

What do the participants say?

The seminar is perfect! Really it gave me a lot, not only speaking about knowledge, but also practice (practical ideas how to make my teaching more productive), exercises (interesting and useful because I've tried many of them and I see the real results).
(Nina Šukste, Daugavpils Sec. School No 13 and Daugavpils University)

It was the best seminar (theory and practice together) I took part in during last 3 years.
(Galina Afonassenko, Daugavpils Sec.School No 10)

Everything was thought over very carefully. The lecturers tried to give a brief theoretical background and a lot of practical work as well.
(Janis Zeimanis, Riga Sec. School No 3)

Excellent is excellent. No comment.
(Tatyana Selivyorstova, Riga Daugavgriva Sec. School)

I didn't think there is anything new in the area of teaching methods but you proved that there is something new.
(Maija Rozenšteine, Riga Commerce School)



Project

Teacher Training
Seminars
and
Workshops

1. The Thinking Approach to Language Teaching - an Introductory Course

One of the tendencies of the modern education is a closer attention to the development of thinking skills of students. Language teaching is not an exception. Numerous materials can be mentioned in connection with thinking. For practical teachers however, it is often not clear how thinking skills of their own learners can be developed. Moreover, the definition of thinking skills often remains blurred. The proposed seminar presents teachers with the Thinking Approach to language teaching and learning - a possible framework for a systematic development of students' thinking skills. Each module of the approach is presented with many classroom examples. Participants will receive over 100 pages of handouts, most of which they can freely use in their own classrooms.

2. The Thinking Approach to Language Teaching - Advanced Course

This seminar is aimed at teachers who intend to integrate elements of the Thinking Approach (TA) in their own teaching. Participants are offered more specific training on each module of the TA. Various approaches to designing a TA based syllabus are presented. The seminar includes a number of practical sessions dealing with TA materials design and their adaptation to specific classrooms.

3. Developing an Autonomous Learner

Learner autonomy is a buzz word of the modern world of education. However, it often remains unclear what could be done on a practical level. This seminar will present a set of specific tools designed within the Thinking Approach to develop learner autonomy and integrate this process in the language teaching syllabus. Participants will be offered a large pack of practical materials and will be expected to try them out in their classrooms.

4. What Makes Grammar Creative?

Creative grammar has recently become quite a popular notion. Everyone agrees that creativity must be present in the language classroom. At the same time, the transmitted image of creative grammar on the market appears to be rather restricted. Creativity is usually defined as doing something artistic, and 'creative' grammar materials hardly ever bring serious changes to the syllabus.

The given seminar will offer an alternative approach to creativity in grammar. It will focus on practical aspects of teaching. Participants will be offered a large pack of practical materials and will be expected to try them out in their classrooms.

5. 101 Things to Do with Texts - towards the Quantity Quality Equilibrium

We tend to believe that language teaching always develops students' thinking skills. Unfortunately, it does not appear to be the case. A full scaled development of thinking skills demands for a specially prepared programme. The given seminar will present a part of such a programme, namely the one dealing with the use of texts in the language classroom. Participants will be offered a large pack of practical materials and will be expected to try them out in their classrooms.

6. The English Language Puzzland - the Thinking Approach Tasks for Primary School

Many teachers recognise an importance to develop students' thinking skills, however it is often associated with older students. Primary learners are as if too young to deal with challenging tasks.

This seminar presents various ways of bringing the TA to primary school. It deals with text based trainings, creative grammar exercises and games which allow for a simultaneous development of

language and thinking skills. e development of learners' thinking skills.

7. TAing your Coursebook - Coaching Sessions

Many teachers wishing to introduce the TA into their teaching find it difficult to integrate the TA materials with the coursebook they are using. The aim of this seminar is to help you introduce the principles of the TA into your classroom with minimal changes to the currently used materials. As a result of the seminar, teachers are expected to have an idea about the major principles of the TA and have several units of their coursebooks revisited from the TA viewpoint.

8. Going online – use of ICT for developing learners' language and thinking skills

Only lazy ones are not speaking about the use of technology in the learning process. At the same time, most teachers face a number of problems when trying to integrate ICT in the learning process: lack of skills, limited access to computers and internet, few hours, etc. This seminar will offer a number of practical solutions.

Normal duration of each course is 36 academic hours. However, it is possible to adapt it for both a longer and a shorter course.

At each of our seminars, participants receive a large set of handouts which they can use with their own learners.

For additional information contact us at: contacts@thinking-approach.org or thinking-approach@gmail.com