



International women's day - Gender-Neutral Language



GRADE LEVEL	B1
CLIL SUBJECT	English language & Social Studies
OBJECTIVE	Students will understand the importance of gender-neutral language and learn alternative words to promote inclusivity in English.
MATERIALS NEEDED	• Printed or digital copies of the vocabulary table (page 3) • Short paragraphs with gendered language for rewriting (page 4) • Whiteboard & markers (for whole-class discussion) • Projector/slides (optional, to display examples)
LESSON DURATION	60 minutes

LESSON PROCEDURE	Introduction (10 minutes) Ask: "Have you ever heard words like 'fireman' or 'policeman'? What do they make you think of?" Explain that language has changed to be more inclusive and fair for everyone. Tell the students that for example instead of mankind, we now say humankind to include everyone. 2. Vocabulary activity (15 minutes) Show the table on page 3 with gendered words and their neutral alternatives. Have students match gendered words to their neutral alternatives in pairs or small groups. 3. Discussion: why does language matter? (10 minutes) Explain how words shape our thinking and influence society. Give an example: "If we always say 'fireman,' does that make us think only men can do the job?" Talk about how changing words can make language more fair and respectful for everyone. 4. Creative task: rewrite a short text (15 minutes) Give students the short paragraphs on page 4 with gendered language. Ask them to rewrite them using gender-neutral words. Share and discuss their changes as a class.
CLOSURE	Reflection & wrap-up (10 minutes) Ask students: • "Why do you think gender-neutral words are important?" • "Can you think of any other words we should change to be more inclusive?" Encourage students to be mindful of the words they use and notice gendered language in everyday life.
ASSESSMENT	Walk around the room while students match words and check if they correctly identify gender-neutral alternatives. During the discussion (why does language matter?), note if students understand how words shape thinking. Encourage them to explain their ideas in their own words. Look at students' rewritten paragraphs. • Do they replace all gendered words correctly? • Do their sentences still make sense?
EXTENSION	Students can create posters with examples of gender-neutral words to display in the classroom.

GENDERED NOUN	GENDER-NEUTRAL ALTERNATIVE
Mankind	Firefighter
Policeman	Fisher
Businessman	Workforce
Mother / father	Humankind, humanity
Man-made	Salesperson
Mailman	Parent
Headmaster	First-year student
Steward	Bartender
Husband / wife	Artificial
Fireman	Businessperson
Freshman	Flight attendant / Stewardess
Salesman	Principal
Manpower	Mail carrier, postal worker
Fisherman	Partner
Barman	Police officer

Texts

1. At school

The headmaster of the school welcomed the new freshmen. He told them that hard work was important. The students were excited to start their first year.

2. At work

The chairman of the company said that strong manpower was needed for success. The businessman in the front row nodded in agreement.

3. At the fire station

A fireman and a policeman visited the school. They talked about safety rules. The students asked the fireman how he puts out fires.

4. At the airport

The steward greeted the passengers on the plane. He showed them their seats. The barman at the airport prepared drinks for travellers waiting for their flights.

5. At the fishing dock

A young boy watched the fisherman catch salmon. "Is fishing hard?" he asked. The fisherman smiled and said, "It takes patience and skill."

6. A letter arrives

The mailman delivered an important letter to the school. The headmaster opened it and smiled. "Good news for our students!" he said.

7. Helping in the city

A policeman helped a lost child find their parents. He was kind and made sure the child was safe.

8. A museum visit

The students visited a museum to learn about man-made structures. They saw models of old buildings and bridges.