

English Language Teachers' Summer Seminar 2020

Workshops – Week 2

2A Teaching in a Digital World – Promoting Digital Literacies

Tutor: Shaun Wilden

Digital literacies encompass essential skills such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration and social engagement, all normally embedded in contemporary syllabi. With this in mind, this workshop explores the area of digital literacies and considers ways of teaching and exploiting them in your classroom. It will lead you from a starting point of definition where you identify your own level of literacy to an exploration of a digital literacy framework for education. On the way, we will look at how a world of fake news, algorithms and data has made critical thinking an essential skill for students to develop. Blending theory with practice, this workshop will offer you ideas, activities and tools to enliven your teaching. To get the most from this course, you should bring an internet-enabled device with you.

2B The Psychology of Well-being in the Classroom

Tutor: Adrian Underhill

Attention to affect is often omitted from teacher training and development programmes, and insufficiently encouraged (if at all) in educational institutions. This workshop aims to compensate by highlighting and developing some of the facilitative skills and sensitivities needed to bring about a different and more engaged and motivated mind-set in class. We will focus on the skills of facilitation in bringing about positive relationship in and between people in a class, and in making learning personally meaningful. This practical workshop is for teachers, trainers, academic managers, team leaders, administrators or school directors who wish to humanise their workplace. Each session will contain practical activities, discussion and reflection on learning.

2C Developing Critical and Creative Thinkers for a Global Future

Tutor: John Hughes

In a global future, our learners will need to be able to cope with enormous change, to judge the reliability of sources and to evaluate information, much of which is in English. As language teachers, we're in a position to help equip them with both the language and key critical and creative thinking skills they need. In our workshops, we'll assess what we mean by critical and creative thinking and consider the various definitions from the 20th and 21st centuries. We'll discover that by challenging our learners to think both critically and creatively, we can help develop their autonomy, their motivation, and their communication skills. Throughout our sessions, theory will be backed up with practical, fun and engaging activities that you can take away and use in your own classrooms.

2D Towards Mastery: Ideas for Inspiring Advanced (C1+) Learners of English

Tutor: Hanna Kryszewska

Teaching advanced learners can sometimes be a challenge for teachers especially when course materials from the major ELT publishers are rather thin on the ground and when faced with a class of learners who have 'been there, done that, and got the t-shirt!' So how exactly can you support students who, by and large, are fluent in the language on their journey towards mastery? If you teach advanced learners at CEFR C1+, this course aims to help you broaden your repertoire of teaching techniques and to provide you with a number of innovative ideas to re-energise your teaching. You'll look at ways of sourcing and adapting authentic materials to engage, stimulate and challenge your learners. You'll also look at how you might go about integrating findings from research on corpus linguistics and spoken grammar into your lessons. Be prepared to participate in some lively discussions on humour, culture, idiom, inference and body language. You have been warned!

2E Teaching a Changing Language - Aspects of Contemporary English

Tutor: Jon Hird

Today, the English language and aspects of its grammar and vocabulary is changing and evolving at an unprecedented rate. This workshop will look at various aspects of contemporary English, including recent and ongoing changes in grammar, neologisms, new uses of existing words and today's ever-changing teen-speak, online-speak and slang. We will also explore the key features of spoken grammar, which is increasingly being included in contemporary teaching syllabuses and its use in social media. Underlying all this is a focus throughout on how aware we and our learners need to be of contemporary English and how we can integrate aspects of this into our teaching. This course is for any teacher who wishes to update their English and look at ways of incorporating this into their teaching.

2F Motivating the Unmotivated

Tutor: Edmund Dudley

The course will focus on the challenges presented by hard-to-reach students who are unwilling or unable to get involved in language learning. It is aimed at teachers looking to find effective and empathetic ways to motivate their students so that effective teaching and learning can take place. The course is aimed primarily at teachers working in school environments, especially – but not exclusively – those working with teenagers. During the course of the workshop there will be a chance to reflect on the impact of goal-setting and classroom management as factors in establishing a positive learning environment and to identify effective techniques which can improve group dynamics and enhance student motivation.