



English Language Teachers' Summer Seminar

Week 2: 3 – 8 August

Next-Level English: Creative Strategies for Advanced Language Learners

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Teaching advanced language learners can be one of the most rewarding—and daunting—experiences for any teacher. At higher levels, learners are already fluent, coursebook materials often fall short, and the “been there, done that” attitude can make it harder to keep motivation alive. So how do you keep pushing students forward on the path to true linguistic mastery?

This practical, hands-on workshop is designed for teachers working with learners at CEFR C1 level and above who are looking for ways to energise their classes with fresh approaches, engaging activities, and thought-provoking content.

Together, we will:

- Unpack the challenges and opportunities of teaching C1(+) language learners.
- Discover how to make learning stimulating and motivating, even for students who feel they’ve reached the top.
- Experiment with innovative classroom activities tailored to high-level language learners—and critically evaluate their effectiveness.
- Explore strategies for surprising and stretching students using authentic and unexpected materials.
- Bring research into practice, including insights from corpus linguistics and spoken grammar.

Expect lively debates and plenty of interaction as we delve into humour, culture, idiom, inference, and even body language.

By the end of the week, you’ll leave with:

- A toolkit of strategies to inspire, motivate, and challenge advanced language learners.
- Practical experience in sourcing authentic materials you can take straight into your classroom.
- Insights into how to spark curiosity and autonomy in students who feel they’ve “seen it all.”
- The confidence to stretch learners beyond fluency towards true mastery—while keeping your lessons engaging, surprising, and fun.

<p>Session 1 Monday</p>	<p>Challenges in teaching Advanced Language Learners <i>Discover what sets advanced learners apart—and why they’re not always as “advanced” as they seem.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dynamics of group formation • The competence ladder • Unpacking the profile of the advanced learner: strengths, blind spots, and mixed abilities. • Quick-fire, high-challenge activities using visuals and video clips to spark insight and discussion.
<p>Session 2 Tuesday</p>	<p>Bringing Real World Materials into the Classroom <i>Learn how to turn authentic texts into powerful, high-impact lessons that inspire and challenge.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn to source authentic materials across genres and themes. • Spotting hidden teaching potential in authentic texts • Designing tasks that go beyond comprehension: balancing extensive vs. intensive learning to deepen understanding.

Session 3 Wednesday	The Serious Business of Humour and Word Play <i>Explore how humour unlocks culture, creativity, and connection in the C1+ classroom.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring humour as a gateway to culture and deeper communication. • Cracking double meanings, idiom, irony, and “reading between the lines.” • Curating a selection of authentic, thought-provoking texts to try out in class.
Session 4 Thursday	Empowering Independence: Fostering Learner Autonomy <i>Give your learners the tools to take charge of their learning—and push themselves further than ever before.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlocking vocabulary mastery: single words, lexical chunks, and beyond. • Inspiring learners to take the initiative: researching language, self-directed strategies, and independent problem-solving. • Practical ways to stretch and challenge advanced language learners.
Session 5 Friday	Productive Skills for Mastery: From Fluency to Impact <i>Transform fluent learners into powerful communicators who can write and speak with precision and impact.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design engaging activities to enhance spoken performance • Advanced writing skills: planning content vs. language mastery • Adopting supportive approaches to error correction • Giving high-level feedback that inspires and motivates learners.

Please note: This course schedule is intended to give an overview of the topics to be covered in each session; however, it may be liable to change at the tutor’s discretion.

USEFUL READING

The readings below are not compulsory.

- Byrne, D. & M. Heffernan. (2023) Overt Teaching. Putting learners at the centre of their learning discussion. *DELTA Publishing.*
- Cogo, A., G. V. Crookes & S. Siqueira. (2023) English for a Critical Mind. Language pedagogy for social justice.. *DELTA Publishing.*
- Davis, Paul & Kryszewska, Hanna. (2009) The Company Words Keep. Delta Publishing.
- Grundtvig, Andreas. (2021) English is Context. DELTA Publishing
- Maley, Alan. (2009) Advanced Learners. Oxford, Oxford University Press.
- Maley, Alan & Tomlinson, Brian. (2017). Authenticity in Materials Development for Language Learning. Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Selivan, Leo. (2018) Lexical Grammar. Cambridge University Press.