ESP or not ESP? What is the question?

So what is ESP?

English for specific purposes (ESP) is an approach to language teaching in which all decisions as to content and method are based on the learners` reason for learning.

ESP programs differ from general English language courses and contain the following characteristics:

- It is designed to meet specified needs of the learners;

- It is related in content (themes and topics) to particular disciplines, occupations and activities;

- Use authentic work-specific documents and materials.

Two approaches to teach English

English through   *English for*

The process of active learning is illustrated by a Chinese proverb:

Tell me, and I will forget.

Show me, and I will remember.

Involve me, and I will learn.

Traditional classroom vs. learner-centered classroom

Non-learner –centered approach
- Teacher is the sole leader;
- Teacher takes responsibility for all the paperwork and organization;
- Discipline comes from the teacher;
- Students are allowed limited responsibilities;
- A few students are the teacher's helpers.

Learner-centered approach
- Leadership is shared;
- Students are facilitators for the operations of the classroom;
- Discipline comes from students;
- Students share in classroom responsibilities
- All students have the opportunity to become an integral part of the management of the classroom.

ESP teachers can use various tools to understand their learners` field.

Professional profile

Needs analysis

A professional profile is a description of a typical person in a given ESP field, and what that person does on a daily basis in his/her professional life.

A needs analysis is a tool for identifying what a specific learner needs, wants or expects from a language course.

Why is the needs analysis important?

- Helps to focus training;
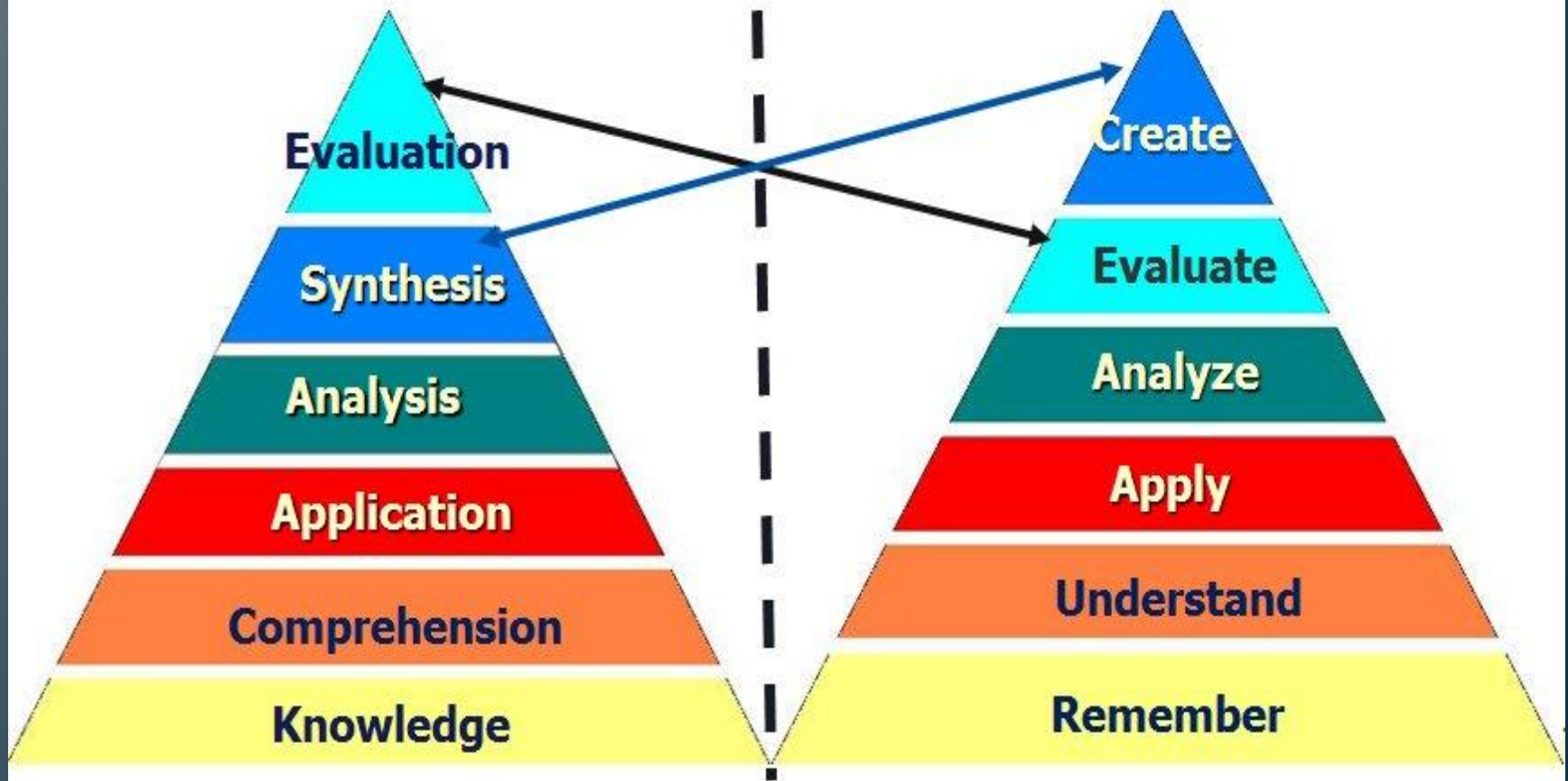- Separates the "need to do" from the "want to do".

Gathering Information about target needs

Different ways in which information can be gathered about needs:

- *Questionnaires*
- *Interviews*
- *Observation*
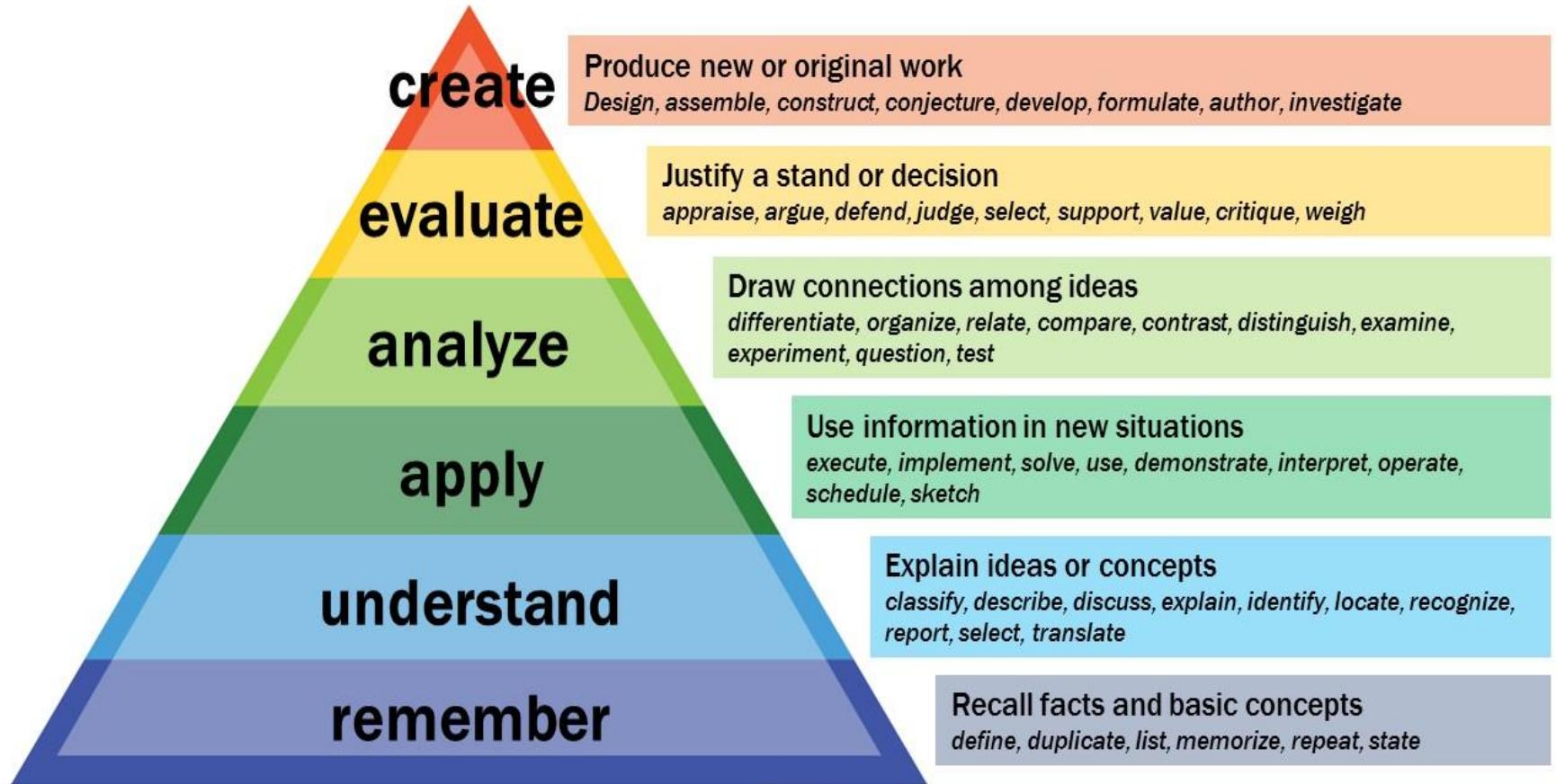- *Data collection*
- *Informal consultations*

Bloom's Taxonomy

create
Produce new or original work
Design, assemble, construct, conjecture, develop, formulate, author, investigate

evaluate
Justify a stand or decision
appraise, argue, defend, judge, select, support, value, critique, weigh

analyze
Draw connections among ideas
differentiate, organize, relate, compare, contrast, distinguish, examine, experiment, question, test

apply
Use information in new situations
execute, implement, solve, use, demonstrate, interpret, operate, schedule, sketch

understand
Explain ideas or concepts
classify, describe, discuss, explain, identify, locate, recognize, report, select, translate

remember
Recall facts and basic concepts
define, duplicate, list, memorize, repeat, state

@cirtlmooc

1.   *Remember/*knowledge   (exhibits previously learned material by recalling facts, terms, basic concepts and answers).

Key words: define, label, show, spell, list, match, name, relate, tell, recall, select.

2.*Understand/*comprehension (demonstrating understanding of facts and ideas by organizing, comparing, translating, interpreting, giving descriptions and stating main ideas).

Key words: compare, demonstrate, explain, extend, illustrate, translate, summarize, show, classify.

3.Apply/application (solving problems by applying acquired knowledge, facts, techniques and rules in a different way).

Key words: apply, build, choose, develop, interview, make use of, organize, experiment with, plan, select, solve.

4.Analyze/analysis (examining and breaking information into parts by identifying motives or causes; making inferences and finding evidence to support generalizations).

Key words: analyze, categorize, classify, compare, contrast, discover, divide, examine, inspect, simplify, survey.

*5.Evaluate/*Synthesis   (compiling information together in a different way by combining elements in a new pattern or proposing alternative solutions).

Key words: build, choose, combine, compile, compose, construct, create, design, develop, estimate, formulate, imagine, invent, make up, originate, plan.

6.Create/Evaluation (presenting and defending opinions by making judgments about information, validity of ideas or quality of work based on a set of criteria).

Key words: award, choose, conclude, criticize, decide, defend, determine, dispute, evaluate, judge, justify, measure, compare, mark, rate.

Thank you!