

MyEnglishLab

In the Management Department at the University of Warsaw, Klara Malowiecka used MyEnglishLab for Language Leader with five groups. There were 100 learners in total with 20 students in each group. Four groups used the intermediate level and one group the used the pre-intermediate level. The students came from different language learning backgrounds and had two 90 minute lessons each week divided over two terms.

In previous years homework was always a difficult issue to handle. Klara states that, "Whenever I assigned some exercises for further practice of the material covered during the lesson, there was a question of how to check and evaluate it. Having 100 students, I found it impossible to collect workbooks and check them at home, on a regular basis".

To avoid these problems Klara introduced the 'Teacher's Trust' approach. She assigned exercises and learners were to do them and report back any problems or questions. However, it turned out that she had overestimated their motivation to learn and found that nobody was doing their homework and the workbook was a waste of time.

The challenge she faced was making the students practice language on a regular basis outside of the classroom, since she was not able to provide enough practice of new grammar, vocabulary and skills work in the classroom. She decided to use Language Leader (intermediate and pre-intermediate) as the main Coursebook for classroom work and to provide a framework for the syllabus. She also decided to use the MyEnglishLab for the course as a source for assigning homework

Despite having problems getting such large numbers of students to buy the correct MyEnglishLab edition of the course and some teething problems with the system itself In general, this system worked well and the students were happy with it. After finishing every unit from the Coursebook, Klara assigned homework, giving as much as 10 days to do the exercises. Students were told that it was compulsory for them to do a minimum of 60% of all the assigned homework to get a credit form the class. Klara regularly monitored their work and whenever she noticed a particular exercise which was problematic for particular student she discussed it with them.

When surveyed all of the students, except four, believed that the MyEnglishLab was an innovative, interesting and motivating tool. They liked the fact that exercises could be retaken and that they had instant results. They also understood that classroom time was not wasted by checking homework together.

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As Klara states, "MyEnglishLab is a life-saver. It helped me solve all the problems connected with homework. I don't have to worry about checking it, the only thing I need to do is to monitor work and the progress of my students, which – due to many tools in MLL – is very fast and easy."