

1235 – 1320

Bicycles or boiling water – changing how learners see grammar

Dr. Catherine Walter

Language learners are lucky: teachers around the world never really bought the ideas that grammar teaching is useless, or that fluent use of standard grammar can emerge from usage in a classroom. These teachers were right. Using language communicatively works best when it is backed up by explicit learning of rules. But learning grammar rules can be seen as a dry and dusty task. Suppose learners could see the learning of grammar as an activity of discovery, in which they could participate? Bicycles and boiling water come into an exploration of how this could happen. I will consider how teachers may approach grammar differently for potential high-accuracy users.

About Catherine: See above

1330 – 1355

A good repair crew must be efficient, effective and avoid stupid mistakes

Nick Jones

What does this mean for manuals? One can use realia to capture puzzles intrinsic to technical writing. Then focus on the contrast between writing/reading and language/communication systems. Last, tackle ways to guarantee effective descriptions. Many books are about techniques of presentation, why not techniques for description?

About Nick: Nick has worked in Bournemouth (UK), Trieste (Italy), Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) and for the last 15 years for Intercom in Hamburg. He has worked on interface of English Language with Technology with 'Writing for Technical Purposes' material.

1400 – 1425

Lesson in Contract English - Coming into Force Clause

Jim Faulkner

The talk is designed for teachers of business English (or of Legal English), looking at a blank filling exercise which requires no particular legal knowledge. As the title suggest the exercise is based on a particular clause taken from a fairly standard business-to-business agreement. Participants would get a copy of the presentation materials and a full lesson plan.

About Jim: Jim Faulkner, long-time Helta member, had a TEFL career over many years, teaching in schools, universities and companies. He holds degrees in TEFL and Law. His last job was to set up and lead the language programme at Bucerius Law School in Hamburg. Since his retirement he has been teaching privately. He believes that a modicum of contract knowledge is part of every business English trainer's armoury.

1430 – 1445

Elf Termination – wherever next? (Pecha Kucha)

Andreas Grundtvig

Like it or not, here in Hamburg, we are the witnesses, if not active participants in the creation of a new family of mutually unintelligible Englishes. Using the linguistic environment, we'll see how the language our students use is rapidly shaping a new 'macronic language', popularly known as Denglish. We'll consider the implications of even a passive exposure to such language, and what it means for us as teachers, who might be seen as the gatekeepers of 'standard English'.

About Andreas: As well as being HELTA Chair, Andreas is a teacher-trainer, linguist and author. He has written teaching guides and e-books, advises on coursebooks for Cambridge University Press and presents regularly at conferences. He travels extensively, recording the language that he sees and hears in the linguistic landscape. He teaches at the BMK (Media and Communication) School and manages the Cambridge Assessment Examinations Centre in Hamburg.

1450 – 1505

Some Considerations when beginning an EFL career, and a refresher for the 'Alte Hasen' (Pecha Kucha)

Lawrence Harris

EFL teaching usually begins informally. You soon realise there is a lot more to it than simply chatting in conversation. And there is the other side to teaching – the business side. I will introduce some all-important aspects of these for newbies and a refresher for the complacent 'Alte Hasen'.

About Lawrence: Along with general and business English, Lawrence teaches technical English at the HAW Berliner Tor, DESY and gives special courses for the Wasserschutzpolizei in the Port of Hamburg. His interests are all things scientific, the natural sciences, astronomy and enjoying the quiet of the countryside.