



VALKEAKOSKI-OPISTO

PEOPLE Finland

Tools in our students' PLEs - effectiveness & limitations,
preliminary results and evaluation

Johanna Jokinen and Reeta Tenhola



Improve Your English with PEOPLE

- * 2 teachers: English and ICT
- * Scheduling:
 - 11 x 3 contact hours 9/13 – 6/14
- * Questionnaire:
 - 13 responses (all course participants)
 - Conducted on 19 February (after 7 x 3 contact lessons)

September 2013: What helps you to learn languages?

Group members

good group, similar level

reading and listening at the same time

kind teacher

easy beginning

speaking

need, motivation

songs, music

skyping, chatting

Foreign friends, contacts

positive experiences

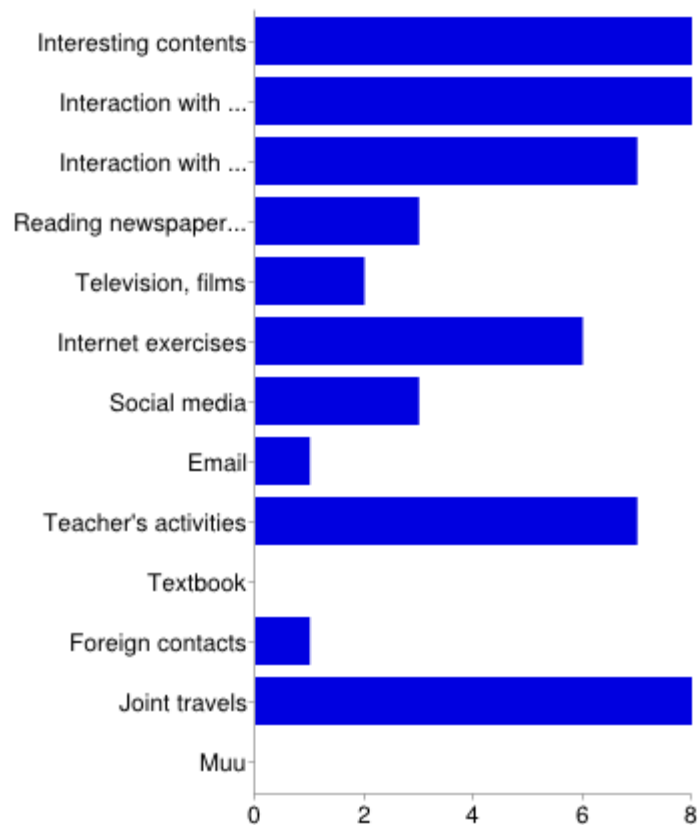
Rhyme, rhythm

context

schedule

Questionnaire Feb. 2014

What has facilitated your studies in this course?



Sep.2013: How and where have you learned languages?

school

group

course

television

by speaking

traveling

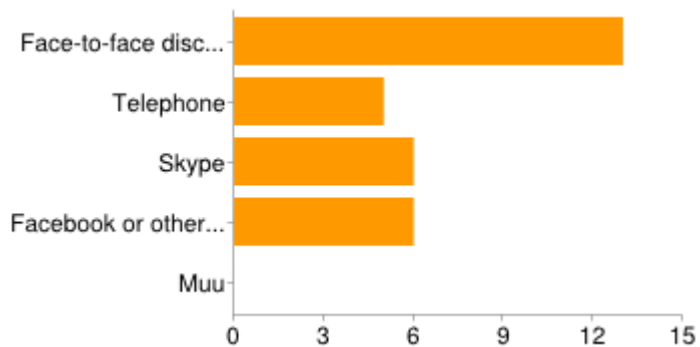
with people

newspapers

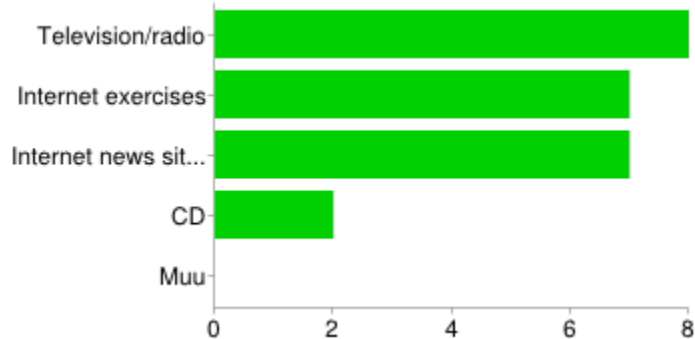
living abroad

Feb. 2014: How have you studied in this course?

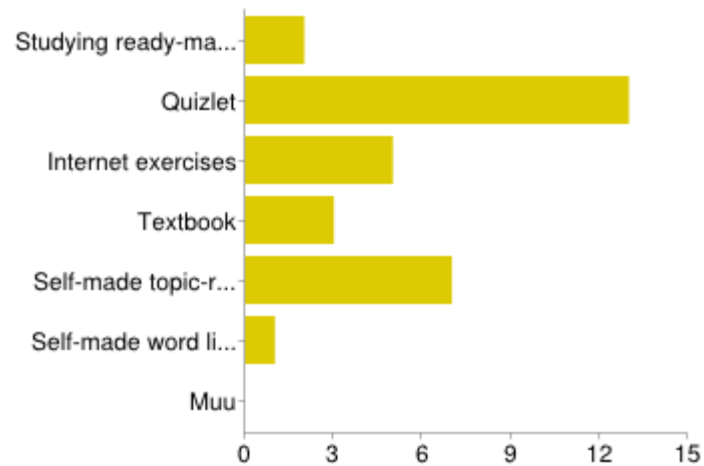
Speaking:



Listening:

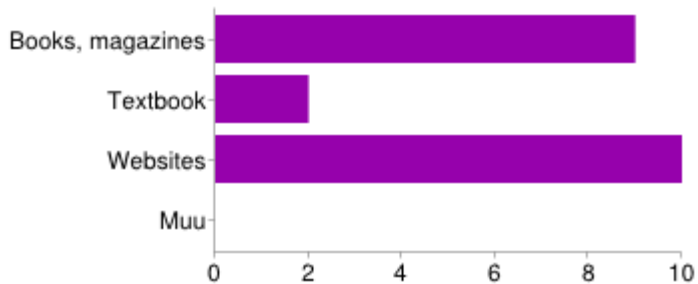


Vocabulary:

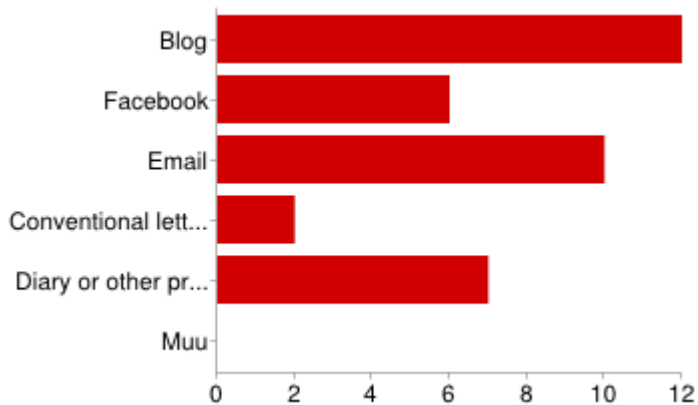


How have you studied in this course?

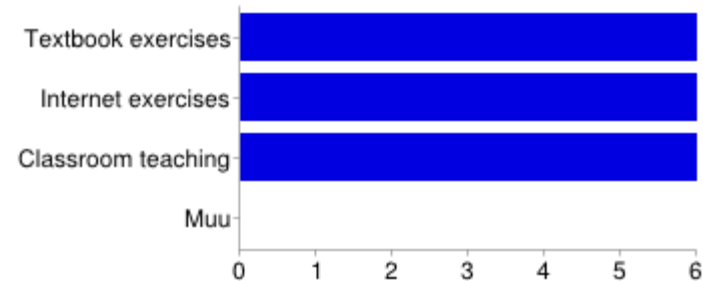
Reading:



Writing:



Grammar:



Sep. 2013: What prevents you from learning?

Laziness

little practice

difficult content, fast pace

self-criticism, fear

teacher's criticism

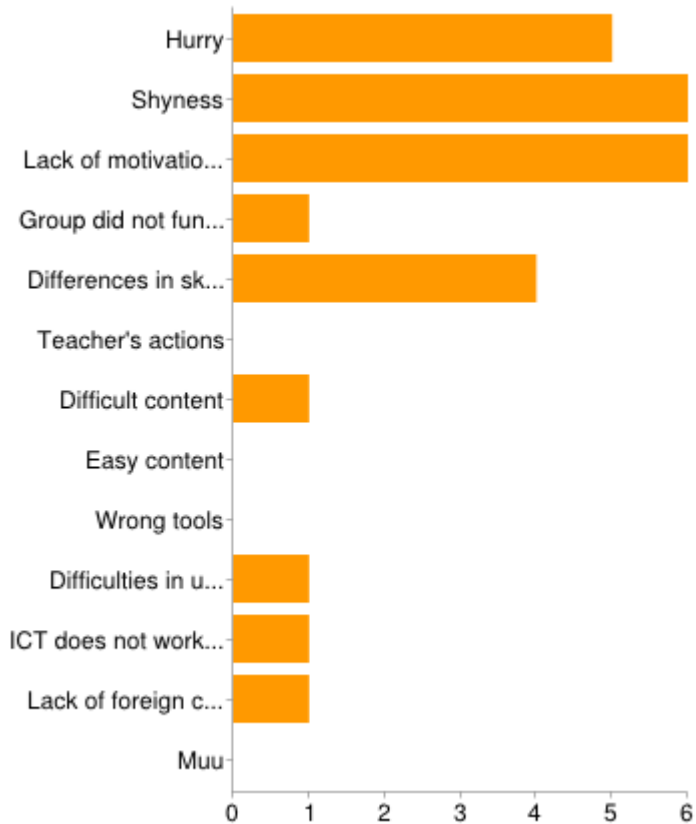
Teacher-centered classes

hurry

lack of motivation

no background in languages

Feb. 2014: What has prevented you from learning in this course?



What does your learning environment consist of in this course?

Internet as a source of material (news, exercises etc.)

Quizlet

Blog

The course/contact lessons

Our own group

Skype/other live chats

Email abroad

Television

CD/other audio environment

Google Drive

Travels

Text book

International living room

Cooking club

Facebook

Power Point

Which methods would you like to use in other courses in the future?

Quizlet

Collaborative (group) learning

News

Discussions

smaller groups

Internet

Blogs

Individual study plans

Google Drive

Social media according to each group's needs and wishes

Facebook

Some analysis: benefits and effectiveness

- * Using the Internet gives learners the freedom to study in the way they like; learner-centered environment
- * Smart use for smart phones and tablets
- * PLE eliminates the "evil teacher" effect; Teacher's role as facilitator
- * Increased motivation
- * Creates a supportive learning atmosphere in small groups (learners are "forced" to collaborate)
- * Different skill levels enhance collaboration
- * "I like independent study very much, because you can study English when you have the time to do it."

Some analysis: limitations and future development

- * Learners are not used to uncertainty and "freedom"
- * Some prefer a more structured approach to language learning
- * Better preparation for the idea of social media as PLE
- * Learners did not use all the tools efficiently (better training is needed)
- * Better inclusion of smartphones and tablets
- * Organization of consultation for smaller groups