

The future of language education in the light of Covid - lessons learned and ways forward

Case study on experiences of foreign language teaching during the Covid pandemic by
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- A. *Please write briefly about a memorable language teaching experience, either particularly challenging or especially successful, as an example of your practice during the pandemic:*

Who were the learners?

1. Secondary school of arts, grade 3 (17/18 years old)
2. Secondary school of arts, grade 4 (18/19 years old)

What were the aims of the session/lesson?

1. Using conditionals
2. Expressing dis/agreement

Please write a brief description – the ‘story’ - of what you did/what happened that made this an especially memorable experience:

1. I prepared a board game practising 2nd conditional on collboard.com (interactive whiteboard) for group. Some groups could not open the link, so I was jumping from one group to another trying to fix it and then I gave up and finished the lesson early. I only found out when we got back to school months later that the group where the link worked enjoyed it so much that they missed the beginning of the following lesson.
2. the learners at home watched a short video putting together mottos from a life coach and were to choose one of them and make a comment – whether they agree or disagree and why - and to provide examples. Then in the on-line lesson they presented their ideas and commented on each other's. They produced really thought-provoking ideas presented in a great way, both as regards language and ideas. We all really loved the lesson.

What lessons might there be in your experience for language teaching in general beyond the pandemic?

- Using a wide range of activating on-line tools
- reflecting more on the importance of social contact and active communication within groups being more careful with clear instructions and structuring plans.

- B. *In your context, how have teachers and other colleagues supported each other's professional practice during the pandemic?*

To some extent, so we might say some colleagues did, especially those trying new ways

- C. *The pandemic has now lasted almost two years and is not over yet. How is it affecting your professional practice at present?*

I try to use material created during online lessons in face-to-face lessons as well, and on the other hand, when creating new materials, I think of the possibility of using it on-line. Also, I feel stressed out with time and tend to speed things up worrying another lockdown may come. Being afraid of not seeing each other, I try to stay as positive as possible and include many activities to promote classroom dynamics, communication, and collaboration.