

Who we are is how we teach

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“Those are my principles, and if you don’t like them... well, I have others....”

– Groucho Marx

Which came first?



- **Do you act that way because of what you believe?**
- **Do you believe that because of how you act?**

Sources of beliefs for ELT Teachers

Books & Articles

Initial Training

**Classroom
Experience**

School Mandated



What beliefs lead to these actions?

1. I encourage learners to use their L1 in class.
2. I don't ever use a coursebook.
3. I ask my students to speak in complete sentences.
4. I gave up drilling years ago

What actions result from these beliefs?

1. I don't believe in being in charge - we're all equal in my class.
2. Having linguistic aims for students is presumptuous.
3. It's not important if we don't finish the work today, we can carry on tomorrow.
4. Teachers need to be seen to be doing something in class.

Quick Reflection Tip



- **Keep a log of things you do in a class (or part of one)**
- **Decide if these are things you do all the time, or not**
- **Check if these actions fit your beliefs**
- **Do you need new beliefs?
Or new actions?**

“The unexamined life is not worth living.”

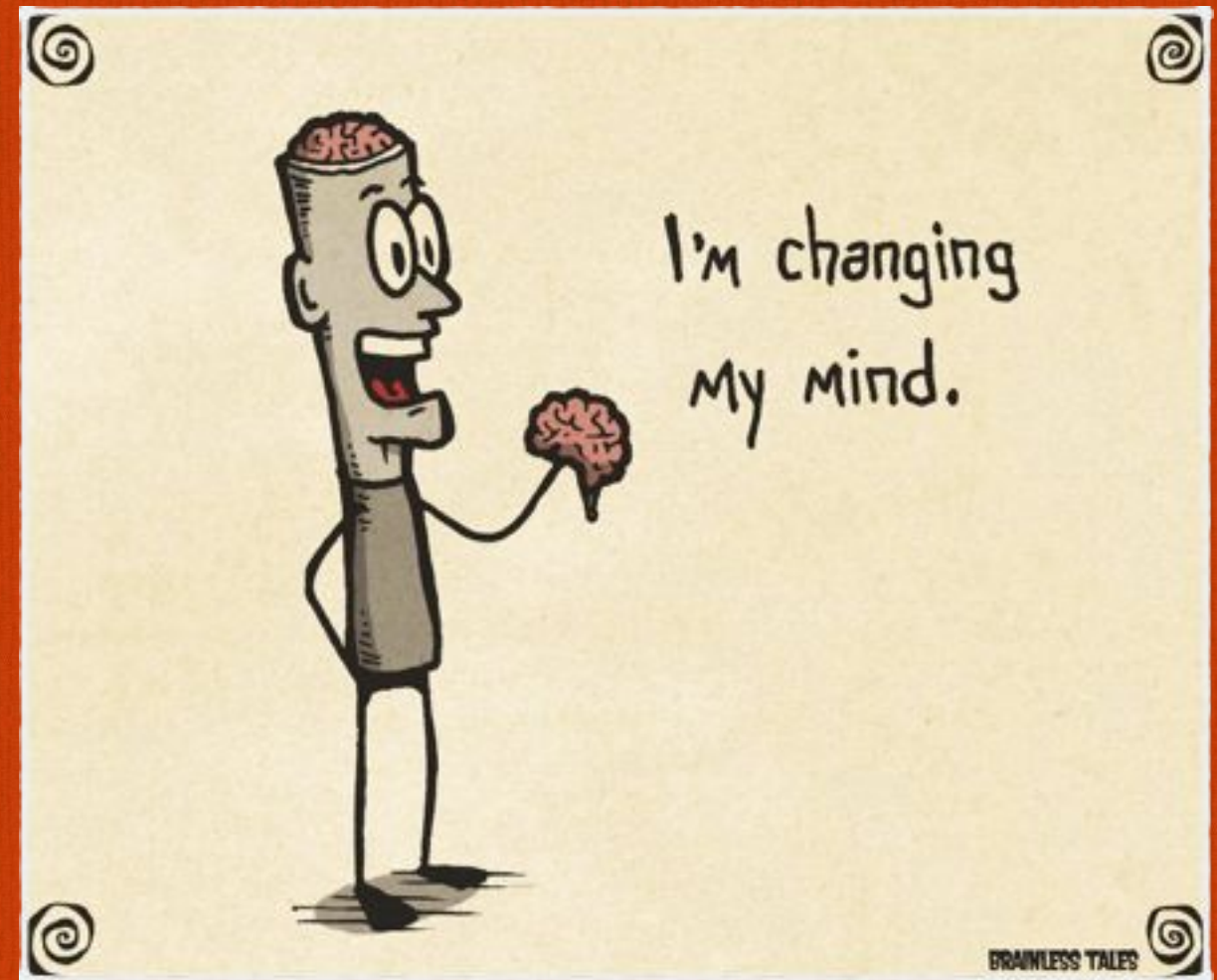
–Socrates

What happens if my beliefs change over time?

Your actions are more “you”

You feel better about your choices

You recognise that you can assimilate new information and that's ok.





Keep Examining

You don't want to become a dinosaur