

Reaching out to teachers: English, French and German Language INSET since 2003

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INSET at Reading: Why?

- English teachers are mostly trained to teach Literature to A level
- English Language has been offered since the early 80s but is recently picking up speed
- Teacher training at secondary level tends to be literature-based
- Lack of training sessions of this kind in this subject area
- Lack of training sessions of this kind in this geographical region
- Expertise available at Reading (plus some guests)

INSET at Reading: What?

- We felt the main issue lay in the lack of general knowledge in the area
- We offer sessions on areas key to the study of English Language
- We do not set out to address various A-level syllabuses
- Teacher education, not teacher training

INSET at Reading: When?

- After canvassing teachers we chose the second week in July
- A2 students have left
- More flexibility amongst teaching staff
- Reading University graduation over

INSET at Reading: How it works

- We offer up to four 3-hour sessions a day on subjects in English Language, e.g.:
 - Grammar
 - The Sounds of English
 - Language Change
 - Accents and Dialects
 - Language and Power
 - Language and Gender
 - Semantics and Lexis
 - Researching Language with Computers
 - Child Language Acquisition

INSET at Reading: How it works

- In each session, we:
 - Give an interactive potted introduction to the subject area
 - Give a list of resources (books, websites, etc)
 - Give sample exercises which teachers can try with students in class
 - Encourage class discussion
- In most sessions, we:
 - Discuss possible research topics for student projects (what's do-able, what's not, how to go about it, etc)

INSET at Reading: Numbers

- We regularly have 50 teachers on the course
 - Max group size 15, min group size 5
- Some do four days, some one or two sessions
- Schools regularly send teachers – sometimes more than one
- In 2007 we launched sessions in French and German

INSET at Reading: Facts

- The English Language stream benefits from sponsorship from teachit.co.uk
- Apparently we have a very good reputation 😊
- Feedback on the course is highly positive ...
- ... but you can't please all the teachers all of the time
- Main criticisms (5-10% of respondents):
 - We don't address any one syllabus
 - We don't give teachers enough activities to take away and do in class

INSET at Reading: Information

- Information for July 2007's course can be viewed at:

www.rdg.ac.uk/eu/inset.htm

www.rdg.ac.uk/eu/inset_french_german.htm

- July 2008's site is in preparation