

ELTAS Swap and Talk Shop

Eltas Event Review by Katrin Beringer

September 17, 2016, held at ISM Hochschule, Stuttgart

At our first workshop after the summer holidays, seven members took on the role of the speaker to share their favourite and most useful teaching activities. I'm going to talk you through them so that you can get an idea of what you missed if you couldn't be there!

Ice breakers

Andrea Vogt-Nas asked us to position ourselves in the room according to our holiday destination and pretty soon we stood in a line from East to West. As this meant a lot of asking and double-checking with the people around us, it was definitely a very communicative exercise to break the ice! She also brought a domino set of proverbs on big cards which we dispersed on the floor and put together. We all enjoyed the moment of achievement when the dominos finally took the shape of a circle.

Vocabulary

Augusto Vieira impressed his audience with an activity with minimal resources: just a flipchart and pen. He asked us to think of three words and when we said them out loud he picked one or two to point out homophones, false friends or word families on the flipchart. Additionally, he presented the YouTube channel *Simon's Car* which can be used for tenses as well as vocab revision of words around the house.

Ingrid Abele's all time-guarantee for success is a matching game of department names and their description. She uses it with students at university to build up their first business English vocabulary. Meanwhile I've used it with my university students myself and it worked really well!

Preciseness

When we were put into the shoes of Michelle Jagger's students we worked in pairs to compare our pictures of an office. Each partner was lacking information the other partner had so we asked for the complementary information. This required preciseness regarding prepositions of

place and the description of people. For correcting typical mistakes, Michelle often prepares a 'language clinic' page with phrases and constructions students found difficult the lesson before.

Fluency

For fluency practice I often project schematic slide shows which trigger snippets of typical real-life situations. For my Eltas colleagues, I brought a series of photos of a long-distance journey on a plane: scenes like a flight attendant serving food, fellow passengers shaking hands, etc. Using these photos, we performed a number of role-plays. It turned out to be just as loud as in my regular classroom; people were totally absorbed in their role-plays!

Grammar

Krystyna Key managed the challenge of explaining grammar in a simple and – at the same time – very extravagant way. Rita Baker's *Global Approach to Grammar* is her preferred approach for teaching grammar. Forms of the verbs are broken down and all tenses can be visualised in the same way with the use of triangles. Krystyna uses it with students of all levels of English. You want to know more about it? Here is the link: <http://theglobalapproach.co.uk>

Fun and competition

Karin Scheffold-Mokler got us playing the quiz *Absolutely English* which spurred tough competition between the two halves of the group. The way she scored the correct answers for both groups was sporty: She drew a football pitch on the board and the more correct answers you gave, the closer you moved to the goal!

After all the hard work of being teacher and/or student, we were rewarded with coffee and a gigantic Eltas cake. Here we had time to break the ice once more and – as the feedback sheets revealed – I am not the only one who thought it was an entertaining and rewarding afternoon with lots of ideas to try out in lessons! Thank you for sharing Eltas colleagues!



Playing proverb dominos