

Stickers with a Strategy: Using Bitmoji & AI-Generated Chibi in TESOL Training

In a world where online teaching demands both engagement and adaptability, visual personalization tools like Bitmoji and AI-generated Chibi stickers are gaining traction. Though often seen as playful or informal, these tools offer a low-barrier entry into AI-enhanced teaching, especially for educators new to digital customization or hesitant about tech integration.

This hands-on workshop reframes Bitmoji (bitmoji.com) and ChatGPT's image generation (via Chibi-style prompts) as entry-level AI tools that support identity expression, classroom presence, and learner connection. Participants will explore how teacher trainers can use these tools not only to model engagement strategies but also to empower trainees to personalize their materials, build rapport, and support student motivation—especially in online or hybrid environments. Beyond identity, the session showcases versatile classroom applications: from vocabulary instruction and minimal pairs to odd-one-out games, bingo, listening and speaking activities, and review tasks—making Bitmoji a flexible, pedagogically grounded tool.

Building on the presenter's past successful workshops and a well-received, widely adopted eBook, this session guides participants through prompting techniques, instructional design ideas, and ethical considerations. The focus is on creativity with purpose: using avatars and stickers as instructional scaffolds, reflective tools, or reward systems that resonate with both teachers and learners.

Keywords: personalization, Bitmoji, AI-generated images, teacher identity, visual engagement, low-tech AI

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