

Case Study



Enhancing communication skills using Big English with MyEnglishLab

Young Learners

THE CHALLENGE

In September of 2014, teachers at a primary school in Spain came together with the goal of enhancing their students' English communication skills. Their focus was to develop strong student achievement in pronunciation, grammatical structure and vocabulary.

In order to achieve this goal they wanted to find materials that related to students' real life experiences, as well as support correct pronunciation and grammar. They believed this would engage and motivate their students.

THE SOLUTION

To achieve this goal, teachers started using Big English in all primary classes (grades 1-6) starting in 2014. Grades 1-4 used the Big English Student Book and Workbook, while grades 5 and 6 used MyEnglishLab (online practice). The teachers also used the Active Teach platform (presentation tool).

There were 60 students per grade and Big English materials were supplemented with materials developed by the teachers.

FOCUS ON:

Big English key facts

Teachers reported that:

- Big English is good value.
- They would recommend it to other professionals.
- Materials are motivating, engaging, and support student achievement
- Content is relatable and well-adapted to the cultural needs of students, which encourages dialogue.

MyEnglishLab key facts

Teachers reported that:

- MyEnglishLab reduces time spent preparing and grading.
- It is easy to check student progress.
- You can assign tasks to suit individual student needs.
- The instant feedback feature and repeated practice activities help with student engagement and motivation.



Overview of how Big English with MyEnglishLab was used:

Grades 3 and 4

- 3 hours of English per week (2 sessions/90 minutes each session).
- 1 hour each week was dedicated to work on a long-term project to be completed in English.
- Project topics included science, social life, energy and ecosystems.
- The Big English workbook was used for practice activities.
- Teachers graded students daily.
- The final grade was given at the end of the year based on the accumulation of daily work, tests and projects.

Overview of Grades 5 and 6

- 5 hours of English per week.
- 1 hour each week was dedicated to work on a long-term project to be completed in English.
- Project topics included climate and landscapes, classification of animals in grade 5 and stages of life in grade 6.
- My EnglishLab was used for homework, as well as summative assessments based on tests.
- Teachers graded students daily.
- The final grade was given at the end of the year based on daily work, projects and MyEnglishLab.
- MyEnglishLab made up 20% of a student's total grade.

THE RESULT



Did Big English with MyEnglish Lab help enhance student communication skills?

What teachers thought of **Big English** and its impact on students:

- Big English is accessible, easy to navigate, and supports student independence.
- Materials are motivating, engaging, and support student achievement.
- Content is relatable and well-adapted to the cultural needs of students, which encourages dialogue.
- There is a large range of topics to choose from, which is appealing to students and allows for teacher customisation.
- The material is difficult enough to broaden student abilities, especially those of high achievers.
- Repetition of activities and threaded common themes help support topic mastery, which helps develop student confidence.
- Materials are easily adaptable and supplementary, which both lead to personalization.

What teachers thought of **MyEnglishLab**:

- MyEnglishLab is good value and all teachers would recommend it to other professionals.
- MyEnglishLab reduces time spent preparing and grading.
- It is very easy to use, especially when checking student progress.
- The flexibility of assigning tasks means you can meet individual student needs.
- The instant feedback feature and repeated practice activities help with student accountability, engagement, and motivation.



Learn more about Big English at
<https://www.pearsonELT.com/bigenglish>