



English Language Teachers’ Summer Seminar 2026

Week 2: 3 – 8 August

Classroom Adventures: Escape Rooms, Games and Gamification

Tutor: Shaun Wilden

Transform your teaching with an immersive, hands-on week exploring gamification, game-based learning, and the power of puzzles in the classroom. Each day, you’ll dive into a new adventure designed to give you practical tools, creative strategies, and classroom-ready ideas. In this interactive workshop, you’ll explore how escape-room-style activities and puzzles can transform your classroom into an engaging, collaborative, and skills-building environment.

Learn to design challenges that integrate curriculum content, develop critical thinking, and foster social skills such as resilience and teamwork. Through hands-on play and analysis, you’ll gain practical strategies for applying gamification principles to lessons, creating puzzles, and even designing your own classroom escape rooms.

By the end of the workshop, you should be able to:

- Enhance student engagement and motivation through game-based learning.
- Identify and implement the core components of successful escape rooms in your language classes.
- Design puzzles and activities tailored to your curriculum.
- Apply gamification principles to your lessons and teaching materials
- Distinguish between game-based and gamified learning

Bring a laptop and smart device and leave ready to transform learning into an interactive, memorable experience.

<p>Session 1 Monday</p>	<p>How to Escape the Classroom <i>Can you beat the clock and unlock the classroom? Step into the escape room and discover the secrets of gamified learning!</i></p> <p>Step straight into an escape room experience! With the clock ticking and the classroom door locked, you’ll face a series of challenges designed to get your problem-solving and collaboration skills working fast. Beyond the fun, this session introduces the key elements of gamification and game-based learning you can easily transfer to your own classroom contexts.</p>
<p>Session 2 Tuesday</p>	<p>How to level up <i>Level up your lessons! Learn how gamification turns ordinary teaching into exciting, motivating learning adventures.</i></p> <p>Discover the fundamentals of gamification and its transformative power for your English lessons. We’ll break down the core principles of gamification in language teaching to understand why it motivates learners, and how it can turn everyday lessons into engaging, goal-driven experiences.</p>
<p>Session 3 Wednesday</p>	<p>How to be rewarding: <i>Points, badges, and storylines—bring gamification to life and watch your students thrive.</i></p> <p>Now that you understand what gamification is, it’s time to bring it to life in your classroom. Today we look at how to design and apply gamified elements such as levels, challenges, badges, points, and storylines to your existing lessons. You’ll explore a variety of classroom-ready strategies and tools, from analog “quest logs” to digital platforms. Working hands-on, you’ll adapt a lesson or task using at least three game mechanics, and collaborate with peers to refine your ideas. Whether you teach teens, kids, or adults, you’ll leave with creative, level-appropriate gamification plans you can implement right away</p>

<p>Session 4 Thursday</p>	<p>How to be puzzling: <i>Puzzles aren't just play; they're powerful tools for language learning.</i> At the heart of the escape room is puzzle learning. This session explores how we can use word games, logic tasks, and visual puzzles to build vocabulary, grammar awareness, and learner confidence in fun and memorable ways. We'll discuss the cognitive and motivational benefits of puzzles, then explore a variety of ready-to-use formats including anagrams, crosswords, cloze challenges, visual "spot-the-error" tasks, and more.</p>
<p>Session 5 Friday</p>	<p>How to stop the train Time for another adventure. In today's workshop, we're going on a train journey. Through it, we look at the resources we can utilise in our puzzles and escape rooms and finish by creating our own.</p>

Please note: This course schedule is intended to give an overview of the topics to be covered each day; however, content may be change at your tutor's discretion.

SUGGESTED READING

There is no required preparatory reading for this course.