



LATVIJAS ANĻU VALODAS SKOLOTĀJU ASOCIĀCIJA

The **Latvian Association** of Teachers of English

LAVSA
LATE

LATE 31ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

“Empowerment through Teaching and Learning”

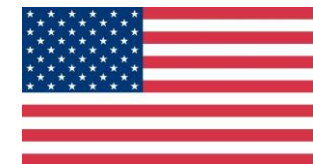
Riga State Classical Gymnasium

38 Purvciema Street (entrance from Stirnu Street), Riga

24th-25th August, 2023



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Dear Conference Participants and Presenters,

We would like to express our gratitude to the headmaster of Riga State Classical Gymnasium **Romāns Alijevs** for the hospitality and possibility to use the premises of the school, for supporting activities of teacher professional organisation and providing the venue of the conference free of charge. We would also like to thank our LATE colleague Nadežda Polianoviča from **Riga State Classical Gymnasium** for the support in organising this exciting event.

We are grateful to the U.S. Embassy in Latvia and for their continued support and to the British Council for supporting LATE's "British Culture and Teaching Roadshow" project. Thank you to Mr. Paul Brummel CMG, British Ambassador to Latvia and Mr. Cale Wagner, Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy in Latvia for opening the LATE Conference 2023.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the following organisations and speakers for their support:

- **Oxford University Press:** Dace Miška and Yulia Zhigun
- **Pearson:** Elizabeth Beer
- **Express Publishing:** Fay Katsouda and George Kokolas
- **U.S. Embassy in Latvia:** Cale Wagner, Ingrīda Bodniece, Natālija Oševerova, Noora Mahmassani, Nils Students and Jennifer Uhler (Regional English Language Officer)
- **British Council Latvia:** Zane Matesoviča, Anete Blūma and Maija Kurte
- **Baltic Council for International Education Latvia:** Inga Saulīte-Bēniņa
- **Krisostomus Bookshop:** Zane Šķiņķe and Maarja Paakspuu (Estonia)
- **Jānis Roze Bookshop:** Arta Kupče
- **Our local presenters:** Robert Buckmaster, Tatjana Kunda, Inta Augustāne, Rita Skara-Mincāne, Beāte Kaupasa, Daiga Brasliņa, Anita Auziņa, Inguna Melne, Andrew Doxsey, Diāna Bolgare, Ivars Dominiks Zeps, Laima Takere, Sandra Kalniņa, Inga Linde, Madara Vīre, Emīlija Jaunbirze, Elizabete Oldermane, Gabriela Ozoliņa and Yulia Horbachova (Ukraine).

We would like to thank **Oxford University Press, Express Publishing, Pearson and Krisostomus Bookshop** for their continued support and donations of conference bags.

We would also like to thank the LATE Board members, **Robert Buckmaster, Laima Takere, Irina Griņevska, Rita Skara-Mincāne, Daina Spilberga, Aija Gudza and two regional coordinators – Ilona Ustinova and Ina Andīna**, who have helped to organise the Conference and other LATE events throughout the year.

We hope that you will benefit from this conference both professionally and personally, spending these two days with your colleagues, meeting old friends and making new friends and getting a good professional start to the upcoming school year.

NB! The workshop rooms L101, L104, L201, L204, L205, L207 and L209 can accommodate up to 30 people, therefore, you will be asked to sign up for the workshop at the registration desk.

We kindly ask you to keep in mind a second choice in case your first choice room is already full.

We wish you all a very enjoyable and inspiring conference!

**Yours,
Inga Linde
President of LATE**

LATE 31st Annual Conference
“Empowerment through Teaching and Learning”

Riga State Classical Gymnasium,
 38 Purvciema Street (entrance from Stirnu Street), Riga
 24th-25th August, 2023

Thursday, AUGUST 24

09:30 – 10:00 Registration			
10:00 – 10:40 Welcome and Conference Opening	Romāns Alijevs - the headmaster of Riga State Classical Gymnasium Cale Wagner - Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy in Latvia Paul Brummel CMG – British Ambassador LATE News by Inga Linde - President of LATE	Conference Hall	
10:40 – 12:10 Plenary (90 min)			
Elizabeth Beer Pearson	Helping our students succeed with Future Skills In an ever-changing world marked by a rise in sophisticated technology, teachers must equip their students for life’s journey not only with language, but also with Future Skills. But, what are Future Skills, and how can we introduce them to our English lessons? In this interactive session, we will answer these two questions, by providing practical examples and classroom activities.	Conference Hall	
12:10 – 12:30 Coffee Break (20 min)			
12:30 – 13:30 Plenary (60 min)			
George Kokolas Express Publishing	Positive Education for beginners Negative feelings and demotivation are a daily part of our classroom lives... Positive Education is not simply a bunch of theories asking people to "feel great against adversity" but a thoroughly scientific, long-implemented educational framework in which teachers and students can flourish and find encouragement when they feel stuck or demotivated. The speaker will provide "the why to use positive education, " demonstrate some POSED activities, and try to demonstrate that POSED is something caught and not taught!	Conference Hall	
13:30 – 14:10 News from the Publishers and Baltic Council (40 min)			
News from the publishers	13:30 – 13:40	Dace Miška Oxford University Press	Conference Hall
	13:40 – 13:50	George Kokolas Express Publishing	
	13:50 – 14:00	Zane Šķinķe (Krisostomus Latvia) National Geographic Learning, Cambridge University Press, Macmillan	
News from IELTS and Cambridge English exams	14:00 – 14:10	Inga Saulīte-Bēniņa Baltic Council for International Education Latvia	

14:10 – 14:50 Lunch Break (40 min)		
14:50 – 15:20 LATE Events/Projects (30 min)		
Laima Takere Riga Secondary School No 49/LATE	The Highlights of IATEFL conference (April 17-22, 2023) What is IATEFL? The main highlights of the conference. The key issues discussed in the world in this year about teaching and learning English, some practical tips to use in lessons.	Conference Hall
Robert Buckmaster LATE	LATE/British Council Project “LATE British Culture and Teaching Roadshow”	
Inga Linde LATE	LATE “Reading Circle” Project RELANG 2023 “Literature and creative texts: how to practise and test literature in line with the CEFR and its Companion Volume”	
Anita Auziņa University of Latvia	Excellence Is a Habit The aim of this talk is to encourage English language teachers to create a well-grounded picture of their teaching competence and experience, and motivation to develop professionally as a teacher in close and active cooperation with students, other subject teachers, working life and other stakeholders. It is also an invitation to apply for the Excellence in Teaching in the English Language Award “Ekselences balva 2023” organised by the University of Latvia, Faculty of Education, Psychology and Art and the Latvian Association of Teachers of English.	
15:20 – 16:10 Plenary (50 min)		
Dace Miška Oxford University Press	Using Graded Readers for Extensive Reading Graded readers are designed to provide vital support to learners, enabling them to receive the benefits of extensive reading. This session explores some practical considerations of using graded readers and introduces some tips and activities to develop good reading habits.	Conference Hall
16:10 – 16:30 Plenary (20 min)		
Sandra Kalniņa University of Latvia	Reading Nests - Opportunity for Literacy Development This presentation will look at the Reading Nest as a physical and mental environment and describe activities and experiences gained from organizing the work of Reading Nests. The presentation is based on the Reading Nest project which aimed at creating, developing and investigating inspiring supportive reading environments in cooperation of teachers’ teams in Estonia, Finland and Latvia during 2021 - 2023.	Conference Hall
16:30 – 16:50 Coffee Break (20 min)		

16:50 – 17:30 University of Latvia graduates’ – presentations (40 min), questions and answers (10 min)		
Madara Vīre Valmiera State Gymnasium	Desuggestopedia Activities to Reduce Students’ Speaking Anxiety in Form 8 English Lessons The aim of my bachelor’s Paper was to examine if Desuggestopedia activities are effective in the reduction of Form 8 students’ foreign language speaking anxiety. The author worked closely with these students and observed their reluctance to speak English during lessons for two years.	Conference Hall
Emīlija Jaunbirze Riga State Gymnasium No 3	Extensive Reading for Enriching Students' English Vocabulary in Grade 10 Vocabulary is the foundation of language, but students often lack the vocabulary to express their opinions; extensive reading is a possible solution to this problem. Implementing extensive reading in English language lessons provides multiple benefits for the students which are described in my bachelor’s thesis.	
Elizabete Oldermane Cesis City Secondary School	Differentiated Instruction in a Mixed-Ability Classroom to Improve Grade 4 Students' English Writing Skills As schools are becoming more inclusive, every classroom is becoming more mixed-ability, and teachers need to find ways to adapt to each student’s needs. In my experience, learning writing skills is the most difficult for students. Therefore, the aim of my research is to investigate the impact of differentiation on the improvement of students’ writing skills in a mixed-ability classroom.	
Gabriela Ozoliņa Riga State German Grammar School (German teacher)	Enhancing Students' Speaking Skills through Debates in German as a Foreign Language Lessons in Grade 9 In my bachelors' thesis I studied the need to prepare grade 9 students for the new form of the state exam that is similar to a debate. The presentation contains information about the use of various debate elements in German lessons that can help improve specific aspects of speaking skills.	
17:30 – 18:30 Plenary (60 min)		
Robert Buckmaster Buckmaster Consulting/LATE	Ten Perennial Problems and their (possible) Solutions In this talk I will discuss ten problems which always seem to be with us and suggest possible solutions for each one.	Conference Hall
18:30 – 20:00 Reception		L201 L204

Friday, AUGUST 25

9:00 – 9:50 Plenary (50 min)		
Tatjana Kunda National Centre for Education (VISC)	State Examinations in English 2022/2023: Discussion of Results During the presentation we will focus on the results of Year 9 and Higher Level examinations in English. What lessons can be learned? How can we help our students prepare for these exams?	Conference Hall
09:50 – 10:30 Plenary (40 min)		
Beāte Kaupasa and Daiga Brasliņa Grammar School of Nordic Languages	“To be or not to be?” Sharing duties makes teachers’ work easier. We will share our experience of teaching an English advanced level course as a team, sharing themes and groups. We will talk about the advantages and disadvantages of such team work and draw conclusions after the experimental year and share ideas for the next school year.	Conference Hall
10:30 – 10:50 LATE Annual General Meeting – LATE Board elections		
10:50 – 11:10 Coffee Break (20 min)		
11:10 – 12:00 Plenary (50 min)		
Ivars Dominiks Zeps Sigulda State Gymnasium	Self-directed learning in development of speaking skills for high school students I will discuss the year-long pilot of my self-directed speaking skills improvement project carried out with Year 11 and Year 12 students, providing tools to prepare for examination monologues. The main topics are how to implement self-directed learning in high school classroom, applying it to speaking skills and my victories and failures in the process. My materials will also be freely available.	Conference Hall
12:00 – 12:50 Plenary (50 min)		
Noora Mahmassani Liepaja University, English Language Fellow Program U.S. Embassy in Latvia	Teaching for Tolerance: Strategies for Multicultural Classrooms Working with multicultural and international audiences requires excellent cross-cultural competencies from the instructor and from learners alike. This workshop will focus on how strategies from the field of second language learning can be applied to diverse groups to encourage tolerant, peaceful, and open dialogue. Participants will receive practical tools for the successful facilitation of group work, discussions, and classroom teaching with diverse audiences to enhance their overall job satisfaction, productivity, and ability to positively impact students' lives.	Conference Hall
12:50 – 13:10 Break (20 min)		
13:10 – 14:00 Workshops (50 min)		
Inguna Melne Riga State Gymnasium No 1	If they can - we can In this era of change, teachers are afraid of AI, but students appreciate it. Chat GPT chat is a tool that students would like to use in almost every assignment, and questions arise as to how useful it is and whether we should fight it. In this workshop we will discuss how teachers can use it to prepare for lessons and reduce preparation time.	L101
Andrew Doxsey Limbaži State Gymnasium	How to use AI to reduce your workload During the presentation I will demonstrate how I have used AI in the planning, resourcing and assessment of my lessons.	L104

Rita Skara-Mincane Valmiera State Gymnasium Inta Augustane Riga State Gymnasium No 3	The Engage Study Activate Method in English Lessons We will share our experience of using the Engage Study Activate method of sequencing activities in our EFL lessons. We will demonstrate easy-to-use and even easier to adapt activities to motivate students to participate and learn modern languages. Participants will experience some traditional tasks which we have tried to modernize by encouraging playing with words, chunks of language and videos.	L201
Diana Bolgare "Freelance "Diana's Language Coaching"	How to Become a Poet during Your English Drama Class This workshop teaches you how to use simple and powerful techniques to unfold your students' creative potential during your English Drama Classes. We will do the "5 Words in Shade and Light" exercise and use the acronym technique to unlock one's Inner Poet.	L204
Robert Buckmaster Buckmaster Consulting/LATE	The English Noun Phrase In this workshop we will explore the English noun phrase and look at some tasks we can do with our students to help them understand the complexities of the noun phrase and use it effectively.	L205
Noora Mahmassani Liepaja University, English Language Fellow Program U.S. Embassy in Latvia	Positioning Learners as Knowers Using Information Gap Activities This session will demonstrate how to empower your students to use their growing English language abilities as a vehicle for collaborative problem-solving. Participants will gain hands-on experience using a range of text, picture, and game-based information gap activities where students possess the knowledge and information their classmates need for success.	L207
Yuliia Horbachova Valmiera Pārgauja Primary School	A Happy Mindset in Teaching I will consider some important factors that affect our life and the level of happiness. I will look at how to help kids staying more positive, focused and involved and how to use mindfulness approaches in teaching as a way of better understanding ourselves.	L209
14:00 – 14:40 Lunch Break (40 min)		
14:40 – 15:30 Plenary (50 min)		
Jennifer Uhler Regional English Language Officer, U.S. Embassy Tallinn	From Deep Fake to Deep Learning: Media Literacy in ELT Moving our students from deep fakes to deep learning is urgent for success in learning and in life. Visual literacy, digital literacy, and media literacy are essentially critical thinking skills that can easily be woven into primary and secondary school English language teaching classrooms with little to no preparation. This presentation will provide an overview of a year-long Media Literacy for Educators Program for 100 English teachers from Poland and the Baltics and share outcomes of teacher learning, including easy-to-use tools for integrating technical and media literacies into primary and secondary school English lessons, free online resources for teachers, and insights from these regional – and local Latvian – communities of practice.	Conference Hall
15:30 – 15:50		
Inga Linde LATE President	Closing of the Conference / Certificates	Conference Hall