EdYouFest
SINCE 2015
2026



TITLE:

MAKING THE MOST OF AI: BENEFITS AND RISKS FOR TEACHERS

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PRESENTATION TYPE: PLENARY

Abstract

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping English language teaching, offering new possibilities for lesson preparation, materials development, personalised learning and classroom creativity. Yet its growing presence also raises important questions about academic integrity, critical thinking, misinformation and the continuing importance of human connection in language learning. This interactive session introduces the current state of generative AI and considers its practical implications for teachers and learners. Participants will explore how AI can support engaging, level-appropriate materials, make preparation more efficient and help teachers tailor learning experiences to their own classes. The session also examines the value of detailed prompting and the teacher's evolving role as a creative director: setting the educational vision, evaluating output critically and adapting it to learners' needs. Alongside these opportunities, the presentation addresses over-reliance, plagiarism, bias and hallucinations. Rather than presenting AI as either a threat or a solution, it argues for a balanced approach in which technology enhances, but never replaces, teacher expertise, learner agency and the social dimension of language education.

Biography

Charles Goodger is a British educator, writer, composer, and part-time university trainer in the Department of Educational Sciences at the University of Bologna. He is the founder of FunSongs Education and creator of the FunSongs Method, which teaches English to young learners through music, mime, rhythm, rhyme, and action. His interests include language pedagogy, teacher education, educational technology, AI, and the creative use of music in language learning. He has held workshops and plenaries at teacher conferences around the world, most recently in Armenia in summer 2026. Listen to his music on all digital platforms.