

# Teaching Today

## Progetto di formazione online



04 Dicembre 2013

How to... Keep your students engaged in English

Andrew Howarth

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# Session Aims

- 2013 student profile
- Prospects for today's students
- Getting your students interested
- Different ways of presenting language
- Questions



## 2013 student profile

“Although these students are not undisciplined, they tend to chat and be easily distracted during the lessons and need to be stimulated in order to participate. That is why I always tried to involve them by stating what we were going to do, the objectives of the lesson, any difficulty that the activities could cause them and by asking them, at the end of the lessons, to summarise what they had learnt. “

Scuola superiore 2° grado English teacher, Latina

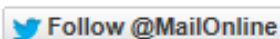


# Prospects for today's school leavers in the UK

Find a Job | M&S Wine | Feedback



371k



Thursday

# MailOnline



Home | **News** | U.S. | Sport | TV&Showbiz | Femail | Health | Science | Money | RightM

News Home | Arts | Headlines | Pictures | Most read | News Board

## School leavers face worst outlook for 20 years as one in five can't find work after youth unemployment stays above a million

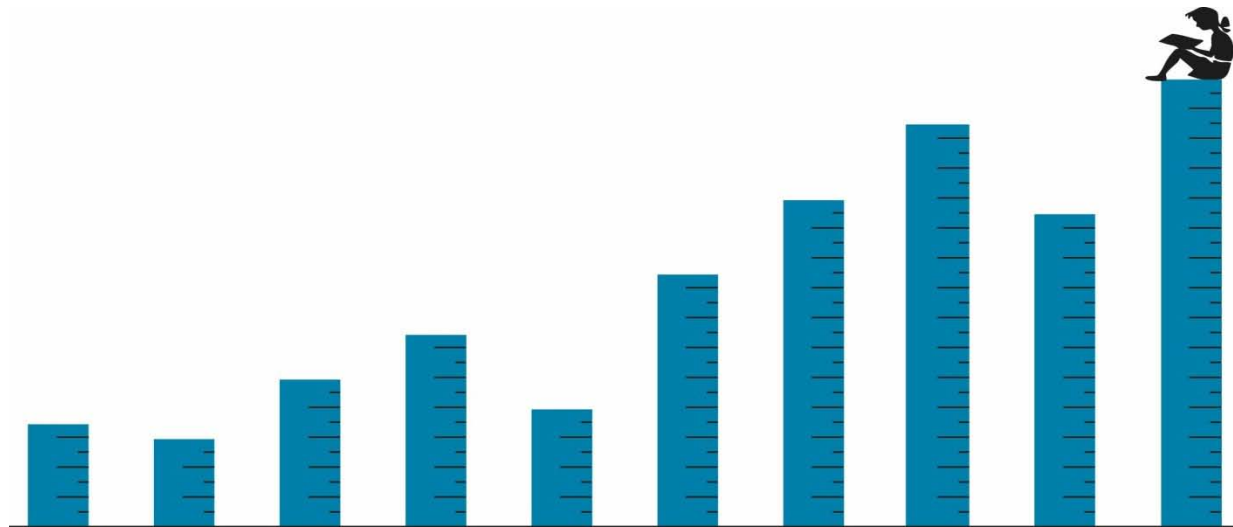
- Youth unemployment figures out today showed one million people aged 16-25 are out of work
- TUC warn the issue is at 'crisis point'

Registrati ora  
per l'offerta  
di €75



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Paul Brown, Director, youth charity The Prince's Trust, added: 'There is an alarming number of unemployed young people who lack the skills and confidence they need to find work, and it is these young people that need urgent support.'



# More bad news from Britain...

**theguardian**

News | Sport | Comment | Culture | Business | Money | Life & st

News > Education > Students

## Graduate job prospects declining, tracking of university students finds

Salary premium reducing year-on-year as 40% fail to get  
graduate-level work two years after gaining degree

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# The class of 1963



LONG  
MAN  
EDIZIONI



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# The class of 2013



LONG  
MAN  
EDIZIONI



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# Teaching interesting English



# Different ways of presenting language activities





# Language input

## Reading and listening

### Rules of engagement

- Students need to be interested
- Revisit the text.
- Different types of exercises
- Exploit the text
- Interesting sequences





# Reading

Extensive

Normally outside class



Intensive

Normally inside class





# What type of English?

Situation:

Group / class

- Difficult texts with the support of classmates and teachers

Individual

- Graded language for sense of achievement



# Example reading sequence

1. Create interest
2. Get the gist
3. Work on the detail
4. Exploit the theme

Exert taken from “Brilliant Results” published by Pearson

## Exam maximiser

### A Teenagers life in Britain



#### Free time

Teenagers of the 21st century are interested in music, fashion and the Internet. In Britain teenagers like chatting to friends on Messenger or Facebook.

They send texts on their mobile phones and they hang out with their friends. They listen to music on their MP3s, watch films on TV or at the cinema and go shopping for fashionable clothes. Lots of teenagers play computer games in their free time. The average pocket money for teenagers is £9 a week. It is about 12 euros.

Teenagers' favourite films are *The Princess Diaries*, *Save the Last Dance* and *She's the Man*.

Their favourite books are still *Harry Potter* and *The Twilight Saga*.



#### Part time jobs

A lot of teenagers have a part-time job in Britain. 15 and 16 year-olds can work for 8 hours on Saturdays and during the holidays. Many get jobs in shops. Some deliver newspapers to houses before they go to school.

They are called 'Paperboys' and 'Papergirls'. Babysitting is a popular job, because teenagers receive some money to look after children. Some teenagers at the age of 14 help the milkman to take the milk to the houses.



#### Teenage fashion in Britain

Teenagers in Britain wear similar clothes to teenagers in other European countries. When they are not at school, they wear jeans, a T-shirt and trainers. However, because of the weather most people have a pair of wellingtons, a heavy overcoat and a raincoat. Teenagers buy fashionable clothes from High Street shops.



#### Glossary

to hang out passare il tempo  
fashionable alla moda  
to look after badare a  
however comunque  
overcoat soprabito

108

one hundred and eight



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Brilliant

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## Create interest in the subject

Tap into students' existing knowledge of the theme with thought provoking questions



“What can you see in the picture?”  
“What’s the girl doing?”



“Where are the girls in these photos?”  
“When do you do these activities?”



# Get the gist ... quickly !

- Read the article quickly
- Brief Activities
- Comprehension Questions

## A Teenagers life in Britain

**Free time**  
Teenagers of the 21st century are interested in music, fashion and the Internet. In Britain teenagers like chatting to friends on Messenger or Facebook. They send texts on their mobile phones and they hang out with their friends. They listen to music on their MP3s, watch films on TV or at the cinema and go shopping for fashionable clothes. Lots of teenagers play computer games in their free time. The average pocket money for teenagers is £8 a week. It is about 12 euros. Teenagers' favourite films are *The Princess Diaries*, *Save the Last Dance* and *She's the Man*. Their favourite books are still *Harry Potter* and *The Twilight Saga*.



**Part time jobs**  
A lot of teenagers have a part time job in Britain. 15 and 16 year-old teenagers work on Saturdays and during the holidays. They get jobs in shops. Some deliver newspapers to houses before they go to school. They are called 'Paperboys' and 'Papergirls'. Babysitting is a popular job, because teenagers receive some money to look after children.





# Work on the detail.

Change these sentences so they talk about YOU !

Teenagers' favourite films are *The Princess Diaries*, *Save the Last Dance* and *She's the Man*.  
Their favourite books are still *Harry Potter* and *The Twilight Saga*.

However, because of the weather most people have a pair of wellingtons, a heavy overcoat and a raincoat.

**Glossary**

to hang out passare il tempo  
fashionable alla moda  
to look after badare a  
however comunque  
overcoat soprabito

Put as many words in these columns as possible

Clothes	Jobs	Digital	Films & TV
Wellingtons	Milkman	Facebook	Harry Potter
	Paperboy		Princess Diaries





## Exploit the text..

*Now you have the students interested in the theme, go further with it!*

### Example tasks (with an objective!)

- 1. List some differences between Italian and English teenagers
- 2. Design a poster
- 3. Role play an interview with one of the girls.



## Listening – remember...

- Students may need to listen 2,3 or more times.
- Each time students listen, give them a different task. Don't just repeat it.



## Listening – remember...

- Build confidence by giving achievable tasks.
- Interesting and engaging sequences





# Listening stage 1

“A bit of fun...”

Before the lesson

select 6 key words from the text.

Example

Teenagers

Rap music

New York

Recording contract

X Factor

Millionaires



## Books closed, audio on pause

- Write the words on the board
- Explain the activity
- Ask them to repeat the instructions back to you.
- Play audio
- Check with students what their words were.

**Students will listen to every word of the audio ,  
without worrying about what the words mean.**



## Listening stage 2

### “Prediction then Listening for gist”

Now look at those 6 words on the board.

What's the situation? Fill in this table

Who is talking?	Where are they?	What do they do?
Mark, Steve and Ray	America, New York	Band

Listen again and check / complete the table.

## Listening stage 3

### “Specific Information”

**In pairs/ small groups, answer these questions**

- What is the name of their band?
- When did they win X Factor?
- Who was their favourite judge?
- What is their next ambition?

**Listen again and check / complete your answers**







## Further activities

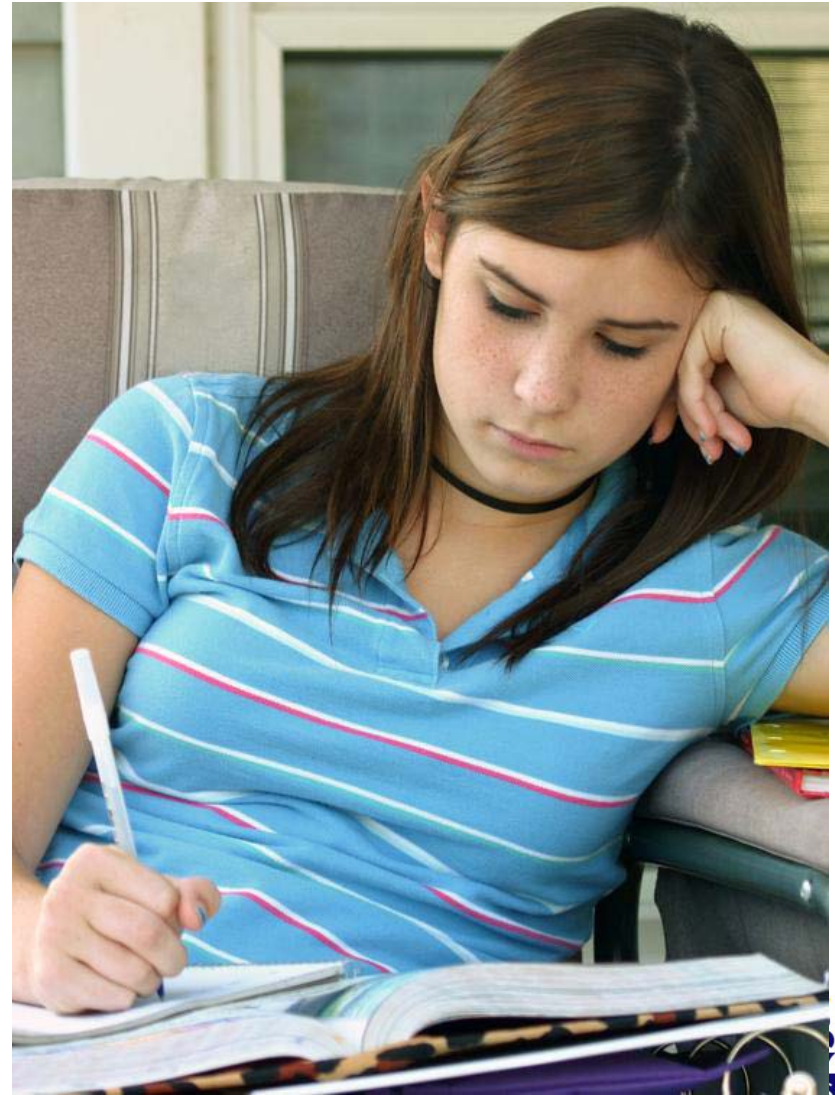
**“If you have no time restraints, why not...”**

- Listen for missing words.
- Draw the scene.
- 3 questions to ask the band
- Profile of a band member



## Writing

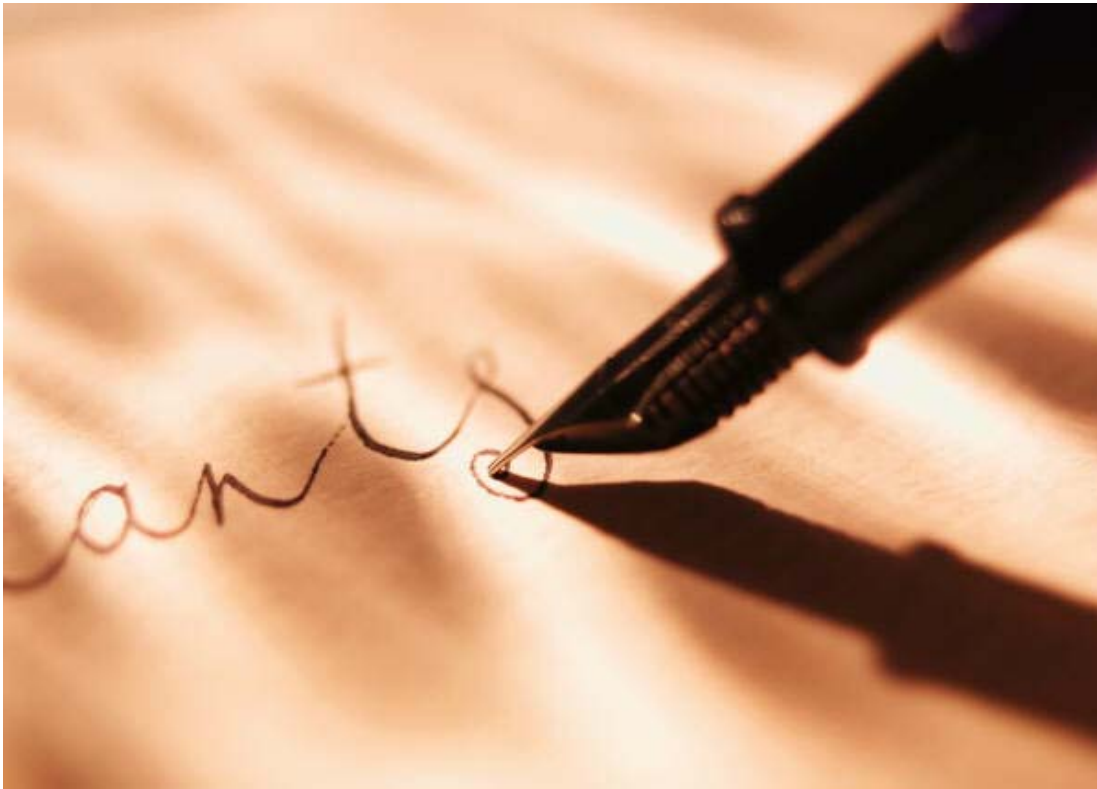
Do you teach students how to write letters in your class using pen and paper?



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When was the last time you wrote a letter with a pen and paper, went to the post office and sent it with a stamp to someone?



LIANG  
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Some of your students never have and never will.



Teach them what they need to know...





## STUDY SKILLS Writing

### Leaving out words in messages

When you write an informal message, you can leave out some words. Which ones?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> nouns ( <i>college, teacher</i> )  | <input type="checkbox"/> prepositions ( <i>to, in</i> )        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> adjectives ( <i>sick, hungry</i> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>there's, there are</i>             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> articles ( <i>a, an, the</i> )     | <input type="checkbox"/> the verb to be ( <i>am, is, are</i> ) |
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- 36 Which words can you leave out in message C? Cross them out.

Martin

Ted wants to borrow a tennis racquet. There's an important tennis match and he can't find his racquet. Please phone him - the number is: 1523668574. I'm going to the gym with Sonia - are you coming?  
Ruth

- 37 **E** Read the phone conversation and write a short informal message from Paula to Chris. Tell Chris:

- about the place on the course.
- about the deposit.
- when the course starts.

**Paula** Hello, 1524778673.

**Caller** Oh, hello, can I speak to Chris Knight, please?

**Paula** Oh, I'm sorry, he's not here. Can I take a message?

**Caller** Yes, please. This is Greystones College. Please can you tell Chris that there is a place for him on the Fashion Design course?

**Paula** Oh, that's great!

**Caller** Can you also tell him to send us a deposit of £15 as soon as possible?

**Paula** Yes, sure ... and when does the course start?

**Caller** Next Thursday, at 7 p.m.

**Paula** OK, thanks very much. Goodbye.

## In class activity

## Deconstruction of text

Exert taken from "Speak Your Mind" published by Pearson



## STUDY SKILLS Writing

### Leaving out words in messages

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## In class activity

## Deconstruction of text

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Ted needs a tennis racquet.  
Important match, can't find his.  
Phone him 1522668574.  
Going to gym with Sonia - coming?  
Ruth.

# Situations of writing exercises

## Controlled (outside class)

### Dads can't keep up with techno-sons - Summary ?

A ? of British fathers find it ? to work with the latest ? . These are the results that have ? from a national survey which involved about 300 dads and their ? . The fathers said that they are ? to use portable radios or ? phones quite easily, but are not so ? at using MP3 players, for ? . On the contrary, their ? can keep up with the changes in computer technology very ? .

MyEnglishLab



And for homework ...  
Free practice (outside class)

# MyEnglishLab





# Outside class – My English Lab

MyEnglishLab

Level

Practice

## Exercise 9: Open text writing activity – *An e-mail to a friend*

Scrivi nel riquadro una e-mail di 4 o 5 righe. Segui questa traccia:

*You are on holiday and are visiting a famous tourist town in Italy. Write to an English pen friend telling him/her:*

- *what you're doing and if you're having a good time,*
- *what you've already done,*
- *what you haven't done yet,*
- *about your plans for tomorrow.*

Dear Johnny,

i am in holidays for a week. We swimming every days at the sea and it is very funny.

We saw a carsel , a horse and a mercato open. I did not go to see the English film at a cinema.

Tomorrow everyone is going to a museuam and I don not want to go but I will. Bye bye Giorgio Catalano

Chiudi

Salva

Invia

# Teacher receives student submission immediately for evaluation

The screenshot displays the MyEnglishLab interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the MyEnglishLab logo, language options (Italiano), help (Aiuto), and exit (Esc) buttons. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with icons for Home page, Corso, Sistema di valutazione, Messaggi, and Impostazioni. The main content area is titled "Report sul compito" and shows a green banner for "MyEnglishLab Level 1". A message states "È presente un compito aperto da controllare" (There is an open assignment to check) and lists the student "Barrega, Cristina". A detailed view of the assignment is shown below, including the title "Exercise 9: Open text writing activity – An e-mail to a friend" and the assignment date "3 nov 2012, 22:16". A "Risultati" (Results) section contains a table with one row of data for student Cristina Barrega, showing a submission time of "3 nov 2012, 22:23" and a "Verifica" (Check) link. An inset window on the right shows a pop-up for the assignment details, including the course "Training Class Two", level "Level 1", and submission date "10 nov 2012, 22:16".

MyEnglishLab Italiano | Aiuto | Esc  
Accesso effettuato come Training Class Two

Home page Corso Sistema di valutazione Messaggi Impostazioni

## Report sul compito

MyEnglishLab Level 1

È presente un compito aperto da controllare

[Barrega, Cristina](#)

**Compito:** *Exercise 9: Open text writing activity – An e-mail to a friend* **Data di assegnazione:** 3 nov 2012, 22:16

### Risultati

No.	Studente	Punteggio	Valutazione	Data di invio	Report studente
1	Barrega, Cristina	---	---	3 nov 2012, 22:23	<a href="#">Verifica</a>

MyEnglishLab Home page Corso  
Compiti  
Esercizio (1) Test (0)  
Ordina per: Data di consegna  
✓ Exercise 9: Open text writing activity – An e-mail to a friend English  
Corso: Training Class Two Level 1  
Data di consegna: 10 nov 2012, 22:16  
Data di assegnazione: 3 nov 2012, 22:16  
Tempo rimasto: 7 giorni  
Apri

# Correcting the classics!



**MyEnglishLab**

Home page | Corso | Sistema

## Valutazione dei compiti in corso

**Compito:** [Exercise 9: Open text writing activity – An e-mail to a friend](#)

**Istruzioni:** Scrivi nel riquadro una e-mail di 4 o 5 righe. Segui questi suggerimenti:

- what you're doing and if you're having a good time,
- what you've already done,
- what you haven't done yet,
- about your plans for tomorrow.

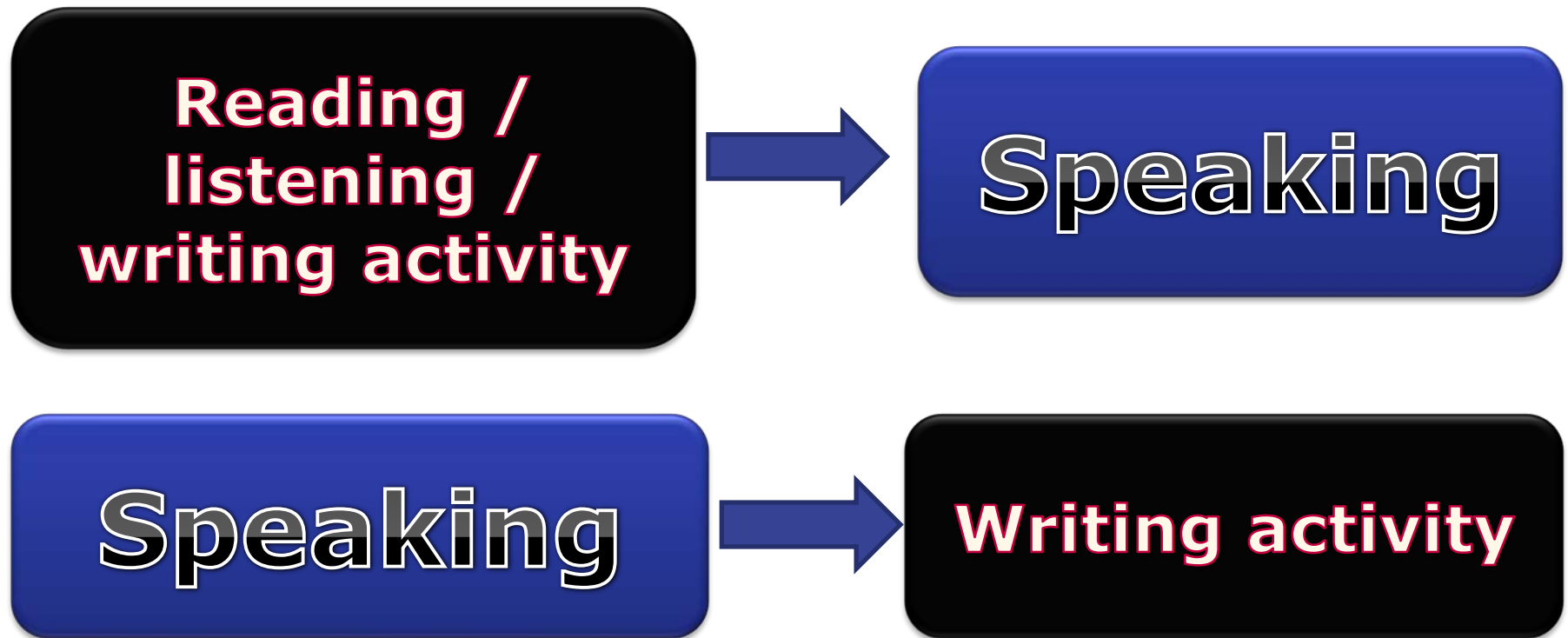
**Corso:** Training Class Two  
**Studente:** Barrega, Cristina

**Generale**  
**Unità**  
**Coerenza**  
**Stile e registro**  
**Strutture grammaticali**  
**Vocabulary**  
**Punteggiatura**  
**Collocations**



# Speaking

Normally linked to other activities





## Speaking exercises should...

- Be well scaffolded,
- Be supported by teacher
- Involve planning stages
- Be done in student pairs / groups



*Objective, purpose, relevance and outcome*



## Example exercise

Put students in 3 groups

Show picture

Each group selects a character





## Stage 2

Students prepare questions to ask the character



All students have a copy of all the questions prepared.

## Example questions (school / language level)

A1/2 SSPG - "What is your name?"

(to the dog)

B1 SSSG Biennio-"Why are you so serious?"

(to the man)

B2 SSSG Triennio - "Is it his?"

(to the lady)





# Sharing

The screenshot displays the MyEnglishLab interface for a course titled "Training Class Two". It features a navigation menu with "HOME", "COURSE", and "G" options. The main content area includes "Manage Students", "Manage Resources", and "Course Settings" tabs. A "Your disk capacity (used/available):" indicator shows 2/100MB. An "Add resource" button is visible. An "Upload file" dialog box is open, containing fields for "Resource name", "File" (with a "Sfoggia..." button), and "Note". A checkbox for "I agree I have full copyright on this material" is present, along with "Upload file" and "Cancel" buttons. A "Teacher Resources" modal window is also open, displaying a table of resources with columns for "Resource name", "Size", "Note", and "Actions".

Resource name	Size	Note	Actions
photo 2	0.74 MB	Show	Open
lina	50.5 KB	n/a	Open
photo class	48.63 KB	n/a	Open
desert	0.81 MB	Show	Open

# MyEnglishLab



# Collaboration outside the classroom



Home → Messenger → Compose

## Messages

[New message](#) [Inbox](#) [Sent messages](#)

**Recipients** Candida, Silvia;Ferro, Stefania;Lunga, Martina

**Subject** Speaking Ex for homework **Priority** Normal

Ciao ragazzi,  
e allora? che ne pensate delle mie domande

1. Do you have any brothers or sisters
2. When do you go to holidays?

Le ho scritto giusto???

Ciao  
Andrea

[Send](#)

### CONTACT LIST

Students courses:

- ▲ [Training Class Two](#) (3/10)
  - Antonelli, Arianna
  - Candida, Silvia
  - Lunga, Martina
  - Barrega, Cristina
  - Milasi, Stefano
  - Ferro, Stefania
  - Barrello, Patrizia

MyEnglishLab

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## Extra activity

3 students are chosen from the class to come to the front and be interviewed by the class

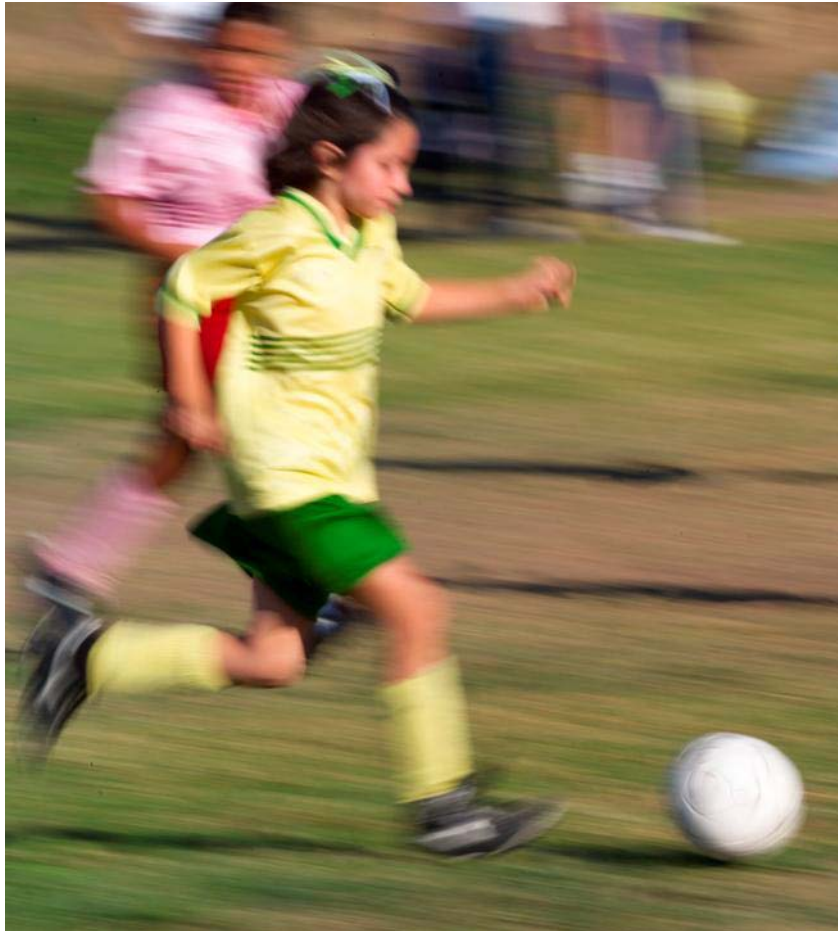
A written conversation between the man and woman.

A story explaining how the couple came to be there and what happened next...





# Groupwork without management



Difficulty analysing tasks.

Difficulty deciding who takes each role.

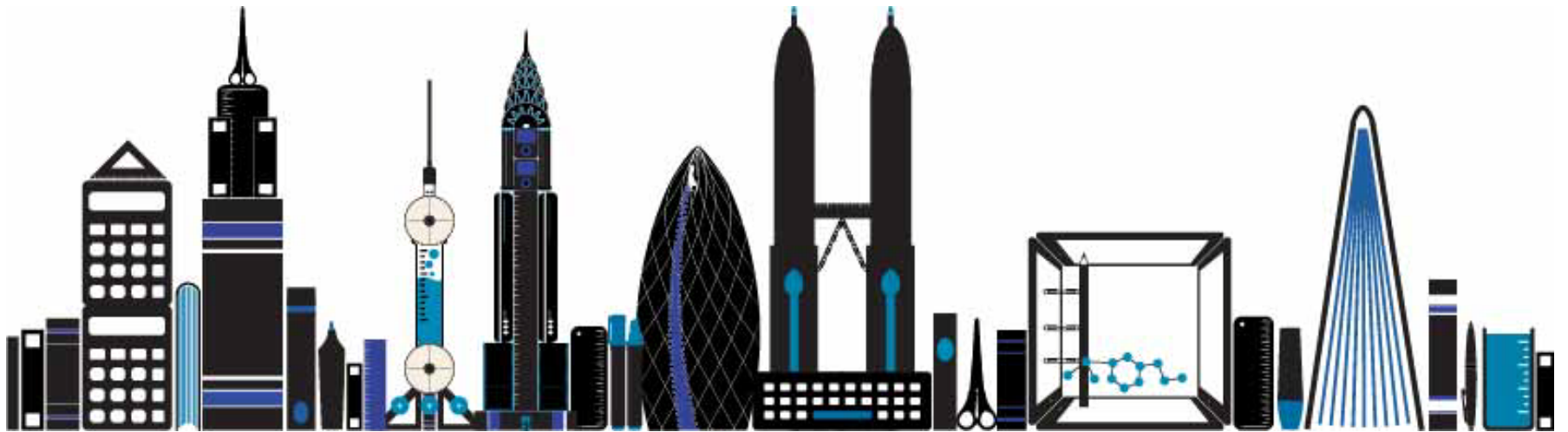
Leading to confusion

And subsequent time wasting



Please contact us with your thoughts, ideas,  
comments and suggestions

[Andrew.Howarth@pearson.it](mailto:Andrew.Howarth@pearson.it)



# Informazioni utili

- Gli **attestati di partecipazione** vi saranno inviati via e-mail
- Riceverete inoltre un'e-mail contenente le istruzioni per scaricare, dal sito Pearson, **i materiali presentati oggi**
- Contestualmente, sarà inviato **un questionario** per raccogliere pareri e suggerimenti su questa innovativa modalità di formazione



# Prossimi incontri:



- **10 dicembre** - La LIM è social! (LIM - Modulo avanzato)
- **17 dicembre** - Entriamo nel mondo touch (Tablet - Modulo base)
- **18 dicembre** - Insegnare letteratura e storia con MyLab  
(Piattaforme di apprendimento - Modulo base)

<http://www.pearson.it/formazione-online>



**Grazie per  
l'attenzione**

**IMPARARE  
SEMPRE**