

# English Profession

## Networking & Professional Development for Educators

Week – 13

## Lesson Objectives

- Define networking and explain its importance in an educational career.
- Identify and join relevant professional communities or platforms.
- Build a compelling LinkedIn profile tailored to teaching roles.
- Reflect on their professional identity and development goals.

## 1. Networking in Education

Networking involves establishing and maintaining professional relationships with fellow educators, mentors, institutions, and communities. For teachers, networking:

- Helps share resources, strategies, and teaching innovations.
- Provides access to job openings, scholarships, workshops, and conferences.
- Builds support systems and collaborative projects (e.g., international class exchanges or curriculum design teams).

**Example:** A teacher who connects with a university lecturer via LinkedIn may get invited to co-host a webinar or write a joint publication.

## 2. LinkedIn for Educators

LinkedIn is more than a job board; it's a digital CV, a networking hub, and a personal branding platform.

### Components of a Strong Profile:

- **Professional Photo:** Clean, confident headshot.
- **Headline:** Short and clear. E.g., *"STEM Educator | Blended Learning Enthusiast"*
- **Summary:** Who you are, your values, and what you're looking for.
- **Experience:** Teaching positions, assistantships, tutoring roles.
- **Skills:** Curriculum design, online teaching, classroom tech.
- **Certifications:** Google Educator, TEFL, Coursera achievements.

### 3. Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

A PLC is a group of teachers who collaborate regularly to improve their teaching practice. This may be a local teacher group, a WhatsApp discussion forum, or a monthly Zoom book club.

#### **Characteristics:**

- Voluntary and collaborative.
- Problem-focused and reflective.
- Peer-to-peer mentoring and growth-driven.

**Example:** A group of English teachers meet every 2 weeks to review each other's lesson plans and discuss student motivation strategies.

## Class Activities

### 1. LinkedIn Profile Critique

- Instructor shows two real profiles (an effective and a weak one).
- Students identify strong and weak elements in groups.
- Discussion: What makes an educator stand out on LinkedIn?

### 2. Profile Building Workshop

- Students draft or revise their LinkedIn headline and summary.
- Peer-editing session: Swap summaries and give feedback using a rubric:
  - Clarity of message
  - Professional tone
  - Keywords that show expertise

### 3. Simulated Networking Session

- Students practice professional introductions (elevator pitches):
  - Who are you?
  - What do you teach or aim to teach?
  - What makes you different?
- Scenario: “You’re at an international conference coffee break. Introduce yourself to someone you admire.”

## Exercise

### LinkedIn Creation Task

- Students must write a complete LinkedIn profile draft that includes:
  - A headline (max 120 characters)
  - A summary paragraph (100–150 words)
  - At least 3 teaching-related skills
  - Optional: Add past experiences or certifications

## In-Class Exercise

**Prompt:** Develop a full-page classroom management plan for a first-year high school Informatics class.

It must include:

- **Title** (class name, e.g., “Intro to Programming”)
- **Rules** (3–5)
- **Daily routines** (e.g., device check, end-of-class exit slip)
- **Response strategies** for minor and major disruptions
- **1 student engagement strategy** (e.g., reward system, gamification)

## Homework

### Join and Reflect

Students must join one educational group on social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, or WhatsApp).

- Screenshot the joined group.
- Write a short reflection (100 words): “What did you learn from reading or observing the posts today?”

## END WEEK - 13