

Stop the insanity. Grammar-based English doesn't work. Conversation-based learning does.

Grammar-based English education is failing another generation of Asian students. Conversation-based learning is now possible because now there is now a conversation test. This fundamentally changes how foreign languages can be taught. One way or another, your education goal has something to do with language acquisition. And there is no language acquisition without conversation. Simply put, with conversation-based learning students get conversation ability, and higher TOEIC scores.

This presentation details conversation-based learning from first-day placement test to last-day improvement data. Students do the book at home and speak in class. Students sit in pairs and have speed dating conversations, switching partners every 7 minutes. One topic, many partners. Each student speaks half the time, and half the time their partner is a better speaker. After two weeks students relax and start to self-correct. The better speakers then provide gentle language gain. The self-transcribed conversation test completes the system. Students get extensive personal feedback, and teachers get accurate grading and improvement data. Of course, conversation was always the goal. The game changer is now there's a conversation test. This changes everything. Conversation-Based Learning. An education is preparation for life, and life is not a grammar test.

Gunther Breaux has taught English conversation to Korean university freshmen for 22 years. He's an associate professor at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and the author of several EFL textbooks. He has also taught computer graphics at the Korea National University of the Arts and Business English at the Korea Development Institute (KDI) Graduate School of Public Policy and Management. He has presented at international conferences in China, Korea, Japan and the U.S.

He has a BA in Advertising Design, an MA in American History, and an MATESOL. Before coming to Korea Gunther's job history included commercial artist, art director at an advertising agency, bartender, dancing instructor, diver, welder and tugboat captain. He has run five full marathons and has a black belt in Taekwondo. He's an interesting guy who knows the value of interesting, and personally-relevant, teaching materials.

ConversationBasedLearning.com. Email: plangbro@gmail.com