

# A transition to Language Coach

Interview with Marcela G. Grobet Vallarta, English teacher, Mexico



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*"Rachel kept me deeply motivated. She keeps the high spirit and focus on every one!"*

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

*I've been teaching English for almost 40 years, with different methodologies and approaches. One of them was brain-friendly, accelerated learning but, after some years of applying it, I went back to the traditional book-based kind of teaching. Though I've always loved teaching, it became a boring, simple routine. I help adults, from beginners to advanced, with their learning process. Many of my learners aim at getting a language certification, which they need for their higher studies or to advance in their workplace. Most of my sessions were face-to-face, individual or small groups (3-4 participants.) Now I have moved to online sessions.*

## **How did you find the course?**

*I couldn't wait for the next session because I knew I would learn more and enjoy every minute of it. Rachel kept me deeply motivated to read more, research more on the topics, practice with my colleagues and my learners. She keeps the high spirit and focus on every one!*

## **Which highlights or insights did you gain from the LCC?**

*It was shocking to see that anyone can learn anything, no matter the age, with the correct guidance to bring motivation out of them and an understanding of the brain and the learning process. It was amazing to see that grammar can be "sexy" and fun, and that we can release the pain from learning with well-set goals and commitment to move forward.*

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

*I have started to change my vocabulary, my ways of asking permission and not giving orders, my way of bringing grammar to them and having them talk more with the use of powerful questions. They have started to notice it! Some have even started to dedicate more time to the English learning between sessions.*

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*“I don’t feel frightened to give courses online and I am moving forward to coaching English and Spanish to people around the world. I feel much better prepared, with deeper knowledge and fantastic insights”*

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

*I feel more energised and focused, better organized, willing to learn other languages. I also feel more positive in general and less stressed about my economy because, even though I can’t say now I have enough clients to make ends meet, I am confident that very good things are coming my way. Also, I’ve started to practice meditation.*

### **How would you describe your professional development after the course?**

*It’s too soon to talk about this. I can only say now that I don’t feel frightened to give courses online and I am moving forward to coaching English and Spanish to people around the world. I feel much better prepared, with deeper knowledge and fantastic insights.*

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

*Now I ask for permission; I listen actively; I suggest, not impose; I elicit, not teach; I motivate my learners; I have stopped interrupting them to spoon-feed the word they can’t “find”. I know about their goals with regard to language and the kind of activities they enjoy, so I feel I can really be a guide for them. I have understood it isn’t on me to teach them, but on them to learn.*

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*“I’d like every teacher to know there are other ways to deliver knowledge. This course brought me back to my essence of being passionate about transferring knowledge”*

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### **Were there any impacts on your learners?**

*I’m pretty sure they’re still wondering what’s going on, but they have started to look up extra information on videos, films, podcasts or texts. I feel they’re more motivated to move on. They come with interesting topics and content to share with me or with their peers, in case of a group session. They suggest new things they’d like to learn.*

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

*Just a big thanks to all of you! And we’ll keep in touch because I’ll take the Advanced, the Professional and the Teacher Trainer. I’d like every teacher to know there are other ways to deliver knowledge. This course brought me back to my essence of being passionate about transferring knowledge.*

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