
L is for learner: teaching from the learner's perspective



Maisons-Laffitte

Natasha Costello

ETAS PD Day, Bern

2nd September 2023

Icebreaker activity



What is your name?
What pronouns do you use?

Where are you based?

Why are you here today?

Classroom questions

Why are you studying law?

Why is English important for your work?

Icebreaker activity

- build a community
- do an informal needs analysis
- find out more about the students

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**2023 ETAS
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT DAY**
SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER
Connect, Grow, and Thrive in 2023
ELT FROM A TO Z
WITH A FOCUS ON ENGLISH
FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

Natasha Costello

ETAS PD Day, Bern
2nd September 2023

Claire **Master's student in French law**



Université Paris Nanterre

**Madame, je parle
pas un mot
d'anglais**

Pre-course questions

- How do the English classes fit into the rest of the learner's programme?
- What information does the learner already have about the English classes?
- Where are the English classes in the learner's timetable?

A learner's timetable

Time	International Business and Law
09:00 – 10:00	Droit civil (Civil law)
10:00 – 11:00	
11:00 – 12:00	
12:00 – 13:00	
13:00 – 14:00	Legal English
14:00 – 15:00	
15:00 – 16:00	Droit consitutionnel (Constitutional law)
16:00 – 17:00	
17:00 – 18:00	

Activities to encourage participation



Cut and paste



Real-life roleplay



The hot seat



The hot seat

Five-Minute Activities for Business English (Emmerson & Hamilton, 2005)

The hot **seat**

artificial intelligence

English for **specific purposes**

'ESP best practice prioritises the **needs of learners**, enabling them to access the **language necessary** for the achievement of **their own professional and study goals.**' (Northcott, 2008)

'...as educators we need to ensure that what we teach is fit for purpose. That what we teach is **what people actually need for their real lives, in the real world.**' (Carrier, 2020)

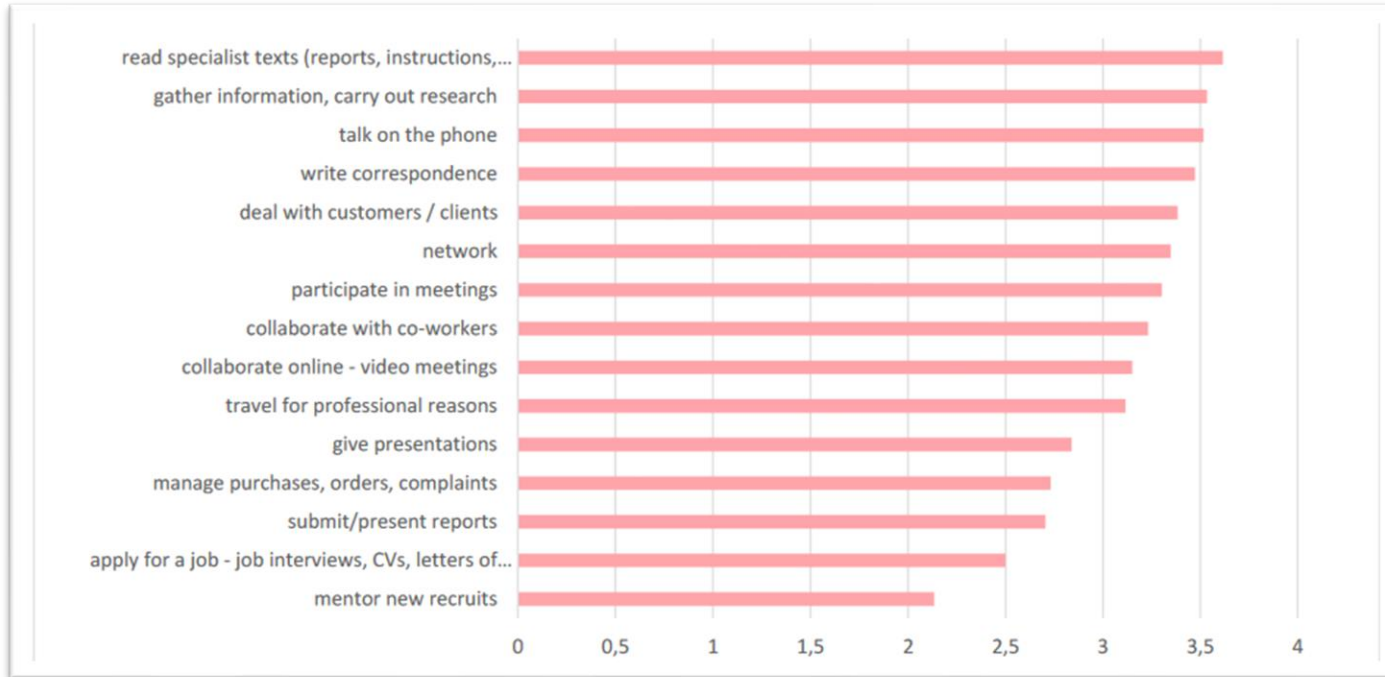
Teaching legal English **from a learner's perspective**



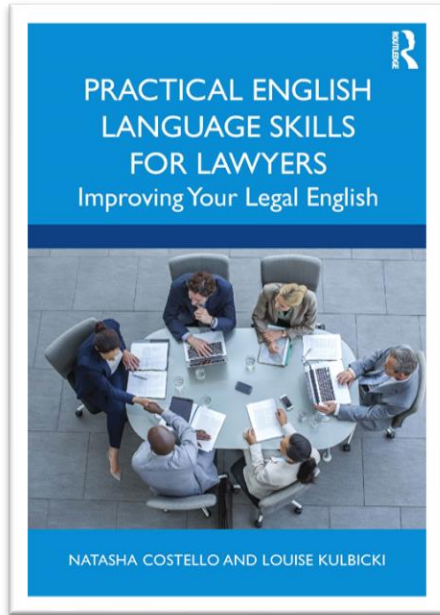
- Real-life skills and language simultaneously
- **Practical English Language Skills for Lawyers: Improving Your Legal English** (Routledge, 2023)
- 11 skill-based chapters e.g. Networking, Telephoning and Conference Calls, Client meetings
- Real-life scenarios for both university students and working lawyers

Language skills for employable graduates

LSP4Employability <https://lsp4employability.wsb.torun.pl/o-nas/>



Developing skills for **client meetings**



Introductory language activities



Discuss meeting types



Identify cultural differences



Brainstorm collocations



Client meeting scenario



- **Katie Thomas** is a lawyer specialising in commercial litigation.



- **Mike Jones** is the CEO of **MPJ Ltd** and he wants advice about a contract.

Example listening activity

Listen to the beginning of the first meeting between Katie and Mike. Decide if the following statements are true or false and correct any false statements.

	True	False
a. Katie uses small talk about the weather to build a relationship with the client.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Organibars wants MPJ to make changes to the machine.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Mike's main objective is to take Organibars to court.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Katie has already read the contract between MPJ and Organibars.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Developing **language and skills**

Active listening



Questioning
techniques



Giving advice



Language for giving advice

Verb for giving advice	Verb + -ing form	Verb + that
<i>suggest</i>	<i>I suggest suing Organibars</i>	<i>I suggest that you sue Organibars</i>
<i>recommend</i>	<i>I recommend negotiating with Organibars</i>	<i>I recommend that you negotiate with Organibars</i>
<i>propose</i>	<i>I propose organising a meeting with Organibars</i>	<i>I propose that you organise a meeting with Organibars</i>
<i>advise</i>	<i>I advise taking action against Organibars</i>	<i>I advise that you take action against Organibars</i>

The verb *advise* can also be followed by an object and a verb in the infinitive form:

Verb for giving advice	Verb + object + infinitive
<i>advise</i>	<i>I advise you to take action against Organibars</i>

Interactive activity for giving advice

Student A tells Student B about a problem they have recently faced.

Student B should advise Student A using the verbs of advice.

Then switch.

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Claire

I really enjoyed your course.
I'd like to thank you for your
patience and for teaching me
so well. Thanks to you **I plan to**
sign up for more English
classes to improve my level.

Thank you!

References and further reading

Carrier, D. (2020). Preface. In S. Mavridi & D. Xerri (Eds.), *English for 21st Century Skills*. Express Publishing.

Costello, N., & Kulbicki, L. (2023). *Practical English Language Skills for Lawyers: Improving Your Legal English*. Routledge.

Emmerson, P., & Hamilton, N. (2005). *Five-Minute Activities for Business English*. Cambridge University Press.

LSP 4 Employability, <https://lsp4employability.wsb.torun.pl/>

Northcott, J. (2008). Language Education for Law Professionals. In J. Gibbons & M.T. Turell (Eds.), *Dimensions of Forensic Linguistics*. John Benjamins.