



L2_Paths Project

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Language Advice Sessions

Case Study

Partner: Translex

Language Advisor: Neill Barrett

Date(s) of Advice Session(s): _____

Learner Description:

Name, nationality, approximate age, life situation

C, Spanish, 37, 3rd level educated working in hospitality or cafés in precarious employment. No predictable calendar of work, study etc.

Assessment of the Learner's language learning goals, their skill levels, learning styles, and preferences

Language goal of Cambridge exam so as to have certificate of English proficiency for c.v. etc. In general they wish to be as employable and as valued as a native speaker. While their communication skills are excellent more nuanced technical and detailed content is struggled with as is some pronunciation. The variety of work environments she has participated in is limited and the vocabulary of the work too. C1 level, or very close. Prefers a class with additional one to one sessions and, depending on work hours some autonomous learning. Most of all they have learned through everyday interactions with English speakers

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What advice were you able to give them

An introduction to a number of online resources including but not limited to language learning exercises, materials etc. but also enjoyable English language t.v. programmes and movies they had not heard of or viewed before. Then we discussed at length their exam preparations for the Cambridge certificate. Certain aspects of the exam are extremely difficult for anyone, in my opinion and it is important to bolster confidence in the face of confusion over what *should* be easy or difficult. We spoke of educational options, they settled on a local private English language school having long since surpassing the language level available at the affordable (for migrant workers) publicly funded adult educational institute.

What was their experience of learning after your advice? Was it successful? What problems did they have?

They secured some employment at a hotel which involves more 'front-of-house' tasks including dealing with guests from different parts of the world as well as working with more native English speakers in new contexts etc. Advice regarding the selection of the course was not taken and maybe this was acknowledged in a later session. Much of the course material is unsurprisingly geared at exam success and often passes over specific problems of a particular student. Their time management is chaotic due to the precariousness and little planning is possible. This situation is set to change as she establishes herself at the hotel.

Your observations about your interaction with this learner.

Most meetings were held near or at workplaces where a slight state of tension existed. One lengthy meeting was held at a quiet place and it was very good, however it is often too late that advice is sought and perhaps, owing to its relative newness, Language Advice is no different.