

Language Teaching Online: Best Practice to Develop Students' Speaking and Writing Skills

A New Directions Pre-Conference Workshop
Saturday 7 December 2019 at Yokohama National University

Overview:

The move to teaching and assessing four-skills testing in Japan and throughout East Asia has encouraged many institutions to turn to online learning in an effort to improve the students' productive skills of speaking and writing. However, how can teachers, administrators and students evaluate the quality of online courses, and what does an effective online language learning course look like?

This workshop will introduce participants to best practice for teaching English online, with a focus on the productive skills of speaking and writing. We will look at how to choose appropriate online tools and how to maintain students' engagement and progress through appropriate online pedagogy and feedback techniques.

Facilitated by Neenaz Ichaporia, this workshop draws on her experience of developing and delivering the British Council's online 'myEnglish' courses. Giving examples from 'myEnglish', she will highlight the key challenges of teaching speaking and writing skills online, and how technology is deployed to meet student needs.

Target audience

Rapid improvements in video-conference technology coupled with the evolution of Virtual Learning Environments (VLE) have opened up new possibilities in online education. As a result, many teachers and administrators are likely to be involved in selecting, planning, and/or delivering online courses in future.

Background or prior knowledge required:

This workshop is for experienced English language teachers with little or no experience of online language teaching.

Maximum number of participants:

- Up to 30.

Contents:

In this workshop, participants will:

- consider and evaluate online tools for different contexts (synchronous and asynchronous), including Zoom for synchronous lessons
- discuss ways of promoting Student Talk Time (STT), and varying interaction patterns in online lessons
- discuss ways of structuring a collaborative writing lesson online
- consider ways of conducting formative assessment online
- look at summarising and giving feedback using audio/video tools
- discuss their own attitudes to teaching and learning online
- consider the flipped classroom approach and its application in language teaching online
- identify various roles played by an online instructor/teacher
- identify key challenges and ways of dealing with them, including maintaining student motivation and engagement online
- identify how to maintain privacy and security online for themselves and their students
- discuss how to use social media and online resources to engage with a wider community of practice, and stay up-to-date with this developing field

Workshop facilitator:

Neenaz Ichaporia is Academic Manager, Blended Learning at the British Council in India. She is responsible for the design and delivery of the British Council's 'myEnglish' online courses and manages a large, geographically dispersed team, leading on training for over 50 teachers. She has designed a remotely-delivered INSETT (In-Service Teacher Training) programme for them.



Neenaz has worked in English Language Teaching since 2010. She is currently pursuing an MSc in Digital Education from the University of Edinburgh. She also holds a Cambridge DELTA, a certificate in e-Moderating and a certificate in ELT Management Skills from International House, London.

Neenaz has taken an active interest in language assessment from early on in her career. As a consultant for the International English Olympiad project, she quality assured 36 test papers that were administered to over 100,000 students across India. Recently, she has helped deliver 'How Language Assessment Works, a series of workshops aimed at developing teachers' assessment literacy, both online and face-to-face.

Neenaz has presented on the themes of online learning and teaching at several conferences, including 'Managing remote teaching teams' at IATEFL Liverpool 2019, 'Making the Move to Online Teaching: A CPD Toolkit' at the IATEFL conference (Glasgow, 2017). On the personal front, she enjoys reading, photography and travel.