



*Sharing One Language*

# TEACHER TRAINING COURSES FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

In North Devon 2012

[www.sol.org.uk](http://www.sol.org.uk)

Since 1992, S.O.L. has received over 38,000 students and 5,000 teachers on its various courses in N Devon. SOL's excellent reputation is well known, yet it has maintained the lowest prices you will find for courses of such high quality, especially for its teacher training courses which are run at no-profit if no grant is available. These continue to be held in Barnstaple, the 'Capital' of N Devon. This area is one of the most beautiful parts of England, with the spectacular coast of the Atlantic Ocean close by.

**We are offering four Courses for 2012.** THREE OF THEM are subsidised by SOL:

Arrival Day	Departure Day	Course Ref. No.	Days in England	Cost	Notes
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> July	INT	14	€995	Eligible for EU grants
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> July	INT	11	£465	Subsidised by SOL
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	INT	12	£495	Subsidised by SOL
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Aug	INT	11	£440	Subsidised by SOL

All courses are highly practical intensive courses for teachers of English looking for inspiring and refreshing ideas for their teaching, wanting to experience the cultural life of 'real' England and to develop their own language knowledge in the process. You will also feel you have had a holiday in this beautiful area!

**Accommodation** is with **host families**, who provide all meals, including packed lunch on course and departure days, and, where needed, transport to and from the centre each day. The success of the courses is greatly enhanced by the quality of our host families, who offer warm hospitality to guests and also time in the evening for relaxed conversation. This really is an excellent opportunity to spend time communicating in English naturally - something that most teachers don't often get time for!

The time with the host families is so often underestimated by other institutions. But for many it is the highlight of the course and provides excellent language development! Here, maybe with a teacher from another country also on the course, conversation is relaxed and natural with friendly hosts and in a natural home setting!

**Application for any course** should be made by letter or e-mail at any time to the contact overleaf. Once you have confirmed your ability to take part, we will send all details regarding payments, and an information sheet, which we will ask you to complete and return to us. This helps with the planning of the course, travel plans and placement with an appropriate host family. A 10% deposit is all that is required to book a place.

**Travel** to and from England is the individual's responsibility and is not included in the price, though advice can be given. SOL however will organise all travel to Devon for **morning** arrivals in London **on the arrival day**. The journey will include a stop at Stonehenge. Heathrow Terminal 5 is the meeting point, which is accessible from all London airports. Transport to Devon is included in the price as is all travel within the programme. At the end of the course, the group will be taken back to Heathrow and London Victoria by noon. Those with later flights will be able to have a short sightseeing in London.

**Overview.** These courses are run by trainers who have current and considerable experience of both teaching and teacher training in central Europe, so you can be sure the whole course will be relevant to your needs. They are intensive but very enjoyable courses offering teachers of English a unique combination of new interactive classroom strategies, improved confidence in speaking English and a varied and well planned cultural experience. Our summer 2011 courses saw participants from 12 different European countries + Morocco!.

**The Daily Programme** runs from 08.30 to 18.00 with an hour for lunch. The majority of the programme will be with the tutors but there will also be several visits to local places of interest and a fieldwork approach will give added value to such visits. Free time for discussion and independence won't be forgotten and for shopping SOL is situated next to the town centre!

**For further details** - or of our student courses, please contact your in-country coordinator whose details are here:

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**or SOL direct** via e-mail: [sol@sol.org.uk](mailto:sol@sol.org.uk) or Tel: +44 1271 327319, or check our website: [www.sol.org.uk](http://www.sol.org.uk)

Courses 1/2 : **Authentic British Language and Culture: July 8<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> (or 21<sup>st</sup>)**  
**TUTORS: MARK ANDREWS & UWE POHL**

Do you feel you'd like to get to know Britain better through going to a beautiful part of the country by the sea and to a place where you will have many opportunities to use your English and listen to English spoken by a wide range of people in the local community? Would you like to take part in a course which focuses on finding out about the language and exploring the country in deeper ways through engaging more actively with people in Britain instead of being just a tourist?

This exciting new course is designed to meet current needs and interests of Eastern and Central European English teachers. Firstly, it should help you to improve your own speaking skills, giving you more confidence in using your own English. Secondly, it will involve you in a comparative approach to exploring modern British culture and equip you with the tools to do the same with your own students in a safe environment and with tutors who will give you support and encouragement to do this.

Hopefully, by the end of the course, you will be more at ease with speaking to people in Britain and be more familiar with the values, beliefs and attitudes which underlie what people say to you. You should also be able to identify and understand better the differences and similarities between life in modern Britain and your own country. You will also have collected many materials, some of which we will work with on the course to develop into tasks which you might do with your students back home.

'Fieldwork' visits to local towns and the Atlantic coast are an integral part of the course, forming the basis for a range of project linked classroom activities. Homework tasks will be set to encourage you to discuss contemporary language and cultural issues with your host families. There will be opportunities to discuss British life with visitors from the local community. This, in the past, has included the local Member of Parliament, a fashion designer, a property letting agent, life guards on the beach, a Green candidate in the general election, a local primary school teacher and the manager of the Grand Hotel Torquay, where Agatha Christie spent her honeymoon.

Course 3: **The Reflective English Teacher: July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**TUTORS: SIMON PARKER & MARK ANDREWS**

Hearing about new teaching ideas at conferences and in books and journals and is one thing – applying to your own teaching is quite another! This is the ideal course for teachers determined to bridge the gap between theory and practice and improve their classroom teaching. Taking a strong 'evidence based' approach to professional development, the course will allow participants to experiment with new teaching strategies that they can use immediately when they return to their home countries. The course will naturally make full use of SOL's location in SW England to help develop participant's awareness of contemporary British language and culture.

**By the end of the course participants will be able to** use a focused range of interactive teaching strategies.

These will include:

- Drama and dialogue activities
  - Preparing students to deliver formal presentations
  - Use of images in the classroom
  - Five minute activities
  - Creative writing tasks
  - Use of music and song lyrics
  - Formative assessment strategies (Assessment For Learning)
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- Trainers will both demonstrate new strategies and, explain why they are effective in the classroom
  - Where appropriate, links will be made with preparing students for specific exams commonly taken in Central/Eastern Europe
  - The trainers will often differentiate to meet needs of teachers teaching young learners, teenagers and adults at all levels.
  - Throughout the course participants will be encouraged to reflect on their own classroom practise and critically evaluate new strategies, often through discussions with other participants on the course
  - Participants will have opportunity to try these activities out in lesson planning and micro-teach activities

Course 4: **Devon Unplugged: Aug 15<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**TUTORS: LUKE MEDDINGS & MARK ANDREWS**

This completely new SOL course is based on a methodology which values spontaneity, thinking on one's feet and learner contributions. It will model a way of working that can be applied in many teaching situations and which is based on topics and language that emerge on the course. Project work will be negotiated with the teachers and much of the course will involve interaction with local people. Both Luke Meddings and Mark Andrews have worked with teachers in Devon and are keen to break new ground on a course which values a "less is more" approach, breaks down the barriers between 'inside' and 'outside' the classroom, promotes choice and encourages teachers to help their learners to take more responsibility for their own learning.

**By the end of the course participants will**

- Have got to know Britain better through going to a beautiful part of the country by the sea where there will be many opportunities to use and listen to English spoken by a wide range of people in the local community.
- Have got to know North Devon in an unplugged, materials-light, conversation-driven way.
- Will have taken part in an experience which leaves plenty of space for teachers' own decision-making regarding both the content and the process of the course.
- Have experienced the classroom as a place where an unplugged approach is explored,
- Have worked with what participants have discovered while out and about in North Devon and discussed how this way of working might be integrated into teachers' own classroom contexts.