

A transition to Language Coach



Interview with Diana Karczewska, English and Spanish teacher and tutor, Poland

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

Before taking the language coaching certification (LCC) I worked as an English and Spanish teacher and tutor for about 16 years in language schools as well as running in-company business English courses and trainings. Three years ago I set up my own language school that provides language services to both professionals and school individuals in many different courses and trainings- highly customized to their needs.

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How did you find the course?

Taking the LCC was like taking a step forward in my career as I’d been searching for some effective new methodology and approach to teaching for a few previous years. LCC was an answer to that inner need and wish to learn something new and apply it in my everyday activities in class. And so, LCC fully satisfied the need to develop myself.

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Which highlights or insights did you gain from the LCC?

The training confirmed my previously standardized methods and techniques concerning teaching or transferring knowledge to students, but most of all it helped me change the general approach to teaching from that serving solutions attitude to making the students look for and find the solutions by the students themselves.

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

The immediate impact after the course on my way of teaching was mostly visible when I stopped asking double questions, used more open questions to coachees, gave them more space for answer and performed a lot of coaching sessions as introduction to courses that impressed the coachees – as they said they hadn’t realized many of the issues discussed throughout the first sessions.

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

As for the impacts on my personal life during or after the course I guess I started listening to others more actively, also started asking or sort of coaching my friends and family trying not to give them clear answers to questions but trying to guide them to their own solutions. I've started asking more questions but putting them in a form of 'what' and 'how', and not 'if'.

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How would you describe your professional development after the course?

After the course I was able to present my clients the certificate as confirmation of newly gained skills and could negotiate higher prices for my services. When they complain about the price I tell them, among other arguments, that I coach and that it requires more effort from me than just presenting the topic to them, and that the experience they gain from the course is also something more for them than just learning the language.

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

Well, first of all, I try to keep the balance in delivering knowledge, exercising students' skills and letting them discover their own 'expertise' in their field. I show the coachees full understanding and support. I motivate them all the time and appraise their efforts and performance more often than in the past. I try

to make them feel comfortable in class and not stress them with public presentations or performances, I try to create that brain friendly atmosphere. But most often I just try to listen to what they have to say and let them shine.

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

I can see coachees enjoy the classes more than when they use course books for learning, I can see the coaching method gives them possibility to analyze their goals, tools and actions they need to take to reach the goals, they analyze their motivation level and speak more openly once they're given enough space to do so. Also, I can see our relations have improved as I show more interest in what they have to say, and thus they open more to express their thoughts more freely.

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

I would recommend the language coaching training to anyone who wants to take more of teaching, who want to see their students grow and develop together with the students. I can't wait to do the advanced level of the neurolanguage coaching course and learn more about how to run a group of people effectively.

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