

Case Study



Enhancing spoken and written communication skills in English using Speakout with MyEnglishLab

Adult Learners

THE CHALLENGE

In September of 2014, teachers at a school in Spain came together with the goal of enhancing their students' spoken and written English communication skills. They wanted to help their students communicate in English more effectively, rather than just focusing on knowing the rules of English.

They sought materials that provided real-life context for developing vocabulary and grammar. Teachers wanted to challenge students by using high demand content.

They thought Pearson's Speakout would be a good fit. While Speakout is aimed at adults, teachers believed the difficulty level would benefit their secondary school students.

THE SOLUTION

To achieve this goal, teachers started using Speakout with MyEnglishLab (online practice) across secondary and upper secondary grades.

All secondary students used the Speakout student book, workbook, and MyEnglishLab (online practice). Teachers used Active Teach (presentation tool) as support.

There were 60 students per grade.

FOCUS ON:

Speakout key facts:

Teachers reported that:

- Speakout helps increase speaking ability.
- It boosts student confidence and motivation.
- The real life content and open-ended questions engage students.
- Instant feedback "motivates students to improve straightaway".

MyEnglishLab key facts:

Teachers reported that:

- MyEnglishLab is good value.
- They would recommend it to other professionals.
- It reduces time spent preparing and grading.

Overview of how Speakout with MyEnglishLab was used across secondary and upper secondary grades:

- Three hours were dedicated to English per week.
- MyEnglishLab was used for homework.
- Teachers used the gradebook in MyEnglishLab and graded their students daily.
- The final grade given at the end of the year was based on unit tests and term tests.
- MyEnglishLab results made up 20% of the final grade.

THE RESULT



Did Speakout with MyEnglishLab help enhance students' spoken and written communication skills?

What teachers thought of **Speakout** and its impact on students:

- The Student Book is accessible and easy to use.
- Features support student learning, especially the numbering system, parallel language bank and introductory grammar exercises.
- The real life content and open-ended questions, which prompted discussion and debates, engaged students.
- The increase in spoken ability has boosted student confidence and motivation.
- Activities encourage investigative learning, reinforce learning, and challenge students' listening skills.
- Speakout provides appropriate learning level materials for both those needing more help and those students who are more advanced.
- Materials can be adapted and supplemented for teaching higher order skills and creating spin-off materials.
- Digital components were seen to be top quality, and teachers used them to teach additional vocabulary beyond the use of the book.

What teachers thought of **MyEnglishLab**:

- It is a good value and all teachers would recommend MyEnglishLab to other professionals.
- It led to a reduction in the time spent preparing for class and grading homework.
- Features such as instant feedback “motivates [students] to improve straightaway”.
- MyEnglishLab helps facilitate topic mastery and is engaging for students.
- There is flexibility in assigning tasks based on individual student needs.
- It encourages students to be more accountable for their own learning.