

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Differentiation in ELT: A Fresh Take on Teaching Mixed-Ability Classes, Herbert Puchta and Chris Jory

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Differentiation in ELT: A Fresh Take on Teaching Mixed-Ability Classes, Herbert Puchta Chris Jory, Helbling Languages 2024, 236 pp., €48.70 (pbk), €35.90 (e-book), ISBN: 9783711402424 (pbk), 9783711402431 (e-book)

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Extract

‘I’m teaching 40 lessons a week ... how on earth could I find the time to prepare lessons catering for my students’ different learning paces, capabilities, and interests?’ (p. 15). This question, presented early on in *Differentiation in ELT*, captures a common struggle among English language teachers, one that the authors, Herbert Puchta and Chris Jory, have heard repeatedly in conversations with educators around the world. In their discussions they have observed tensions about what teachers aspire to do and what their teaching conditions allow. EFL teachers genuinely desire to personalize learning, but at the same time they often feel overwhelmed and constrained by limited time or resources as well as other daily challenges such as long

working hours, large classes, and the constant need to address diverse learner needs. According to Puchta and Jory, this gap between intention and practical constraints is one of the biggest difficulties teachers face.

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