

15th Annual Elt Conference

THE ART OF BALANCING

22nd _____
November

8:30 am | Grand Hotel Excelsior

Conference for Primary, Lower Secondary and
Upper Secondary State school Teachers of English



In partnership with:



CAMBRIDGE



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For more information please contact: 0965 20024 or visit www.britishschoolrc.com

AGENDA

8:30 Registration

8:45 | **Conference Opening** | Marco Goso

9:00 | **Learning English, exam preparation and the real world** | Anne Robinson

10:05 | **Tomorrow is today – An Insight on students' life and education**
| IH Team Lingue

10:20 | *Coffee Break*

11:00 | **Embracing AI in ELT** | Sarah Ellis

11:50 | **Interview with Gail Mitchell: Insights into Cambridge Speaking Exams**
| Gail Mitchell & Simon Brown

12:00 | **Time to fill - Our favourite low-prep activities**
| Lisa Phillips, Shannon Thwaites, & Jennifer Veit

12:20 | **The balancing act - life as a teacher in the 2020s**

12:30 | *Lunch*

Workshops:

13:45 **Cambridge One: Paving the way** | Simon Brown

Talk for Writing: adapting the approach for your classes | Mark Glanfield
(suggested for primary school)

Capeesh? Translanguaging inside and outside the classroom
| Vince Palombo

14:30 **Better Feedback for Controlled Practice** | John Shaw

Bringing Language, Skills and Learning to Life | Anne Robinson
(suggested for primary school)

Freeform, a digital "wall" for learning foreign languages
| Alessandro Suizzo

15:15 Conclusion

Learning English, exam preparation and the real world

- *Abstract*

Students may not see the connection between English lessons, exam preparation and real life. We'll explore ways to ensure that students see the purpose of class activities and exam preparation and tasks, as well as how these activities and tasks can help them develop useful skills for the future.

- *Anne Robinson*

I discovered my love for languages thanks to an inspirational French teacher at school. (Thanks Mrs Luscombe!) I try and continue the good work she started every day – in my lessons and in my teacher training activities. Much of my work is for Cambridge Assessment English and Cambridge English. I'm a seminar and webinar presenter, I've written materials for the Seminar Programme and World of Fun. And I've trained teams of presenters in countries like China and Turkey. I'm an online teacher trainer and course designer. I also design and give courses for schools and education authorities. And I'm an author too! Fun for Starters, Fun for Movers and Fun for Flyers and the Cambridge Exam Booster for Advanced, levels 3 and 5 of Fun Skills, all published by Cambridge University Press.

Tomorrow is today – An Insight on students' life and education

- *IH Team Lingue*

IH Team Lingue is part of the large IH World Organisation family and organises educational trips with the aim of accompanying students not only in learning a foreign language, but above all in creating their own future through training and personal growth experiences.

They have been present in the territory since 1983 as:

- A Tour Operator specialised in Educational Tourism and specifically the organisation of programmes abroad (High School, Individual and Group Study Holidays, MiniStays, Teacher training)
- A language school affiliated with International House World Organisation, with 4 branches in Lombardy
- An Authorised Cambridge English Examination Centre
- A Translation and Interpreting Agency

Embracing AI in ELT

- *Abstract*

In this session, we consider the benefits and some of the risks of emerging EdTech that uses Artificial Intelligence as, without doubt, the arrival of ChatGPT and other large language models is a 'watershed moment' for learning and teaching. It is important for language professionals to learn more about AI, how it works, and what innovations may be possible in their own contexts. We will explore ways to take advantage of the potential of AI and look at some AI tools and activities to use in the classroom.

- *Sarah Ellis*

Sarah is interested in Assessment, Learning & Professional Development and has an extensive background in teaching, teacher training, assessment and exam management. She has trained teachers on CELTA and DELTA courses and is currently involved in the Cambridge Assessment English teacher support programme which provides information, materials and support for teachers and academic directors. She is particularly interested in supporting teachers in developing digital skills and assessment literacy. Sarah is currently working as Senior Manager, Assessment Services and is based in Bologna.

Interview with Gail Mitchell: Insights into Cambridge Speaking Exams

- *Abstract*

In this short session, Simon Brown from Cambridge University Press and Assessment will interview Gail Mitchell, English Teacher at the University of Messina and Local Team Leader for Cambridge English Speaking Exams, about the work she does for Cambridge, how speaking assessment has changed over the years, and her top tips for preparing students for speaking exams.

- *Gail Mitchell*

Gail's extensive career in language teaching and assessment has spanned over three decades, and she continues to teach English at the University of Messina. Having made Calabria her home for most of her adult life, she possesses a profound insight into the unique challenges faced by Italian students, both in linguistic and broader contexts. She is also an author, and the 2006 book she wrote with Janet Lewis entitled "Anything goes: Varieties of English" continues to grow in relevance as we prepare students to use English in an increasingly globalised world. Gail has also been the Cambridge Assessment English Team Leader for the local area for nearly 30 years, training and managing Cambridge English Speaking Examiners. Outside of work, Gail likes to keep active by swimming and looking after her numerous cats and cherished horse.

Time to fill - Our favourite low-prep activities

- *Abstract*

Got a few minutes to fill in your class where you still want your students to have fun and learn something? No prep, low prep, no sweat! Here are a few of our favourite activities to engage your students.

- *Lisa Phillips*

Lisa has been teaching English for 26 years in a number of countries. She is Director of Studies for Teen and Adult Courses at ih BRITISH SCHOOL Reggio Calabria, a CELTA trainer, examiner, inspector and online tutor. She is currently studying B1 Italian and is obsessed with scuba diving and cats.

- *Shannon Thwaites*

Shannon has been in ELT for 8 years and, prior to coming to Reggio Calabria, had taught in Poland and on pre-sessional university courses in the UK. During her time in Reggio Calabria, she has taught a wide range of levels and ages, from very young learners to adults, and from beginner to advanced levels. She has taught in state schools, often with large classes, and has led teacher training sessions both locally and internationally. She is Director of Studies for External Courses at ih BRITISH SCHOOL Reggio Calabria, where she enjoys liaising with local teachers. In her free time, she likes cooking and travelling, and is an avid Harry Potter fan.

- *Jennifer Veit*

Jennifer started her teaching career in New York City, teaching primary school music. She holds Master's degrees in Musicology and in Teaching. She has been with ih BRITISH SCHOOL Reggio Calabria for the past 12 years and is currently the Director of Studies for Young Learners and Very Young Learners. She is an IHCYLT tutor and Cambridge YLE speaking examiner. She is interested in multisensory learning, phonics and continuous assessment in the primary classroom. Jennifer lives in Reggio with her husband and two children and enjoys dance, travel and baking.

Workshops:

Cambridge One: Paving the way

- *Abstract*

In this session we will look at how the Cambridge One platform supports and encourages learners to be active agents in their own learning and in the assessment process. We will explore various notions that enable learners to develop into more autonomous learners with good reflective awareness and strategies for lifelong learning.

- *Simon Brown*

Simon has lived in Italy for over 20 years and started working for Cambridge English in 2010 in the role of Development Support Manager. During these 12 years, he has worked in different regions in the south and north of Italy. Prior to working for Cambridge, he began his career in the ELT sector working throughout Italy for over 10 years. Simon is now heading up his new role as a consultant for Cambridge University Press & Assessment for Calabria, Sardegna & Sicily. In his spare time, he likes to enjoy a good game of tennis under the Sicilian sunshine where he lives.

Talk for Writing: adapting the approach for your classes

- *Abstract*

This session serves to introduce the Talk for Writing approach and how to adapt it for your classes. The Talk for Writing approach enables students to write for a wide range of audiences and purposes, and it is currently trending across the globe as a useful tool in helping students improve their writing skills.

- *Mark Glanfield*

Mark works for ih BRITISH SCHOOL Reggio Calabria and has been a teacher and teacher-trainer since 2005. He has worked in a number of countries including Singapore and Turkey. He loves sharing practical teaching ideas and he specialises in teaching young learners.

Capeesh? Translanguaging inside and outside the classroom

- *Abstract*

Translanguaging is not just another ELT buzzword. Far from being a passing fad, it debunks methodological myths and facilitates the learning process by incorporating students' home language. Using their full verbal repertoire empowers learners, boosts their confidence and raises their linguistic and metalinguistic awareness.

- *Vince Palombo*

Vince has been teaching at ih BRITISH SCHOOL Reggio Calabria since 2011. He particularly enjoys working with teenagers and has helped hundreds of students to achieve exam success. He shares his expertise with his colleagues in his role as Senior Teacher and Exam Coordinator.

Better Feedback for Controlled Practice

- *Abstract*

Every stage of the lesson needs feedback, but this can feel tedious after a reading, writing or dry grammar exercises. This workshop looks at ways of making these stages more dynamic and meaningful. It also looks at my teaching journey of gamification where my initial aim of inducing fun evolved to how I could make these stages both fun and language-rich.

- *John Shaw*

John Shaw has been teaching at ih BRITISH SCHOOL Reggio Calabria since 2022 but started teaching 12 years ago at IH in Moscow after completing his CELTA at IH Prague. In Moscow, he worked for many years as an ADOS for the school's camp and some satellite schools and later worked as a DOS at a school which provided extracurricular English at state schools. He is currently working on completing his DELTA, adding activities to his open source 'Book of Games' and exploring VR in the classroom.

Bringing Language, Skills and Learning to Life

- *Abstract*

How can we build up students' confidence to discover and use English?
How can we help young learners develop and practise reading, writing, listening and speaking skills as well as life skills such as collaboration and creative thinking?
How can we connect English to the outside world?
We'll be considering the answers to these questions in this session.

- *Anne Robinson*

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Freeform, a digital "wall" for learning foreign languages

- *Abstract*

In this highly practical session, we will learn how to work on a multimedia board for learning languages in a creative and fun manner.

- *Alessandro Suizzo*

Alessandro teaches Italian and History in Secondary school and is also an Apple Distinguished Educator and Apple Professional Learning Specialist. He is passionate about innovative and inclusive teaching, coding, and educational robotics. He was the winner of the Italian Teacher Awards 2018 with his project "Dante and BB-8, studying the Divine Comedy with coding and robotics". He is an active promoter of innovative ideas and content for schools such as the project "Coding travelling with Ulysses. An epic story!" and "Travelling among the stars". In his school he is Digital Animator and contact person for the project promoted by Indire/Avanguardia Educative "Beyond disciplines". In his spare time, he is a keen windsurfer and poet.

Please note that the event will be photographed. If you have any questions please contact a member of the ih BRITISH SCHOOL team.

If you are keen to take your own photos and upload them to social media, don't forget to tag us @ihbritishschoolrc and use #ELTConf2023.

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