

## **Am I an autonomous teacher?**

**By Cem Balçıklanlı**

Are you aware of the weaknesses in your teaching? Do you set specific teaching goals before you start teaching? Do you ask yourself questions about how well you are doing while you are teaching? Do you ask yourself how well you have accomplished your teaching goals once you are finished? If your answer is yes, you don't need to hear what I have to say, but if you have some doubts about these questions, this talk might be a good way of reflecting yourself as an autonomous teacher.

Teacher autonomy is mainly defined in two different approaches: teacher autonomy as 'freedom of control by others' and as 'a self-directed professional development'. Despite how abstract these definitions may seem, teacher autonomy becomes a solid reality once teachers step into the classroom on their first teaching day. In this talk, I discuss the implications for practice, research, and theory in relation to the gap between theory and practice regarding teacher autonomy, and the need to fully explore the concept. Finally, the participants will leave the talk with a solid response to the question "Am I an autonomous teacher?"