

# 6.12

## Thinking clearly about problems

THINKING in the EFL Class – Tessa Woodward – Helbling Languages

### Strategic questions for problem solving

What is the situation?

Is there a problem?

If there is, what would be an even bigger problem?

How many problems can we see?

Can we break them down into smaller problems?

What do we think we know?

Are we assuming anything?

What do we need to find out?

In what different ways can we state the challenges or problem(s)?

In what ways could we resolve the situation?

What do I think?

What does my friend think?

What do we all think?

Can we combine and improve each other's ideas?

How would other people, fictional characters or my heroes go about resolving the problem?

Has anyone anywhere had success with a situation like this in the past?

Can we draw a picture or a diagram of the situation?

Have we all said what we think?

What are the pros, cons and interesting points so far?

Who can think of a different point of view or an alternative?

Can we predict the consequences of the alternatives we have explored so far?

Can we think of a metaphor for the problem?

Can we be more prolific?

What questions can we ask now?

What questions are still unanswered?

How could we be wrong here?

Are there any vested interests?

What are our values?

Can we synthesise all the information?

How do we know which of our solutions is best?

Do we need to move to a decision?

What should we *not* do?