# Reddit: understanding through participation

*e-lang citizen team*

## Teacher Sheet

## Task

Your students will be given the following task.

> You want to discuss a topic or a current social issue that intrigues you (gender equity, schooling, secularism, etc.) with other Reddit users.
>
> On the Reddit.com site, you will ask questions to the members of the Reddit community and eventually answer the questions asked, thus participating in the construction of common information.
>
> You can then, possibly in class, reflect on the discussions that took place.

## Website

https://www.reddit.com/

Reddit is an online social network available for several languages and themes. To get access to the different versions, you just have to use the search engine or add in the URL "www" the code /r/ plus the name of the country in English: reddit.com/r/france/ for French, or reddit.com/r/spain/ for Spanish, etc. In order to participate in the discussions you need to create an account.

To post your remarks or questions, join the AskReddit section. To do so, type "AskReddit" in the Search box on the Reddit site.

You may also use other sites instead of Reddit. The teacher will choose according to the popularity of these sites with regard to the context, and their relevance to the learners.

- https://www.quora.com
- https://answers.yahoo.com

# CEFR level – For A2 level and above

# Objectives

## Digital citizenship and literacy

| Dimensions covered in task | (Potential) specific objectives |
|---|---|
| ➢ Informed behaviour | - Become aware that you may share the process of constructing information on a collaborative site like Reddit. |
| ➢ Critical behaviour | - Become aware that people have different opinions and approaches (to the same topic).<br>- Become aware that in discussions subjective opinions are presented. |
| ➢ Technologically mediated communication (literacy) | - Address users of a platform to ask for their feedback. |

# Main language activity

- Written interaction

# Plurilingual / intercultural aspects

- Intercultural dimension

# Reddit - participate to understand

*Team e-lang citoyen*

## Student Sheet

## Task

You want to discuss a social issue with Reddit users. For instance, you are interested in a specific news item or a social issue (gender equity, how schooling works, secularism, etc.) and you want to discuss this issue to better understand it.

On the Reddit.com site, you will ask questions to members of the Reddit community and answer the questions asked. You thus participate in the construction of common information.
You can then, preferably in class, reflect on the discussions that have taken place.

## Website

https://www.reddit.com/

Reddit is an online social network available for several languages and themes. To get access to the different versions, you just have to use the search engine or add in the URL "www" the code /r/ plus the name of the country in English: reddit.com/r/france/ for French, or reddit.com/r/spain/ for Spanish, etc. In order to participate in the discussions you need to create an account.

To post your remarks or questions, join the AskReddit section. To do so, type "AskReddit" in the Search box on the Reddit site.

## CEFR level – For A2 level and above

## Objectives

### Digital citizenship and literacy

While completing this task, you can:

- learn how to address users of a platform to have your questions answered or to become part of an existing discussion;

- become aware of the impact of giving out personal information on a platform;

- become aware of the different ways of looking at the same issue and accept different values and attitudes;

- (if you are using an automatic translator to understand responses) become aware of the strengths and limitations of such a tool.

## Plurilingual / intercultural aspects

This task helps you to reflect on the different ways of looking at the same theme depending on the people, their history, their origin, their values and attitudes...

# Hints

## Keep in mind who you are addressing

To find out about the social rules of the site, you should read the Reddit content policy: https://www.redditinc.com/policies/content-policy. Study the rules and make a list of behaviours to follow and to avoid. You might also want to consider whether you agree with the policy.

Think about how best to ask your questions or present your issues and ideas so that you can get involved in existing discussions. For example, explain who you are and why you are interested in the topic.

## Work on the language-related aspects

You can get involved in many discussions on Reddit. Have a look at how the discussion develops, what has already been said and how you can best respond.

Take into account the advice Reddit gives in the box on top of the one where you post your ideas or questions.

Note that you are participating in discussions with the nickname you chose when you signed up.

If you have difficulty understanding the discussion, you may use an automatic translator, such as DeepL: https://www.deepl.com/translator.

# For you to think about

After completing the task, you may reflect on the following aspects:

- What are your takeaways from the discussion?

- What do you think of the development of the discussion and the answers and reactions you received?

- What seemed to be the level of online engagement of the participants?

- If you used an automatic translator to understand the responses, to what extent did it help you to understand: Did it help you to fully understand everything? Were there parts where you did not get good results from the translator? Which ones? Are you sure the translation reflected the full content of the original text? How do you rate the linguistic quality of the translations?

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