

Theme: Flexibility, personalisation and clear goals for mixed ability classes

Presenters: Hugh Dellar and Damian Williams

Mapping out the path to success

Abstract

Adult learners have varying goals and reasons for learning English. Different classes usually have differing needs, interests and abilities. Dealing with this is one of the key challenges teachers face. In this talk, we will present solutions for tackling these issues, illustrated with materials from Roadmap, the new Pearson English general adult course.

Summary

When starting work on the new Pearson English general adult course Roadmap, we were very conscious of the fact that one challenge faced by teachers around the world is classes that are at similar levels, but which come with very varied needs, abilities and interests. Ensuring that every class has as many of their diverse needs and interests met as possible is central to success.

In this talk, we will explore some ways of addressing this challenge, and in doing so, will show three key elements of the material that feature in every lesson to build learner confidence: flexibility, personalisation, and clear goals.

We will show that the wide range of resources available and the range of routes that can be taken through the material provide this flexibility. While some classes may want to focus more on speaking, others will want to develop different skills.

The structure and design of Roadmap make this easier for teachers to achieve.

We then move on to look at ways in which the provision of space, models of spoken discourse and relevant communicative outcomes encourage personalisation.

Finally, as we will see, each lesson in the series has clear goals based on the Global Scale of English (GSE), allowing learners to measure tangible success along the way and to develop a clearer sense of their achievements.

Throughout the talk, we will present material from the course to show how learners can reach their destination, whichever route they take.