

Language Connect - hear from our learning partners!

I've been involved with the Language Connect project for around two months, meeting with my learning partner twice a week via Skype for 30 minutes each time. Although it's only been a short time since we first met, I have seen my learner flourish with confidence and hugely expand her linguistic and cultural knowledge, as well as teaching me a thing or two!

I am not a teacher, and our sessions are not lessons; this is precisely why anyone participating in Language Connect can benefit simply by having a chat. Attending formal class is, of course, important. However, being able to practice the language "in the real world" is what brings learning alive.



Alex, Language Connect learning partner

During one of our first sessions, my learner revealed to me that a classroom setting with pressure to speak accurately and fluently in front of a teacher and peers has been challenging for her in putting her (quite sound) English into practice and developing confidence.

There is no pressure to impress me, and mistakes are welcomed and embraced.

We use relevant language to talk about practical situations that we decide, which is enabled by being free from a syllabus, homework, and other students as would be the case with a formal lesson.

We learn from each other about the things we want to talk about;

we've talked about navigating jobs, good books, peculiar phrases, travel, even tarantulas and critters!

It is really rewarding to be able to contribute to her growth with English, and being able to see such a tangible improvement in such a short time is a real privilege. I really look forward to our chats, and I'm certain that she will continue to go from strength to strength.

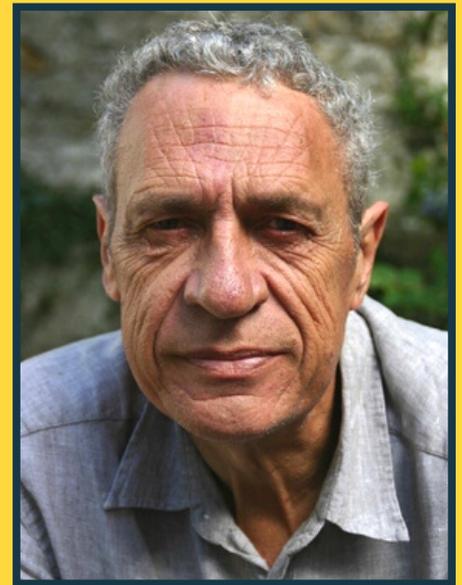
Whether you want to make a new friend, improve your confidence, or simply have a natter, I strongly encourage anyone interested to give Language Connect a go.

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My language learner has become a firm friend and both of us look forward to our talks, often lasting more than 40 minutes.

He's a very sophisticated commentator and our conversations cover everything from politics to global linguistics and electronic communication.

Now that my wife is also chatting to his wife we feel very close to the family and can't wait to meet up so the initial contact is widening. Thank you so much for setting this up, it has been extremely successful.



Mick, Language Connect learning partner

Learning Partner Clare says:



I've been enjoying twice weekly conversations with Sonia since early April by which time our lives have changed from the halcyon days of face to face teaching and meeting friends in our homes.

Over the past five months Sonia and I have enjoyed exploring differences and similarities between our English and Polish cultures, our likes and dislikes, food habits including swapping ideas for suppers and recipes.

In the next issue - we hear from our Language Connect learners!

We have grandchildren in common and so have shared stories about their early lives and schooling, both from home and in school.

I can honestly say that talking to Sonia has been easy, relaxed and very informal. We simply chat to one another and the language 'lessons' flow from there.

If you have a spare half hour, a computer and some willingness to share, then do consider becoming a language buddy.