

The BELFAST Programme

Building English Language For A Successful Transition

The BELFAST Programme helps adult foreign nationals by:

- Improving communication skills in English, so that Learners can get a job, a better job or promotion in the area where you have skills, qualifications and knowledge
- Giving new opportunities to identify what Learners need to do to improve their English grammar and vocabulary for work and everyday living
- Helping Learners understand the job-hunting process in Belfast and beyond.

The BELFAST Volunteers deliver the BELFAST Programme through:

- *Beginner classes*
- *Meetups*: Learners (normally B1 and above) meet regularly for English for Employability, apart from language guidance and support, they have opportunities to explore aspects of the job-hunting process in the local environment.
- *Personal Learning Plans*: Each individual has a monthly programme of work to guide and structure their private study
- *Self Access Centre*: Resources are available for private study, including:
 - Grammar, vocabulary and dictionaries
 - Sector-specific language practice material
 - Material to provide skills practice at different levels from A1 to C2.

Teaching Absolute Beginners

CPD for Entry 0 Teachers

***Building English Language
For A Successful Transition***

Helping teachers of English as a Foreign Language in Belfast and beyond

Improving English for Employability



Contact

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Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre

Teaching Absolute Beginners

- 3 hours.
- FREE!

Some adult Learners need help in getting access to a mainstream Beginner course (A1).

This BELFAST CPD (continuing professional development) workshop is for you if you are teaching English to adults who are Absolute Beginners (Entry 0, below A1)

The focus of this highly participative workshop is on:

- Understanding the issues, challenges and problems encountered by Absolute Beginners and their teachers
- Developing your knowledge and understanding of a range of tools and techniques, plus some tips and tricks, that can support those working in this area
- Networking with others who share your interest in teaching Entry 0 Learners of English.

Those attending will receive access to sample material from the *Absolute Beginners Compendium: Entry 0 for Absolute Beginners in Belfast and Beyond*.

Indicative agenda

- 1 Introductions and ice breakers
- 2 Presentation: Issues, challenges and problems encountered by Absolute Beginners and their teachers
- 3 Small group discussions 1
- 4 Presentation: Resources for teaching Absolute Beginners
- 5 Small group discussions 2
- 6 BREAK – another networking opportunity!
- 7 Presentation: Techniques for teaching Absolute Beginners
- 8 Small group discussions 3
- 9 Presentation: *Absolute Beginners Compendium*
- 10 Reflection, action planning and next steps.

Frequently asked questions

- 1 Who will I meet during the workshop?
 - Others with an interest in working in Absolute Beginners
 - People who have been working with Beginners and Absolute Beginners in a range of EFL teaching environments in different countries
- 2 What language areas do Absolute Beginners need?
 - Grammar, Vocabulary, Pronunciation
- 3 What skills do Absolute Beginners need?
 - Listening > Speaking > Reading > Writing
- 4 How can social media help Absolute Beginners?
 - Facebook
 - WhatsApp
 - Apps
- 5 What do Absolute Beginners need before they progress to Entry 1?
 - 'Can do ...' statements
 - Learning skills
 - Learner training
- 6 What is the BELFAST Centre?
 - Resources for English language teachers in Belfast and beyond
 - A venue for programmes to increase the employability of adult foreign nationals in Belfast and elsewhere in the north of Ireland
 - Friendly folk!
- 7 Where can I find out more?
 - By coming to the BELFAST Centre's Self Access Centre; it is normally open 10.00-13.00, Tuesday-Thursday
 - By making a booking to meet one of us face-to-face to discuss issues, challenges and options to help Learners in your environment.

Resources to explore at the workshop

- Elisabeth Babenko, 2010 *ESOL Activities Pre-entry: Practical Language Activities for Living in the UK and Ireland*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge
- Peter Grundy, 1994 *Beginners*, Oxford University Press, Oxford
- Frances Marnie, 2013 *Absolute Beginners*, Macmillan One Stop English (FREE, online)