

Advancing your Professional Practice (creative methodology)

10-day course will allow participants to develop their English skills and personal classroom practice through 5 teacher-led lectures and 5 practical-based sessions. Having the opportunity to share your ideas with others and then actually deliver them in 'mini lessons' makes our course something unique and extremely appealing to the can-do teacher.

Day 1 - My Teaching – Theory

Lesson Aims

- For students to self-assess their own teaching practice (**and English skills**)
- To share good ideas / strategies in an open discussion
- To improve self-confidence, particularly in admitting to 'weaknesses' (which is the first step in developing these areas)
- To investigate up-to-date English vocabulary and discuss/assess its place in an EFL classroom
- To gain an insight into (current) popular culture in English speaking countries

This session will allow you to share your current good practice with other teaching professionals. It creates a positive starting point on which to build new skills.

A look at the English-speaking world from a modern viewpoint, looking at its ever-changing culture and language will also be covered.

Your Personal Teaching Journey - Sharing your experiences, ideas and expertise with other professionals; self-assessing your own classroom practice and deciding on your strengths as a practitioner - what works well for you?, What do your students enjoy?

Your CPD Needs - Sharing what you have learnt on previous courses and stating what you would like to get out of this course; highlighting areas of professional development that you would like to improve in terms of creating a creative, modern environment where your students can learn best

Modern English - English is a diverse and organic language where meanings change and new words come into being on an almost monthly basis. We will explore some of this vocabulary so that you can teach your students the most up-to-date language for work and for everyday life. We would like you to use the course as a way of developing your own language skills as well - please ask your course teacher at any time if you would like to revise and review anything 'English'.

English Culture Vultures - To keep you up to speed with delivering the best course content possible in your institutions we will explore some of today's cultural aspects of native English-speaking countries (i.e. the UK and the US) discovering what is 'trending' in their worlds.

Day 2 - My Teaching – Practical

Lesson Aims

- To demonstrate and share good practice by team-teaching a topic / grammar point to the class
- To research and present an aspect of English-speaking culture that will showcase it at its best or most unusual

To increase confidence in sharing good practice and demonstrating teaching skills in front of one's peers in a non-threatening environment

The first practical session of the week will allow you to share your expertise and ideas with your fellow trainers as well as take a more in-depth look at the 'World of English'. You will give a small presentation about one aspect of British, American, Maltese or Australian culture that will showcase the English language at its best or most unusual.

Day 3 - Active Teaching – Theory

Lesson Aims

- To accumulate a bank of ideas for games and activities using paper and movement in the classroom
- To share current practice about games and activities using paper and movement
- To assess the ideas and decide how they can be developed further or modified to suit one's own teaching style
- To discuss students in our classrooms who are over-zealous or reluctant participants in activities

Students enjoy being active in their lessons and they love competing in teams. This session will focus on making even the dulllest language structure exciting.

Paper-based Games - A variety of interesting and easy-to-make ideas for bringing vocabulary, sentence structures, grammar points and conversations to life using only paper.

Get Up and Go - Getting students off their seats to create movement helps to break lessons into more manageable chunks. In this part of the session we will explore how physically active games can be employed in most classrooms, regardless of size and space.

Team English - We will also focus on creating friendly competitiveness amongst students in large and small groups and what to do if students are reluctant to participate.

Day 4 - Active Teaching – Practical

Lesson Aims

- To design and produce a personal bank of paper-based resources and activity ideas for use in one's own classroom using a laptop/paper/e-copies of the worksheets from Day 2
- To share one's own ideas with others to create a larger bank of classroom ideas
 - To put some of the ideas into practice in order to self- and peer assess, and where necessary, modify the resources further

To discuss students in our classrooms who are over-zealous or reluctant participants in activities

Using what you learnt about 'Active Teaching' on Day 3 you will create a range of resources for your own classroom. You will teach your ideas to others in the group and assess them and improve them as necessary. This will be a really kinaesthetic and rewarding session for everyone.

Day 5 - Techno-Teaching – Theory

Lesson Aims

- To assess one's own ICT skills using an 'opinion line'
- To gain an insight into the basics of using a Promethean IWB and the ActivInspire programme to produce interactive lesson resources (depending of previous experience)
- To assess the use of the IWB and ActivInspire - Pros & Cons
- To use a range of APPs on an electronic device and evaluate their use by students and teachers of EFL

To appreciate how 'old-fashioned' teaching methods can be combined with ideas about modern technology to appeal to a social media- savvy generation

Love it or loathe it we are surrounded by technology and social media so we need to embrace it if we are going to relate to our techno-minded students. This session will focus on using technology and technology-based ideas to bring the 21st Century into our classrooms.

IWB - Using an interactive whiteboard to produce interactive lesson resources.

iPads - Using iPads for a range of teaching and learning purposes.

On the Web - Exploring ready-made resources and applications online and using real-life articles to cover your curriculum.

Social Media Ideas - Using old-fashioned methods of writing and speaking exercises with a social media slant - appealing to students with teaching ideas based around Facebook, YouTube and SMS messaging.

Day 6 - Techno-Teaching – Practical

Lesson Aims

- To research free and paid apps/web resources for the EFL classroom using the Internet on laptops or electronic devices AND to share these with your peers
- To design and produce a personal bank of Techno-teaching resources for use in one's own classroom using ideas from Part A & to share these with others (use PowerPoint if your school does not have ActivInspire). You can create:
 - ♥ A lesson plan/series of lessons for the IWB
 - ♥ A range of non-techno-teaching tasks
 - ♥ Both
- To self-assess one's progress this lesson

During this session you will be 'let loose' on the in-class technology to research new web-based resources as well as create and deliver some inspiring techno-lessons of your own on the iPads and IWB.

Day 7 - Dramatic Teaching – Theory

Lesson Aims

- To understand that Dramatic Teaching can be any activity that allows a student/s to speak out loud, perhaps in a creative or active way
- To consider and evaluate a range of ideas using drama / public speaking to teach English
- To take part in some drama-style activities

Using drama in the classroom is an excellent way of developing our students' speaking and responding skills and this session will focus on making this both engaging and useful.

Realistic Role plays - covering real-life situations and creating fluent conversations.

Projects & Presentations - project ideas that cover a variety of topic-based areas and provide a platform for interesting spoken work including students becoming the teacher.

Lights, Camera, Action! - encouraging students to be creative with the English language by writing mini film scripts, making Vlogs and producing video advertisements

Day 8 - Dramatic Teaching – Practical

Lesson Aims

- To look at each other's 'dramatic pledges' and share their feelings on the three aspects of Dramatic Teaching covered yesterday
- To plan and film a Vlog (or similar videoed activity) in small groups
- To self- and peer assess the videoed tasks

Work with others to brainstorm ideas for role plays and project work before producing your own filmed Vlog - what will you do?

How about going out into St. Paul's Bay and making your own mini mini documentary? Back in the classroom we will watch and think of ways of assessing your Steven Spielberg creation.

Day 9 - Creative Teaching – Theory

Lesson Aims

- To complete a learning circuit by attempting three different activities:
 - ♥ **Crafty Creations - artwork**
 - ♥ **Read All About It! - creative writing task**
 - ♥ **Motivation - designing student rewards**
- To carry out a further creative rewards group task
- To review basic assessment techniques and their impact on students and staff alike - for students (peer and self assessment) and for oneself (personal teaching journey) (for the 10-day course, this lesson aim could be completed tomorrow in Part B)
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The final part of this course centres on the arts and media. It will also provide you with opportunities for using student peer and self-assessment. Rewards and motivation techniques are discussed and you will round off the week by assessing your own development.

Crafty Creations - Using students' artistic skills to create language based art-work

Read All About It! - Developing magazines, newspaper articles and stories using writing frames.

Assessment & Motivation - How student self- and peer assessment can be employed in the classroom to check understanding, iron out misconceptions and provide ideas for improvement; What can be done to reward and motivate students in your care.

Your Personal Teaching Journey Continued - Assessing yourself and how you will put into practice what you have learnt on this course.

Day 10 - Creative Teaching – Practical

Lesson Aims

- To come up with more ideas for 'Read All About It!' creative writing tasks
- To produce further resources for yourself and share them with your peers
 - To self-assess your personal teaching journey by RAG-ing the aspects of work you have covered during the course

To look at examples of assessment criteria and then use them as inspiration to produce a set of basic criteria for the creative writing task done last lesson (cat up a tree article)

Your last practical session will see you getting all art and crafty before settling down to consider the importance of assessment and motivation. You will create your own assessment packs and motivational award certificates. Thereafter you will be writing a personal development plan of what you will do in the future to utilise what you have learnt during this 10-day programme in your own teaching.