

Case Study



Bringing native English speakers and a variety of fun activities into class with Big English and TELL

Young Learners

THE CHALLENGE

Escuela la Herradura is a public primary school in the west of Panama, and is part of the Panama Bilingue Program, which is designed to develop a bilingual population ready to take on the jobs of the future.

As part of the program all students have to take 10 hours of English lessons per week. There is a wide range of ability in each group so there is a need for materials that help all their students to progress. With so many hours for English, the teachers needed a course that had plenty of variety with contexts that were real and relevant to their students.

The teachers have not been to an English-speaking country and so are keen to ensure that students hear and learn from native English speakers so they wanted a solution that would bring English into the classroom.

THE SOLUTION

To provide a wide variety of materials and contexts, and to bring native English into the classroom, the school adopted Big English.

Manuel and Jaribeth teach their classes for 80 minutes five times a week and use the full Big English toolkit which includes:

- Student Book and Workbook every lesson for students to complete reading and writing activities
- ActiveTeach, including songs and videos, and Flashcards every lesson to bring native speakers into the classroom and for students to practise speaking and listening



Manuel and Yaribeth use the Big English digital resources to bring English to life

They use the Teacher's Book to help them make the most of the materials and to plan engaging lessons, and the TELL assessment to understand how much their children have learnt.

Teacher feedback:

"The Big English resources help me be better prepared so I can help all the children learn"

"Using Big English has really helped us manage mixed ability classes where everyone participates"

"I love the resources because they are fun and motivate students to learn"

"Students love using Big English – it's fun!"

"The TELL assessment is taken on an ipad which the students find motivating because they get to use technology"



Escuela la Herradura

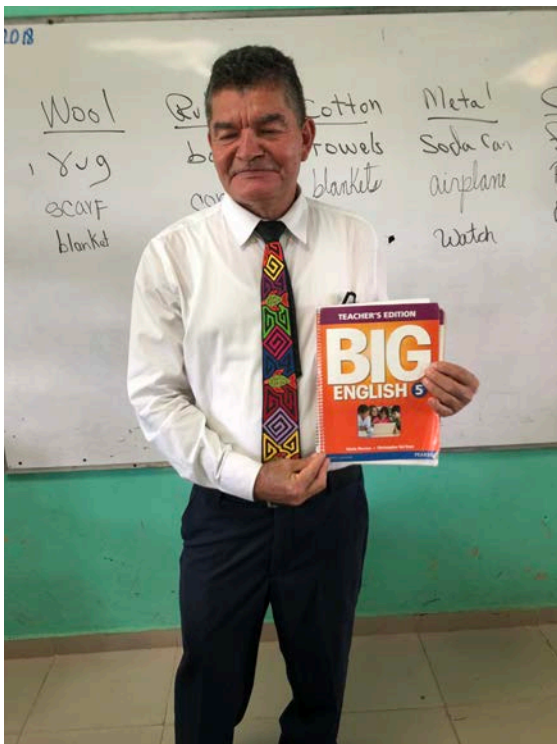


THE RESULT



Manuel and Jaribeth enjoy using the Big English materials and have seen the following results:

- Students are more motivated because of the way the course is structured and supports their development in all four skills.
- Students are able to speak in English and understand native voices – this is helping them understand and speak to native speakers which is shown in the results of the TELL assessments.
- The Teacher's Book helps teachers create active learning classes which get students engaged in their learning.
- The variety of activities, including songs, role plays, audio and video, provide lots of opportunities for reinforcement in different ways which help students learn while having fun.
- The Big English materials help the teachers manage mixed ability classes as they have activities suitable for all abilities and everyone participates.
- The activities help students become independent learners, so they have the confidence to apply what they have learnt.
- Teachers can see the progress their students are making through the regular Review activities.
- The TELL assessment motivates the children as they can see how much they know and understand.
- Parents are happy because they can see that their children are learning and using English confidently at home.



Teachers Manuel and Jaribeth



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