



LATVIJAS ANĢĻU VALODAS SKOLOTĀJU ASOCIĀCIJA

The **Latvian Association** of Teachers of English

LAVSA
LATE

LATE 32nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

“Teaching and Learning in the Digital Era”

Riga Teika Secondary School

14 Aizkraukles Street, (entrance from Laimdotas Street), Riga
22nd-23rd August, 2024



Dear Conference Participants and Presenters,

We would like to express our gratitude to **Guna Pudule**, the headmaster of Riga Teika Secondary School, for supporting teacher professional development and the activities of the Latvian Association of Teachers of English (LATE), for the hospitality and the opportunity to use the school premises.

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, Mr. Cale Wagner, Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy in Latvia and prof. Linda Daniela, the Dean of the Faculty of Education Sciences and Psychology, University of Latvia for opening the LATE Conference 2024.

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

- **U.S. Embassy in Latvia:** Cale Wagner (Cultural Affairs Officer), Ingrīda Bodniece (Public Diplomacy Specialist), Natālija Oševerova (Program Coordinator), Jennifer Uhler (Regional English Language Officer); Steven Schuit and Tamrika Khvtisiashvili (U.S. State Department English Language Specialists)
- **British Council Latvia:** Zane Matesoviča and Anete Blūma
- **Oxford University Press:** Dace Miška, Ben Knight, Anna Morris and Yulia Zhigun
- **Express Publishing:** Fannie Daou and Natalia Liashko
- **Pearson:** Monika Henel-Celis
- **National Geographic Learning:** Catherine Hollings
- **EducationUSA Latvia:** Asnate Kivle
- **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, Ingūna Melne, Diāna Bolgare, Ivars Dominiks Zeps, Joseph Jack Horgan, Marija Griņeviča, Tatjana Ginzburg, Baiba Kačanova, Veronika Gedola, Yuliia Horbachova, Baiba Ķevere, Viktorija Kazaka, Sindija Līkuma, Zane Fabricius, Vineta Tiltiņa and Inga Linde.

We would like to thank **Oxford University Press**, **Express Publishing** and **National Geographic Learning** for their continued support of LATE's conference and donations of conference bags, and **Pearson** for the raffle prizes.

We would also like to thank LATE's Board members, **Robert Buckmaster**, **Laima Takere**, **Irina Griņevska**, **Rita Skara-Mincāne**, **Ilona Ustinova**, **Ina Andīņa**, **Agnese Gromova-Ķūrena** and **Aija Gudza**, who have helped to organise the Conference and other LATE events throughout the year.

Our gratitude is also due to our LATE colleagues Baiba Stoma, Liena Ziemele-Miltiņa and Helēna Rožkalne from **Riga Teika Secondary School** and Santa Sanija Linde for their help in organising this event.

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 1-8 can accommodate up to 32 people, therefore, you will be asked to sign up for the workshops in advance. The application link will be sent to registered participants' e-mail on the 12th August at 8:00 am. We kindly ask you to keep in mind other choices in case your first choice room is already full and is not available any more.

We wish you all a very enjoyable and inspiring conference!

Yours,
Inga Linde
President of LATE

LATE 32nd Annual Conference
“Teaching and Learning in the Digital Era”
 Riga Teika Secondary School, 14 Aizkraukles Street, Riga
 22nd -23rd August, 2024

Thursday, AUGUST 22

09:30 – 10:00 Registration			
10:00 – 10:40 Welcome and Conference Opening	Guna Pudule - the headmaster of Riga Teika Secondary School Paul Brummel CMG - British Ambassador to Latvia Cale Wagner - Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy in Latvia Linda Daniela - Dean of the Faculty of Education Sciences and Psychology, University of Latvia LATE News by Inga Linde - President of LATE	Conference Hall	
10:40 – 12:10 Plenary (90 min)			
Ben Knight Oxford University Press	Getting your students to think better than AI What are the critical thinking skills that our students need in a world where AI seems to be making these skills redundant? Come to this talk to get a better understanding of what skills we should focus on, how AI impacts on our students’ thinking, and how we can work together with AI to help our students to become even better critical thinkers.	Conference Hall	
12:10 – 12:30 Coffee Break (20 min)			
12:30 – 13:30 Plenary (60 min)			
Natalia Liashko Express Publishing	STEAM Up Your CLIL Lessons Knowing that today’s learners are required to be flexible, creative and innovative, puts teachers into the position of needing to implement new approaches such as CLIL and STEAM. These two terms are sometimes confused because they are strongly interconnected. During this workshop we are going to investigate them through practice and decide how we can turn our CLIL lessons into STEAM ones.	Conference Hall	
13:30 – 14:20 News from the Publishers and Baltic Council (50 min)			
News from the publishers	13:30 – 13:40	Dace Miška Oxford University Press	Conference Hall
	13:40 – 13:50	Natalia Liashko Express Publishing	
	13:50 – 14:00	Monika Henel-Celis Pearson	
	14:00 – 14:10	Catherine Hollings National Geographic Learning	
News about IELTS and Cambridge English exams	14:10 – 14:20	Inga Saulīte-Bēniņa Baltic Council for International Education Latvia	
14:20 – 15:00 Lunch Break (40 min)			

15:00 – 16:00 Plenary (60 min)		
Catherine Hollings National Geographic Learning	Turning Information into Insights: Driving Student Progress with an Online Platform There's no denying that digital technologies have transformed English teaching in recent years, especially in the field of assessment. However, while much of that focus has been on summative assessment, digital platforms offer expanded opportunities for continuous, formative assessment that allows educators to tailor their teaching and respond more effectively to their students' needs. In this session, we'll explore the benefits of digital tools for formative assessment and how they can be used effectively to monitor student and class performance. You'll learn how to leverage the power of an online platform to gather data-driven insights that help you transform your teaching practice and drive student progress.	Conference Hall
16:00 – 16:55 Students'/Graduates' presentations (7 min), questions and answers (20 min)		
Marija Grīneviča National Secondary School of Arts Emīls Dārziņš Music School, University of Tartu, Estonia	Online Space as a Repository of Learning Resources for Students' Knowledge and Skills Consolidation and Individual Practice I will share the results of my action research into using the MIRO online environment as a repository of learning resources to support Grade 9 students in preparation towards their state exam in English. The aim of the research was to explore using an online learning space as a repository, as well as using some selected computer-assisted language learning tools.	Conference Hall
Veronika Gedola Saldus Secondary School, University of Latvia	Arthur Conan Doyle's Detective Novel "A Study in Scarlet" for Expanding Secondary School Students' Vocabulary in English Lessons This presentation will describe the results of a study into how Arthur Conan Doyle's detective novel "A Study in Scarlet" can be used to help extend the vocabulary of secondary school students in English lessons by using a literary text as the main source of foreign language learning for advanced level secondary school students.	
Baiba Ķevere Riga Secondary School No 64, University of Latvia	Interactive Flashcards to Enrich Grade 5 Students' English Vocabulary After teaching Grade 5, the presenter noticed students' English vocabulary was insufficient for participation in lessons, so a case study on the use of interactive flashcards in English lessons was conducted, through analysing written assignments and student questionnaires. The findings showed that flashcards significantly improved vocabulary acquisition. This study highlights the value of interactive tools in education to enhance language skills and vocabulary acquisition.	

<p>Sindija Līkuma Sigulda City Secondary School, University of Latvia</p>	<p>Using Microsoft Teams' 'Reading Progress' Tool to Improve Grade 2 Students' English Pronunciation Pronunciation is a crucial aspect of foreign language learning, yet teachers often face challenges in providing individualized feedback due to time constraints or large class sizes. Technology offers a solution for structured and controlled pronunciation practice. This presentation explores how the Microsoft Teams' 'Reading Progress' speech recognition tool can enhance students' English pronunciation. Based on a case study involving 17 Grade 2 students, the findings demonstrate the potential of using the 'Reading Progress' tool to improve pronunciation through personalized, consistent practice and immediate feedback.</p>	<p>Conference Hall</p>
<p>Zane Fabričius Druva Secondary School, University of Latvia</p>	<p>Dictation activities to improve grade 5 English listening skills Listening is a complex activity that presents difficulties to learners and challenges teachers to find new ways to improve their students' listening skills. This research tries to identify how dictation activities improve Grade 5 students' listening skills in English. The research results show that dictation activities are interesting for students and can improve their listening and other language skills.</p>	
<p>16:55 – 17:10 Break (15 min)</p>		
<p>17:10 - 17:30 Insights into projects offered by the U.S. Embassy (20 min)</p>		
<p>Baiba Kačanova RTU Liepaja</p>	<p>Creating And Implementing Online Courses: Theory And Practice The aim of the presentation is to share the theoretical knowledge I gained from a 64 hour long Arizona State University course 'Creating and Implementing Online Courses', as well as to share my own experience in teaching English online.</p>	
<p>Ingūna Melne Riga State Gymnasium No1</p>	<p>Media and Digital Literacy in the English Language Classroom A brief description of the necessity for, and the possibilities of, participating in programs offered by the USA Embassy, and a tale of the American Dream.</p>	<p>Conference Hall</p>
<p>17:30 – 18:30 Plenary (60 min)</p>		
<p>Steven Schuit U.S. State Department English Language Specialist, Daugavpils University</p>	<p>Technology Use in the ESL Classroom: All That Glitters is Not Gold There are many questions we need to ask and answer about the use of technology in our ESL classrooms. Is student screen time getting out of hand? Does the downside of tech in schools outweigh the benefits? And if so, what will we do about it? The presentation will encourage teachers to redouble their efforts to reflect on the role and use of technology in their classrooms and the audience will be engaged interactively by the demonstration of high participation techniques that complement technology.</p>	<p>Conference Hall</p>
<p>18:30 – 20:00 Reception</p>		

Friday, AUGUST 23

9:00 – 9:40 Plenary (40 min)		
Tatjana Kunda National Centre for Education (VISC)	State Examinations in English The presenter will analyse EFL exam results and offer suggestions on what to focus on to improve students' knowledge and skills and help them prepare for the exam.	Conference Hall
09:40 – 10:20 Plenary (40 min)		
Robert Buckmaster The English Ideas Project	AI: Where are we and is it time to run for the hills? In this presentation I will explain what AI really is and consider both the opportunities it offers and the threats it poses to us and our profession.	Conference Hall
10:20 – 10:40 Insights into resources (20 min)		
Joseph Jack Horgan Jelgava Spidola State Gymnasium	Materials based on James Joyce's "Dubliners" to prepare students for the 12th grade exam I will introduce you to a collection of free, downloadable and printable material for you to use to prepare your advanced course students for the "highest level" exam.	Conference Hall
Vineta Tiltiņa Mazsalaca Secondary School	Literature in Foreign Language Classes I will present materials that provide ideas and ready-made lesson plans for using literature in a C1 Advanced Level English Course.	
10:40 – 11:00 Coffee Break (20 min)		
11:00 – 12:00 Plenary (60 min)		
Natalia Liashko Express Publishing	Assessing Writing What is the difference between assessment and grading, when it comes to writing? Grading is used to measure student performance, but it is not necessarily an accurate indicator of student learning. Assessment and feedback go beyond grading, looking at patterns of student learning and using that data to help students learn more effectively, improving their overall performance in writing. This session will look at the art of teaching writing and how to develop effective writing skills.	Conference Hall
12:00 – 12:50 Plenary (50 min)		
Jennifer Uhler Regional English Language Officer, U.S. Embassy Tallinn	The future is now: Environmental themes and critical literacy in ELT During this presentation, teachers will learn from Latvian practitioners about their experiences in an online and offline program promoting environmental themes in the English language classroom. Participants will learn how the climate crisis, critical thinking, and media literacy can be leveraged for motivating and meaningful classroom activities that promote English learning and practice. Takeaways for LATE members will include activities, free resources, and professional development opportunities on this important topic.	Conference Hall
12:50 – 13:30 Lunch Break (40 min)		

13:30 – 14:20 Workshops (50 min)		
Joseph Jack Horgan Jelgava Spidola State Gymnasium	Materials based on James Joyce's "Dubliners" to prepare students for the 12th grade exam I will be talking about the materials I have created for 12 graders based on James Joyce’s “Dubliners”. These materials are a free, downloadable and printable collection of material for teachers to use to prepare students for the “highest level” exam. The material is based on the 15 stories of James Joyce’s collection “Dubliners.” This workshop will help teachers understand how to use the material with students and give attendees a chance to try it out.	Room 1 (205)
Rita Skara-Mincane Valmiera State Gymnasium Inta Augustane Riga State Gymnasium No 3	Strategies to Learn Collocations In this workshop, we will share our experience of teaching collocations in English lessons. We will base our activities on the principles of the Lexical Approach. Participants will use dictionaries, various texts, and explore how AI can help to design tasks aimed at giving students an opportunity to use word collocations in different contexts.	Room 2 (206)
Diana Bolgare Freelance "Diana's Language Coaching"	“Poetry In My Heart” a poetry recitation contest for 7-10 Graders. What, why, when and how? This workshop will introduce the “Poetry in My Heart” contest and offer teachers valuable insights on how to support student participation in the contest. Participants will gain practical experience in guiding students through the contest process, including selecting, analyzing, and recording poems for the online phase. Additionally, the workshop will cover techniques for helping students craft and perform original poems based on prompts for the final stage.	Room 3 (207)
Ivars Dominiks Zeps Sigulda State Gymnasium	Gamification frameworks in the ESL classroom Framing language learning as a game is nothing new. Before Duolingo, there were star-awarding systems, language forums with leaderboards and Boy Scout badges. Many lessons can be found in these experiences and the cognitive processes that guide them. Attendees will learn about the science behind gamification, work organization approaches and helpful tools for enhancing English lessons.	Room 4 (208)
Tamrika Khvtisiashvili U.S. State Department English Language Specialist	Modifying Evaluation: A Pathway Towards Ungrading Ungrading is a form of “grading for growth”. Some educators look at the practice with scorn perhaps due to a lack of understanding of the grading possibilities within the practice. The presentation will give an overview of the practice and suggest some benefits to its use, as well as a practical guide as to how it can be implemented in the classroom gradually.	Room 5 (213)
Yuliia Horbachova Valmiera Pargauja Primary School	Teaching Purpose in Life This workshop delves into the pivotal role of educators in guiding students towards discovering and embracing purpose in their lives. It explores how teachers can create environments that inspire self-reflection, goal-setting and values exploration. Attendees will engage in discussions and activities focused on practical techniques for incorporating purpose-driven education into teaching practices, empowering students to lead purposeful and fulfilling lives.	Room 6 (214)

Robert Buckmaster The English Ideas Project	Teaching English Conditionals English conditionals are a challenging area for most learners, but an essential part of the language to be mastered. In this presentation I will evaluate the current conditional framework we offer students and suggest several ways the teaching of conditionals could be improved and new essential conditionals we should be teaching.	Room 7 (215)
Tatiana Ginzburg University of Latvia	It's a FAB Way to Teach! After “The Pandemic” forced educators to integrate technology in the classroom, students expect it to remain an integral part of the learning process. However, as educators, we need to be sure that it really benefits our students. In this workshop I will introduce a Flipped and Blended (FAB) format for teaching adults which, as my research showed, can be considered optimal. Then the participants will try out using ready-made publishers’ materials for planning FAB classes. I will have some coursebooks to use but feel free to bring yours.	Room 8 (317)
14:20 – 14:30 Break (10 min)		
14:30 – 15:30 Plenary (60 min)		
Michael Earley International House Riga	Exploiting Mobile Phones in the Classroom While the ubiquitous mobile phone presents a challenge for teachers in today's classroom, can we actually use this technology for our benefit? This session will look at a number of practical activities which support language production while also encouraging students to reflect on their work and move further towards autonomy.	Conference Hall
15:30 – 15:50		
Inga Linde LATE President	Closing of the Conference / Raffle and Certificates	Conference Hall