users. For instance, you are interested in a specific news item or a social issue (gender equality, the schooling system, secularism, etc.) and you want to discuss this issue to better understand it.

On the Reddit.com site, you will ask members of the Reddit community questions, and answer the questions asked, thus participating in the construction of shared information.

You can then, preferably in class, reflect on the discussions that have taken place.

Website

<https://www.reddit.com/>

Reddit is an online social network available in several languages and covering various themes. To access the different versions, you just have to use the search engine or append the code '/r/' to the URL, followed by the name of the country in English: reddit.com/r/france/ for French, or reddit.com/r/spain/ for Spanish, etc. In order to participate in the discussions, you need to create an account.

You may also use other sites instead of Reddit. The teacher will choose these sites based on their popularity in the given context and their relevance to the learners.

CEFR level - For A2 level and above

Objectives

Digital citizenship and literacy

While completing this task, you can:

- learn how to address users of a platform to have your questions answered or to join an existing discussion;
- become aware of the different ways of looking at the same issue and accept different values and attitudes;
- be aware of the strengths and limitations of automatic translation tools (if you are using one to understand responses).

Hints

Keep in mind who you are addressing

To find out about the social rules of the site, you should read the Reddit content policy: <https://www.redditinc.com/policies/content-policy>. Study the rules and make a list of behaviours to follow and to avoid. You also might want to consider whether you agree with the policy.

Think about how best to ask your questions or present your issues and ideas so that you can get involved in existing discussions. For example, explain who you are and why you are interested in the topic.

Work on the language-related aspects

You can get involved in many discussions on Reddit. Have a look at how the discussion develops, what has already been said and how you could best respond.

Take into account the advice Reddit gives in the box on top of the one where you post your ideas or questions.

Note that you are participating in discussions with the nickname you chose when you signed up.

If you have difficulty understanding the discussion, you may use an automatic translation tool, such as DeepL: <https://www.deepl.com/translator>.

For you to think about

While completing the task, you can reflect on the following aspects:

- What are your takeaways from the discussion?
- What do you think of the development of the discussion, as well as the answers and reactions you received?
- What seemed to be the level of online engagement of the participants?
- If you used an automatic translation tool to understand the responses, to what extent did it help you to understand? Did it help you to fully understand everything? Were there parts where you did not get good results from the translator? Which ones? Are you sure the translation reflected the full content of the original text? How do you rate the linguistic quality of the translations?