



L2_Paths Project

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Language Advice Sessions

Case Study

Partner: Translex

Language Advisor: Carlos Gutierrez

Date(s) of Advice Session(s): 11/12/15 11/01/16 and 11/02/16

Learner Description:

Name, nationality, approximate age, life situation

T is a 45 years old Polish student that has been living in Ireland for the last 9 years. She has four children that speak English at a native level. She is not working at the moment and she needs English to help her daughter with school homework. She doesn't have a lot of free time to study but she goes to school once a week for 2 hours.

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

T's learning style is visual and aural. She wishes to learn English to be able to help her 8 years old daughter with her homework. She understands a lot but her spoken English is very poor. She doesn't like to read in English or watch TV.

What advice were you able to give them

I recommended T to start watching TV in English and also to start reading in English. I gave her some links to web pages where she could improve her grammar and reading. I also thought that interacting with students of different nationalities would be a great advantage to develop her language skills.

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

T liked the advice sessions but she found difficult to watch movies in English. She also kept reading books in Polish but she assured me she would start reading in English more. A month after the first session she was reading basic books in English and listening to the radio every day. Her main problem was the fact that Polish was the main language spoken at home. I encouraged her to use English at home as all her family are fluent English speakers. She is improving very slowly.

Your observations about your interaction with this learner.

It will take T a long time to achieve a good level of spoken English. Her understanding is very good but she can only have basic conversations because of the lack of vocabulary and grammar. If she keeps following my advice she will improve enormously. It won't be an easy task