

Opening plenary

Patricia de Griese

Developing resilience: How to overcome and grow from adversity

We often forget that life is filled with unexpected events. Change is inevitable, and humans crave security and a certain sense of control. And now the pandemic and the threat of armed conflicts so close to home have increased our uncertainty levels in terms of our jobs, the economy, physical and mental health issues, work-life balance, relationships... What behaviors have you adopted to cope with the discomfort uncertainty brings? What can we do to navigate the complexities of change? How can we remain healthy and productive during and after stressful events? How can we thrive under conditions of dramatic shifts?

Patricia works with multinationals and public organizations around the world including the European Commission and the UN. She designs and delivers interactive, brain-friendly and participant-centered workshops which cover a series of soft skills topics, such as: Leadership, Performance & Wellbeing, Cross-Cultural Awareness, Emotional Intelligence, Stress Management and Psychological Resilience, Conflict Resolution & Mediation, Influence & Persuasion, Change Management, Time- and Self-management, Presentations, Negotiations and Communication Skills, Teacher Development, Train-The-Trainer, Accelerated Teaching & Learning Techniques.

Workshops:

Andreas Grundtvig

time slot: A1

1000 years of (intentionally) not making sense
90 minutes

English, as both an inter- and intranational lingua franca, evolves. So too does its power to create affinity within groups. Yet the scale to which it does so, and how the simplest of utterances can be (mis)understood make it increasingly complex. While those who claim it as their first language continually toy with nuance and connotation, those who attempt to learn it find an increasing need to understand it in context. In this workshop we'll see how the language got to where it is, and learn how to help learners understand what is implied, but not explicitly stated... in context.

Andreas is a teacher, author, linguist, Cambridge Exams Centre Manager and former HELTA Chair. A speaker of eight languages, he learnt English (his fourth) at primary school in Scotland and Suffolk. As a country collector, he takes every chance to explore language(s) in context. After several visits to Africa he founded Teachers 4 Schools e.V. together with a group of friends.

Laura Hudson
National Geographic Learning / Cornelsen

time slot: A2

Develop your voice in English
90 minutes

This session will look at how we can best encourage learners to use English as a tool for global communication, whilst celebrating their connections with people from diverse cultures and backgrounds. We will explore how to get ALL students participating in authentic interactions and give them a real reason to communicate! Examples will be taken from National Geographic Learning's brand-new ***Voices*** series.

Laura lives in Stuttgart and has been working in ELT for 24 years. She initially started out as a teacher in Austria and then in Germany, the UK and Denmark. In 2004 she moved into publishing and has worked as a sales representative in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. She joined NGL in 2020 as their representative for Switzerland.

Judith Mader and Rudi Camerer

time slot: A3

The new CEFR-CV: Old and familiar - or interesting news?
90 minutes

How do you respond if things which had been taken for granted for a long time suddenly seem to be anything but? You may hear, for example, that according to the CEFR Companion Volume Speaking-Listening-Writing-Reading are no longer considered as the four macro-functions on the basis of which all foreign-language teaching should take place. - What?! - After a moment of shock you might ask what on earth is supposed to replace them?! And it is at precisely this moment when you start discussing what has been one of the most promising developments in foreign language teaching for many years.

Judith Mader has worked in teaching and teacher training for many years and, until recently, was Head of Languages at the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management. She has published widely on various aspects of communication and the use of English.

Rudi Camerer has worked in adult education and language testing. Today he directs elc, a consultancy based in Frankfurt. He is one of the two official translators of the Council of Europe's new CEFR-CV into German.

Suzanne Vetter-M'Caw

time slot: A4

The value of Fierce Conversations

60 minutes

As Business English trainers, we teach more than vocabulary and grammar. Soft skills are becoming increasingly relevant for daily business life. In this workshop I'd like to get concrete and introduce Susan Scott's Seven Principles of Fierce Conversations to you, and share my experience of using these in teaching. Together we will discuss these statements that are not only relevant for the classroom (both for our students and for us personally) but also for our lives generally! You will take away at least one new idea from this session that you can use in your next lesson.

Suzanne lives near Limburg and is a Business English teacher and certified Fierce Trainer. Using her previous business experience, Suzanne teaches in companies and online, and also offers "BrainFit" groups for Senior Citizens in her own little English Centre. Additionally, Suzanne is a certified Oral Examiner and has written tests and teaching material for telc language tests and other publishers.

Timothy Phillips

time slot: B1

Not every picture tells a story

90 minutes

In recent years a lot of helpful and creative practice has been shared about using images when teaching English.

We will review the key ideas and investigate some of the pitfalls when it comes to selecting appropriate images. We will reflect on the need for more adventurous language so learners can express their feelings and opinions beyond the boundaries of standard language input.

We will consider how images can provide an opportunity to explore topics that fall outside the teacher's comfort zone.

And we will discuss the combination of these ideas when it comes to working with multimodal content.

Tim Phillips has worked for over 30 years in a range of roles within the EFL industry. More recently, inspired by the wide range of visual content from authentic sources, he has represented the global ELT publisher National Geographic Learning in Germany.

He has since returned to self-employment in which he uses his professional coaching work to support his English teaching to mixed level, multicultural groups in a local Further Education college.

Kirsten Waechter

time slot: B2

Stress-free speaking activities for low-level adult learners
90 minutes

In this workshop, we will look how to design speaking activities that enable low-level learners to speak with confidence. We will discuss and try out a number of strategies and activities that can be immediately used in teachers' classrooms, for example: presenting and visualising language; supporting and motivating learners through elements of play and team work, and ensuring that learners will build confidence through the activity and recognise their own achievement. Throughout the workshop participants will actively try out the activities to help them understand how the activities work and how to implement them in the classroom.

Kirsten Waechter has been a business English trainer based in Germany since 1998. Having taught in-company course for many years, today she focuses on teaching business communication, English for special purposes and intercultural courses. She designs her own materials in this field and provides teacher training, too.

Wendy Nash-Steer
Pearson

time slot: B3

Online English assessment - how does that work?
90 minutes

Do computer-based assessments worry you? Many people fear them for a variety of reasons, but this anxiety is unfounded. Let's dispel those myths!

Explore how the web-based 4-skills **Pearson Versant Professional English Test**, currently taking the business English classroom by storm, can be used to your advantage. See how human ratings and AI-based scoring compare.

Find out how this fast, reliable and unbiased form of testing, (in use by WBS, Berlitz, FH Burgenland and others), increases the confidence of your learners, provides certification of English proficiency in the workplace and frees you to do what you do best – teach!

Wendy Nash-Steer is the Pearson Deutschland ELL Consultant and Digital Specialist for West Germany. She is an English native speaker who has lived in Germany for 29 years following a degree at the University of Reading, UK. Before joining Pearson in 2017, she taught business and technical English in the Mannheim/Karlsruhe area. She qualified in Dec 2021 with a Masters degree in Digital Technologies for Language Teaching from the University of Nottingham, UK and has a passion for all things digital. In her spare time, Wendy plays the French horn, in a local badminton team and is a published author.

Andreas Grundtvig
DELTA Publishing

time slot: B4

Making sense in the classroom – integrating pragmatics for clear communication
90 min.

This 'hands-on' workshop follows on from the earlier session *1000 years of (intentionally) not making sense*. It shares ideas from the book *English is Context - Practical pragmatics for clear communication* (Delta Publishing) and shows participants how to set the context, set up and sign off activities to help students make sense out of what we imply but might not so obviously say.

Andreas is a teacher, author, linguist, Cambridge Exams Centre Manager and former HELTA Chair. A speaker of eight languages, he learnt English (his fourth) at primary school in Scotland and Suffolk. As a country collector, he takes every chance to explore language(s) in context. After several visits to Africa he founded Teachers 4 Schools e.V. together with a group of friends.

Roy Bicknell

time slot: C1

Think! Working with reflection in the classroom
60 minutes

Classroom learning is flexible: teacher and students react to the different actions and activities as the lesson progresses. We all think and reflect in the classroom but how we do that can take different forms. Reflective practice adds a critical dimension and supports a more independent learning practice for our students. This workshop discusses three activities which demonstrate how reflective practice can be used effectively in the classroom online and offline. Curious how reflection can support student feedback and engage them in their classroom learning? Come to this practical and reflective workshop!

Roy Bicknell lives and works in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Roy is a freelance ELT teacher and teacher trainer and specializes in business English. His current interests include motivational learning, differentiation and innovative practices for the classroom.

Evan Frendo

time slot: C2

Causes of miscommunication in meetings
60 minutes

I often observe meetings on behalf of clients, perhaps as part of a needs analysis, or perhaps to provide feedback on language use. Participants typically come from different countries, and English is used as a lingua franca. Most meetings go well, but sometimes there is clearly miscommunication. In this session we will look at some examples of this miscommunication and consider possible causes, including language ability, intercultural communication issues, and the presence

of native speakers. We will end with a discussion of implications for the business English practitioner.

Evan has been working in business English and ESP since 1993. Recent projects have included training and consulting (e.g. automotive and maritime industries), training courses for business English / ESP teachers, and in-house materials development for language school franchises and corporate clients.

Patrick Mustu

time slot: C3

The native speaker concept in ELT
60 minutes

The native speaker concept is as old as language schools themselves. It is still the most frequently quoted requirement when it comes to getting hired. Other aspects play minor roles.

I will discuss the pros & cons of this concept, explore linguistic and cultural factors, present research findings and have an open mic for opinions.

Patrick is a lawyer, language trainer, translator, writer and examiner. He specializes in legal and financial English, and he is the author of "English for Tax Professionals" (Cornelsen 2012).

Suzanne Vetter-M'Caw

time slot: C4

Eat that frog!

One of my students drew my attention to this book by Brian Tracy. The title is based on a quote by Mark Twain who said, "Eat a live frog first thing in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day." Procrastination is a topic that is relevant for both students and teachers, great to discuss, great for encouraging students to do mini-presentations and above all, thought-provoking. In this workshop I'll share my experience of using this topic in English classes and give you some tips on relevant material available in the internet.

Suzanne lives near Limburg and is a Business English teacher and certified Fierce Trainer. Using her previous business experience, Suzanne teaches in companies and online, and also offers "BrainFit" groups for Senior Citizens in her own little English Centre. Additionally, Suzanne is a certified Oral Examiner and has written tests and teaching material for telc language tests and other publishers.