

Course name: Improve Your English with PEOPLE

Course website:

<http://peoplevalkeakoski.blogspot.fi>

Duration (hours):

36 hours (12 x 3 contact lessons, September – June approx. once a month)

Target audience (students):

Seniors

Context:

Course for language learning and social media. The course is part of an ongoing development project for “Active citizenship in the information society”. The purpose of the project is to teach senior citizens core skills in today’s society, particularly how to make use of information technology in practice and to enhance their foreign language abilities.

Pre-requisites:

English competence level A2-B2

Basic IT skills

Objectives:

- Promoting active citizenship among seniors
- Enhancing their understanding of learning and learning environments
- Enhancing their use of social media tools in learning
- Enhancing their active language and communication skills

Contents:

- Reflection on learning, making personal learning plans
- Studying the use of various social media tools such as blogs and their use in learning , building PLEs using social media and other tools
- English language content based on each learner’s personal learning plan

Methodology of work:

Initially the learners discuss their experiences about learning languages. They also reflect on how they have learned languages in the past, which tools and methods they have used. Students are divided into smaller groups according to their language skills and interests. The groups make learning plans including contents, methods and initial tools. They then establish a platform for archiving, transforming and sharing information.

The teachers introduce possible tools based on the learners’ plans. Learners are encouraged to experiment with various tools to find suitable ones. Tools may be online ones but also books, other courses, television, real life etc.

Groups work independently, with teachers as facilitators. Contact lessons are used to 1) practice speaking English, 2) discuss technical problems, 3) introduce new tools, and 4) reformulate plans, schedules etc.

Resources (technological resources):

PLEs vary according to the groups' plans and interests, but are based on e.g.:

- Blogs (as a content aggregator tool and a sharing and publishing tool)
- Facebook and email (for quick communication tools)
- Skype
- Google Drive
- Quizlet (<http://quizlet.com>) (for making and sharing exercises)
- "Offline" tools: other courses, face-to-face meetings

Evaluation of the students:

No evaluation