



**TITLE:**  
**IF YOU CAN'T BEAT THEM...**

**SPEAKER:** STEVE HIRSCHHORN  
**PRESENTATION TYPE:** ONLINE

## Abstract

If you can't beat them...

Given that Critical Thinking (CT) has become a feature of ELT, let's take the bull by the horns and examine it critically. Let's decide if it has any place at all in ELT and whether teachers have enough information to use it in their teaching. This session will outline the position CT has taken in English Language Teaching more or less unilaterally. We will look at the main features of CT and we will ask some difficult questions about whether CT has a place in ELT and whether hard-working, underpaid teachers, should be required to manage CT in their classes.

## Biography

In 1978 Steve was asked to teach a group of scientists in Switzerland as they approached a language exam. That was when he understood that it takes more to teach a language than simply being able to speak it! He went on to a long and successful career after achieving top marks at the IH Hastings Cert TEFL in 1981. He is trained not only in a Communicative Approach but also in Silent Way and Suggestopedia and has trained teachers in those approaches. Steve taught Applied Linguistics in the UK university sector at MA level.

He has published many articles on language teaching, has delivered teacher-development workshops and events all over the world. He finally published a book on the use of Cuisenaire Rods in 2023 and a second book is currently at the editor.

Steve won the 'Walpole Award for Innovation in Teaching' twice.

He is a strong supporter of non-native speaking EL teachers and believes that pre-service training is essential for all.

At 76, he is busily retired, renovating a house, playing music, making furniture from odds and ends while tending olive trees and a variety of fruit trees.