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Karen Capel

LEARNING TO UNLEARN

Time goes by really fast. Dickens turned 50 and things are nothing like they were fifty years ago. The world has changed. Students and their needs have changed. But have we 'upgraded' our teaching accordingly?

Once we graduate we start gaining experience, we read a lot, we go to workshops and attend webinars...we 'collect' knowledge, but do we really critically evaluate ideas and reflect upon their usefulness or do we fall into establishing shallow rituals with little learning value?

The aim of this session will be to reflect upon our practices, to critically evaluate our beliefs and draw conclusions together in order to upgrade our teaching and maximize learning in our classrooms.



Karen Capel, Academic Coordinator at Dickens, has been a teacher since 2003, having taught a variety of levels and ages, including Business Studies (IGCSE). She has been a test writer for Dickens since 2007 and a teacher trainer since 2011. She is also an ELT author and editor, having written materials for the Cambridge ESOL Teacher Support Website, Business English courses for Excedo (by Nikkei and The Financial Times), the digital components of different Macmillan series, such as Skillful, Language Hub and Gateway to the World, the Trinity B1 Student's Book for Oxford University Press, as well as a series of articles for Coordinators and Directors of Study for OUP's blog. She is currently working for Oxford University Press as a Content Editor.

She holds a TESOL Certificate, FTBE (Further Certificate for Teachers of Business English) and Cambridge International Diploma in Business, as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Administration (EDA – CCEE – UDELAR), the Cambridge International Certificate in Educational Leadership and an MA in ELT (University of Southampton, UK).



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Teresa Gallette

POWER UP YOUR TEACHING SKILLS TO BOOST LEARNERS' SPEAKING CONFIDENCE

- However hard I try to build an English-speaking environment; my students are usually reluctant to communicate in English.
- My students lapse into lengthy silences when they need to answer questions.
- When speaking exams approach, my students start panicking.

Do these situations feel familiar to you? Are you wondering how to effectively help students make progress and develop self-confidence in speaking?

In this session, participants will get practical and pedagogically sound ideas for effective strategies to enhance students' oral performance.



Teresa is an ESOL teacher since 1986. She holds the Diploma in TESOL and TESOL Certificate (Trinity College London), CEELT (UCLES), DELTA A (Dickens Institute), On-line Tutor Training Courses (UCLES).

Tere is Senior Coordinator and Testing Team Senior Administrator at Dickens and has been an ESOL teacher since 1986. She is also a teacher trainer, Trinity Cert TESOL, TYLEC and Diploma tutor as well as TKT tutor. She worked as Educational consultant and teacher trainer for Oxford University Press and presented at several seminars in Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Paraguay. She has done research on portfolio assessment with children and young adolescents and also on the implementation of ICT in the classroom and worked as a remote CEIBAL teacher.



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Verónica Jara

CONQUERING THE INTERMEDIATE PLATEAU

Do your learners feel that their progress in language learning appears to have slowed down? Sometimes students get the impression that no matter how much effort they make, their learning does not seem to move forward as fast as it did when they were at lower levels. This might be because they have arrived at the dreaded learning plateau, which is one of the distinguishing characteristics of an intermediate level of language learning. Come and join us in this workshop in which we will discuss what this plateau entails and what we can do to help our students transition from intermediate to more advanced levels.



Verónica Jara has been an English teacher for 16 years. She has worked with many levels and age groups ranging from very young learners to adults. She has been working at Dickens for 14 years now as an English teacher, test writer, schools coordinator, TESOL Department Coordinator, teacher educator, and speaking Examiner for national and international exams. As from 2022, she is the new Head of the International Examinations Department as well. She holds the CertTESOL and LTCL DipTESOL (Trinity College London), and the Cambridge International Certificate in Educational Leadership.



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