

ELEMENT 1

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WHAT IS MATERIALS DESIGN?

Objectives

To recognize what materials design is.

To identify the kind of teaching materials a teacher can design.

Materials Design

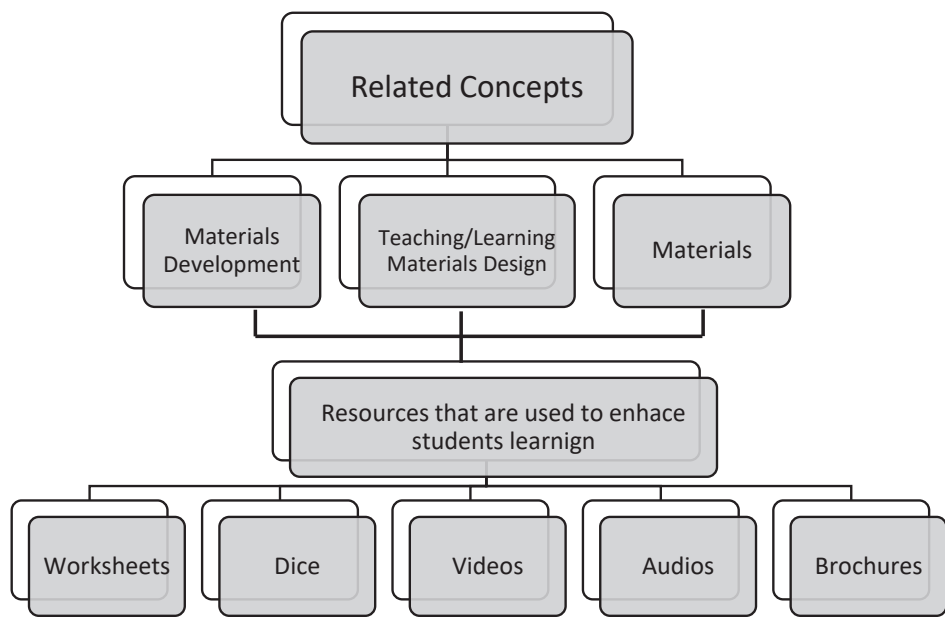
The concept of Materials Design is closely related to concepts such as material development, instructional material design, and teaching/learning material design. Many authors have defined materials design/development as resources that are used to enhance a student's learning (Graves, 1997; Harmer, 2007; Maley, 1998; Nunan, 1999; Núñez-Pardo, 2018; Núñez & Téllez, 2009; Penaflores, 1995; Small, 1997; Tomlinson, 2003).

In this textbook, we adopt the previous definition and the one stated by Tomlinson (1998), who assures that materials development is “anything which is done by writers, teachers or learners to provide sources of language input and exploit those sources in ways which maximise the likelihood of intake” (p.2).

Ramírez (2004) stated that teaching/learning materials is anything that the learner or the teachers use to simplify language learning. In this way, we can think of dictionaries, readers, workbooks, worksheets, workshops, videos, songs, and others as materials.

As such, the adaptation and/or creation of a teaching exercise, such a lesson, unit, or module, is also materials design as stated by Núñez and Téllez (2009). Printed materials and realia are just a few examples of the diverse materials you can create.

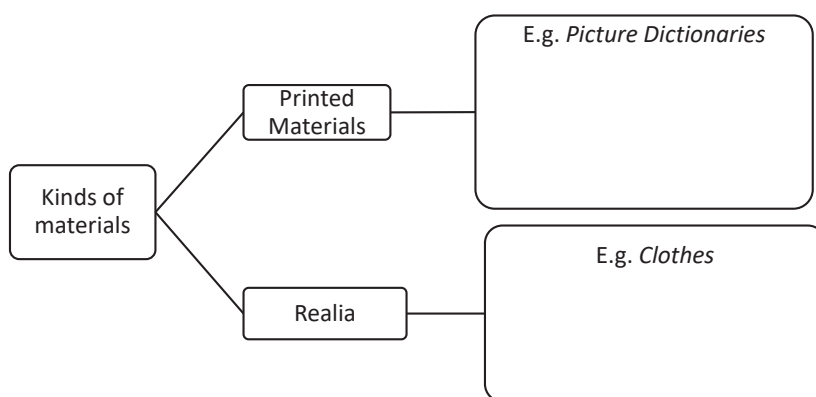
The following diagram summarizes the ideas presented above.



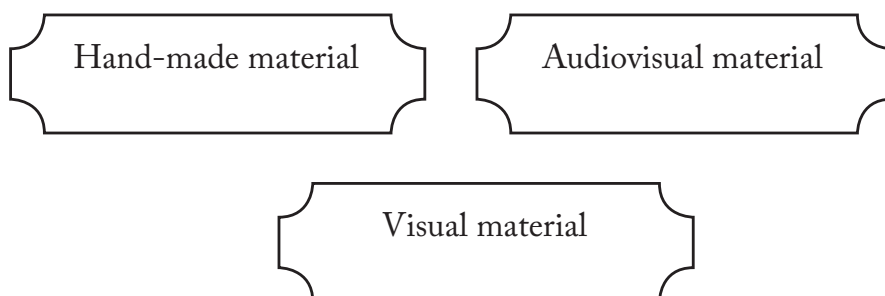
Kinds of Materials

1. Categorize the list of words below as printed materials and/or realia. Follow the examples in the diagram.

Picture dictionaries, flash cards, clothes, teaching guides, stories, balls, dice, cards, worksheets, units, workshops, card games, brochures, booklets, puppets, photographs, discovery tasks, study guides, cloze tests, puzzles, crosswords, posters, students' artifacts.



2. We can design or adapt other materials like videos, audios, internet material, etc. Select the category these materials belong to.



3. Write in the lines below some other materials you have used as a learner or as a teacher.

Teaching materials are very useful because they support learning. In fact, teaching materials can increase learners' achievements. That is why, it is essential for teachers to design teaching materials that embrace students' learning styles. This can be done by including materials that foster the five senses. Since we all learn differently, specific senses play a different role in our learning process.

4. Go back to all the teaching materials you have named. Arrange each teaching material around the sense it is meant to stimulate. If any of the senses are empty, you can think of a teaching material not previously mentioned. Follow the example below.

Sight

E.g. Photographs

Touch

Hearing

Taste

Smell

5. Check (✓) the right statements in the “Right” column. If the statement is wrong, cross it out (x) in the “Wrong” column. Then, compare your answers with a classmate and check what you have in common.

<i>Definition</i>	<i>Right</i>	<i>Wrong</i>
Materials development, materials design and teaching/learning materials are driven by similar theoretical bases.		
There are only two kinds of materials: printed and realia.		
Senses are fundamental to learning as they provide information about learning styles.		
Worksheets, workbooks, teaching guides and modules are the best teaching/learning materials.		
Teaching/learning materials help students' in their learning process.		
Sight is the most important sense when learning.		
The adaptation and creation of a test is materials design.		
Picture dictionaries are printed materials.		
All senses need to be perceived in the materials we design.		
All people learn differently.		
Printed materials are equally as important as audios and videos.		

