**Lesson one:** what is research?

Objectives and characteristics of research

**Definitions:**

**Read carefully the following definitions, then answer the questions below.**

* Leedy and Ormond (2001) “ … the systematic process of collecting and analysing information (data) in order to increase our understanding of the phenomenon about which we are concerned or interested”
* Slavin (2007) research is “organised and systematic inquiry that seeks to answer well-framed questions”
* Compact oxford English dictionary (2005) “the systematic study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions”
* Cooper and Schindler (2008) define research as an organised inquiry carried out to provide information for solving problems.
* Brandtner et al. (2015) define research as a logical process of steps applied to collect and analyse data in order to improve the knowledge and understanding of a topic or issue respectively to solve a problem perceived.

**Discussion:**

From the above definitions, identify the following:

**Nature of research**: study, process of steps, inquiry,…

**Characteristics of research**: systematic, organised

**Steps of research:** asking well-framed questions, collect data, analyse data, draw conclusion

**Objectives of research:** to increase understanding, to establish facts, provide information for solving problems, ….

**Homework:**

Task 1: use the key words of the definitions above and formulate in your own words a definition of research.

Task 2: Consider the following questions and indicate the objective in each case. ( correction )

* What are the main sources of sustainable energy that can replace polluted energy? (solve a problem)
* What is the relationship between genetics and crime predisposition? (Understand the relationship between phenomena)
* How does the universe expand? (Genuine curiosity)
* What are the effective strategies in teaching speaking to EFL leaners? (Provide a basis for making decisions)