



Another way to become an English teacher

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First of all, let me introduce myself : I'm Jean-Philippe Venault, 52 years old. I've been teaching English since 2002.



BACKGROUND :

► After high school I started **to work as a waiter** for different caterers around Poitiers, and after a few years (and the mandatory 10 months national army service) I decided **to go and live in London** (1996).

I was pretty good at school in English but **once in the English country, I realized that I had many difficulties to get across with my sayings** (is there something wrong with the English teaching way in France ?) pretty soon I found a work as **a waiter, a bar tender and I got quickly integrated into London life.**

► A few years later, **my English speaking and understanding was obviously becoming much better ...**

I could even join **a new position (team leader) in a catering company in charge of major events** (at Buckingham Palace & all royal buildings, motor shows, air shows as well).

Some years later, as I was really well established in London, I had the feeling that I had learnt enough about the catering field. Then, I felt the need for **a new challenge...**

► I had heard about **a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) school** at North London university where none English native could enroll (once passed a TOEFL exam with its minimum of 92 score)

So, I decided to stop working and start my new student life (I was 28 years old at the time). **This was a real eye opener for me.**

I really had the feeling that I had found my way. **Courses were so interesting !**

The last hour of each day was devoted **to real teaching to foreign students coming from all over the world.** It took place under the surveillance of a teacher trainer, followed by a feedback.

► Once the exam passed **I went back to France to start my new life as an English teacher trainer** where I took a 3-year experience to join a "Formateur Professionnel d'Adultes" training (minimum required to enroll

this 9 months full time training). Once this FPA diploma passed (in 2006), **I started to work in different training centers** (Maison de la Formation, IDAIC) **where I taught English to BTS, CQP students ...**

► Finally, in 2017 I decided **to run my own business as a self-employed man (called English Attitude)**. At first, I mainly taught one to one tuition via CPF (as I had a DATADOCK certification) and because the DATADOCK certification is over now, **for a few years I've been working as a sub-contractor for the Poitou-Charentes GRETA** and also recently **for a private apprentice school called "Matile"**. There, students are trained for different jobs (beauticians, hair dressers) with different levels (CAP, BP, Bac Pro and BTS).



MY WAY OF TEACHING :

- As my professional background is a bit chaotic and because **I spent quite a long time in England**, my vision of this language and **my teaching approach is not really academic**.
- I've created **a little method following 7 points**, (see attached document), from my own experience as a French person living in England and all the language difficulties I've been confronted with.
- Thus, **I feel I'm more like an English coach** than a proper academic English teacher (I train students to think differently than the way I was taught English at school).
Most of my courses are based on games, maximizing speaking, eliciting and I may explain some rules in French if the students' English levels are too low to understand and then obviously, **I ask them to practise (those courses are always linked to an educational progression or program)**
- So far, I've always had **excellent feedbacks**. Students are always confused or surprised at first but very quickly **they adopt this way of learning**.
The most important for me is **to interact with students**. I mean that **I also learn a lot from all learners**.
- Now I'm facing a new challenge because I teach students who are apprentices and most of the time they are not really interested in English. **They don't realize how important this language could help them in their future** but I am rather a resilient person, so I go through...

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