

PROGRAMME OF THE 21st CONFERENCE AKCENT IH Prague 22.11.2025

L 101 9:00 – 9:10

Conference opening

L 101 9:10 – 10:10

Opening plenary

Charles Stewart - Analysing learner needs: the pathway to informing your teaching

It is normal for teachers to focus on language and/or skills when planning and teaching lessons. Although this is understandable, it is also important for teachers to take into account their learners' needs, preferences, and motivations, as this can enable them to plan and teach lessons which are more engaging and effective. This session will examine some of the main factors surrounding these topics as well as suggesting some practical tips with reference to Cambridge materials.



Charles Stewart is Professional Learning and Development Specialist at Cambridge University Press & Assessment, and is based in Prague. Charles began his ELT journey in 2011 and he has extensive experience in delivering training sessions to teachers in countries across Europe, the Middle East and the Far East. Additionally, he is enrolled in an MA programme in Professional Development for Language Education. Charles has particular interest in supporting learners with Special Educational Needs (SEND) and Technology-based Learning. He brings his vast classroom experience into each training session that he leads.

10:10 – 10:30

Break

Workshops

L 308 10:30 – 11:20

Dana Háňková - A warmer or a lead-in in a 45-minute lesson?

Or both? English teachers want to engage their learners and often start lessons with interesting and fun activities. These warming up activities tend to take longer than expected and as a result, there is not enough time to complete the main part of the lesson plan and to achieve the lesson aims. Learners also need to be well prepared for the learning activities, which takes time too. In this session we are going to consider this planning/timing issue and discuss and try out a few ways of starting a lesson effectively so that the rest of the lesson was manageable too and the learning process was engaging and successful.



Dana has been an English teacher for 40 years, teaching young learners and mainly adults in varied contexts and helping them succeed in language exams. Dana has also been a teacher trainer for 25 years, working on Cambridge CELTA and DELTA courses. She was extensively involved in the programme of AKCENT College supporting Czech teachers in gaining their professional qualification as English teachers. Currently, she works at MIAS CTU where she teaches English and runs methodology courses for practising English teachers.

L 307 10:30 – 11:20

Veronika Quinn Novotná and Šárka Císařová
- Write, Think, Feel: Writing Activities That Inspire

Do your learners write mainly for homework or tests, or do they write to think, express emotions, and connect with each other? In this hands-on workshop, you will experience practical, ready-to-use teaching ideas that exploit writing as a powerful tool for honing your learners' skills while fostering a classroom climate that feels engaging, supportive, and enjoyable. So come and write to think and write to feel with us, and have a writing "date" with yourself!



Veronika holds a PhD in English linguistics from the Faculty of Arts, Charles University. She has taught (applied) linguistics and academic soft skills at several universities, and currently teaches at the Faculty of Education, Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem (UJEP). She regularly publishes on English as a lingua franca and Global Englishes. She was the main organizer of the 14th International Conference on English as a Lingua Franca (ELF14 2024).

Šárka is a teacher and Trinity Diploma teacher trainer at Oxford TEFL Barcelona. She works as a freelancing teacher at the British Council Prague, and as a tutor in academic communication in English at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. As an MA Charles University graduate in English and Swedish philology, she is intrigued by creative writing and contemporary literature. In her free time, she translates contemporary theatre plays from English and Swedish.

L 305 10:30 – 11:20

Charles Stewart - Inclusive ESL teaching – Supporting learners with Dyslexia

Teaching English as a second language presents unique challenges for learners, especially for those with dyslexia. This interactive workshop we will examine practical strategies to support dyslexic students in the classroom. Participants will explore the impact of dyslexia on language learning, discover multisensory and scaffolded teaching techniques and analyze hands-on activities to adapt lessons for diverse learning needs. By the end of the session, teachers will gain valuable insights and tools to create a more inclusive and supportive learning environment for all students, including those with Dyslexia.

L 303 10:30 – 11:20

Leona Svobodová & Miloslav Průka - Beyond "Let's Talk"

Reimagining Conversation Classes Through CLIL Collaboration, As secondary students' English improves, traditional conversation classes no longer stretch their potential. This talk presents a project where English teachers team up with subject teachers — from civics to science — to design content-rich, thought-provoking lessons. Discover how CLIL-inspired collaboration not only challenges and inspires students but also brings fresh energy and new perspectives to the teachers themselves.



Leona has been a teacher and a teacher trainer for over 20 years, with International House and Cambridge English being her main employers. She is currently working at a secondary school where she is trying to implement all those "fancy Cambridge ideas" into a regular school context.

11:20 – 11:40

Break

L 308 11:40 – 12:30

Joe Fisher - Correction: Why, when and how?

In this session, we will be discussing attitudes to correction in the ELT classroom from both learner and teacher perspectives. We will explore how correction policies can be adapted to different contexts and how to make informed decisions about the most appropriate correction techniques to use — with the aim of making language feedback effective, supportive, and beneficial for our learners' progress and confidence.



Joe has spent over 20 years in ELT, working as a teacher, trainer, and academic manager in more than 10 countries. He's currently based in Prague, where he delivers CELTA courses with Akcent International House.

L 307 11:40 – 12:30

Jaime Lilley - Continued professional development Q&A

Teaching can become quite routine and it's easy to relax into habits that have served us for years. What can we do to keep our teaching alive, developing, changing and growing? This session will look at some avenues to in-service CPD from TKT/CELTA/DELTA to experimental practice, mentoring and just changing your teaching portfolio.



Jaime Lilley has been teaching for 21 years, and training for 17 years. She is a CELTA and DELTA tutor, and now the head of Akcent's Teacher Training Centre. Her latest project is teaching very young learners, from 4-6 years old. She favours a learner-driven, humanistic approach. In her non-teaching time, she publishes a poetry journal and enjoys the arts.

L 305 11:40 – 12:30

Anna Kopecká - Adapting Coursebooks

In this workshop we are going to have a look at the variety of reasons why textbooks need to be adapted and most importantly we will examine the different ways in which it can be done easily and effectively.



Anna is an AKCENT product. First she was a student then became a part time teacher while studying at the university and then started her teaching career and did her DELTA in AKCENT. Now she is involved in teacher development and teacher training and works as the Director of Studies but still enjoys being in the classroom the most.

L 303 11:40 – 12:30

Zhenya Dobrolezha - Developing Interactive communication in teenage students Do your discussion activities turn into a series of monologues where learners mechanically ask questions without really interacting with each other? This workshop is designed to explore how we can make speaking tasks more interactive and develop communicative skills in teenage students.



Zhenya is a DELTA-certified teacher and teacher trainer with more than 20 years' experience in three different countries. She has taught YL classes, business English, conversation classes and specialises in exam preparation.

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch

L 308, 307, 305, 303 13:30 – 14:20

CAROUSEL - George, Dana, Abbie, ...

We will share with you, at a speedy carousel pace, some of their favourite classroom techniques and activities. These are generic ideas that can be used with learners of different levels and ages. Come for a ride.

L 308 14:20 – 15:10

Markéta Zusková - Low Prep Activities

In this workshop for lower primary students, you'll have the chance to explore fun and engaging ways to present, recognize, and produce new language. Some of the activities will probably be familiar to you, while others might be brand new and inspire fresh ideas for your classroom!



Markéta is a teacher, teacher trainer and a Cambridge ESOL examiner. She worked for AKCENT IH Prague as a Director of Studies in charge of the Young Learners Department and was also involved in the teacher training programme (IH CYLT, IHCPT, CELTA YL). Her experience also includes training future teachers at Akcent College. She graduated from Charles University (Teaching English Language and Literature) and passed DELTA in 2005. Currently, she works in Cermat.

L 307 14:20 – 15:10

Martin Kräussl - Working with Visual Materials in the EFL Classroom

This workshop is designed primarily for upper-secondary school teachers of English and teachers of adults working with students at B2 level and above. Together we will focus on how to make effective use of advertisements, images, and other visual materials in English lessons. The workshop will offer concrete examples of classroom activities that help students not only develop their language skills, but also their critical thinking and their ability to interpret multimodal texts. The overall aim is to expand teachers' portfolios of activities that can be directly integrated into English lessons and enriched through work with visual materials, which present language in authentic contexts..



Martin Kräussl is an EFL teacher with over twenty years' experience across secondary, language-school and university settings. He teaches academic and business English courses at the Prague University of Economics and Business and TEFL methodology and teaching practice for pre-service English teachers at the Faculty of Education, Charles University. Martin is a PhD student in Applied Linguistics for Language Teaching at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, where his work focuses on developing critical thinking in English language education. In his EFL classes he works extensively with authentic materials and engages learners in analysing the language of media and advertising.

L 305 14:20 – 15:10

Sean Harper - Speaking Activities for Exams Students: Let's Help Them Shine!

Help your students go beyond "good enough" speaking! In this practical session, you'll experience easy-to-use classroom activities designed to boost your learners' range, fluency, and confidence for exam day. We'll follow the format of the Cambridge Speaking Exams and share tips and strategies for every part — so you can help your candidates perform at their best.



Sean is originally from Southwest England, where he spent much of his younger life with itchy feet before finally settling in Prague in 2002, where he qualified as an English teacher. More than 20 years later, he still loves teaching learners of all ages and abilities, though his particular passion lies in exam preparation. He enjoys collaborating with test candidates to help them excel in the core skills while expanding their language range, confidence, and fluency. Outside the classroom, He enjoys cycling, walking, writing, making short films, and plane spotting with his son — who's fascinated by anything with wings and engines!

L 303 14:20 – 15:10

Lukáš Milka - Play to Engage! Unlocking the Power of Gamification - Gamification, or the use of games in English teaching, is more relevant than ever in today's classrooms. It offers new ways to boost motivation, confidence and progress in English learning while having fun. This session will present practical examples of games in which attendees will participate, followed by a debate on the strengths and weaknesses of different games. Attendees will also be provided with a QR code to access an open-source book of English teaching games created by educators worldwide.



Lukáš is a DELTA-certified teacher with over 10 years of teaching experience in a variety of settings, including pre-schools, primary and secondary schools and universities. He focuses on making lessons informative, interactive and enjoyable - promoting independence and critical thinking, while maximising learning outcomes. He is currently teaching at a private high school and undergoing IB training.

15:10 – 15:30

Break

L 101 15:30 – 16:00

Raffle and closing