

A transition to Language Coach

Interview with Alessandra Gato, Foreign Languages Teacher, Italy



“It made me feel renewed in my mission of coaching people into acquiring and improving their language skills”

Can you describe your professional career before taking the language coaching certification (LCC)?

I have been teaching foreign languages for the past 20 years. I have also been a freelance translator and interpreter.

How did you find the course?

It was great taking this LCC course. It made me feel renewed in my mission of coaching people into acquiring and improving their language skills, and it empowered me to develop my career as an entrepreneur.

Which highlights or insights did you gain from the LCC?

The course made me fall in love with our brain, this unique and amazing machine we still know so little about but that we can mold and rewire with practice and motivation.

“I started to yearn learning more about my brain and how I can be a more effective coach”

What was the immediate impact on your way of teaching after taking the course?

I started getting rid of books; I started listening to my coaches much more attentively; I started thinking about helping them achieve what THEY want to achieve, not what I thought were their needs; I started coaching more calmly, putting myself at their level, calming their brain state so that the learning acquisition process can flow fluidly and efficiently; I started to yearn learning more about my brain and how I can be a more effective coach.

“My life has definitely taken a turn for the better, because my mission has found new purpose and motivation”

Were there any impacts on your personal life during or after the course?

My life has definitely taken a turn for the better, because my mission has found new purpose and motivation.

“I am rediscovering myself as an individual and as a professional coach. It feels amazing”

How was your professional development after the course?

I am eager to know more and more about the brain, especially regarding language acquisition; I purchased several books on the matter; I am rediscovering myself as an individual and as a professional coach. It feels amazing.

How has the course changed the way you deliver a language course?

I religiously have a first session where my coachee tells me what she wants to achieve, both in mechanics and in mastery of the language; I base my sessions on active student-centered learning, without worrying about books or other materials (unless specifically requested by the coachee); I carry on my sessions in a calm voice and in a calm state of mind, and I try to instill that brain calmness in my coachee; I try to constantly capture my coachee’s motivation and full attention, and I try to throw in some fun activities or conversations, too.

“My client is happy, calm, attentive and very motivated”

How would you describe the impact you are now having as a language coach on your learners?

My client is happy, calm, attentive and very motivated. Finding her motivation was not an easy task, but now that I was able to capture it, I can see how well it impacts our sessions.

“I love being a language coach; I have some great language gifts I want to share with the rest of the world”

Is there any additional information that you would like to add?

I love being a language coach; I have some great language gifts I want to share with the rest of the world; thank you for helping me reshape and redefine them in a much more worthwhile way.

June 2017