

VOICES FROM WITHIN - A HELTA MEMBERS' DAY

Full Programme

1000 – 1100

Pronunciation is a two way street

(Plenary provided by Oxford University Press)

Dr. Catherine Walter

When you say 'pronunciation', most teachers think 'speaking'. But pronunciation is about listening, too: learners can often make themselves understood if their pronunciation is not perfect, but if they don't understand what they hear, they are in real trouble. I will explore aspects of English pronunciation that is worth teaching for listening, and show how pronunciation is taught in the *Navigate* series from OUP.

About Catherine: Catherine Walter is a researcher, teacher educator and materials writer. She is the co-author with Michael Swan of the Oxford English Grammar Course, and the series Adviser for the OUP course series *Navigate*. Catherine lectures in Applied Linguistics at the University of Oxford, and is the convenor of Oxford's distance MSc in Teaching English Language in University Settings. She is also the Vice Principal of Linacre College, Oxford. In 1993, Catherine became the first female president of IATEFL, and she has remained active in the organisation.

1110 – 1135

The Character of the English Language

Dr. Kimberly Crow

What do we know about the character of the English language - of any language for that matter? How does language reflect the socio-cultural aspects of communication? Reflecting on and understanding these aspects, which extend beyond vocabulary and grammar, substantially contribute to successfully learning a language.

About Kimberly: Dr. Kimberly Crow has been a language and culture consultant since 2003. As a German-American social scientist she has developed an approach to language that reaches beyond vocabulary and grammar. To find out more, go to www.crow-consulting.de

1140 – 1205

**BEC? CIOL? PET? CAE? CPE? FCE? EFB? SEFIC? IELTS? TOEFL?
TOEIC? FSK?**

Sandra Stapela

Which of the multitude of external exams is right for your learners of English? Whether you teach for a private language school, a company (or companies) or for the Hamburg school system, deciding which language exam is best / most useful / most suited to your learners' needs can be a bit daunting. I hope to bring a bit of light to the subject in a short presentation on what's available in Hamburg.

About Sandra: Sandra Stapela has just finished an almost 40-year-long stint as teacher of foreign languages – three teaching German and Spanish in Spencer, Iowa (USA) and 36 in Hamburg, teaching English, Business English, ESL and German for migrants at the Staatliche Fremdsprachenschule für Medien und Kommunikation. She is an examiner for the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce and local secretary for the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Her new "hobby", after passing the Chartered Institute of Linguists Diploma in Translation, is translating from German into English.

1205 - 1235

Lunch

1235 – 1320

Bicycles or boiling water – changing how learners see grammar

Dr. Catherine Walter

Language learners are lucky: teachers around the world never really bought the ideas that grammar teaching is useless, or that fluent use of standard grammar can emerge from usage in a classroom. These teachers were right. Using language communicatively works best when it is backed up by explicit learning of rules. But learning grammar rules can be seen as a dry and dusty task. Suppose learners could see the learning of grammar as an activity of discovery, in which they could participate? Bicycles and boiling water come into an exploration of how this could happen. I will consider how teachers may approach grammar differently for potential high-accuracy users.

About Catherine: See above

1330 – 1355

A good repair crew must be efficient, effective and avoid stupid mistakes

Nick Jones

What does this mean for manuals? One can use realia to capture puzzles intrinsic to technical writing. Then focus on the contrast between writing/reading and language/communication systems. Last, tackle ways to guarantee effective descriptions. Many books are about techniques of presentation, why not techniques for description?

About Nick: Nick has worked in Bournemouth (UK), Trieste (Italy), Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) and for the last 15 years for Intercom in Hamburg. He has worked on interface of English Language with Technology with 'Writing for Technical Purposes' material.

1400 – 1425

Lesson in Contract English - Coming into Force Clause

Jim Faulkner

The talk is designed for teachers of business English (or of Legal English), looking at a blank filling exercise which requires no particular legal knowledge. As the title suggest the exercise is based on a particular clause taken from a fairly standard business-to-business agreement. Participants would get a copy of the presentation materials and a full lesson plan.

About Jim: Jim Faulkner, long-time Helta member, had a TEFL career over many years, teaching in schools, universities and companies. He holds degrees in TEFL and Law. His last job was to set up and lead the language programme at Bucerius Law School in Hamburg. Since his retirement he has been teaching privately. He believes that a modicum of contract knowledge is part of every business English trainer's armoury.

1430 – 1445

Elf Termination – wherever next? (Pecha Kucha)

Andreas Grundtvig

Like it or not, here in Hamburg, we are the witnesses, if not active participants in the creation of a new family of mutually unintelligible Englishes. Using the linguistic environment, we'll see how the language our students use is rapidly shaping a new 'macronic language', popularly known as Denglish. We'll consider the implications of even a passive exposure to such language, and what it means for us as teachers, who might be seen as the gatekeepers of 'standard English'.

About Andreas: As well as being HELTA Chair, Andreas is a teacher-trainer, linguist and author. He has written teaching guides and e-books, advises on coursebooks for Cambridge University Press and presents regularly at conferences. He travels extensively, recording the language that he sees and hears in the linguistic landscape. He teaches at the BMK (Media and Communication) School and manages the Cambridge Assessment Examinations Centre in Hamburg.

1450 – 1505

Some Considerations when beginning an EFL career, and a refresher for the 'Alte Hasen' (Pecha Kucha)

Lawrence Harris

EFL teaching usually begins informally. You soon realise there is a lot more to it than simply chatting in conversation. And there is the other side to teaching – the business side. I will introduce some all-important aspects of these for newbies and a refresher for the complacent 'Alte Hasen'.

About Lawrence: Along with general and business English, Lawrence teaches technical English at the HAW Berliner Tor, DESY and gives special courses for the Wasserschutzpolizei in the Port of Hamburg. His interests are all things scientific, the natural sciences, astronomy and enjoying the quiet of the countryside.

1510 – 1535

The Language of Business

Helen Waldron

Business language, like all language, evolves over time and reflects and shapes its environment. This talk identifies some strains of business language within a historical context and asks how the language used today corresponds to current business philosophies and practice. How does the language used on your clients' websites match your own experience of working with that client, and what does the language used within the ELT industry reveal?

About Helen: Helen has been teaching in company for over 30 years. Nowadays she increasingly translates and writes in company materials. Within the last 12 months she has contributed to Teacher Stories, A-Z of Hope, A-Z of Global Issues and has authored What's Your Teaching Identity? Her website is www.helenwaldron.com

1550 – 1615

Staying on top: How to Keep Track of Lessons, Ideas and Resources

Sarah Ploch

Towering stacks of coursebooks, looming mountains of worksheets, never-ending lists of bookmarked webpages - most of us are hoarders and we know it. And yet, we often find ourselves at a loss for what to teach next. As materials become better and better and the internet gives us access to so many great resources, it can be a challenge to find systems and workflows that help us keep everything in order and to use the new ideas we come across. This workshop will be a place for members to share their best and worst practices, get new ideas and explore some modern tools that can help us stay organised - so you can find that bloody lesson when you need it.

About Sarah: Sarah works at English Language Institute as a teacher and as DoS. She has been obsessing over questions of how to stay organised and clear in her teaching practice for about five years now, especially now that she's in the middle of doing her Cambridge Delta and the methodology books are piling up.

1620 – 1635

Bring A Game - Bring Your A Game

Vincent Wongaiham-Petersen

There are quite a lot of games out there that can be played, adapted or copied for your class. I'll show you some of the games I've used and abused successfully, give you quick rundowns of how they're played and hopefully get you on your way to expanding your own games library.

About Vincent: Vincent started teaching Filipino 20 years ago and decided to start teaching another exotic language – English – some 8 years ago. He is a Killer Sudoku fan and is an avid collector of games for the classroom. In between teaching languages and playing games, he co-founded Business English Training and Translation (www.business-english-hh.de) where he is the resident DoS.

1650

An ELT Quiz

Jim Maloney

The last talk of the day is an ESL quiz with a prize.

About Jim: Jim is the training development manager at Language Training Center based in Hamburg. He is responsible for all pedagogical aspects of trainer development and provides workshops and talks for trainers nationwide. He has a keen interest in the specific cultural trainer/ student dynamics of the learning environment. He is never to be disturbed when FC St.Pauli are playing.

Table presentations given by Oxford University Press, Cambridge English Language Assessment & Cambridge University Press, Cambridge Examinations Centre Hamburg, Business English Training and Translation, Hueber Verlag and more.