British Council – Teaching Tips and Resources

English Language Assistants in Italy

www.britishcouncil.org
Agenda

Introductions
• Team Italy
• Your assistantship so far
• Tips from former assistants

Teaching tips and resources
• Your role as a Language Assistant
• British Council resources
• Starter / filler activities

Further opportunities with the British Council

Question and answer session
Team Italy

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Language Assistants Team - 0161 957 7755
Your assistantship so far

Language Assistants Programme
Your assistantship so far

Something that has gone well

Something that has surprised you

Something that you hope to improve on in the next few months
“As they always say to people doing a year abroad, 'say YES!'. It's true. I ended up doing so many random but fun activities and making friends of all different ages and backgrounds. Just embrace your surroundings and make the most of what's on offer, be that a yoga class, choir, or even just meeting up with another teacher for coffee.”

“Every teacher works in a slightly different way. The best thing is to try and communicate well. They may not understand fully what your role is and so you have to try and shape the role together so that it suits you both.”

“Talk to everyone and make friends with the caretakers, they know where everyone and everything is, so they are your best bet if you get lost. Ask if you can take part in different events. They mightn’t ask you right away (mightn’t be sure if you’d be interested) so definitely ask if you can be involved. Ask how you can help with things, or tips on you can improve in your lessons. Asking someone for advice or what they would do in a situation is a good way to bond.”

www.britishcouncil.org
Top tips from former Language Assistants in Italy

“In the beginning it is important to be flexible and patient. Allow the school to work out how they would like to profit from you the best. Explain your particular skills or what you think you could offer. Show interest in the role, in the culture of the country you're staying in, in the people you're working with, show a willingness to be patient and flexible when it comes to initial organisation.”

“Make an effort to get to know every teacher. If they see that you are keen and interested in collaborating with them, they will really help you whenever you are faced with a professional or personal challenge to overcome. Also accept any social invitations - I was nervous to go to a dinner that my tutor had organised with other members of staff, and almost didn't go because I didn't know any of them at the start. By forcing myself to go, I actually ended up having a good time and getting to know the teachers much better in a more informal setting.”

Teaching tips and resources

Language Assistants Programme
British Council – Teaching Tips and Resources

Range of resources created specifically for Language Assistants

Interesting and useful classroom activities

Support with solving problems in the classroom
**British Council - TeachingEnglish**

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<th>Teaching tips</th>
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<th>Classroom games</th>
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| • Lesson plans or shorter activities  
  • Using stories and poems  
  • According to CEFR levels | • Based around UK topics  
  • Available for primary and secondary pupils | • Bringing variety and fun into your lessons  
  • Motivational and engaging |

[www.teachingenglish.org.uk](http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk)

[www.teachingenglish.org.uk/language-assistant](http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/language-assistant)
British Council - Teaching English

www.teachingenglish.org.uk

www.teachingenglish.org.uk/language-assistant
Lesson plan example

Environmental Problems Lesson Plan

**Aims**
By the end of the lesson learners will be able to:
- understand important causes of environmental problems and some solutions
- extend their understanding of lexis connected to climate change and environmental issues
- improve understanding of pronunciation information given in a dictionary
- take notes and retell information to others
- use expressions of certainty when discussing events likely to happen in the future

This lesson introduces learners to some of the main issues related to climate change. Learners focus on dictionary skills and the pronunciation of strong and weak syllables in long words. Focussing on the lexis in detail will help them recognise and use these terms outside the classroom. The reflection task encourages good learning habits and group discussions allow learners to share their opinions on changes in the future.

This lesson is suitable for teens and should be around 60-90 minutes long.

**Materials**
You will need a class set of dictionaries or access to computers with internet connectivity for one stage of this lesson.

**Procedure**
*Introducing vocabulary related to environmental problems*
- To help learners learn ways to record vocabulary ask them to check the
British Council - LearnEnglish

www.learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/

Free online resource for students of English

Games, stories, listening activities and grammar exercises

Useful tool for you but also for students to access at home
eTwinning

www.etwinning.net

Online community for schools in Europe and beyond

eTwinning offers a platform for school staff to communicate, collaborate, develop projects

eTwinning is co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme and is managed in the UK by the British Council
Your role as a Language Assistant

Language Assistants Programme
Your role as an English Language Assistant

- Support the teaching of English in an overseas educational institution
- Plan activities and produce resources
- Introduce your own experiences of life in the UK / UK contemporary culture
- Support the running of international projects
Duties of an English Language Assistant

- Introduce UK contemporary culture
- Teaching from a textbook or class plans
- Conversation classes
- Oral workshops
- Pronunciation workshops
- Working alongside a teacher
- Working with smaller groups of pupils
Teaching English – starter / filler activities
Language Assistants Programme
Filler activities

- Warm up questions
- Stop the bus
- Lyrics game
- Just a minute
- Tense changes
Warm up questions

- What is my name?
- How old am I?
- Where am I from?
Stop the bus

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1 point per correct answer
2 points per answer nobody else has found
Lyrics game

• Pick a suitable song in English
• Try to choose a song that enforces the thematic/grammatical topic you are studying, or from a popular artist
• Cut the lyrics up and ask students to reorder them
• Create fill in the blank activities
Just a minute

• Based on the BBC radio game
• Play them an example clip
• Ask pupils to talk for a minute on a topic of your choice
• Gradually introduce rule such as repetition, hesitation and deviation one-by-one
Tense changes

**Teacher:** Every day I go to the supermarket with my mother

**Teacher:** Yesterday!

**Student:** Yesterday I went to the supermarket with my mother

**Teacher:** Tomorrow!

**Student:** Tomorrow I will go/am going to the supermarket with my mother

**Teacher:** Negative past tense!

**Student:** Yesterday I didn’t go to the supermarket with my mother…
Useful resources

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/
https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/
https://go.edmodo.com/teachers/
https://www.teach-this.com/
https://en.islcollective.com/
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news
https://www.theguardian.com/uk
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJsSEDFSnMFvW9JWU6XUnOQ
https://premierskillsenglish.britishcouncil.org/
Opportunities with the British Council

Language Assistants Programme
Opportunities with the British Council

- British Council Voices Magazine
- Language Assistants Podcast Series
- Languages Teacher Training Scholarship
- Record and share your experience
British Council Voices Magazine

- Working as a Language Assistant in Italy will give you some great experiences
- An online magazine with an international audience
- An insight into the work that the British Council does around the globe
English loan words in European languages


My bilingual romance started with a few Italian words
Top tips for crafting a winning written piece

• Know your audience
• Less is more
• What would people be interested in reading?
Podcast

Language Assistants Podcast Series

• Varied episodes featuring past and present Language Assistants
• Covers a wide range of topics
• If this is something you are interested in, please contact us on: LanguageAssistants.UK@britishcouncil.org
Language Assistants Podcast Series

- Insurance
  - A ‘must listen’ episode this week as we discuss all things insurance! We talk about the importance of insurance with @
  - August 8, 2019
- Accommodation
  - Bethan and Olivia chat to former English Language Assistant Sophie about the different types of accommodation Language
  - August 2, 2019
- Learning the lingo
  - Bethan and Conor are joined by fellow colleague Imo to chat about language learning. They discuss the various ways of
  - July 26, 2019
- Village vs City
  - Conor and Bethan catch up with two former Language Assistants to discuss the pros and cons of living in a
  - July 18, 2019
Languages Teacher Training Scholarship (LTTS)

• Through the LTTS programme, you could receive a scholarship of £28,000 while you train as a secondary school language teacher in England

• Launched by the Department for Education

• Train to teach in either French, German or Spanish
Languages Teacher Training Scholarship (LTTS)

- Benefits include a tax-free scholarship of £28,000, a further £6,000 after tax once in teaching, access to a range of professional development opportunities and resources and networking opportunities.

- For applications for the academic year 2021/22 see the website.
Record and share your experience

• We’d love to see your photos and video clips showcasing highlights of your time on placement so far

• Fun and informal content that showcases the diverse range of experiences of our English Language Assistants

  • international adventure
  • language learning
  • professional development
Question & Answer Session

English Language Assistants in Italy
19 October 2020

Thank you for your attention

English Language Assistants in Italy