

## English With Mike: SEMINARS

Number	Seminar name	Abstract
1.	Amazing Adjectives	<p><b><u>Review and explore this word class</u></b></p> <p>Be amazed at the wealth of suffixes for this word class and try to attach a meaning to some. Dip your toe into the order of adjectives. Categorise them according to style, explore common errors and challenge yourself to give an explanation as to why they are wrong.</p>
2.	Addled with Adverbs?	<p><b><u>Unlock the many issues students stumble over with this word class</u></b></p> <p>Differentiate adverbs of manner, frequency, time, degree and attitude. Paraphrase discourse markers, learn about rogue adverbs masquerading as adjectives, and correct common errors, justifying your answers. Useful tasks of course.</p>
3.	Affixation and morphology (lexical building blocks)	<p><b><u>Review the meanings of common prefixes and suffixes and familiarise yourself with related tasks</u></b></p> <p>Many teachers fail to teach lexis in terms of word formation techniques, favouring, like course books, to teach by topic. Help your students learn word families, the meaning of common prefixes and indulge in some lexical gymnastics with inflectional and derivational morphology.</p>
4.	Anticipating problems. Fail to plan; plan to fail.	<p><b><u>How to deal with common classroom management issues and predict student pitfalls before grammar lessons</u></b></p> <p>Solutions to common classroom management issues such as L1 in class, student lateness, class promotion and odd numbers. Brainstorm meaning, form and phonology pitfalls lurking behind various grammar points.</p>
5.	The wonderful world of Articles	<p><b><u>Expand your knowledge of the myriad rules governing this word class</u></b></p> <p>Navigate this minefield with handy rules of thumb. Review set rules for definite and zero articles and learn about fixed expressions which learners need to learn as lexical chunks. Useful tasks and games. And find out how total gap and negative transfer play a role in learner mistakes.</p>
6.	Authentic texts (keeping it real)	<p><b><u>Exploiting authentic reading or listening texts with free tasks up for grabs</u></b></p> <p>Understanding songs on You Tube is often a learner's ultimate goal. Help me brainstorm benefits and stumbling blocks of using authentic texts in class. Tips on task design and execution. Visualising texts on a continuum from Freakishly Artificial to Delightfully Challenging and putting scaffolding in place to provide a ladder for learners to reach this sought-after goal.</p>

7.	Collocations (words that are made for each other)	<p><b><u>Students learn best by memorising lexical chunks. Teach and practise via collocation.</u></b></p> <p>Discover the overwhelming range of collocations and explore generic tasks to help learners practise them. Collocation dominoes, matching tasks, lexical gap-fills and collocation bingo. How to create the best distractors for multi-choice with a few unfriendly false friends.</p>
8.	Concept questions	<p><b><u>Gauging whether learners have understood the target language by means of well-framed concept questions</u></b></p> <p>Why explain when you can ask a question and gauge whether learners have got it? Are you satisfied with only touching the tip of the conceptual iceberg? Wrack your brains for key questions which will help eliminate similar words or structures. Climb out of the pitfalls we all fall into and learn to delve deeper to clarify meaning.</p>
9.	Correctamundo	<p><b><u>Exploring why learners make mistakes and why they're wrong.</u></b></p> <p>Build your correction glossary and try to identify <i>faux amis</i>, partial matchings and total gaps. Learn why learners struggle with under differentiation and the dangers of over-generalisation. We know it is wrong but why is it wrong? Give your language and lexical awareness a workout. Error analysis for experienced teachers or those prepared to take up the gauntlet.</p>
10.	Cultural Awareness	<p><b><u>Explore elements of Kiwi culture as well as multicultural classroom sharing tasks</u></b></p> <p>Why teach students about the target culture? Why encourage students to share their own culture? Get involved with some tasks that highlight cultural differences and avoid awkward cultural taboos. What do brochures, headlines and idioms tell us about the target culture? Plenty of hands-on tasks to recycle in the classroom.</p>
11.	Dictamania	<p><b><u>A plethora of dictation tasks</u></b></p> <p>Dictation is no longer the domain of the fuddy duddy professor but an entertaining student-centred activity and a welcome warmer for busy teachers. Learn how dictations can have multiple focuses such as spelling and silent letters, lexical sets, loan words and dependent prepositions. Learners don't have to copy <i>ad nauseam</i> but may be invited to draw, mime, order items on a cline or tune in and fill in the gaps. A hands-on seminar for any level.</p>
12.	Discourse markers	<p><b><u>Explore useful tasks to practise discourse markers and help correct some of the issues related to them.</u></b></p> <p>Whether you are teaching IELTS or written genres such as persuasive essays, recipes or narratives, learn about the most effective ways of teaching and practising this element of vocabulary, whether in spoken or written form. Discover the common pitfalls of word order, register and nuances of meaning.</p>

13.	Elements of Lexis (synonyms, antonyms and false friends)	<b><u>Common elements of lexis which teachers should be familiar with</u></b> What differentiates Fall and Autumn, 'receive' and 'get', cup and mug? Why is it hard to find two perfect synonyms? Learn about the different types of oppositeness. Familiarise yourself with false friends from around the world.
14.	Free speaking tips and tasks	<b><u>We do discussions with students every day. How to mix it up and hone these skills so they run like clockwork.</u></b> What type of free speaking tasks do you do regularly in class? What things do you do before or during a speaking activity to ensure its success? What is the purpose of getting feedback before correction? Learn how to 'cherry pick' feedback and mistakes to analyse after free speaking. Everyone will get something from this.
15.	Futuristics	<b><u>A review of future forms</u></b> Compete in a quiz to test your knowledge of future forms. Review forms and uses of common tenses. Explore formality and typical issues for students.
16.	Instructions and ICQs	<b><u>How to deliver simple, clear instructions on a James Bond need-to-know basis.</u></b> Why some instructions backfire, aspects of good instructions and a chance to instruct a task with ICQ's (instruction check questions). Make your ICQ's count by anticipating what could go wrong (or what did go wrong last time.) Expect to get your hands dirty.
17.	Listening skills	<b><u>Engage your students more and help them develop this skill further with some helpful tips on listening</u></b> Considering that listening occupies about 45% of our total skills time, it is weird that we don't practise this skill more in class. Discuss common issues associated with listening, try out some different lesson formats and review some of the subskills associated with listening. Evaluate the pros and cons of pre-teaching, the use of authentic texts, live versus recorded listening and extensive listening.
18.	Modality	<b><u>Explore the multiple functions of modal verbs and how they can be exploited to practise functions</u></b> How do modals differ from dummy auxiliaries? And what on earth is a semi-modal? Discover the multiple functions connected to certain modals and stretch yourself with tasks concerning modals of deduction, modals relating to rules and identifying functions contextually.
19.	Motivation and activation	<b><u>Keeping morale high and activating sleepy students</u></b> How do we motivate students? How can we make a simple task more kinaesthetic to enliven the class? Try out some tasks that are guaranteed to improve morale and enhance the classroom dynamic.
20.	Music in the classroom	<b><u>Alternatives to the musical gapfill</u></b>

		How many times do we resort to a gapfill when playing a song to our class? Welcome to the alternatives- song jumbles, ordering pictures, action songs, exploiting a song as a reading text as a springboard to discussion. How to exploit grammar-related music and You Tube music videos. Spark your creativity with this hands-on session.
21.	Phrasal Verbs	<b><u>Practical tips and tasks for this common learner stumbling block</u></b> What are the best ways to present and practise phrasal verbs? Revisit how to cement the holy trinity of meaning, form and phonology. Correct common issues and clarify why they are wrong. Tasks related to visuals, lexical sets and guessing from context.
22.	Preposterous prepositions	<b><u>Revisit this word class and understand why even advanced students still struggle with prepositions</u></b> Whether they deal with time, place, movement or logical relationships, prepositions are taught at all levels and present numerous issues for teachers and learners alike. Learn or relearn common rules of thumb, weak forms of prepositions and British, New Zealand and American variants. How does first language interference and total gap play a role in learners' errors. Complete with a number of preposterous prepositional tasks.
23.	Pronunciation (sounds)	<b><u>Love it or hate it, the phonemic chart is here to stay and continues to help students.</u></b> Games to activate and learn the IPA. How the phonemic vowels are organised in terms of tongue, lips and jaw position. Tasks related to minimal pairs. Magic ways to correct pronunciation. Come and experience the wealth of tasks to practise the pronunciation of vowels, consonants and diphthongs.
24.	Pronunciation (word stress)	<b><u>Learn about some new aspects of word stress and weak syllables</u></b> Weak syllables, syllabic consonants, stress in compounds and derivatives. Learn some basic word stress guidelines and take part in 'stressful' tasks. Revisit how to drill and mark stress. An academic seminar with a scattering of fun tasks.
25.	Pronunciation (suprasegmental)	<b><u>Linkage, weak forms, contrastive stress and much, much more.</u></b> Revisit rules and put your IPA to work. Enjoy some phonology games related to rhythm dominoes, interpreting weak forms and corrective stress and intonation. Sympathise with how students struggle with sentence-length drilling and brainstorm how to help in this department.
26.	Team building	<b><u>Characteristics of high performing teams</u></b> Based on Blanchard's 'The One Minute Manager builds high-performing teams', this seminar takes the form of group work questions, exploring flexibility,

		<p>empowerment, morale and communication in your workplace. Do you celebrate successes? Do you support others by listening and helping? How do you collaborate with other members of your team?</p> <p>This feel-good and cathartic seminar is guaranteed to lift morale and improve teamwork and team ownership in the workplace.</p>
27.	Using literature in the classroom	<p><b><u>How to exploit drama, poetry and short stories</u></b></p> <p>What are the barriers that prevent students from reading fiction in class? Practise activating schemata, reading tasks and follow-up activities with literary texts. How poetic language deviates from standard English. Hands-on workshop to explore this theme.</p>
28.	Word formation processes (coinage, compounds, loan words and more..)	<p><b><u>Common word formation processes that every teacher should be aware of</u></b></p> <p>Anticipate where loan words are originally from, analyse stress rules with compounds and how they can appear in several word classes. Learn more about portmanteaux, types of clipping and acronyms. Discover the stories behind the leotard, jumbo size and the wellington boot.</p>
29.	Writing-the written word	<p><b><u>Writing support and tasks.</u></b></p> <p>Writing presents issues for learners in terms of layout, choice of register and a drought of ideas. We will explore genre, style, scaffolding techniques and students' reluctance to write. How much support should we give learners and how do we turn a test into a task?</p> <p>General English focus and tasks. Aimed at teachers with 1-3 years of experience and beyond.</p>