











# Sensations English webinars

## View all our previous Webinars for Teachers

[www.sensationsenglishwebinars.co.uk/](http://www.sensationsenglishwebinars.co.uk/)

- ✓ Monthly webinars for teachers
- ✓ Themed webinar series
- ✓ Recordings and slides

Follow us on social media:

 @SensationsEnglish  @sensations\_english  
 @sensations-english  @sensationsenglish  
 @SensationsEng  YouTube /SensationsEnglish

New 2025 series!

**Sensations**  
E N G L I S H

## Webinars for teachers

**Too much information?  
AI and the search for  
truth in the language  
classroom**



**This webinar will explore how to:**

- recognise when AI is being used to write assignments.
- discourage students from using AI in ways which hamper language learning
- introduce critical thinking skills into the language learning classroom

**Michele  
Crawford**

ELT author and teacher  
University of Lancaster



**Rescheduled!**

**Thurs 26th June 2025 - 2pm UK time**



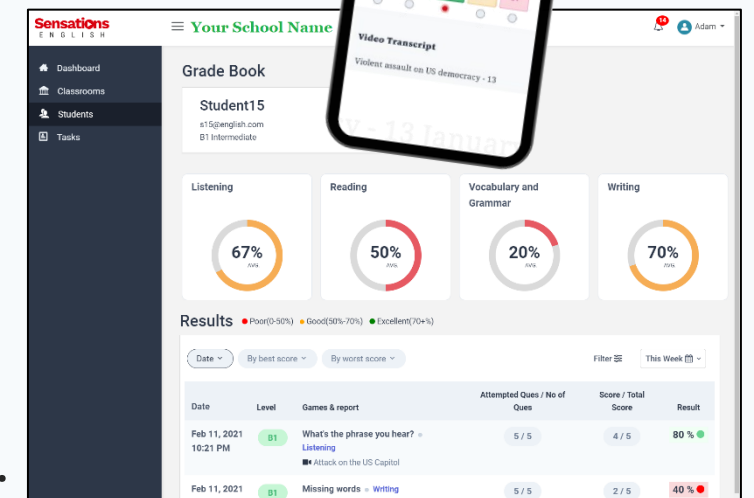
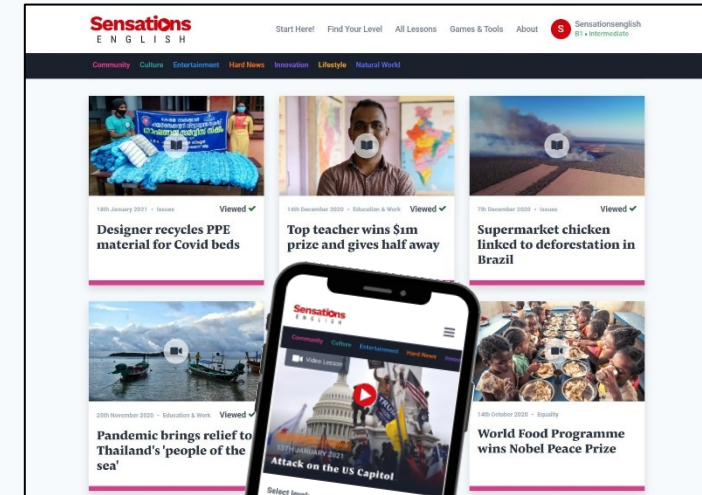
# What is Sensations English?

- over 600 global news-based lessons all graded at 5 levels
- ready-made learning activities for each resource
- accessible and hassle-free video
- study tools to support language skill development

## Sensations English **Schools Edition** includes:

- subscriptions for all your students and teachers
- lesson plans and teacher guides
- a digital Teacher Gradebook to organise classes, set and monitor tasks, create reports on learners' progress.

[www.sensationsenglish.com/schools-and-colleges/](http://www.sensationsenglish.com/schools-and-colleges/)







# Why is truth important in language teaching?



If we don't have a true picture of our students' abilities, how can we help them improve?



AI has the potential to create fake news ...



... and fake essays!



# How do you feel about the use of AI by your students?

Mentimeter

Feelings about students' AI use

How do you feel about the use of AI by your students?

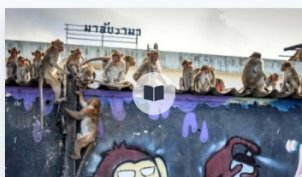
untrained  
concerned  
worry  
anxious  
happy  
go for it  
unsure



# Questions ....

**Sensations**  
ENGLISH

Community Culture Entertainment Hard News



13th July 2020 • Animals

**Monkeys take over Thai city**



1st June 2020 • Natural Disasters

**Super-cyclone Amphan hits the Bay of Bengal**

1. What are AI Large Language Models (LLMs)?
2. How do we detect their use in students' writing?
3. How can we discourage students from using AI tools in their assignments?
4. How can we encourage students to think critically in the 'information age'?



**Sensations**  
ENGLISH



# What are AI Large Language Models?



AI systems capable of understanding and generating human language



Trained with vast amounts of human written text from various sources



**Generate coherent and contextually relevant responses, translate to languages other than English, summarize text, answer questions and assist in creative writing**



Chatbots and virtual assistants use LLMs



ChatGPT is the most famous!



Useful writing assistant? Or 'language sausage machine'\*

\*Baron, N. S. (2023). *Who Wrote This? : How AI and the Lure of Efficiency Threaten Human Writing* (First edition.). Stanford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9781503637900>



# How can we detect AI use in writing?

Look at the prompt and two answers. Which has been written by AI and which by a university student?

## Prompt

Write a definition, example, and explanation for the following term: **phonemic awareness**.

**Definition:** Write a concise statement of what the term means. **Example:** Describe a concrete and specific instance of the term. The example can be made up. **Explanation:** Provide a theoretical implication of the term or state an important scientific fact about it. Your complete answer should be 3–6 sentences long.

1

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and produce separate phonemes. Example: blending the phonemes /s/ /u/ /n/ to produce the word sun shows that the subject has a grasp of phonemic awareness. Explanation: Phonemic awareness is crucial in the development of fluency and reading comprehension in primary school. Without phonemic awareness, students will not be able to read and understand their textbooks in the future which is an important part of learning.

2

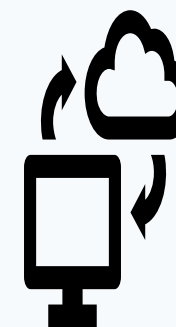
Phonemic awareness is the ability to recognize and manipulate individual sounds, or phonemes, in spoken words. For example, being able to hear and identify the separate phonemes in the word "cat" (/k/ /æ/ /t/) would be an example of phonemic awareness. Phonemic awareness is an important pre-reading skill, as it helps children to be able to decode words when they begin to read. It is also closely linked to literacy development, and children with poor phonemic awareness may struggle with learning to read.



# Answer

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and produce separate phonemes. Example: blending the phonemes /s/ /u/ /n/ to produce the word sun shows that the subject has a grasp of phonemic awareness. Explanation: Phonemic awareness is crucial in the development of fluency and reading comprehension in primary school. Without phonemic awareness, students will not be able to read and understand their textbooks in the future which is an important part of learning.

Phonemic awareness is the ability to recognize and manipulate individual sounds, or phonemes, in spoken words. For example, being able to hear and identify the separate phonemes in the word "cat" (/k/ /æ/ /t/) would be an example of phonemic awareness. Phonemic awareness is an important pre-reading skill, as it helps children to be able to decode words when they begin to read. It is also closely linked to literacy development, and children with poor phonemic awareness may struggle with learning to read.

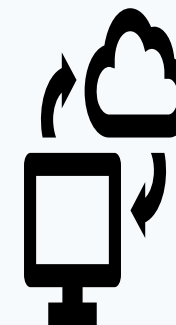




# Answer

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and produce separate phonemes. Example: blending the phonemes /s/ /u/ /n/ to produce the word **sun** shows that the subject has a grasp of phonemic awareness. Explanation: Phonemic awareness is crucial in the development of fluency and reading comprehension in primary school. Without phonemic awareness, students will not be able to read and understand their textbooks in the future which is an important part of learning.

Phonemic awareness is the ability to recognize and **manipulate** individual sounds, or phonemes, in spoken words. For example, being able to hear and identify the separate phonemes in the word "cat" (/k/ /æ/ /t/) would be an example of phonemic awareness. Phonemic awareness is an important pre-reading skill, as it helps children to be able to **decode** words when they begin to read. It is also closely linked to literacy development, and children with poor phonemic awareness may **struggle with** learning to read.





# Common features of AI writing

Overuse of sophisticated language

Lack of personal voice

Lack of a clear stance

Inconsistencies in style

Hallucinations (e.g. incorrect information and references)

No grammar mistakes!



# Recent news story

SCIENCEINSIDER | HEALTH

## Trump officials downplay fake citations in high-profile report on children's health

References to phantom studies comes after White House pledge to practice “gold standard” science

30 MAY 2025 • 4:50 PM ET • BY [PHIE JACOBS](#)





## However it can still be hard to detect AI written essays!

Research shows teachers can only spot an essay written by ChatGPT 70% of the time

AI detection tools have a similar success rate - in one experiment, parts of the Bible were flagged as being 'AI generated'!



# What's wrong with using AI?





## Lots of reasons ...

- language learning is a slow, sometimes painful, process involving many challenges and there are no short cuts!
- writing an essay may be challenging but it is also creative! (helps students explore their ideas/views on a topic and test their language skills at the same time)
- the feedback a teacher gives on a piece of written work will help take their language skills to the next level
- if they use AI to write an essay for homework, how will students cope when they have to write an essay in exam conditions without any help?



# Showing students what they CAN do (without AI)!

Increase students' confidence by pitching materials at the right level – should be challenging but not daunting!

The screenshot shows the Sensations English website interface. At the top left is the logo "Sensations ENGLISH". To the right are navigation links: "Home", "All lessons", "Games & tools", and "About". A user account box on the right shows "Lancaster University P." and "My Account". Below the navigation is a category menu with "Natural World", "Hard News", "Innovation", "Entertainment", "Lifestyle", "Culture", and "Community". The main content area features a large image of a woman and a man shopping in a supermarket, with a red heart and a pineapple overlaid. The article title is "Shopping for love in Spain" and it is categorized as "ENTERTAINMENT - Funny" dated "16TH SEPTEMBER 2024". At the bottom, there is a "Select level:" section with five buttons: "A2", "B1", "B1+ • Intermediate" (which is highlighted in green and has a red dot below it), "B2", and "C1". A "Levels" link with a question mark icon is also present. Social media icons for Facebook and Twitter are visible on the right side of the level selection area.



# Engaging students with authentic materials

The screenshot shows the Sensations English website interface. At the top left is the logo 'Sensations ENGLISH'. To the right are navigation links: 'Home', 'All lessons', 'Games & tools', and 'About'. A user account box for 'Lancaster University P.' with 'My Account' is visible. Below the navigation is a category menu with links for 'Natural World', 'Hard News', 'Innovation', 'Entertainment', 'Lifestyle', 'Culture', and 'Community'. The main content area features a video player with a red play button. The video title is 'Robots race humans in China', dated '2ND JUNE 2025', and categorized under 'LIFESTYLE • Sport'. The video thumbnail shows several humanoid robots in a race setting, with people in teal vests in the background.

- Up-to-date content of Sensations English means it is always fresh and current (as opposed to course books, which date quickly)
- Even at A1 level, students can engage with authentic news reports – motivating!
- The huge number of topics covered means that students can find something they are interested in!





# How should you respond when a student uses AI in their writing?

## How should you respond when a student uses AI in their writing?

Try to consider why the student has used it, talk to them, rather than punishing them for it

by speaking to the student initially

If they tell us in a footnote that they did, and how they used it, then I'd like to encourage that use and ask them about its appropriacy, limitations, etc

Ask them to explain the work in their own words and give them an opportunity to write a summary of it from what they remember. Ask them to do the same with some work done in class together.

Have a discussion on the pros and cons of using AI

Encourage them to ask the right questions. Don't copy everything but check against what the task rubrics aer

Ask the student if they feel their writing is inade and discuss how they can improve their writing.

Talk to the student about the school's AI policy. Allow them to resubmit the work

Give students guidelines on how to use AI

Clarify the advantages and disadvantages of using AI: Encourage them to use it rather as an assistant not for doing the whole work

Tell them it won't help , if they want to improve writing as a skill, they need to practise writing and rely on themselves , it's like climbing to excell they need to start from the bottom.

I think using AI prevents critical thinking



## Berwin's language journey – Week 2



On a day when Egypt's sands were especially lively, I found myself standing in the presence of the majestic Great Sphinx of Giza. The sun was unyieldingly bright, and a sandstorm was brewing on the horizon. As I was standing there, marveling at this ancient

Hi Berwin, although I love this photo and the story, some of the language in here is unusual and extremely advanced. If you are able to write like this then you don't need to be in my class because your English is already perfect and you have nothing to learn!

In your Padlet I really want to see YOUR writing and YOUR voice. I don't want anything perfect or written by software translation. Could you write this again but completely from your own English? :)



# Berwin's language journey - Week 8

Happiness is a complex and subjective concept. Different people have different understanding of it, from some people, many people think have lots of money and have healthy body the best happiness, have successful career. But other people think happiness in every little thing of daily life. As for me, I also believe happiness lies in the little things of daily life.

In my opinion, it's about finding joy and contentment in the present moment. For instance, when family members have meals together and chat, or when they go to travel, when I see their smiles, I consider it to be very happiness. And also, do some things I love, like painting, swimming or find best cocktail, can bring me a lot of happiness.

In conclusion, happiness is everywhere around us, we need a heart to feel it. Enjoy life, discover beauty and you will have happiness.

I love this so much! I agree completely that happiness is everywhere and that it is in the little things. I always find it in peaceful moments where I am doing something simple that I love.

Well done for your writing! I can see this is your own original words and that makes me very happy :)

Below is a revised version so you can compare the grammar and study some structures. Keep writing! You are getting better every week!!



# In the tutor's words

I would say that, for some of them, they hadn't understood the learning objective of giving me a writing they had done themselves. **In their minds they felt they needed to give the teacher a polished perfect piece of work** (this is natural as that is what we have to do in schools and universities) so **this is something I needed to explain to them that I didn't want**, and why this didn't help me or them when it comes to language learning and teaching. **I knew it wasn't about them trying to 'cheat' and I did understand that. When they knew I didn't want to see perfect writing, I think that took the pressure off them too.** I also explained how to use my revisions for learning from as I feel like comparing them and even copying them out as practice is part of the process. Their actual writing is just a middle step.

We all agreed they can use translation for vocabulary in their writings (if they make sure to write the words down and learn them properly) but that they need to write 'from their brains' so I can help them become good writers in English without any software help.



# Facing English 'bravely'

The week has felt like a new beginning for me. Speak accurately, I like the week, like the class, like all people on the online class. I met the best teacher during my student years, who name is Julia, she really loves to laugh and is very humorous, just like the sun guiding us and teaching us to face English bravely. I hope that in my future student days, all the teachers will be like her - optimistic, versatile, and loving this world. [View More](#)



# Critical thinking: searching for the truth

Training students to question the information they are given and think for themselves

Although not a language skill, it is more important than ever!

Essay writing helps to develop this skill

'Sensations English' is a great starting point for debates and discussion about current affairs





# Independent Learning Portfolio

---

Every week in your Language and Culture class, you will watch a news report on a current issue related to areas such as new technology, world events and 21st century culture. You will then write a short commentary on the report including the following:

---

A brief summary of the news story (e.g., Where and when did it happen? Who was involved?).

---

Your own view about the report (e.g., Were the facts presented clearly and truthfully? Was any important information left out?).

---

Your own feelings about the issue (e.g., Is it an important issue? Why/why not? How does it relate to your own experience?).



# Critical summary of news report



Select level:

A2

B1

B1+ • Intermediate

B2

C1

Levels ?


## News Summary

Week7



With the increasing pressure of life and work, many Chinese young people want to relieve the pressure, so they choose 'lying flat'. The term 'lying flat', meaning to take a break from non-stop work to enjoy life,

In fact, the phenomenon of 'lying flat' is quite common in our lives. Many young people have high-paying jobs in big cities, such as Beijing and Shanghai, but choose to return to their hometowns after working for two or three years. The reason for this phenomenon is the high pressure of work, the high cost of living and the fast pace of living in big cities. Therefore, I think the news is very true, indeed many young people in China choose to 'lie flat'. However, it is not comprehensive enough, this news should interview Chinese people about how to view this phenomenon. Some people may agree with "lying flat", while others do not, so the news will become more comprehensive.



**“In a time of deceit,  
telling the truth is  
a revolutionary act.”**

—GEORGE ORWELL











# Thank you

## View all our previous Webinars for Teachers

[www.sensationsenglishwebinars.co.uk/](http://www.sensationsenglishwebinars.co.uk/)

- ✓ Monthly webinars for teachers
- ✓ Themed webinar series
- ✓ Recordings and slides

Follow us on social media:

 @SensationsEnglish  @sensations\_english  
 @sensations-english  @sensationsenglish  
 @SensationsEng  YouTube /SensationsEnglish

New 2025 series!

**Sensations**  
E N G L I S H

## Webinars for teachers

**Too much information?  
AI and the search for  
truth in the language  
classroom**



**This webinar will explore how to:**

- recognise when AI is being used to write assignments.
- discourage students from using AI in ways which hamper language learning
- introduce critical thinking skills into the language learning classroom

**Michele  
Crawford**

ELT author and teacher  
University of Lancaster



**Rescheduled!**

**Thurs 26th June 2025 - 2pm UK time**



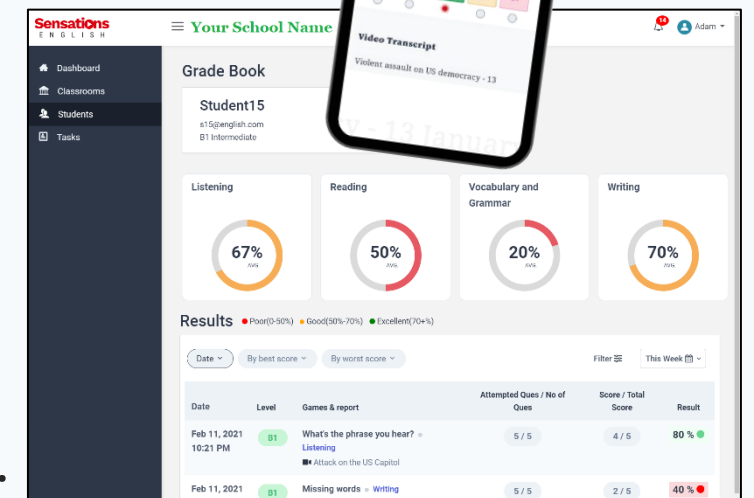
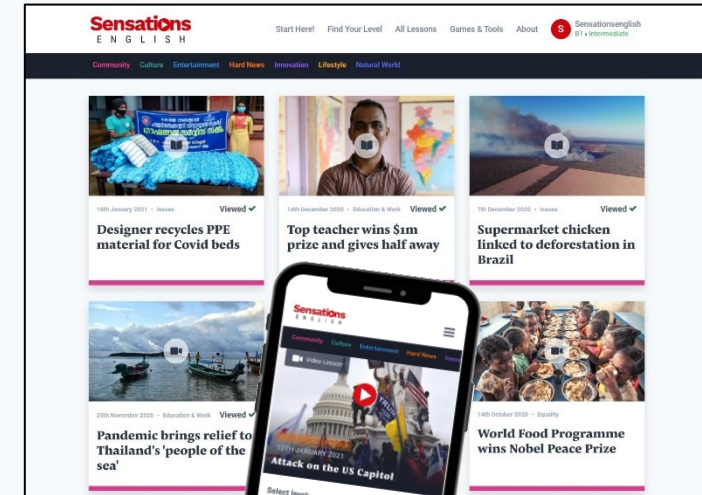
# What is Sensations English?

- over 600 global news-based lessons all graded at 5 levels
- ready-made learning activities for each resource
- accessible and hassle-free video
- study tools to support language skill development

## Sensations English **Schools Edition** includes:

- subscriptions for all your students and teachers
- lesson plans and teacher guides
- a digital Teacher Gradebook to organise classes, set and monitor tasks, create reports on learners' progress.

[www.sensationsenglish.com/schools-and-colleges/](http://www.sensationsenglish.com/schools-and-colleges/)





# Start using Sensations English today

## Graded, authentic, global resources for ELT

Get Sensations English **Schools Edition!**

- Logins for all your students
- Teacher tools and formative assessment

<https://sensationsenglish.com/schools-and-colleges/>

Check out our latest resources:

<https://sensationsenglish.com/>

View more Webinars for Teachers:

<https://sensationsenglishwebinars.co.uk/>

Find **Sensations English**  
on social media

 @SensationsEnglish

 @sensations-english

 @sensations\_english

 @sensationsenglish

 @SensationsEng

 YouTube /SensationsEnglish