

A transition to Language Coach

Interview with Silvia Risetti Alcock, Italy



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

I have worked in the education field since 2011, after 12 years of professional experience as an HR manager in blue chip companies. Alongside with what I have learned at Teaching Certification Courses, I started to apply some coaching techniques during my lessons and noticed that they were very effective. So I decided to take a specific language coaching certification to deepen and better structure what I had been doing instinctively since I began to teach.

How did you find the course?

It was altogether a very positive experience, informative and instructive, during which I could learn and practise the fundamentals of language coaching while becoming gradually part of a wider community of change agents.

Which highlights or insights did you gain from the LCC?

I experienced the power of active listening and the potential of powering questioning, two of the most critical skills that a coach should master.

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

Since I’ve been systematically applying language coaching, I have noticed a greater sense of awareness of my students’ needs.

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

During the course I felt at times pushed to the limit. It happened sometimes to think I had reached the limit of what I could do, so why to insist further. But the final positive result of my efforts has actually encouraged me to take up new challenges in my personal life. As I now know how the brain works when we learn new things or are faced with an unexpected situation, I am now much more conscious of what reactions / mind barriers are to be expected and I can handle them better. I’m much more gentle with myself, and am improving much faster in my learning process.

How would you describe your professional development after the course?

I have decided to continue and train further to become a certified learning coach, aiming at the ACC credential one day.

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

I pay much more attention and invest much more time to listen to my students’ needs and to work on specific goals that they identify and keep in focus rather than just work toward goals that I set for them.

Were there any impacts on your learners?

I believe the impact is much higher as I can see that also those students with high emotional barriers start feeling more relaxed during class and are more adventurous with the language, in particular when it comes to timid beginners.

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