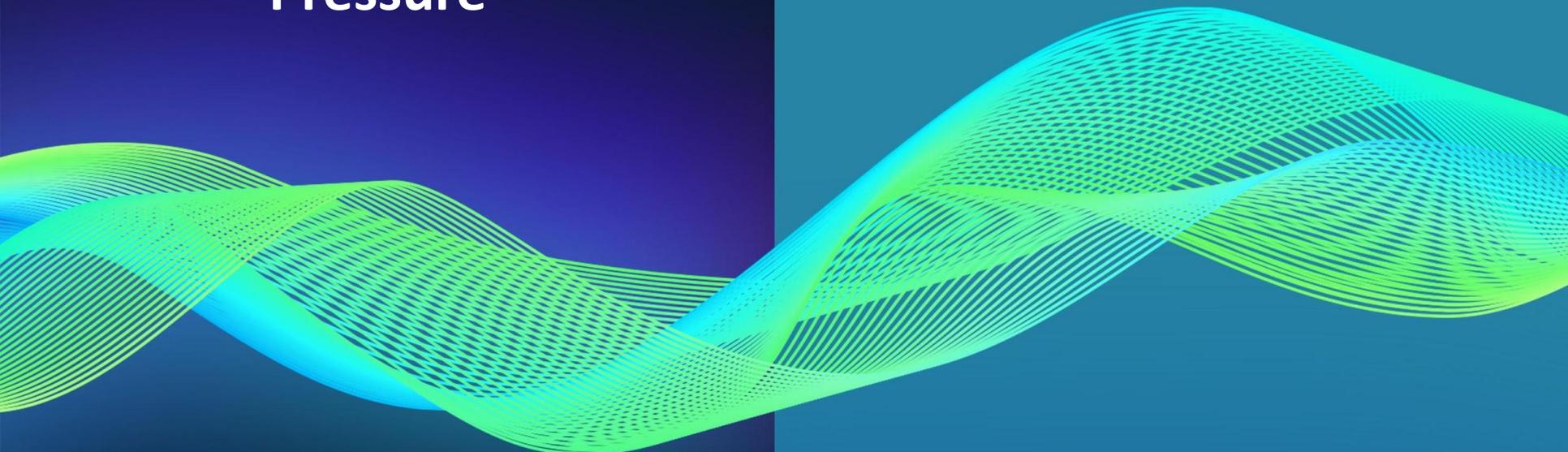


The Positive Side to Peer Pressure



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Laura Darby
Team Leader, Teacher Trainer



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Peer Pressure



How much are we affected by Peer Pressure? Are we aware of it?

The Elevator Experiment

Peer pressure isn't always bad. Our ability to follow social cues helps us fit in, succeed and survive. When everyone's doing something, we assume there's a good reason, and we follow along.

- Prudential: Everybody's Doing It

What is Peer Pressure?



“Social pressure by members of one's peer group to take a certain action, adopt certain values, or otherwise conform in order to be accepted.”

“Peers are more influential in adolescence than at any other time in life. The quality of the relationship between adolescents and their peers, as well as the type of peers they associate with, play important roles in aiding or impeding their current and future functioning.”

Teacher vs Peer Pressure

Compare these:



You have two minutes left to finish the exercise!

Put your chair under the table before you leave.

Quieter please! You're distracting others.

Speak in English if you want to do the game!

Work together, please!
Take turns.

If you'd rather I give you an exam, we can do that!

Teacher vs Peer Pressure

With these:



Quickly, we only have two minutes left to finish the exercise!

We should be speaking in English if we want to get to do the game.

Hey, you forgot to put your chair under the table.

Wait a minute, it's Jordi's turn.

Could you not talk so loudly? I'm trying to concentrate.

I know it's boring, but it's better than doing an exam!

Analysis:

- Who are the natural 'influencers' in this group?
- What do they do that others don't (& we want to encourage)?
- How can I stimulate more of those behaviours?

Planning:

- What can I do to gain the support of peer-to-peer interaction in changing the behaviour of others?
- What can these influencers do to be a positive influence on the group?

Implementation in class



Step by step in class:

- Explain instructions
- Set up objectives
- Establish motivation
- Find positive reinforcement
- Give negative outcome warning
- Put a time limit
- Go!

Final Thoughts



A word of caution:

- The aim of this method is not to create a kind of ‘third wave movement’ but to more effectively motivate students in the classroom.
- While people slip into conformity with striking ease, it also doesn’t take much to get them to snap out of it.

Further reading:

- <https://www.quora.com/How-is-conformity-applied-in-the-e-classroom>

[Social Conformity - Brain Games](#)

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Cambridge English Platinum Examination Centre - ES439 - ES449
Teaching Awards Centre - CELTA Teacher Training
C/ Freixa 5 - 9, 08021. Barcelona
+34 934 111 333

info@exams-catalunya.com