

Course Description and Notes



Co-funded by the
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of the European Union

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Thanks to Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union I took part in a two-week course for teachers organised between 12th and 23rd August 2019 by the International Projects Centre in Exeter.

The programme was divided into sessions which had different topics (Everyday Life in Britain, The Place of Britain in the Wider World, The Media, The Legal System and its Language, Brexit and Beyond, Parliament and Government, The Royal Family, Society and Class or Traditions and Stereotypes). We also had a session on Language Trends and Change, which mainly focused on flip flop words, shortened words in spoken language and Cockney rhyming slang. All of these are extremely popular in Britain.



In addition, we had two guest speakers: Mr Roger Fetherston, who spoke about The British Education System, and the Lord Mayor of Exeter, who spoke about the local authorities, elections, how the city is run and the problems that need to be solved. We also had local excursions, for example, we visited the Crown Court in Exeter, where we listened to parts of three different trials in the Public Gallery.

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Notes concerning my lesson plans

For my lesson plans I tried to choose activities which would match the criteria below.

- ✓ The activities give students a chance to learn about Britain, its life and culture in order that the students' knowledge is widened and both their interest and motivation are raised. I also tried to make sure the activities would help practise different skills and would have different topics, for example facts about Britain, festivals and events, the Parliament, and crime.
- ✓ The activities focus on communication and keep the students active and make them actually do something or solve/decipher something. The plans offer a number of student-centred activities. The teacher's role tends to be minimized as the teacher mainly gives the instructions or checks something. The main emphasis is thus on the students' communication and cooperation in pairs or groups.
- ✓ The activities introduce an element of innovation into a teacher's methodology and I believe they are enjoyable for the students as well (ABC dictation, a game, jigsaw reading). The activities are also easily transferrable and can be used outside the British culture context.
- ✓ Last but not least, the activities bring learning opportunities even for very talented students. While preparing the plans, intentionally I did not leave out more difficult vocabulary items so that even the most talented and advanced students could have a chance to learn something new and enjoy the activities.

Image: Alena Vojáčková