

Theme: Bridging the gap between the classroom and the world of work

Presenter: Margaret O'Keeffe

Bridging the gap - work skills with a licence to thrill!

Abstract

This session explores the business and communication skills that are immediately relevant for learners who use English in their day-to-day working lives. It also focuses on the key competencies tertiary students need to enhance their employability. It draws on Pearson's Global Scale of English (GSE) research and examples from Business Partner - the new eight level series (A1 to C1).

Summary

More people than ever today need English for their jobs, career progression and future employment. Some of our students may be studying at university, others will already be using English at work in many different jobs, departments and industries. Yet Business English training can sometimes feel disconnected from their real lives.

Pearson's new Business Partner series provides a bridge between classroom content and the real world of work. Its engaging content is immediately relevant and applicable in the workplace and is suitable for pre-work and in-work students who are looking to improve their employment prospects or career progression. It includes 'soft' skills training (such as awareness of directness and indirectness in communication) and functional business skills (for instance, presenting ideas), which all our students will benefit from practising and developing.

The workshop focuses on the acquisition of transferable skills that learners need, whether they are already in work or still in tertiary education. We will also consider the differences between English learners across the levels, how we cater to their needs and the progression of skills acquisition.

We will look at examples from classroom practice, video training materials from Business Partner and learning objectives from the Global Scale of English for Professional Learners.