

Teacher Training Presentation Abstract:

Building conversation skills step by step is the best way to give students of English the confidence to initiate and keep a conversation with foreigners going. This presentation will highlight the work of David and Peggy Kehe from Pro Lingua Associates and shows teachers how to use their outstanding material either as a course in itself, or as a supplement to any communication or conversation class.

Discussion Strategies, Beyond Everyday Conversation presents a series of strategies we all know and use regularly in everyday conversation (rejoinders, follow-up and clarification questions, comprehension checks, etc.) The course approach, where each lesson builds on the one before, provides repeated opportunities for students to practice what they have learned. The teacher's role is one of facilitator and coach, while students can initiate the conversations themselves and advance at their own speed. The goal is communication, not accuracy, and the topics are chosen for their high-interest and relevancy to the human experience.

A non-threatening task-based structure empowers lower level students, while providing a healthy challenge for all levels (lower-intermediate to advanced) so this series works well in a mixed level classroom. Fully engaging, this is a must-try conversation strategy course that works! Liberate your students to discover that they really can speak English!

Robin Debacker is currently teaching Art in English Immersion at the College Saint Veronique in Liege, Belgium. She taught English Conversation and Communication Skills at Kookmin University in Seoul, and at various other universities in Korea for 8 years. Ms. Debacker received her TESOL Certification from Trinity College, London, and has taught for the British Council in Portugal, as well as at Hanyang and Ewha Woman's University in Seoul. She holds a BFA from the University of South Florida and an MA in Religious Education from the Unification Theological Seminary in New York.

You may contact her at robindebacker@yahoo.com, on twitter, or follow her blog at teatalksrobin.wordpress.com.